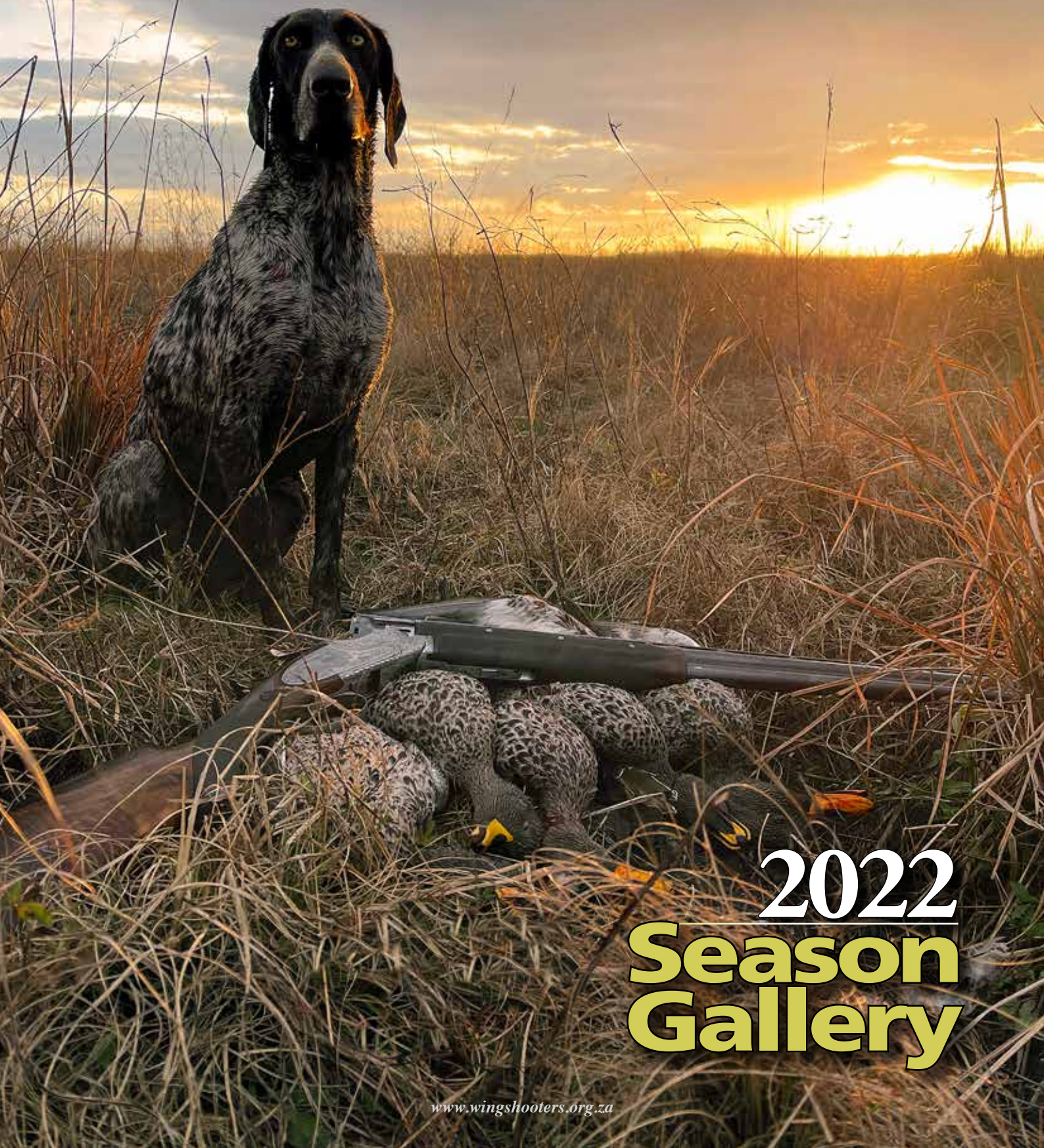




WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association Vol. 28 No. 4 – November/December 2022



2022
Season
Gallery

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Contents



Vol. 28 No. 4 • November/December 2022

Season Gallery

The Cover

Super GSP Molly-Moon Katrakilis hunting
near Wolwehoek, northern Free State.
Photograph by Harry Katrakilis



