VICTORIAN PISTOL NEWS

September 1997

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NOTICE TO READERS

The contents of this issue have been selected in an attempt to extend knowledge, improve practice and promote communication within the field of pistol shooting for members of the Association. The editor may at his absolute discretion, reject any contribution, hold it over for later publication, or edit out any unsuitable material.

Opinions expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the Association.

Persons acting on any opinion, advice, fact or advertisement published in this issue do so at their own risk.

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EDITORIAL / PRESIDENTS PAGE

First of all an apology for the late arrival of the VPN. Unfortunately I have been ill and found myself unable to finish some articles etc. let alone put the whole thing together. I did ask my wife to bring her laptop to the hospital for me, but she just laughed at the suggestion - I guess I should be pleased she is looking after me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who sent me cards, best wishes and made phone calls of concern during my illness. It gives me a good feeling to know that being in pistol shooting makes one part of a large and caring extended family. Again thanks and I'm glad to report that I appear to be making a full and complete recovery.

There are several pieces of good news to report this time around. Firstly the majority of other states have finally agreed to make a fight out of keeping our pistols. They have agreed (N.S.W. Tas. & S.A. voting against it) at P.A. level to raise a $10 a year levy to employ a lobbyist to put our case to Federal and State politicians and governments. There are still some problems however. Those states who did not support the levy may be slow in accepting the will of the membership - I hope not, as a failure to abide by the vote might be seen by those who would take our pistols as another sign of disunity. In the meantime P.A. will be having an Executive meeting in November to work out the 'nuts and bolts' of the levy collection and time frame for action. Here in Victoria we already have a Motion on Notice to draw this states first yearly levy directly from the fighting fund. This way there will be no immediate impact on members and clubs, the fighting fund will finally do some fighting, and lastly the money will be immediately available should P.A. need it. Mind you, the vote is yet to take place - how is your club voting?

The other good news is, and I suggest it has some relevance to the lobbyist situation, that the approaches that V.A.P.A. has been making to politicians in this state regarding the new firearms act appears to be bearing fruit. We tried to be positive rather than negative and presented them with a list not only of the problems with the new act but also our suggestions for rectifying them. We made no attempt to water down the legislation as such, rather we tried to make it more user friendly and easier and more logical to administer. We took the attitude that an Act that worked well and delivered the goods for all members of the community was a win win situation.

The results have been very pleasing. For a start we have received (at time of writing) over fifty replies from your representatives. That alone I would suggest is better than we might have hoped for. On top of that all but two have been positive responses and recognize that our approach is designed to improve the current Act not undo the underlying ideals of the legislation. It has been equally pleasing that positive feedback has come from members of all political parties.

We have also been offered, and of course took it, the opportunity to give more feedback to various parliamentary bodies looking into the Act. Whilst nothing is certain in this life, we can at least take heart that at least this time they have listened to what we have had to say - now lets keep our fingers crossed that they do something about it.

At club level we hope you are doing your bit with the information that was sent out to each club, and that club members are lobbying their parliamentarians to support the work and position being expounded by the V.A.P.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on a fine magazine, and to Mr. Evans for the fine job he is doing. I am in favour of a levy to employ a lobbyist to put forward our cause to the politicians - it is impossible to get a fair go off the media.

I am dismayed at the decision at the Annual General Meeting *(of P.A.)* not to impose a levy. I think $10 is a very low amount, it could be $20. We must all pull together to save our sport. The vote should have been unanimous in favour of the levy. We are next on the list of the anti-gunners. We must have somebody working behind the scenes for us to counter the false information being broadcast by the media.

Our best chance could be at the next election if we vote for independents who would be more receptive to pressure from a lobbyist than a person who has to toe the party line. However the next election is a long way off. In the mean time we must strengthen our position.

We have contributed a lot of money to the Sporting Shooters Association for no result. A $10 levy is a lot less outlay and the money is going directly to Pistol Australia.

Yours faithfully
K. Roach

REPORT ON THE V.A.P.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

My thanks to all those members who made the effort to turn up this year. Whilst we struggled for a forum in 1996 this year we had no such worry with 56 members signing the register. Whilst the A.G.M. is an individual vote / representation I think it is worthwhile just to acknowledge those clubs who did have members there.

Yarra	Mid Murray	MISC	Warrigul-Drouin
Vic Prisons	Melton	Peninsula	Beaconsfield
Oakleigh	Diamond Valley	Warnambool	Security Practical
ANZ	Lang Lang	Geelong	Mountain District
			Melbourne Airport

There were two elections in the end. The first for the Junior Vice President position which was won by Jenny Butcher. The second was for the position of Executive Officer (which took place when Mark Behan (me!) was ruled ineligible to stand for the position). That election was won by Bob Lester.

So for the next year the Executive is -

President	Mark Behan	Melton
Senior Vice President	John Gillman	Yarra
Junior Vice President	Jenny Butcher	Yarra
Treasurer	Sharon Reynolds	Oakleigh
Executive Member	Bob Lester	Oakleigh
Secretary	Eddie Evans	Melton
Technical Inspector	Clive Woods	MISC

The vote to change the constitution to include the Directors of the V.R.C & S.C.C. was withdrawn due to a technical hic-up. In the mean time the two Directors have been invited to attend Executive meetings when necessary so that their input will not be lost.

Again my thanks to the members who attended and I look forward to a constructive year for V.A.P.A.

STATE TEAM SELECTION METHOD 1998

ACTION MATCH.

PURPOSE:

To form a squad from which the State Team to compete at the 1998 National Championships will be selected.

THOSE ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE:

OPEN: All shooters of High Master Grade

LADIES AND JUNIORS: All shooters of High Master or Master Grade

Any shooter who does not nominate by the prescribed closing date because they were not of the required standard, and they attain that standard in any Sanctioned Open competition by 30 June, 1998, may submit a late nomination to the Team Managers.

