

NEWSLETTER

2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Messages from our President and Chairman
- News about past and upcoming events
- Team Announcements
- SABU's 100th Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

7 February 2026:
Gauteng Open

6 - 7 March 2026:
Gauteng North Open

20 - 21 March 2026:
Leeu van Wes-Transvaal

10 April 2026:
Free State Open

11 - 18 Apr 2026:
SA Open Championships

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is time once again for me to compose and send the president's message to all our shooters and their families. I think it is important to remind us all that shooting is not just lying down and blazing away at a target, it is about friendships, camaraderie, sportsmanship, together with long hours of practice, as well as appreciating those who give up their time to arrange, present and organize events.

Sadly, each year families lose loved ones, must deal with illness, whilst others have to deal with difficult times and circumstances. Together with most of us who have been able to carry on with our daily lives in a normal fashion, compassionately, my thoughts go out to all families whom have lost loved ones or are struggling with difficulties. The Bible says, "Blessed are those who grieve, they will be comforted". I sincerely hope that all who are grieving are indeed comforted. We also remember fellow shooters and friends we have lost with humility and respect.

I think it is fair to say SABU has done well over the past year. The SA Open Championships were successfully presented in the traditional fashion, attracting a group of overseas visitors who were very welcome. My congratulations to all those involved in organizing and presenting these events.

I further congratulate all who have been selected to represent SA in the coming year and wish them every success.

The year ahead has a normal program with SA open championships (TR and F Class combined). I wish all who are involved in the organizing and presenting these events every success. I hope things go smoothly for all concerned.

I further welcome all the overseas visitors who join us, wishing them a safe and enjoyable visit.

Thinking of local shoots and ordinary shooters I repeat what I have said previously. We must remember they are the life blood of the sport. I know they face rising costs, scarcities of propellant and other components on top of which there are, in some cases, limited opportunities to practice. It is up to all of us to encourage and help them wherever possible. I also appeal to those organizing shoots to try to keep entry fees as low as possible so that those whose funds are limited are not driven away.

I extend a warm welcome to all newcomers to the sport may it be a long, enjoyable and fruitful experience. Some folk take to prone Bisley shooting effortlessly and do well from the word go, others take a while longer and must persevere to get to a reasonably competitive level. However, the effort is worth it. The reward of shooting a reasonable score is in itself very satisfying. Furthermore, most of the shooters are friendly, very helpful as well as being most enjoyable social company, in getting to know them one can make wonderful friendships that last a lifetime.

The most important part of this message is to share the Christmas message of peace on Earth and joy and goodwill with you all. I wish all of you and your families a blessed and happy Christmas. May the New Year bring us all happiness, hope, good health, safety, success and good shooting. God bless and keep you all safe.

Syd



FROM THE PEN OF OUR CHAIRMAN

Beste lede,

Terwyl ons die einde van 'n besige en betekenisvolle jaar nader, wil ek graag 'n oomblik neem om terug te kyk na alles wat ons as SABU bereik het. 2025 was 'n jaar waarin ons tog gegroei het, maar waarin ons veral ook gewys het waartoe ons in staat is wanneer daar met passie, deursettingsvermoë en spanwerk meegeding is.

Een van die groot hoogtepunte was sonder twyfel die suksesvolle aanbieding van die SA Ope Kampioenskappe. Dit was 'n kampioenskap wat met toewyding en die gees van sportmanne- en sportvrouskap deelgeneem was. Baie dankie aan elke persoon wat daaraan deelgeneem, ondersteun, of bloot die gees kom deel het.

Op die internasionale front het ons spanne weer eens gewys hulle kan saam met die beste in die wêreld staan. Gedurende die "F-Class European Championships" het die F-TR Proteaspan 'n uitmuntende prestasie gelewer deur goud te wen in die 16-man Americas match, terwyl die F-Open span silwer verower het in die 8-man Americas match.

Baie geluk aan die TR Proteaspan wat Kenja in beide toetse tydens die SA Ope Kampioenskappe oortuigend wen.

Al drie julle spanne het nie net julle land nie, maar ook SABU trots gemaak.

As we approach the Festive Season, I wish to thank everyone for your enthusiasm, loyalty and love for our sport. SABU lives through its members and it is your involvement that makes us stronger. May you create unforgettable memories this Christmas with friends and family and may it be filled with hope, peace and laughter.

May 2026 bring us all new energy, new goals and new opportunities. We look forward to writing the next chapter in the history of SABU with you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!!!

Best Regards

Bernand De Beer



SABU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the recent SABU Council meeting a new SABU Executive Committee was selected. You will recognise the old faces, but we also welcome some new faces. We wish the SABU Exco all the best.

Herewith the SABU Exco members:

Chairman of SABU	–	JB de Beer
Chairman of Committees:		
Finance & Administration	–	JG du Toit
SA Championships	–	J Liebenberg
Selection	–	A Basson
Development & Media	–	JJ Deetlefs
Official Liaison	–	HC Smit
Constitution & Rules	–	B Reece-Edwards



SABU ON THE MOVE

After two incredibly busy years in 2023 and 2024, it may seem as though SABU has taken a step back to relax — but that couldn't be further from the truth. Our F-Class teams are already deep into preparations for the F-Class World Championships, taking place at Bisley, England in August 2026. Our Target Rifle shooters are equally hard at work as they gear up for the ICFRA Pairs and Individual International Matches in Brisbane, Australia in 2026.