The Smaller the Bore..... 10

Editor's Message 2

Shooting & Conservation News..... 4, 6
Local, association and international news

PSP & LRSC 2022 Winners..... 8
The winners of the Postal Shooting Programme,
Long Range Shooting Club, TPS 3-gun/2-gun & .22PSBC

Shotgun Shooting Tips 14
Let the pros help you shoot better

The Best Selling Shotguns 16
Which brand sold the best in the UK

Photo Review of our Shoots I 18
The Donkerhoek en Heuningspruit

Photo Review of our Shoots II 20
The Rustenburg



Members in the Field 24
Photographs sent in by members

Photo Review of our Shoots III 26
Our Singita venue

Parvo Virus 28
How to prevent it

The Walther Semi-auto Shotgun 32
Yes, Walther made shotguns

Photo Review of the LRSC..... 36
Photographs of members at the matches

Photo Review of Active Members 38
Photographs of members' hunting & shooting trips

Our Association is All you Need 40



Dedicated Activity Report – 48

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION



PO Box 1097, Pinegowrie 2123
Tel 071 132 5450; or 082 412 5893
Fax to email: 086 211 5111
anel@wingshooters.co.za

NPO No 031-587-NPO • PM/0051/06/04

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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



At Ulunu Safaris venue
north of Alldays, in Limpopo

The season is all year round for us...

Usually, once the hunting season came to a close where one lives, it seemed as if the next hunting season was so far off! That is, until one realises this is not the case here in the good old RS of A!

It is much different for us in South Africa than in any other country that I know of. In no other western country may one hunt all year round. In South Africa, we have the longest hunting season possible – All Year!

That is correct sir! Most provincial hunting seasons are open to hunting in the winter months and usually close end July, end August or end September for most species. Always bear in mind that some bird species have specific season dates, that fall outside of the 'usual' hunting seasons, such as the African Shelduck (Bergeend), which breeds in winter and is therefore open in some provinces from January to March.

In some provinces certain bird species are open all year round, such as Egyptian geese, Guinea fowl and Spurwing geese, doves and pigeons in the Western Cape.

Wingshooters in South Africa really cannot complain as we literally do not have a completely closed season in our country. If you are willing to travel you can hunt all year round.

Oh, that reminds me, the duck season opens in January in the Western Cape so make sure to keep a look out for our Western Cape shoots coming up early next year. When I was a young boy in the 70s and early 80s I still clearly remember our goose hunting in the Strandveld and Bredasdorp areas during this time of year – November and December – on farms that are still to this day in our hunting calendar. Always stick to bag limits, or better yet, less than the bag limit and make sure you leave nothing except tracks wherever you go! Always respect and don't waste!

As always, and most importantly, we'd like to thank all our members for their support and we wish everyone a blessed festive season and holidays.

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Wildlife Politics –

LET'S FACE IT...

Big, international, non-governmental organizations are dominating wildlife issues today.

Individual activists, conservationists, even governments and international organizations, now take a secondary position in wildlife matters to the preeminence assumed by the wealthy, self-governing, privately controlled NGOs.

While many observers believe that this commanding dominance can be traced

unfailingly polite, and eternally hopeful that his or her interests will at least get a hearing.

If the Sustainability crowd is to regain needed political clout, this pattern of respectful timidity must change. It starts by being imaginative and clever. Look at these examples of how David beat Goliath in political battle:

Tom Hayden was one of the principal activists opposed to the Vietnam War in the 1960s and the former husband of Jane Fonda. When he became appalled at how easily big real estate interests were winning zoning changes for high density developments in and around crowded cities, he recruited political activists to run for office in many of California's 122 water districts. These folks required only a small amount of money to print election material to give away door to door. Since no one else had ever seriously campaigned for these sleepy offices with

in performing multiple times a day; in between, PETA said the animals were cruelly confined, often mistreated and in various stages of physical distress.

But the circus considered itself virtually unassailable, a fundamental part of America. PETA, in the meantime, quietly showed photos and videos to the media and politicians to make its point of ill-treated animals, had articles written quoting animal handlers describing their training techniques and provided papers from "experts" on the strange behavior of sentient beings in captivity. For the media and elected City Council members with pet-adoring readers and constituents, the "evidence" was eye-opening.