AUTOMATIC NOMINATIONS:

All Members of the 1997 State Team will be automatically nominated for the State Team Squad. The 1997 State Champion in Open, Ladies and Juniors will also be an automatic nomination.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Complete and mail the nomination form by ***31st March 1998*** to

Neil Stewart
P O Box 38
Pascoe Vale South Vic 3044

SELECTION METHOD.

Team selection will be based on the aggregate of a shooters best four (4) scores shot at Sanctioned Open Competitions between 1st September 1997 up to and including the 1998 Victorian Championships.

There is no limit to the number of such competitions and they may include interstate and overseas competitions, in which case the shooter must provide a copy of the results to the Team Managers ***within 28 days of the competition.***

To be eligible for selection shooters are required to shoot at least three (3) qualifying scores and compete in the 1997 Victorian Championships, however that score is not a compulsory score.

The 1998 State Team will be selected at the conclusion of the 1998 Victorian Championships.

QUALIFYING SCORES:

OPEN: 1905 LADIES: 1880 JUNIORS: 1880

TEAM COMPOSITION:

The Victorian Team will comprise sufficient numbers to provide for OPEN, LADIES and JUNIORS events.

In the case of insufficient competitors with qualifying scores the Team positions may be left vacant or filled at the discretion of the State Team Selection Sub Committee.

TEAM SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Sub-Committee will comprise members elected by the Committee of Management, the Team Managers, and the President and Secretary exofficio.

The Sub-Committee will have discretionary powers including when selecting the State Team.

The decision of the Sub-Committee shall be final.

REPLACEMENT OF TEAM MEMBERS

Once selected should any member of the Team be unable to attend the National Championships, his/her position will be filled or left vacant at the discretion of the Team Managers.

If, at the National Championships, it is considered that any Team Members may, in any way, jeopardise the chances of the Team, the Team managers may replace that member.

Team members will at all times comply with the Team Managers' instructions relating to Team activities.

TEAM SUBSIDY

A sum equivalent to the return APEX air fare, accommodation on a twin share basis, an allowance of $10-00 per day while required for Team commitments, nomination and entry fees for Team Events.

Those attending the Presentation Dinner will be reimbursed the Cost of the Dinner ticket.

BONUS

Team members placed in the top ten overall will be eligible for a bonus based on a sliding scale of $50.00 for first down to $5.00 for tenth place.

Members of a Team finishing first in the Team event will receive a bonus of $100.00 per team member, second $70.00 per team member and third $40.00 per team member.

GENERAL

Team members will be in attendance at the venue of the National Championships at least 24 hours prior to their first event/s - or earlier - so that each member can engage in at least one practice session of their event/s.

On completion of their competition events, members may depart the Team although it is hoped that members will remain to support and encourage other team members for remaining competitions.

Accommodation will be booked for the Team. Any member (with good reason) may apply to live elsewhere, but the accommodation must be close to the venue. If any such request is approved, and dependant on the style of accommodation, the member may be reimbursed up to the equivalent of the accommodation arranged by the V.A.P.A..

Spouse or family may accompany Team members at their own expense, but Team activities will at all times take precedence.

NOMINATION FOR STATE TEAM

Return to: Neil Stewart.
P.O. Box 38
Pascoe Vale South. 3044
Phone and Fax (03) 9386-2934

by 31 March 1998.

I wish to nominate for the Elimination Series to select the Action Match State Team that will represent Victoria at the 1998 National Championships. I undertake to abide by the decision of the Team Selection Sub-Committee and, if selected, the conditions of the published State Team Selection Method 1998.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postal Address: _____

_____

Telephone: (Home) (___) _____ (Business) (___) _____

(Mobile) (___) _____ (Fax) (___) _____

Club: _____

Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____

Grade: _____: Highest Score Shot in Open Competition in the past 12 months _____

Signature: _____

The Great .380 Challenge!

O.K. O.K., perhaps not exactly the Nationals but I thought it might make an interesting article and frankly I needed them this quarter. I also think it goes to show something else about our sport that even I had lost sight of.

When Eddie Evans (with a little help from me) drew up the Short Barrel rules there were two important underlying concepts that were kept in mind. Firstly the match was to be simple and cheap. No additional leather wear, no separate speed loaders, no "go fast" accessories. Indeed all that was required (assuming you shot Centrefire, Action or Service - and loaded for these) was a pistol with a short barrel. The second thing was that, recognizing shooters eventually can't help getting competitive, the pistols were going to be kept as close to "out of the box" as possible. You see the match was always intended to be fun.

So what happened? Well for me it still works - sort of. I started with a small 'J' frame revolver with a barrel just under two inches. It was chrome plated and a pretty little gun. Yes the trigger has a heavy double action, but is nice and crisp single action. Also having no adjustable sights didn't seem to matter you simply aimed high left on the top of the frame to hit, occasionally, near the centre of the target. I enjoyed myself but everyone was beating me. So, pride being what it was, I added some "proper sights" (still within the rules) and my scores jumped.

Meanwhile my dear friends, Eddie (Evans) and Sid (Pattison) in particular, continued to take great delight in drubbing me every time we shot it. Yes I could have continued to work on the 'J' frame but it's so pretty a little thing it seemed a sacrilege to start docking hammers etc. Besides the ultra light 'J' frame was never going to be a winning pistol. So I got Sid to build me a Short Barrel pistol based on an 'L' frame (he also built one for himself). The barrel was the maximum length (sight radius you know) and the double action trigger was smooth and light. First time I used it I shot a 604. I've used it for Short Barrel ever since.

However although I've succumbed to the need to be competitive (a little?) I still refuse to practice the match and still try to be as light hearted as possible when shooting in competition. If I ever look like taking it seriously I've asked Sid to take the pistol back and convert it to a Free Pistol or something. Meanwhile I'd also acquired two semi-auto's to shoot the match with. One a Walther PPK in 7.65mm (.32) the other a Davis .380. Put simply Semi-Auto's are not the best choice for the match due to the difficulty of loading the magazine from the pocket whilst in a hurry and under pressure. The only person I'd seen try it was Eddie with his PPK .380 and only occasionally did he manage to get all shots off at 7 yards. Still it looked like fun and wasn't that the point of this match?

