

Myths, Gods and Heroes

*The beautiful history of Kimberley Clay Target Club
and the Northern Cape CTSA*



The history of Clay Target Shooting in South Africa is replete with beautiful stories, incredible legends, magnificent champions and outstanding achievements.

Paradigm Shift in 1972

The delightful history of the Northern Cape CTSA (previously Griqualand West CPSA), began over 50 years ago. The prestigious history of De Beers Gun Club began 50 years ago alongside the **paradigm-shifting election of Dr Alec Kalell in 1972** as Chairman of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association of South Africa (renamed the Clay Target Shooting Association of South Africa in 1997).

Duncan Coutts (Northern Cape CTSA Chairman for many years and a member

*"Old myths,
old gods,
old heroes
have never died.
They are only
sleeping at the
bottom of our mind,
waiting for our call.
They represent the
wisdom of our race"*

Stanley Kunitz

of the De Beers Gun Club since 1977) recalls the words of Mr Hubert Wright at his farewell from the club -

"It's not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club!"

Selfless Philosophy

This selfless and magnanimous philosophy has woven its way through the past 50 years with the Northern Cape clubs, from the Riverside Gun Club founded in 1958 through to Sandiacres Gun Club (established in 1960) and De Beers Gun Club in 1971 (now Kimberley Clay Target Club).

**Not forgetting the
younger clubs!**

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Not forgetting the younger clubs!

The younger clubs of Pofadder Skietklub and Molopo Clay Target Club keep the sport active in the far reaches of the province.

Delving into the history of the Northern Cape CTSA and De Beers Gun Club, reveals many honourable accomplishments, not least of which are the South African national team awards in both the Springbok and Protea eras.

Inextricably linked

The history of Griqualand West CPSC/Northern Cape CTSA is inextricably linked to the De Beers Diamond Mine, where in the very early days the De Beers Gun Club was run by Mr Hubert Wright, who was the Manager of the De Beers Diamond Mine.

Riverside Gun Club Generations of Great Clay Shooters

Prior to De Beers Gun Club, the late Derek Potgieter (**below photo, Derek** wearing a hat whilst coaching the children, **inset is Norma**, Derek's late wife) was a founder member of the Riverside Gun Club, during which time he earned his Springbok Colours in 1962. Derek's father Gerald and



brother Peter, were all founding members. **Derek's Grandson, Hayden**, is following in his footsteps with his second Northern Cape team selection in the NSSA Skeet discipline.

Sandiacres Gun Club

Sandiacres was the second clay target club to be established in the Northern Cape in 1960. Many of the founder members of Riverside became involved in this new club.



Exceptional shooters from Sandiacres included Paddy Herbert, John Klemp, Bill Wright, Tommy Mitchell, Jimmy Hill and Charles Westley. The renowned aviator, Group Captain Sailor Malan, WW2 Battle of Britain air ace, was also a member of Sandiacres Gun Club.

The Griqualand West shooters swept the board at the South African Championship in Johannesburg in 1961 winning the Trap singles and doubles and the five man team event. The club closed its ranges in ± 1981.



A potted history from Duncan Coutts:

"I was very lucky to be invited to join the De Beers Gun Club in 1977 - in those days membership was by invitation only.

Clays were manufactured at a very reasonable cost at the club. The clays cost 20c per 25 rounds and 25 rounds of shotgun cartridges cost us R1.00. The De Beers mine provided all the labour for the above as well as maintaining the club and the grounds.

However, in the late 1980's De Beers passed a motion that they would no longer support the sports clubs. The members of the Clay Shooting Club got together and decided they would select a committee and, with the help of the members and the public, would keep the club going. Members such as Ronnie van der Nest, Allen Warren and Volker Nauman were some of the members who worked hard and contributed towards the survival of the club."

Errol Erasmus and Allan Warren are the last two remaining members of the original De Beers Gun Club, who remain members of Kimberley Clay Target Club.

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National Association Support from the CTSASA

Throughout the history of the Kimberley Clay Target Club and the Northern Cape CTSA, the national Clay Target Shooting Association of South Africa has been at their side and supported the development of Clay Target Shooters in the province, with the yearly provincial and national championships, plus the numerous Chairman's Cups and inter-provincial championships.

Northern Cape Inspiration

Although one of the smaller provinces, the enthusiasm and motivation of the Northern Cape CTSA members continues to inspire and produce new Clay Target Shooters who enjoy all the benefits of the hard work and glorious history of their forebears.

In the past ten years, Northern Cape has increased its CTSASA membership by approximately 40%, whilst nearly trebling its membership in the past 20 years, including producing many new Junior members.

Come and Celebrate with Us!

In celebration of the 50 years of the Kimberley Clay Target Club and the Northern Cape CTSA, **we invite all the CTSASA Provincial Teams and guests to join us at the 39th CTSASA Chairman's Cup on the 26th/27th November 2023 at Kimberley Clay Target Club!**



Let us continue to make history and to pass our knowledge, our culture and our successes on to the next generation!

**"History dies without the present.
There is no future without the path
made to it by the past".**

Aiden Chambers

*For the full history of the
Northern Cape CTSA, Northern Cape Clubs
and the CTSASA, please click [HERE!](#)*



**"Without memory, there is no culture.
Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future".**

Elie Wiesel