PETA's representatives also promised large campaign contributions and support for those Council members who would vote to authorize a license only if the participation of wild animals was eliminated. When PETA had the votes, it pounced. City after city withheld licenses to operate if wild animals were involved. Ringling Bros. said it was the wild animals that brought the audiences. Soon, however, it found that it did not have enough venues to operate efficiently. It closed in 2017 and declared bankruptcy. It says it will try in 2023 to offer a circus without live animals, but no one knows if anyone will come.

The Hayden and PETA stories suggest that smart politics work. But many associated with the SUC seem trapped in the belief that the good must be sacrificed for the perfect. The result is a failure to advance SUC goals against the policies of total wildlife abstinence preached by most animal welfare groups.

To reverse this trend takes strong public leadership. Somewhere out there is a media savvy, attractive, articulate individual from a supportive African or Asian nation who can serve as the spokesperson for the indigenous peoples living among the wild animals and needing them for their livelihood. We hope that leader will emerge soon.

Secondly, the SUC organizations ought to ally itself with stronger trade groups and bigger industries that have parallel interests. Of late, the effort to have animals granted legal rights equal to those of human beings has gained momentum



to the huge sums of money that these organizations have generated year after year and subsequently spread to politicians, wildlife interests and habitat needs, the truth is that the BINGOs (Big International Non-Government Organizations) have worked wildlife politics more adroitly than the smaller nations of Africa and Asia or their supporting groups in and out of the Sustainable Use Coalition.

The difference is startling when outsiders look closely. BINGOs stride onto the world's wildlife stages with themes, issues, plans, banners, organized forces and resources ready to present, promote and persuade anyone with a modicum of influence or an active vote. The small African and Asian governments — and the various SUC groups — arrive at these same meetings looking like a new graduate student dealing with a dissertation advisor for the first time: quietly diffident,

meaningful goals, most got elected.

Soon these new office holders were voting against the water resources required by each subdivision to fill the needs of homes, pools, spas and landscaping. Without a consistent and guaranteed flow of water, the houses wouldn't sell; without buyers, the developments wouldn't materialize. Chalk up a major win for the use of smart politics to lower urban densities.

PETA — the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — used smart politics to win better treatment of captive wild animals.

It aimed its attention on Ringling Bros., Barnum & Baily Circus — the 147-year-old icon of popular culture in the United States. When this circus and others travelled to every major American city, the elephants and horses raised the big tops and joined the lions and tigers

continued overleaf...



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in the media. The sponsors of the resultant court cases do not seem interested in improving the treatment of animals in chicken houses or on cattle feedlots; they really want to end the keeping and killing of any animal for human experiments or consumption.

Such organizations as the US Cattleman's Association and the (U.S.) National Pork Producers Council ought to be approached as a source of support by SUC groups. But these major food industry organizations aren't likely to drop funds into an empty bucket; they much prefer to endorse specific projects with known objectives. Rather than list those projects here, consider the arrows already in our quiver:

BINGOs unabashedly favor iconic land animals to protect because their young are cute, identifiable, and surefire magnets for fund raising. By the same token, BINGOs tend to ignore creatures that are confined to the sea, live below the earth's surface or buzz around above it. Where has CITES been in the matter of bees or butterflies? Shouldn't the public be made aware of why the BINGOs ignore such important ecological topics?

Plant and animal species in many locations are threatened by non-native species. For instance, carp were introduced to the Mississippi River and Great Lakes to control algae. But these fish also lay thousands of eggs in their new habitats that grow into adults that are beating out native salmon, trout, and pike for the available food supply. What do the BINGOs and their vaunted reliance on the "experts" who got the carp concept so terribly wrong have to say about these developments? Why are the BINGOs so concerned about elephants and rhinos, thousands of miles away in Africa, instead of being involved in crucial environmental issues that are on their doorstep?

Survival of saltwater sea creatures — from corals to sponges, from sea urchins to eels — is another issue pretty much ignored by the BINGOs. Yet fish stocks play a vital role in food security for the world's population. Some 3 billion people get their primary source of protein from fish and close to a billion are dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

Because BINGOs seemingly can't

be bothered with the details of marine life, they are planning simply to have 30 percent of the earth's oceans declared out-of-bounds to human activity by 2030. Since the people who will live under this draconian policy dictate probably don't look much like the BINGO's donors, there isn't much to worry about here, is there?

The world needs to be concerned by the shallow, feckless, self-absorbed quality of the programs undertaken by the BINGOs — as well as the damage they are doing to the world's wild species with their outdated and overly broad concern for whole species rather than specific populations and carefully designated areas. The member groups of the SUC need to get on this case now.

— Godfrey Harris,
Managing Director of the Ivory
Education Institute.
IWMC

A United Front Against Okapi Trafficking

The dust diffused in the afternoon sun as Congolese authorities lugged several containers of illegal cargo into the light. Each box contained the velvety brown, uniquely striped skins and body parts from okapi poached in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Okapi Wildlife Reserve. This seizure, which also resulted in an arrest, is indicative of an unsettling increase in illegal wildlife trafficking between eastern DRC and Uganda. Conserv Congo, a local NGO partnering with authorities, seeks to smother this emerging trend with support from the Okapi Conservation Project (OCP), who have protected the Reserve's okapi for over 35 years.

Okapi are endangered relatives of giraffes found only in the remote forests of DRC, so distinctive and rarely seen that they are sometimes called Africa's unicorns. The Reserve is one of their only strongholds, housing approximately 3,200 okapi as of a 2018 census. But this already fragile population has been declining in recent



years due to increased poaching. Okapi in the Reserve, as well as Lomami and Virunga National Parks, are being killed and trafficked to Uganda and faraway markets like Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Their ornate skins are sold as decorations, while okapi meat, bones, and fat are targeted for false medicinal value, with every part selling for thousands of dollars.

With OCP providing financial support and information about illegal sales from neighboring communities, Conserv Congo is leading a thorough response to the trafficking of okapi and other wildlife. Their investigation revealed that 80% of the illegal wildlife products seized in Uganda originate from DRC, and estimates that products from up to 10 okapi have been crossing the border every month since 2019. OCP worries that, if this poaching is not stopped, it may decimate DRC's small okapi population within just a few years.

Together with DRC and Ugandan authorities, Conserv Congo created a taskforce to pursue these wildlife criminals on both sides of the border. Their large informant network helps identify the sellers and buyers of okapi products. OCP's close relationship with DRC communities and Reserve ecoguards plays a crucial role in this pursuit, helping Conserv Congo receive tips on poaching activity, develop a map of trade routes, and collect intelligence that facilitates arrests. By exchanging data and launching joint patrols, this taskforce has successfully captured nine traffickers in possession of okapi products and is currently investigating another eight. Two of these criminals have been sentenced, but convictions are sometimes difficult to secure; it is not uncommon for charges to suddenly be dropped. OCP aid allows Conserv Congo to stay involved throughout the lengthy prosecution process to ensure each trafficker is appropriately sentenced.

— By David Vasquez

https://wildnet.org/a-united-front-against-okapi-trafficking/?mc_cid=214dd48891&mc_eid=8442aa568a



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2022 Competition Target Shooting Results



Annual PSP Target Shooting Winners 2022



HANDGUN – Centrefire

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Wim A. Lambrechts: 100 (5 x-rings)

Silver –

Mikey C. Young: 95 (4 x-rings)

Bronze –

Dante Fratti: Score 92 (2 x-ring)

RIMFIRE HANDGUN

Gold –

Dante Fratti: 100 (6 x-rings)

Silver –

Wim A. Lambrechts: 100 (3 x-rings)

Bronze –

Glen I. Moola: 98 (2 x-rings)

RIMFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

Wim A. Lambrechts: 100 (10 x-rings)

Silver –

Dante Fratti: 100 (10 x-rings)

Bronze –

Alan Harrison: 100 (9 x-rings)

CENTREFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

Alan Harrison: 100 (10 x-rings)

Silver –

Wim A. Lambrechts: 100 (8 x-rings)

Bronze –

Daniel T. Vorster: 94 4 x-rings)



LRSC 2022 Winners

OVERALL 2022 Points Winners:

Gold: Cliff Alexander (350 pts)

Silver: Marius Gericke (320 pts)

Bronze: Christiaan de la Rey (240 pts)

4th: Danie Tait (230 pts)

5th: Friedel Kirstein (170 pts)

.338 F-BA Division:

Gold: Mongezi Milela

Silver: Martin Magwaza

Bronze: Jordan Toy

6.5 F-BA Division:

Gold: Cliff Alexander

Silver: Christiaan de la Rey

Bronze: Bernard Cilliers

.308 F-BA Division:

Gold: Christiaan de la Rey

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Neil van Vuuren



.300 Win. Mag. Division:

Gold: Etienne de Beer

Silver: Tony Ernst

.223 F-BA Division:

Gold: Charl Jacobs

Silver: André vd Westhuizen

.22-250 F-BA Division:

Gold: Friedel Kirstein

.223 F-SL (Self-Loading Rifle) Division:

Gold: Marius Gericke

Silver: Noel Gibson

Bronze: André van der Westhuizen

.308 F-SL (Self-Loading Rifle) Division:

Gold: Marius Gericke

Open Division (Major):

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne

Silver: Marius Gericke

Open Division (Minor):

Gold: Cliff Alexander

Silver: Danie Tait

Bronze: Etienne de Beer

3F-BA Open Sight Division:

Gold: Rui Torres



TPS 2022 Winners

3-Gun Division (Handgun / SLR / Bolt):

Gold: André van der Westhuizen (107,36)

Silver: Bernard Cilliers (117,62)

Bronze: David Lillico (120,20)

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Self-Loading):

Gold: André vd Westhuizen (46,47)

Silver: David Lillico (56,71)

Bronze: Diaan Herbst (81,89)

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: David Lillico (75,64)

Silver: Marius Gericke (84,66)

Bronze: André van der Westhuizen (84,84)



.22PSBC 2022 Winners

.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: André van der Westhuizen

Silver: Bernard Cilliers

Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne

.22 LR Hunter Division:

Gold: Rui Torres

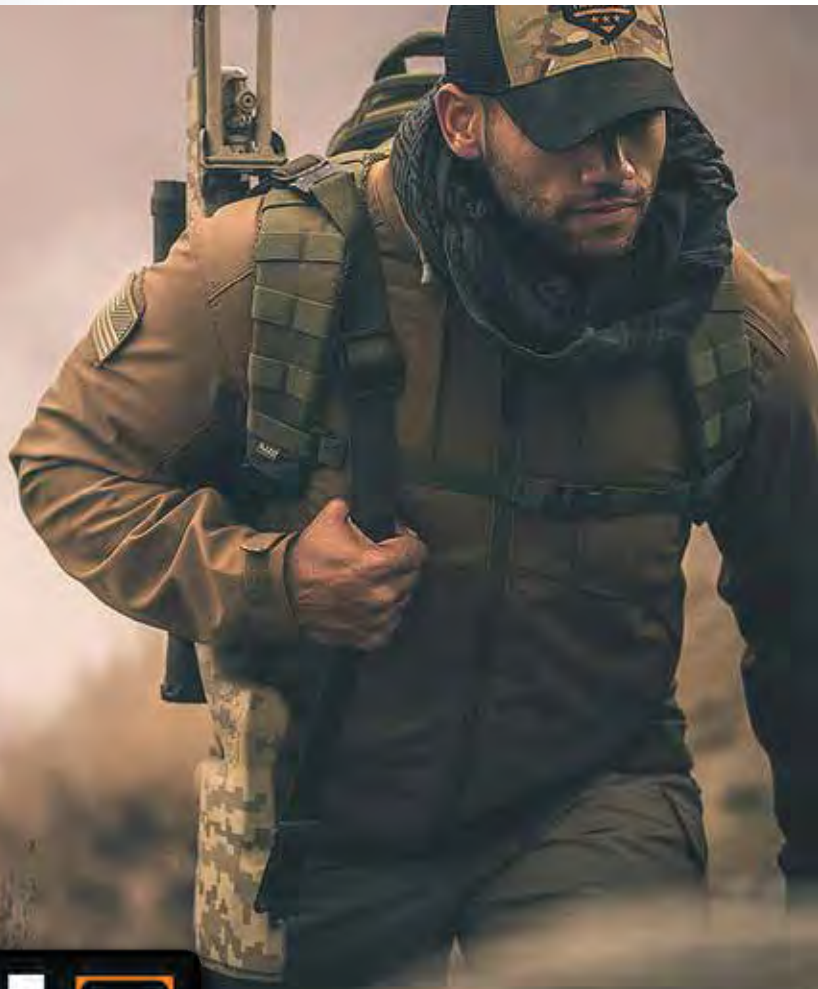
Silver: Bobby Lotter

Bronze: Etienne Polson

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**PURPOSE-BUILT GEAR
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The smaller the bore...