Now Sid also had a Davis .380 and had never shot it due to the lack of ammunition. Yes he and I had the brass, projectiles etc. but I was supposed to have done the loading for us and ... well I hadn't (problems with the press). So recently he took all the loading components off me and began to work up a load for our .380's. It was a slowish process with the first "book" loads being a little thumpy. In fact it tended to unload the magazine under recoil (load five and get one or two loaded ones ejected under recoil). But slowly, the powder was changed, the charge reduced, and there we were with a load that was comfortable to shoot and cycled the pistol nicely. Where it shot who knows as we had done all our testing without targets.

Now Eddie got to hear that we had been playing with the .380's (actually Sid and I might have told him) and he was VERY keen to take us on, so keen in fact that he didn't even give us a chance to test out the pistols on a target let alone shoot a match with them. Now we did try to negotiate a handicap. Eddie had shot the match several times with his PPK, he knew where his shots fell, he had a fine piece of German craftsmanship and engineering with a nice crisp trigger. We had budget (make that cheap) American pistols with forty pound triggers (and I'm not exaggerating too much) and no idea where they would shoot or even if they would cycle for a whole match. On top of that we had NO practice of loading a magazine from the pocket. So what did Eddie concede us? NOTHING. Reckons we were better shots so all was on a par. A hard man - remember this next time you contemplate upsetting the V.A.P.A. Secretary.

Come the day we shot our first match using our revolvers, the scores were needed for the postal results, but then the three of us were squaded for the great .380 challenge. Now as it was Eddie we were dealing with Sid and I were willing to cheat if need be (the odd pre-loaded magazine) but in the end it wasn't necessary. We had too much fun. The guns cycled perfectly, they even gave us good groups on the targets (well, when we held them steady enough) and both Sid and I were able to load the magazines quickly enough at 7 yards (although Sid needs to make sure the magazine is all the way home before racking the slide). For the record Eddie won (decisively) - but next time, especially after Sid does his magic with the Davis trigger, who knows.

The moral to all this? Pistol shooting should be fun. I'm a keen competitor and sometimes I loose sight of this very simple fact. I look at my simple start in Short Barrel, Service, even Centrefire and then at the pistols and equipment I use now. I'm glad to be shooting with good friends, and pleased that I can still shoot like a dog (Eddie no doubt will be glad to pass on my score) and yet still have a good laugh and come away from the range feeling ... well that I'd enjoyed myself and had spent my time in good company.

1997 INTERCLUB POSTAL FINALS.

The Postals are over again for another year, talk about travel all over the country side, the Leyland Brothers have nothing on the teams competing in the finals. **A BIG THANK YOU TO** Castlemaine (U.I.T.), Warragul Drouin (Service, Black powder and Short Barrel), Melbourne Airport (Practical) and finally Kerang (Action) for making their ranges available for the finals.

Castlemaine started the ball rolling with U.I.T.. Driving up Friday afternoon in brilliant sunshine I thought we were in for a great weekend, wrong, how the weather can change overnight. Saturday was cold and miserable with the wind blowing straight off the South Pole. At Castlemaine's Open people are complaining about the heat and are looking for a shady spot and a few cool drinks. Not at the finals, the most popular spot was beside the heater and coffee was the drink of the day. It was unanimously decided that next years finals will be held in Brisbane. In spite of the conditions several good scores were shot and Yarra once again took the bulk of the trophies, with Melton winning both Junior events, Oakleigh proving too strong in Ladies Sport and consistent scores from the M.I.S.C. team members seeing them at the top of the table in Free Pistol.

Head off to Warragul Drouin for Service, Black Powder and Short barrel, again in brilliant sunshine. At least this time it is the morning of the match. Yarra retained the Service Unrestricted title they won last year and then got nasty and pinched the Short Barrel shield from Outtrim. Outtrim got their revenge in the afternoon and took the Service Pistol shield from Yarra, all in all a good days shooting was had by all. The weather turned nasty overnight again and was cool and damp for the Black Powder. Yarra once again proved too strong, convincingly winning both events. It was good to see Echuca and Cohuna in the finals after being out of the postals for several years.

What's this, a final less than 20 kilometres from home?, such bliss. Melbourne Airport put their devious minds to work and came up with eight interesting and challenging stages for the Practical finals. The Open division was narrowly won by Oakleigh with the home ground advantage helping Melbourne Airport to win the Standard division. One V.A.P.A. Vice President was convinced to have a go at a couple of stages, and was later wearing the broadest smile anyone had ever seen. (Rumour has it that this person has since bought a pistol for the match.)

Last trip for the year, up to Kerang for the Action finals. After losing the shield a couple of years ago Bendigo "A" put in a solid performance to regain the title and the Postals are finished for another year.

Now we start getting organised for next year. By the time you read this your Club Secretary should have 1998 entry details, so why not get a team together

and have a go. Clubs may enter one team per event FREE OF CHARGE. This is a simple way of putting some competition in your shooting without leaving your home range, though if you make the finals you will have to travel. Speaking of finals it would be nice just for once to be able to tell the competing clubs the finals venues before the season starts. If your club is interested in hosting the finals in any of the matches get in touch with the Competition Controller as soon as possible.