We're excited for what 2026 has in store and have no doubt that our shooters will bring home plenty of medals — maybe even a couple of new World Champions.

But before we head into a very busy 2026, herewith a few key dates to diarize for 2026:

1. Gauteng Open Championships - 7 February 2026
2. Gauteng North Open Championships - 6 – 7 March 2026
3. Leeu van Wes-Transvaal - 20 – 21 March 2026
4. Free State Open Championships - 10 April 2026
5. **SA Open Championships** - **11- 18 April 2026**
6. Mpumalanga Open Championships - 30 May 2026
7. PALMA Kamp - 13 June 2026
8. **SABU Long Range Championships** - **2 – 4 July 2026**
9. **FCWC 2026** - **3 – 16 August 2026**
10. PALMA Kamp - 4 – 5 September 2026
11. Kwa-Zulu Natal Open Championships - 12 September 2026
12. Western Province Open Championships - 30 September – 3 October 2026
13. **NRAA Championships** - **8 – 20 October 2026**
14. SABU Raadsvergadering - 24 October 2026
15. Griekwaland-Wes Bisley - 30 – 31 October 2026
16. Louis Le Grange Noordelike Bonde - 7 November 2026
17. Kirkwood Bisley Championships - 20 – 21 November 2026

HEREWITH THE TEAMS FOR THE VARIOUS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ICFRA Individual & Pairs International Championships to be held during October 2026 in Australia.

Manager: JB de Beer
Shooters: RJ Gouws
JC Jonck

The SA Protea F-TR Team to compete in The F-Class World Team Championships 2026

Captain: Venter SJH

Manager: Wille JH

Coaches: Basson A
Du Plooy W
Rolfes H

Shooters: Barnes D
Botha JW
Cilliers JD
De Beer D
Deetlefs JJ
Labuschagne DR

O'Neill EJ
Potgieter RH
Snyman EJ
Van Rooyen WJ
Van Tonder JCA



The SA Protea F-Open Team to compete in The F-Class World Team Championships 2026

Captain: Swanepoel JP

Manager: Smit HC

Coaches: Coetzee FWA
Maritz JH (Snr)

Shooters: Coetzee FJ
Diedericks CJ
Du Plessis C
Engelbrecht BJ
Lishman R
Louw JHC

Mulke KW
Prinsloo W
Steyn FJS
Terblanche JC
Terblanche VC
Toy AD



2025 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

A total of 14 FTR and 7 F-Open shooters travelled to Bisley, UK during September for the 2026 F-Class European Championships. This trip served primarily as a scouting trip prior to the 2026 World Championships to be held at the same venue.

The F-Open 8-man team (not an official Protea team) took a gold medal in the European Championship match as well as a silver medal in the Americas Cup.

The FTR team toured with an official Protea team to participate in two 16-man team events held during the championships. The Protea FTR team did us proud, achieving a silver medal in the European Championship 16-man Team Match, and improving further to take the gold medal in the prestigious 16-man Americas Teams Match ahead of full-strength teams from the USA, Canada and Great Britain. Congratulations to Henk Venter and his team.





11 - 18 April 2026

Come and enter for the Championships!

Entry forms are available on the SABU website: www.sabisley.com

Closing date for entries is 28 February 2026.



SAVE THE DATES

DOT THESE DATES DOWN IN YOUR DIARY!

SA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

2027: 10 - 17 APRIL 2027

2028: 1 - 8 APRIL 2028

2029: 4 - 15 APRIL 2029



Do
**SAVE
THE
DATE**
Do



SABU'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Looking Ahead: SABU's Landmark 2029 Commemorative Events

As we approach a historic milestone, excitement is already building! The organization we now proudly call SABU traces its roots back to 1928, when the four provincial rifle associations united to form the South African National Rifle Association—later renamed the South African Bisley Union in 2000. Just one year after its founding, the very first South African National Rifle Championship under the new banner took place in Cape Town in 1929.

Now, a full century later, SABU is gearing up to celebrate this legacy in style.

A Century in the Making

The 2029 SA Open Target Rifle Championships will serve as a special commemorative event honoring the 100th anniversary of that inaugural 1929 championship. While planning is still in its early stages, the vision is clear: 2029 will be a year to remember.

What to Expect

The Southern International Challenge is expected to feature prominently, with invitations extended to shooting nations across the globe.

Additional international and domestic team events are being considered to elevate the competitive spirit.

And of course, the much-loved individual program will continue, welcoming both South African and overseas competitors to take part in this historic occasion.

Mark Your Calendars

SABU aims to make this a truly prestige event, befitting a century of tradition, excellence, and sportsmanship. All shooters—local and international—are encouraged to start planning now to be part of this once-in-a-generation celebration.

2029 is set to be unforgettable. Don't miss your place in SABU history!



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR