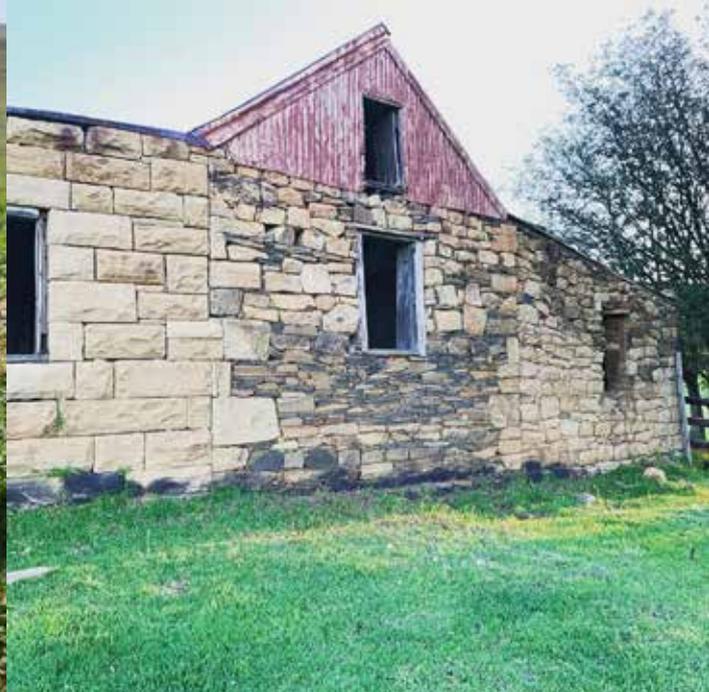


IMPACT XTREME MASTER OF 2 KM+ EVENT



▲ Brendan Fike's current ELR setup: Truvelo CMS 338LM, 32" Barrel, 4AW muzzle brake, S&B PMII scope, 65MOA Picatinny rail, Phoenix bipod and Custom bag rider with integral recoil damper

The venue for Impact Xtreme Shooting's Master of 2 km+ event was the scenic Moreson Ranch in the Free State, a diverse area of green rolling hills, undulating grassy plains, cold mountain springs and, yes, you guessed it, tricky winds.

The Impact Xtreme team had decided to ensure our events conformed to international standards, with a similar format as at ELR events like the King of 2 Miles and Master of 2 km. Why? Quite simply, firstly all achievements at our ELR events would be credible internationally. Secondly, it would also prepare our ELR shooters to compete and integrate into similar events worldwide. Lastly, it would also attract international participation, and allow us to forge alliances with the ELR industry.

There was mixed feedback to the new match format, especially the disqualification targets in the qualifying round, and the 'non-sharing of firearms' rule. Some additional clauses addressed these issues to make it easier for shooters to become accustomed to the new standard. For example:

- Competitors who did not qualify on Day One were still allowed to re-engage the course after the official qualification round had been completed. Similarly, those who did not qualify for the Finals were still afforded the opportunity to engage the final day's course under the same rules and time constraints as the finalists, after the Finals had been concluded.
- Sharing of rifles on the same day is also not allowed internationally. This is due to the fact that the first shooter can share his data on previous engagements (DOPE) with the next shooter utilising the same firearm system, putting them at an extreme advantage over other shooters. At our event, sharing of firearms was permitted conditionally, but only if competitors highlighted this fact during registration, and then only the first shooter's score would count. Subsequent shooters could still engage the course of fire under the same conditions and time constraints to gain experience, but their score would not be considered valid within the bounds of the competition.

STREAMLINED REGISTRATION

To streamline the event registration, we created an online registration system for both shooters and spectators alike. The idea was for competitors to simply arrive, check in, relax, and enjoy the weekend, without having to fuss about the daily logistics. Competitors started arriving on Thursday 14 March. Soon shots could be heard from the 1 200 m range as they confirmed their zero and verified DOPE. The excitement and build-up to the following day's qualification shoot was almost tangible that evening as competitors enjoyed a tasty supper and drinks at The Lion's Den, the on-site restaurant and bar.

THE HD CAMERA SYSTEM AND THIRD UMPIRE WERE A FIRST

The event organisers were up early the following morning to prepare the course of fire. Flags, magnetospeed target indicators, and HD camera systems, each with their small generator packs, were installed in the field and tested at each of the targets. It was a first for a South African LR/ELR competition to have a HD camera system and third umpire.

QUALIFYING ROUND

The qualifying round consisted of a non-disqualification cold-bore target (T1) and disqualification targets (T2, T3, T4, T5). A minimum of five minutes was allowed for set-up before the course timer was activated. A single shot was fired at T1, and thereafter five shots each at the disqualification targets in the allotted 20 minutes. Failure to make an impact on T2, T3, T4 or T5 within the allotted five shots per target resulted in disqualification.

The qualification target distances ranged from 1 150 m to 1 872 m. The shooting sequence was drawn the previous evening using a Microsoft Excel random sequence generator. The firing position consisted of two elevated scaffold-shooting platforms. The dedicated spotter and scorer were positioned between these platforms, allowing them to control both firing positions and score from a single position.

While the one team was shooting, the next team set-up and got ready, without being disturbed by the muzzle blasts from active competitors. This really allowed the shooting portion of the event to run smoothly.

THE WIND WAS IN A HURRY

The wind was in a hurry that first morning, mostly prevailing R-L at a brisk 13km/h. T1 at 1 545 m proved to be a tough one. The only competitor to impact this target was Liezi Meyer with a Truvelo 338LM. She made sure everyone remembered this fact, and had a little fun daring the boys to try again at the end of the day. T2 (1 151 m) and T3 (1 419 m) received a fair amount of punishment. However, moving towards T4 (1 573 m) and T5 (1 872 m) proved very tricky, and eluded many competitors. T5 was especially tricky, as it was tucked right up the left side of a valley washout behind a hill, and overshadowed by a large mountain to the right, so much of the wind correction values used on the previous targets did not apply as much.

The top ten competitors qualifying for the Finals were selected based on the following hit criteria. Specific distinction was made between those competitors that hit more course targets. So the top three shooters qualifying for the Finals were the only three competitors to hit all the disqualification targets, and were ranked according to the highest scores between them. Thereafter, competitors who hit three of the four targets fill in the next finalist spots, and so on. The top three spots during the qualifying stage went to Brendan Fike, Jaco Nell and Gary Meyer respectively.

OPEN RANGE

As promised, after the official qualifying round had been completed, the range remained open for those competitors who wanted to re-engage any of the five targets, or perhaps engage targets they did not make it to due to being disqualified. This opportunity was also used to introduce spectators to ELR distance targets, and being able to try various rifle set-ups. For instance, Janrich and Zeldine Abraham had registered as spectators to learn more at the event.

However, they ended up assisting with spotting and being afforded the opportunity to engage some of the day's targets. It was very satisfying to see Janrich's reaction when he achieved his personal best distance of 1 150 m with a Truvelo 338LM he had just shot for the first time. Judging by this alone, the day was a huge success. All the cameras, generators and magnetospeed target indicators had survived the ordeal, undamaged behind their sand sack bunkers and 10 mm plate protectors, which had taken some ordinance.

THE WIND WAS BACK

The following day seemed wind-free down at the Moreson Ranch base camp. This was most welcome due to the targets being much further in the Finals. It's always nice to get as much help as possible from Mother Nature. One again, the event organisers were up early to prepare the course of fire and set-up all the target accessories. But alas, by 09:30 the wind was back, so all attention focused initially on trying to figure out the windage correction factors to hit the targets successfully.

T4 (2 276 M) ONLY RECEIVED A SINGLE IMPACT ON THE DAY

Target distances at the Finals ranged from 1 418 m to 2 276 m. Competitors had a brisk 15 minutes to complete the course of fire. These were non-disqualification targets, so the shooters' limitations were really time and ammunition. A shooter could only score on the first five shots per target. Thereafter, they could continue shooting until they impacted that target in order to move onto the next target, where they would have another chance to score. The shooting sequence was exactly as per the previous day. The first-placed shooter would shoot first, followed by the second-placed shooter, and so on.

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▲ Brendan Fike and Liezi Meyer

MASTER OF 2KM ▶

ELUSIVE TARGETS

T1 (1 418 m) received a good dose of lead-core and monolithic bullets. However, T2 (1 971 m) turned out to be one of the most difficult targets of the competition. It was placed in a waterlogged, marshy area, and bullets were just not consistently performing around this target. There was a lot of elevation dispersion, without a logical reason as to why. Some theorised that the humidity and air density varied between the wind gusts. T3 (2 185 m) also proved elusive, but T4 (2 276 m) only received a single impact on the day, from Brendan Fike's 250 gr Berger hybrid projectile.

The 15-minute stage time limit seemed long, but was very tight. You had to make four new target set-ups at extreme distances, plus you had to fire a minimum of 20 shots within this allotted time. In fact, only one of the finalists finished the course of fire in time, with 1:58 still remaining. The rest of the competitors ran out of time, proving that 15 minutes is a good time to maintain, keeping in mind that the international competitions allow much less time than this. The time limit also ushers a new dimension into the shooting equation, namely more STRESS!



▲ Jaco Heyns, Brendan Fike, Liezl Meyer, Graeme Warrack

PEARLS OF ANXIETY

Competitors could be seen fighting their bolt stroke, struggling to single-feed bullets into chambers, with pearls of anxiety evident on all foreheads. It was a massive learning curve for all, revealing that time management needs to be practiced and monitored closely by the team during the course of fire. The shooter needs to know if he is behind or in front of the time limits that the team had decided to allot to each target.

Scores were tallied, and the prizegiving revealed the overall winners. The 2019 Cooper Tires Africa Master of 2 km+ top spot went to Brendan Fike, followed by Tielman de Villiers in second place and Gary Meyer in third place. Brendan donated his Cooper Tires Africa prize back into the 2019 Impact Xtreme Shooting prize pool, so there are two such prizes now up for grabs still in the 2019 ELR season.

A big thank you to Graeme Warrack for contributing to the overall success of this event. We appreciate all you do behind the scenes. Here's hoping to see YOU at the next 2019 Impact Xtreme Shooting Event! •



IMPACT XTREME SHOOTING - MASTER OF 2KM+

FINALS RESULTS - 16/03/2019

POSN #	SHOOTER NAME	FIREARM CALIBER	SPOTTER #1	SPOTTER #2	SCORING HITS %	STAGE TIME REMAINING	FINALS SCORE
1	Brendan Fike	338LM	J Heyns (jnr)	J Heyns (snr)	35%	01:58	176883
2	Tielman de Villiers	375CT	S Flink	M Oberholzer	30%	DNF	124841
3	Gary Meyer	375CT	B Cooper	-	25%	DNF	86834
4	Kobus Westraad	338LM	A Postma	-	20%	DNF	74142
5	Stephan Swanepoel	338LM	M v Schalkwyk	-	15%	DNF	60531
6	Marius van Schalkwyk	375H&H	S SWANEPOEL	-	15%	DNF	55103
7	Adrienne Postma	338LM	K Westraad	-	10%	DNF	37733
8	Jaco Nell	338NM	J Wright	-	10%	DNF	23030
9	Jaco Heyns (snr)	338LM	B Fike	J Heyns (jnr)	-	DNF	0
9	Marco Oberholzer	338LM	S Flink	T de Villiers	-	DNF	0

IMPACT XTREME SHOOTING - MASTER OF 2KM+**TARGET & HIT ANALYTICS**

TARGET #	TARGET DISTANCE + ANGLE	TARGET IDENT	TARGET DIMENSION (h x w) mm	TARGET BALLISTIC SIZE h x w in MOA	# SHOTS FIRED AT TARGET	# HITS ON TARGET	TARGET HIT %
Qualification 15-03-2019							
Target 1	1545m; -1.5°	Blue Flag	400 x 400	0.8 x 0.8	17	1	6%
Target 2	1151m; -2.8°	Orange Flag	500 x 800	1.3 x 2.0	85	27	32%
Target 3	1419m; -1.2°	Pink Flag	600 x 980	1.3 x 2.0	55	14	25%
Target 4	1573m; +0.5°	Red Flag	680 x 1100	1.3 x 2.1	45	14	31%
Target 5	1872m; -0.5°	Yellow Flag	740 x 1000	1.2 x 1.6	35	7	20%
				TOTAL	220	63	29%
Finals 16-03-2019							
Target 6	1418m; -0.2°	Blue Flag	700 x 950	1.5 x 2.0	85	33	39%
Target 7	1971m; -0.2°	Orange Flag	780 x 1050	1.2 x 1.6	84	8	10%
Target 8	2185m; +1.5°	Pink Flag	900 x 1100	1.2 x 1.5	59	7	12%
Target 9	2277m; +2.0°	Yellow Flag	980 x 1200	1.3 x 1.6	19	1	5%
				TOTAL	247	49	20%

IMPACT XTREME SHOOTING - MASTER OF 2KM+**TOP 10 EQUIPMENT LIST**

#	SHOOTER	RIFLE MAKE	RIFLE MODEL	RIFLE CALIBRE	BARREL LENGTH	BARREL TWIST	MUZZLE DEVICE	BIPOD MAKE	BULLET MAKE	BULLET WEIGHT	BULLET VELOCITY	SCOPE MAKE	SCOPE MODEL	SCOPE RETICLE	SCOPE RINGS
1	Brendan Fike	Truvelo	CMS	338LM	32"	1:10	Brake	Phoenix	Berger	250gr	3145fps	S&B	PMII 5-25x56	H37	NF
2	Tielman de Villiers	Victrix	Tornentum	375CT	30"	1:10	Brake	Phoenix	SMK	350gr	2950fps	NF	ATACR 7-35x56	MOAR	Tier One
3	Gary Meyer	Victrix	Tornentum	375CT	30"	1:10	Brake	Phoenix	SMK	350gr	2950fps	NF	ATACR 7-35x56	MOAR	Sphur
4	Kobus Westraad	Barrett	MRAD	338LM	26"	1:9.35	Brake	Atlas	Berger	300gr	2720fps	NF	ATACR 5-25x56	MIL-R	NF
5	Stephan Swanepoel	Savage	BA110	338LM	26"	1:10	Supp	Atlas	Lapua	300gr	2550fps	Bushnell	Tactical 3.5-21x50	G3/G3i	Warne
6	Marius van Schalkwyk	Custom	CUSTOM	375H&H	26"	1:12	Supp	Atlas	Peregrine	350gr	2440fps	Sightron	S3 6-24x50	MOA	ERA TAC
7	Adrienne Postma	Sako	TRG42	338LM	24"	1:10	Brake	Sako	Berger	300gr	2720fps	Vortex	Razor HD GenII	MR2C	Warne
8	Jaco Nell	Mojet	Custom	338NM	32"	1:8	Supp	Sinclair	Berger	300gr	2860fps	NF	NXS 8-32x56	MOART	Custom
9	Jaco Heyns (snr)	Truvelo	CMS	338LM	26"	1:10	Brake	Sinclair	Berger	250gr	2920fps	IOR Valdada	Recon 4-28x50	Xtreme X1	Sphur
10	Marco Oberholzer	Victrix	Scorpio	338LM	31"	1:8	Brake	Sinclair	Berger	300gr	2800fps	Lynx	LX3 5-30x56	MOA	Warne

OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

From the beginning, Cooper Tires Africa stepped in as the major sponsor, supporting the event financially, and putting up the main prize of 50% off any set of Cooper Tires. Corné van Niekerk set up examples of their latest technology for SUVs and pick-ups. Without their support, we would not have been able to offer such a quality event. Another generous sponsor, Quantum CCTV, professionally built and programmed the cameras, transmitters, receivers and network video recorder for us. A big thank also to: Align Survey, Heyns Boerdery, *On Target Africa Magazine*, Gun Warrior, Legionnaire, Lynx Optics, Peterson Cartridge Co, Ballistic Beast Precision SA, Website Solutions, Gensol, Casa Barry Lodge & FAR Diesel Power Services. Lastly, we would like to thank Moreson Ranch for being so accommodating.

**CONTACTS**

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