

LEVIN MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

1929 – 1939

An excerpt from the Evening Standard stated that a new club had been formed in Levin and that there was a probability that the club would affiliate with the Manawatu Smallbore Rifle Association. However, it took a while to become fully established and it wasn't until 1934 that the club finally affiliated.

In its first year of shooting, Levin were runners up in the Collinson Shield with a team comprising L Ingram, L Anyon, M Fletcher, G Procter and C Swanwick. J Smart finished 3rd in the A Grade Manawatu Championships, and a team consisting of B Armstrong, P Humphrey, J Smart, R Tantrum and L Burling finished 2nd to Sandon in the Noble Cup.

The Manawatu competitions at this stage were divided into 3 sections, northern, central and southern, so as to reduce travelling costs. The southern section consisted of the Moutoa, Levin, Oroua Downs, and Tokomaru clubs. Levin, as winners of the section, went on to the finals shot at Oroua Downs, where they finished 2nd behind Linton.

Club delegates T Burling and A Humphrey were welcomed at the Manawatu annual meeting (1935) where the President, Mr A K Drew, congratulated the club on the excellent start it had made in its first year of competition. Eleven clubs were affiliated at this time.

Shooting reached a high level in the Manawatu B grade Championships with M Fletcher winning by a narrow margin from G Day of the Mako Mako club. The club also won the MMRA No 1 Cup with a team comprising P Braddock, S Lumsden, P Humphrey, T Burling, M Wright and C Swanwick.

1937 was also a successful season for the club, with its teams both finishing runners-up in the Cliffe & Remington and MMRA Cup competitions. One of the team members, J Horn, still has family members shooting today in the Horowhenua Association.

Mr J Bebbington of Otaki presented a shield in 1938 for competition between the Otaki, Levin and Shannon Miniature Rifle Clubs. The first challenge resulted in a close finish, with Levin taking the honours by 1 point. Each team consisted of 20 members, with the top fifteen scores counting.

The outbreak of the Second World War saw a cessation of shooting activities in the area.

However, at a meeting of clubs in 1946, the Horowhenua Association was formed and the Levin Club ceased to compete in the Manawatu Association.