FREE PISTOL:

PREMIERS	M.I.S.C.	2061
2nd	Yarra "A"	2031
3rd	Yarra "B"	2000
4th	Yackandandah	1971

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	Yackandandah
Division 3	Melton

BLACK POWDER 25 METRE

PREMIERS	Yarra "A"	1086
2nd	M.A.P.C.	1080
3rd	Ballarat	1065
4th	Echuca	1013

Division 1	Yarra "A'
Division 2	Echuca
Division 3	Warragul Drouin
Division 4	Yarra "B"

RAPID FIRE:

PREMIERS	Yarra "A"	2206
2nd	M.I.S.C.	2093
3rd	Melton "A"	2062
4th	Yackandandah	2053

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	Yackandandah
Division 3	Castlemaine
Division 4	Traralgon
Division 5	Beaconsfield

CENTREFIRE

PREMIERS	Yarra "A"	2223
2nd	M.I.S.C.	2196
3rd	Oakleigh "A"	2157
4th	Diamond Valley "A"	2118

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	Melton "A"
Division 3	Oakleigh "B"
Division 4	Melton "B"
Division 5	Mildura
Division 6	Diamond Valley "B"

STANDARD PISTOL:

PREMIERS	Yarra "A"	2144
2nd	M.I.S.C.	2135
3rd	Yackandandah	2079
4th	Diamond Valley "A"	2019

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	Castlemaine
Division 3	Warragul Drouin
Division 4	Corangamite
Division 5	Diamond Valley "B"

LADIES SPORT PISTOL

PREMIERS	Oakleigh	1664
2nd	Yarra "A"	1619
3rd	Yackandandah	1612
4th	M.I.S.C.	1058

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	M.I.S.C.
Division 3	Castlemaine

JUNIOR SPORT PISTOL

Premiers	Melton	1082
2nd	Yackandandah	1032
3rd	Castlemaine	1013
4th	Oakleigh	991

Division 1	Melton

JUNIOR AIR PISTOL

Premiers	Melton	725
2nd	Oakleigh "A"	706
3rd	Yackandandah	682
4th	Oakleigh "B"	620

Division 1	Melton
Division 2	Mid Murray

MEN'S AIR PISTOL

Premiers	Yarra "A"	2246
2nd	M.I.S.C.	2201
3rd	Yackandandah	2174
4th	Yarra "B"	2157

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	M.I.S.C.
Division 3	Diamond Valley "A"
Division 4	Oakleigh "B"
Division 5	Diamond Valley "B"

LADIES AIR PISTOL

Premiers	Yarra "A"	1086
2nd	M.I.S.C.	1072
3rd	Yackandandah	1071
4th	Yarra "B"	1055

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	M.I.S.C.
Division 3	Melton

SERVICE MATCH

Premiers	Outtrim	3366
2nd	Yarra "A"	3335
3rd	Melton "A"	3225
4th	Sale	3171

Division 1	Outtrim
Division 2	Yarra "B"
Division 3	M.A.P.C.

SERVICE MATCH UNRESTRICTED

Premiers	Yarra "A"	3419
2nd	Outtrim	3409
3rd	Melton "A"	3369
4th	Yarra "B"	3067

Division 1	Melton "A"
Division 2	Yarra "B"
Division 3	Cohuna

ACTION MATCH

Premiers	Bendigo "A"	7265
2nd	Yarra "A"	7201
3rd	M.A.P.C.	7103
4th	Bendigo "B"	5385

Division 1	Bendigo "B"
Division 2	Warragul Drouin

BLACK POWDER 50 METRE

Premiers	Yarra "A"	1041
2nd	Oakleigh	988
3rd	Warragul Drouin	905
4th	Cohuna	868

Division 1	Yarra "A"
Division 2	Yarra "B"

SERVICE MATCH UNRESTRICTED

SHORT BARREL MATCH

PRACTICAL OPEN

Premiers	Oakleigh	1962.1531
2nd	Geelong	1948.2382
3rd	Sale	1604.5735
4th	M.A.P.C.	1267.6153

Division 1 Oakleigh

PRACTICAL STANDARD

Premiers	M.A.P.C.	1540.3224
2nd	Sale	1199.6098
3rd	Echuca	971.4672
4th	Bendigo	739.6283

Division 1 M.A.P.C.

SHORT BARREL MATCH

Premiers	Yarra	2253
2nd	Outtrim	2239
3rd	Melton "A"	2218
4th	Melton "B"	2059

Division 1 Outtrim
Division 2 Melton "B"
Division 3 Geelong

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.308 / 7.62 mm 170 gn Soft Point	$25 PER 100
.308 / 7.62 mm 144 gn FMJ BT	$25 PER 100
.50 cal 660 gn FMJ BT	$70 PER 100

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LATE ADDITIONS

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303 single flash hole primed	$25 per 100

CLUB INQUIRIES WELCOME

COACHES CORNER

by Des Boseley

Continuing a series of questions asked in the old Level One Coaches Re-accreditation exam paper. The topic for this issue is "Trigger Control". Test your level of shooting knowledge by answering the questions before looking at the given answers.

Question 1. How should the trigger be used for a precision shot ?

(a) By a quick application of pressure. (b) By a staged application of pressure. (c) By a subconscious application of pressure. (d) By a steady application of pressure directly to the rear.

Answer. The correct answer is (d). A steady application directly to the rear until the shot breaks will give you an accurate shot; all else being correct. Quick application as in (a) will give flicked shots low left for a right harder, or low right for a left harder. With practice the application of pressure should become a subconscious motion whilst concentrating on the sight picture.

Question 2. When should the trigger be pressed ?

(a) When the front sight is in focus. (b) When the front sight is aligned in the backlight. (c) When the aligned sights are in the area of aim. (d) When the optimum stability of the pistol has been reached. (e) When all the above occur.

Answer. A good shot depends on (a), (b), (c), and (d) occurring, so answer (e) is the correct one.

Question 3. What should happen if conditions (a) to (d) above are not satisfied ?

(a) Correct the condition and continue with the shot. (b) Wait for the correct condition to occur. (c) Do not wait but cancel the shot and start again. (d) Take another breath and start again.

Answer. We are after a perfect shot, so action (c) should be followed. Cancel the shot and recommence the whole program. Action (d) is half right, it may give you a "nine".

Question 4. How does trigger application vary from say, Free Pistol to Centre Fire ?

(a) It does not. (b) The tip of the finger can be used on the light free pistol trigger.

(c) Centre fire recoil needs a firmer trigger finger grip. (d) First finger joint pressure is needed for the 1362 gram centre fire trigger.

Answer. The way the pressure is applied does not vary but the mechanics of putting the different forces on the trigger does. The tip of the finger can be used for a free pistol shot but the heavier force on the centre fire trigger makes a first joint finger position most necessary.

More next issue.
Learn to get out of your "Comfort Zone". Learn to shoot "TENS".

SHOOTERS ADS

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WESTERN ACTION

by Mark Behan (as discussed with Peter Butcher)

Well there is much happening at the moment. Not all of it straight forward, but there is good reason for the changes. When V.A.P.A. adopted Western Action some 18 months ago (?) we were looking for two things. One was a set of rules that we could not only make our own but had International affiliation, and the other was the ability to keep our independence. As a result we opted to join the relatively small Western Shootists Society. They seemed to offer what we were after as they were affiliated to the Single Action Shootist Society (S.A.S.S.) in the U.S. and were independent of the Sporting Shooters organization, the only other Western Action organization in Australia.

As such clubs and individuals were encouraged to join the W.S.S. and shoot by their rules. Now Western Action is not the biggest growing discipline in Victoria but it has been gaining increasing active participants as well as growing numbers of people who are "interested". So V.A.P.A. appointed Peter Butcher as Western Action Co-ordinator and it was pretty much left to get on with its own promotion etc. One of the disciplines features is of course the concept of dressing in the clothing of the period and also having an "alias". This was simply a registered name (one of your own choosing, or one adopted from a famous person / gun fighter from history) under which you competed. Hence one of the important roles of your affiliated association was the keeping of an alias register. Now here in Australia that caused a problem. There was the W.S.S. register, the S.S.A.A. register, and of course the overseas S.A.S.S. register. It meant in effect that a member might not be able to compete at opens under his / her chosen alias. A crazy situation which V.A.P.A. was always going to have to address.

However, all was not well in the background. At the time Victoria became interested in Western Action it was really only shot in two states, South Australia (W.S.S.) and Queensland (S.S.A.A.). There was intense rivalry between the two organizations and it was in part our unfortunate dealings with S.S.A.A. here in Victoria which lead us to adopt the W.S.S. package. However some six months ago the W.S.S. appeared to collapse. Now, I am assured by Lionel Owen who set up the Society that this was, and is, not the case. Never the less for several months W.S.S. was uncontactable (both Peter and myself tried) and the rumors coming out of South Australia were not encouraging. As a result V.A.P.A. decided to reassess how we should be operating in regard Western Action.

Obviously the main problem was that we are used to running our own disciplines and we had an obligation to offer our members a suitable umbrella under which to operate. W.S.S. due to their size (much less than two hundred members Australia wide), their **apparent** instability and their not devolving any powers /

responsibility to our much larger organization made them an unsuitable choice. S.S.A.A. Western Action Inc. whilst a larger organization and not really closely connected to S.S.A.A. Victoria, which does its best to undermine V.A.P.A., did have the unfortunate problem of still being politically unsuitable to affiliate too. So what to do?

I contacted the S.A.S.S. in the U.S. and put it to them that our State would like to affiliate directly with them and that our association with W.S.S. had proven unsuitable. I was eventually put in touch with the top man "Judge Roy Bean" who sympathized with the problems that we were experiencing with the W.S.S. (he did not really understand their organization or philosophy either) but by the same token did not understand how pistol shooting was organized in Australia. As far as he was concerned if this entity V.A.P.A. wanted to affiliate then all they had to do was speak to the S.A.S.S. representative in Australia and it to could become a S.A.S.S. club. And their representative was non other than S.S.A.A. Western Action Inc. top man, Damion Faith (a.k.a. Virgil Earp). In the mean time "the judge" was happy for V.A.P.A. to adopt S.A.S.S. rules.

Well what I thought might have been a difficult conversation turned out to be a pleasure. Damion is interested in only one thing - the promotion of Western Action. As a result he will be happy to set up V.A.P.A. as a new S.A.S.S. club directly affiliated to the U.S. parent body. We are already looking at a way to combine and maintain a common alias register and as our members affiliate with S.A.S.S. directly (rather than with the W.S.S.) it might even become possible that more extensive Australian Western Action Nationals will be able to be held. There is still a small way to go and there are some paper work to be done but for the moment things look promising. Already V.A.P.A. has formally repudiated W.S.S. rules and has adopted S.A.S.S. rules.

What does all this mean for you the member? Well I would encourage all members to affiliate now with S.A.S.S. (I've already done so and my alias is now registered). Rule books will soon be available for individuals (you actually get one when you join S.A.S.S. as well as several badges, stickers etc.) and V.A.P.A. will send a book to all clubs in the near future so that range requirements, etc. can be on record. We will of course keep you informed and all questions and queries can of course be directed to the:

Western Action Co-ordinator
Peter Butcher
91 Temple Rd.
Selby 3159

Ph: 03 9754 8757

VICTORIAN AMATEUR PISTOL ASSOCIATION
1997 OPEN COMPETITION CALENDER

OCT	4 YARRA U.I.T. 5	11 MELTON NEWTON MEMORIAL 12	18 HAMILTON SERVICE M.I.S.C. 19 WESTERN REGION	25 26	
NOV	1 YARRA BLACKPOWDER HORSHAM U.I.T. 2	8 9	15 OAKLEIGH U.I.T. 16	22 *ACTION NATIONALS AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 19 - 23 NOV* 23 *ADELAIDE*	29 YARRA SERVICE ECHUCA BLACKPOWDER 30
DEC	6 7	13 14	20 21	27 28	

1998 OPEN COMPETITION CALENDER

JAN	3 4	10 11	17 18	24 M. I. S. C 25	26
FEB	JAN 31 1	7 BALLARAT ACTION 8	14 WARRAGUL DROUIN U.I.T. 15	21 *SERVICE STATE TITLES BALLARAT* 22	
MAR	FEB 28 *BLACK POWDER STATE TITLES YARRA* 1	7 *U.I.T. STATE TITLES* 8 *HORSHAM* 9	14 15	21 GEELONG ~~ACTION~~ 22 SERVICE & S.B.	28 29
APR	4 *U.I.T./P.A NATIONALS APRIL 4-12 BRISBANE* 5	11 *U.I.T./P.A NATIONALS APRIL 4-12 BRISBANE* 12	18 BALLARAT U.I.T. 19	25 HAMILTON U.I.T. 26	
MAY	2 3	9 YARRA U.I.T. 10	16 17	23 24	30 31
JUNE	6 MID MURRAY 7 U.I.T. SERVICE 8 BLACK POWDE	13 14	20 21	27 28	

VICTORIAN TOP TEN 1997

COMPETITIONS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

M.I.S.C. Anniversary Open, Echuca U.I.T., Warrnambool U.I.T. Mid Murray Open, Bianchi Cup

Wagga Wagga U.I.T., World Cups Seoul & Munich, Echuca Black Powder, Australia Cup Final.

Narrandera Black Powder, Ballarat Service, Action State Championships, M.I.S.C. Records Day

FREE PISTOL

State Record 555 John Gillman (1976)

1	QUICK Bruce	559
2	MILLER Andy	547
3	WRIGHT Jim	541
4	MARSHALL Terry	537
5	BOYLE Kevin	532
	IGLESIAS Jose	532
7	IGLESIAS Jose	530
8	CLARK Les	527
	CROSSMAN Will	527
	HOWARD Greg	527

CENTREFIRE

State Record 585 Bruce Quick (1996)

1	QUICK Bruce	579
2	RYAN Noel	574
3	WRIGHT Jim	572
4	DAVIS Wayne	567
5	IGLESIAS Jose	566
6	WATTZ Alan	559
7	HORTON Geoff	558
	TAIT Peter	558
9	BIRR Herbert	557
	LAWTON Dave	557

RAPID FIRE

State Record 575 Peter Oliver (1990)

1	QUICK Bruce	569
2	WRIGHT Jim	567
3	RYAN Noel	565
4	CROSSMAN Will	562
5	BIRR Herbert	560
6	HOWARD Greg	559
7	GALT Roger	556
8	EDWARDS Norm	553
9	VANETTEN Hank	552
10	HOLDEN Jack	551

STANDARD PISTOL

State Record 578 Phil Adams (1995)

1	QUICK Bruce	571
2	HORTON Geoff	559
	RYAN Linda	559
4	WATTZ Alan	557
5	RYAN Noel	552
6	WOODWARD Annette	551
7	MILLER Andrew	549
8	CROSSMAN Will	547
	WRIGHT Jim	547
10	LAWTON Dave	546

MEN'S AIR PISTOL

State Record 572 Jack Holden (1994)

1	IGLESIAS Jose	573
	QUICK Bruce	573
3	MARSHALL Terry	569
4	CROSSMAN Will	565
	HOLDEN Jack	565
	MILLER Andy	565
	WATTZ Alan	565
	WRIGHT Jim	565
9	EDWARDS Norm	564
	ROBERTSON Colin	564

WOMENS AIR PISTOL

State Record 384 Val Turner (1997)

1	TURNER Val	384
2	RYAN Linda	383
3	WOODWARD Annette	379
4	BRYANT Charlotte	376
5	BROMMER Janice	374
6	TAYLOR Annette	373
7	KUBIAK Carol	372
	LEE Cheryl	372
9	RYAN Helen	371
10	MULLENS Joy	367

JUNIOR MEN'S AIR PISTOL

State Record 565 Greg Schultz (1996)

1	SCHALLHAMMER Leigh	548
2	REPACHOLI Daniel	532
3	MULLENS Col	514
4	WONG Tai-Lien	489
5	TWITE Travis	487
6	PATTISON Jarrod	485
7	SWIFT Toby	483
8	KORENY Chris	481
9	McPHERSON Mark	469
10	HAGSTROM K.	459

WOMENS SPORT PISTOL

State Record 578 Annette Woodward (1992)

1	RYAN Linda	584
2	WOODWARD Annette	575
3	TAYLOR Sally	569
4	TURNER Val	567
5	MULLENS Joy	565
6	RYAN Helen	558
7	BROMMER Janice	555
8	LEE Cheryl	552
9	BRYANT Charlotte	549
10	KUBIAK Carol	548

JUNIOR SPORT PISTOL

State Record 578 Andrew Gonczol (1990)

1	SCHALLHAMMER Leigh	568
	TAYLOR Sally	568
3	ALEXANDER Ainsley	543
4	MULLENS Col	537
5	REPACHOLI Daniel	534
6	WONG Tai-Lien	531
7	COOK Kim	527
8	KORENY Yvette	523
9	PATTISON Jarrod	508
10	KORENY Chris	489
	TWITE Travis	489

JUNIOR LADIES AIR PISTOL

State Record 361 Shelly Turner (1991)

1	TAYLOR Sally	366
2	ALEXANDER Ainsley	360
3	COOK Kim	342
4	KORENY Yvette	341
5	DUNBAR Rebecca	336
6	McNAUGHT Rebecca	331
7	BEARD Emma	242
8		
9		
10		

BLACK POWDER 25 METRE

State Record 378 Noel Ryan (1980)

1	MITCHELL John	380
2	VINCENT Greg	374
3	SAMMARTINO John	373
4	CLARK Les	371
5	COX Jim	365
6	LUKSCHANDERL Rupert	363
7	HASTIE David	358
	McCANN David	358
9	RICHARDS Mike	356
10	BELL Graham	353
	HANSON Glen	353

BLACK POWDER 50 METRE

State Record 371 Les Clark (1994)

1	VINCENT Greg	360
2	CLARK Les	355
3	MITCHELL John	353
4	SAMMARTINO John	346
5	HANSEN Glen	345
6	LUKSCHANDERL Rupert	342
7	BELL Graham	341
8	COX Jim	338
9	REDSTON Rocky	337
10	ARDEN Peter	321

SERVICE PISTOL

State Record 887 Peter Muscat (1992)

1	CLARK Les	876
2	HUTCHINS Paul	861
3	DOHERTY Joe	858
4	LOWE Greg	857
5	EAGLE Alex	854
6	GORDON Glenn	852
7	ANASTASI Ercole	849
8	MOTTON Ralph	847
9	BLAKE Phil	845
10	EVANS Eddie	845

SERVICE UNRESTRICTED

State Record 886 Peter Muscat (1989)

1	BLAKE Phil	879
2	CLARK Les	878
	PATTISON Sid	878
4	MALIA Len	875
5	EAGLE Alex	870
6	GORDON Glenn	869
	WILLIAMS Clive	869
8	HUTCHINS Paul	868
9	BEHAN Mark	867
	LOWE Greg	867

SHORT BARREL MATCH

State Record 607 Ralph Motton (1996)

1	MOTTON Ralph	611
2	EAGLE Alex	608
3	GORDON Glenn	605
4	CLARK Les	602
	SCHUETTKE Dietrich	602
6	DOHERTY Joe	600
7	BLAKE Phil	595
	DILG Bill	595
9	LOWE Greg	593
10	CORBIDGE David	588

ACTION MATCH

State Record 1920 164X Brian Kilpatrick (1993)

1	TATE Bradley	1920	163 X
2	KILPATRICK Brian	1916	173 X
3	WHITEHEAD Tom	1916	157 X
4	BANNISTER Roy	1914	153 X
5	HARDY Brian	1912	143 X
6	MUSCAT Peter	1909	148 X
4	MACKIEWICZ Anita	1900	139 X
8	CRAMER John	1899	150 X
9	MACARTNEY Darren	1894	136 X
10	ANASTASI Ercole	1893	143 X

N.S.W. SERVICE OPEN

Many months ago Sid Pattison and myself (yes there are two articles about us in this quarters issue. It's both a reflection of my desperation for stories for this issue and a comment on how no-one else is sending in anything for publication. I guess what I'm saying is it serves you right!) decided that we'd like to make it to a few more opens. As we're both Service shooters the amount on offer is not too flash so we contacted the Competition Controller (Neil Stewart) and asked him was there anything happening in S.A. or N.S.W.? A quick trip just over the border seemed like a fun idea. Neil was kind enough to send us those fixtures he had but there was nothing close. Indeed the only thing that seemed suitable was the N.S.W. State Titles. These were to be held at the Illawarra Pistol Club the first weekend in September. Could we manage it?

Sid, to an extent, can take the time he needs from work when he wants (oh to be a boss!) but as I'm only a lowly teacher I don't have that option. So our plan was simple, we'd leave at dawn on the Saturday and drive to Illawarra (about a hundred or so km's south of Sydney) and after a night in the motel, shoot Unrestricted and then climb back into the car and drive home Sunday. If the trip home proved too onerous then we'd just have to grab a motel and I'd phone in sick. We sent in our entries, requested morning squadding on the Sunday and that was that.

In due course our squadding arrived and the secretary had been great with us both with late morning squadding. A bit of practice down the range and we were ready to show them how Victorians shoot! Now two weeks before we were due to go, after a very pleasant visit to the Warrnambool Pistol Club, the ambulance men came in the night and carted me off to the hospital. Suddenly our plans were looking shaky. However due to the miracles of modern heart surgery (no cutting thankyou very much) I was out within a week. No, I was too sore and shaken to compete at the postal finals in Warrigul-Drouin that first weekend, but suddenly the trip to Sydney need not be such a rush. I was off work so now we could take our time, and sitting in a car seat for a few hours seemed to fit in with the instructions to not do anything too taxing for the first week out! So, careful not to mention anything of the trip to my doctors (just in case), Sid and I set out on the Friday.

The trip was uneventful and I must say rather relaxing. There has been plenty of movement on the roads since I was last on the Hume. The Victorian side is of course all dual lane now and sat on 110 km the countryside just rolls away. Whilst the N.S.W. side is not quite up to scratch there are plenty of passing sections. I must mention Holbrook. For those of you who have not been through

there in a while you may remember it as the town which has a large gray model submarine in a park near the centre of town. Well in the true spirit of the **big** banana, pineapple, sheep, etc. Holbrook has gone one better. There is now a REAL submarine in that park. Obviously a decommissioned Oberon Class sub from the Australian fleet, it is not only impressive but certainly worthy of a stop and a clamber over - which Sid and I dutifully did.

The only other part of the trip that I'll remark upon is the last hour or so. We swung east 150kms or so before Sydney and headed directly to the coast and the Illawarra area. The map showed a windy section of road for a few kms before we hit the coast road and our destination. At the same time it began to rain. Well that little section of road is known as the Macquarie Pass and it drops you from the high escarpment down to the coastal plain - in a VERY short time. I believe it would have been impressive in the dry, in the wet it really grabbed your attention. 180 degree switch backs (signs warn of trucks reversing just to negotiate the corners) water cascading across the bitumen in sign posted "fords", many corners ending in either a blank rock face or a 100+ meter plummet and a steady (I'll swear more than 45 degree) slope that just never stops. On the way home it was fun. Mind you it was sunny and dry and going up the slope was certainly less worrying than going down.

We found the Illawarra Pistol Club before checking in to our Motel. A very nice airy club with great facilities snuggled into one section of a working quarry overlooking the ocean. The Service range was excellent with the 50 yards shot under cover before moving out into the open to shoot the remainder of the match. The first thing both Sid and I noticed were the N.S.W. Service targets. Nice and black with big bright white lettering. All in all we were looking forward to the Sunday. We spent that night in Kiama where our Motel was located literally on the beach. We ate at a very nice little restaurant which specialized in the local sea food and afterwards went for a wander about the shops. Whilst I loved Kiama the one big draw back appeared to be so did everyone else. Looking at the photos in the estate agents we noted that for a cheap run down weatherboard cottage expect to pay $200,000. Something really nice left you no change from half a million.

On the Saturday it had rained so much that most people were water logged by the end of the day. But Sid and I had brought the fine sunny Victorian weather with us for the Sunday, and we shot comfortably in our shirt sleeves. I shot first and discovered that a week in a cardiac unit is not the ideal preparation for shooting. I would love to blame the weather, targets, range conditions, the officials in fact anything but all were very good. I simply shot poorly. Sid did notice that only about three of all of my ninety shots managed to struggle above the centre line of the target. He made some disparaging comment about my not

being able to get it up - but I'm assuming he was commenting on fatigue after my illness? Oh the score - 845. Lousy isn't it. I'd checked the "Drugs in Sport" handbook before I'd left to be sure none of the handful of drugs they had me on were banned. They weren't, but after that score maybe I should have shopped around for some that were - at least I'd have an excuse.

Sid was next up and did better. He was not happy with his 869 (which is why I'm mentioning it after his comments to me) although considering he had done all the driving I thought he had acquitted himself well. There was one other problem that Sid encountered which did not make for good preparation or a good 50 yard score. During gun check it was noted that Sid's Unrestricted pistol did not have a hammer block. We pointed out first to the gentleman on gun check and later to a Judge 'A' that the rules do not require them for unrestricted (although they do for Service). That was fine and the pistol was about to be given the all clear when it was announced by another shooter that the inclusion of the safety bar was a N.S.W. Police rule specific to Smith & Wesson type revolvers.

Now this does, in the dark reaches of my brain, have some substance. I remember at the time of the St. Ives inaugural Action Open such a rule being enforced but it was at best controversial then, and if my memory serves me correctly, had much more to do with the wishes of someone within the N.S.W. Pistol Association than the police. For instance I seem to remember they didn't check my centrefire revolver for a safety bar when last I shot it in N.S.W. Either way with the politics of the situation (or the need for the N.S.W. Association to clean up this anomaly) aside Sid did have a safety bar with him and although it was a bit a rush he was able to put it in and pass gun check. Unfortunately the newly altered pistol did give one or two teething problems on the 50 yard line until Sid was able to sought them out - as I said it didn't help his score. From this however there is a lesson for all interstate travelers.

IN N.S.W. YOU MUST HAVE THE SAFETY BAR FITTED TO YOUR REVOLVER

We didn't hang around much after we shot, just long enough to thank the organizing secretary and check our scores, but Sid was running a credible second at that point. The trip home was straight forward. We made Albury the first night (which turned on a really awesome display of rain, lightening etc. for us in the Motel) and cruised home by lunchtime on Monday. All in all a good weekend even if the shooting wasn't all that flash. You should try it some time - oh and don't forget to write it up for the VPN.

V.A.P.A. ON THE NET

Anyone who has been awake over the last few years will have heard of the Internet. A network of small and large computers linked world wide, it is the start of the much mentioned Information Super Highway (Bill Gates has likened the current 'Net' to a muddy road in comparison). Never the less it is significant and anyone doing research on any subject these days will if possible surf the net for information. So by rights if V.A.P.A. wants to promote itself or put any case forward in regard the Gun Debate then by rights we should be represented. Already other clubs and Associations are on the net but how does V.A.P.A., or any other body get started?

Enter 'AusPistol on the Net'. This body has been established to provide Pistol Clubs, Associations and other interested bodies an easy way to establish an Australian based presence on the Net. Run by Bruce Favell in Queensland he can not only put you on the net but also arrange such things as E-mail addresses and updates of your site. He aims in this one domain to have as many representatives of the sport as he can and also hopes to be able to have a real depth of information and reading available. AusPistol is registered with the major search engines and appears in the 'top 10' of an Altavista search for "pistol shooting".

V.A.P.A. will soon have a site on the web (as in World Wide Web) under AusPistol and I know Bruce is keen for more organizations and clubs to join. So the two obvious questions, how much does it cost and what would you put on it? The cost structure is -

Associations $100 / year with quarterly updates
Clubs $60 / year with two free updates
Advertisers $60 / year + $30 per update after the initial set up.

What would you put on it? Some suggestions from Bruce are -

Postal Address and Contact Names and Phone / Fax numbers

Brief history / Background to the Club or Association.

Number of Clubs / members under your administration,

Facilities
Current State Executive / Club Committee, with photo ?

Approximate dates of State Championships Opens etc.

How the Club or Association promotes Junior development, State Teams, Coaching, etc.

Past achievements (results at the Nationals, Awards / Recognition of the Association or Club by other bodies, changes to regulations brought about by the Association. . .)

If you have information on your last State Championships with a story, photos, results etc., that would be a great help in starting of the Results section of the Web pages. Perhaps an article from your State / Club magazine, Newspaper article.... the more the better.

Now if any of this appeals or you just want to get more information then I suggest you contact Bruce on -

AusPistol on the Net
Bruce Favell
2 Molton Court
Capalaba 4157

Ph: 07 3257 3996 (w)
Ph: 07 3390 3862 (H)
auspistol@auspistol.com.au

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VICTORIAN AMATEUR PISTOL ASSOCIATION
FUND RAISING SUB-COMMITTEE

Some items currently available through the Fund Raising Sub-Committee are listed below:

BOOKLET - "THE BASIC SKILLS" $3.00 each This booklet sets out the "BASICS" step by step.

RULE BOOKS $3.00 each For the **SHORT BARREL MATCH** (before being officially named ... was referred to as the Snubby Match).

$6.50 each The new Abbreviated UIT Rule Book. This book has been compiled by the National Referee Council from the UIT Rule Book - it comprises the Pistol Events only, both Special Technical Rules and General Technical Rules.

F.R. VAPA METAL BADGES (Blue) $4.00 each Shield shaped badge. VAPA logo of light blue V on navy blue background.

F.R. VAPA CLOTH BADGES (Blue) $4.00 each Shield shaped badge. VAPA logo of light blue V on navy blue background.

VAPA CAPS $4.00 each Soft cloth cap with navy blue side panels with pale blue centre-piece. Navy blue VAPA badge printed on front of centre-piece. Medium peak with plastic insert so cap is fully washable. Sizes: Small, Medium and Large.

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