... the smaller the shot, or so the old saying goes, and shotgunning has a fair number of such pithy maxims. Most are worth absorbing as they are based upon long experience.

| by Charles Duff



Such as 'the pattern width is a function of the choke, not the bore'; or 'the larger the shot the less the effect of choke on it' and 'as the size of the shot is increased so the deformities that will occur as it passes through the constriction of the choke will increase'. And these last apply in spades to the smaller bores.

It is due to no random chance that for at least a century the most used British cartridge load for a 12ga was a 30 gram (11/16thoz) of size 6 shot. Because to get a balanced load the ratio of the bore diameter to the shot charge length is rather important, especially with the single base powders then available.

A balanced load is just another way of saying a superior patterning load. To quote an extreme case, the very spindly 3 inch .410 bore cartridge with its 16gram (9/16thoz) load has relatively more deformed



shot than any other shotgun load. And it takes over 1000 ft/lbs extra chamber pressure to do it. Due to the exposure of proportionately more pellets to the effects of bore scrub, and of course misshapen pellets will not fly true. Even the magnum obsessed Americans acknowledge this by only using the 2½ inch cartridge with its 14 grams (½ oz) load in their version of skeet.

The balanced load holds true for all the smaller bores and the optimum for the 16ga was 28grams (1oz), 20ga was 24 grams (7/8oz) and the 28ga was 21 grams (¾oz). However one could go up by ⅛ oz or so without too much undesired effect on the pattern. It has been common knowledge for donkey's years that an over-long shot column can collapse in flight and the end result is very poor patterns indeed. It is wise to remember another pithy saying – 'the finest patterns ever made put no game on the table or in the bag unless they are placed on target'.

Furthermore all shot loads encounter a 'choke' as they exit the cartridge and enter the lead into the bore. Only quite recently have a much less abrupt taper into the barrel's bore been adopted plus the

over-boring of the barrels, the true chokes have become more tapered and longer.

All of which reduces friction, pressures and pellet squeezing markedly, with the end effect of better patterns and more sure kills. The relatively recent introduction of progressive shotgun powders has made a big difference to pellet speeds and patterns, not to mention reduction in recoil, but it is still not a good idea to cram too much shot into too small a barrel.

I have over the years kept a wary eye on what was, and is, available in 28ga cartridges. Since though easily obtainable today, in the past I bought any and all boxes that I came across and the largest shot size I found and catalogued was size 4s.

I have one box of Fiocchi labelled 17gram (9/16oz) with roll-crimped 65mm cases which I have never used, physical pellet count on a sample was 102 pellets, (Italian 4s are the same 3.05mm diameter as British). Unless used for very close targets with a lot of choke such a load is pretty-well useless in the field.

Most of the 14 makers offered 5s as their largest and 9s as the smallest, so the smaller the bore, the smaller the shot holds true, and

*“A balanced
load is just
another way
of saying a
superior
patterning
load”*



Image: <https://blogmedia.widener.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Shotgun-Gauges-Velo.jpg>

“Regardless of the barrel size the width of the shot pattern is the same, but the length is somewhat longer”

the shot weights range from 15gram (5/16thoz) to 28gram (1oz).

The latter in a 2.72kg (6lbs) double is likely to rock your teeth a bit, 24 gram ($\frac{7}{8}$ oz) loads would be better, while the 15 gram loads might be useful to shoot rats, but little else. Having not had a 20ga in years I have unfortunately no equivalent data for it.

Back to ‘the size of a pattern is a function of the choke rather than the barrel’. Regardless of the barrel size the width of the shot pattern is the same, but the length is somewhat longer – about 3.65m (12ft) for the 20ga at 36m (40yds) compared with 3m (10ft) for the 12ga. Consider that the standard bore size for a 12ga is 18.52mm (0.729in), a 20ga is 15.62mm (0.615in) and a 28ga is 13.97mm (0.550in) – I exclude the .410 as it is not my idea of a promotable hunting weapon and though the 16ga makes a very acceptable double, it is just not seen in any frequency in the field. So the difference between

biggest and smallest is just 4.55mm (0.179in), really rather negligible.

However in terms of hunting loads, the 20ga and 28ga definitely have fewer pellets to disperse over the classic 30 inch patterning circle at 40 yards. Thus it is a very good idea to have a bit more choke than a 12ga would use, to keep the sparser patterns together.

On the plus side is the fact that progressively less actual bore constriction is required to get the same pellet percentage counts as the 12ga with the 20ga and 28ga barrels.

For instance, a combination of Open or Skeet choke and Quarter choke in the 12ga is generally recommended for pointed birds shot over dogs. The 20ga and 28ga should be Quarter and Half choke.

The pellet numbers below in 10 grams of shot are important, the percentage differences per shot size reductions are enlightening:-

The area of the 30in patterning circle is 4560 sq.cms (707 sq.ins),

Pellet Size:	3	4	5	6	7	7,5	8	9
Count/10gms:	49	60	78	95	120	141	159	205
% difference:	0	35%	30%	22%	26%	17,50%	12,80%	29%

and with a full choke at least 70% of the load should impact this at 36metres (40yds).

So a piddling 15gram 28ga load with its 90 size 4 pellets reduced to 63 gives a dispersion of 1 pellet per 71 sq.cms (11sq.ins). Of course we all know that there is not an even dispersion, but rather a much denser centre with corresponding sparser edges, but the size 5 with 117 pellets reduced to 82 pellets gives 55 sq.cms (8.6sq.ins) per pellet – considerably better, but still not great. The size 6 load has 143 pellets, down to 100 for a dispersion of 1 pellet per 46sq.cm (7sq.ins) – definitely better.



The 28ga is perfect for young and old alike. Just shoot within range.

However with a 'decent' hunting load of 24grams the figures become 228 pellets reduced to 160 at 36metres and 1 pellet per 20sq.cms (3 sq.ins) which is a true killing dispersion.

And this is precisely why I use size 6 shot in my 28ga rather than 5s or 4s. There are 22% more size 6 pellets than 5s, and a whopping 58% more than the 4s. The kinetic energy difference per pellet is fractional.

According to Eley, at 35 metres – as near as dammit 40yards – the difference in striking energy between a size 5 and a size 6 pellet is a whole 0.07m/kg or 0.46ft/lbs, I doubt that any bird would notice the difference! I believe that patterns kill, repeatedly, but the wise user of a 28ga should limit his shots to a maximum of 30 metres. 🦋



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SHOOTING TIPS

*Some tips to help you shoot better –
clays and birds...*



SA Wingshooters' Vice-Chairman
Dr Henni Boudjelthia

While visual focus on the target is key, your ability to focus on the target is largely dependent upon the efficiency of your movement. Mounting the gun while simultaneously maintaining visual focus and synchronizing with the target may sound simple, but it takes time to perfect, render consistent, and relegate to the subconscious. The rewards of practice, however, are lasting.

– This tip came from the book
"Mastering Sporting Clays" by Don Currie.

You can't have any score thoughts. None. Score thoughts is what got him in trouble on that tower. It cost him five birds, three on one stand, two on the next. No score thoughts. You just go out and you talk about fishing. You talk about the heat. You talk about the weather. You talk about the clays car, whatever you want to talk about, but you're not talking about score..

– This tip came from the book *"The Coaching Hour Chronicles – Conversations in the Pursuit of Sporting Clays Excellence, Volume 4"* by Gil & Vicki Ash.

Taking a teal as it's rising is difficult, and I rarely do it unless I'm forced to do so.

If you find yourself in that situation, plan to insert ahead of the target and use a maintained lead. I recommend starting with an unmounted gun to help you see the clay coming from behind the barrel. Use your gun mount as a timing mechanism to establish the necessary lead.

This is the same approach as shooting a crossing target quickly by mounting to the lead.

– This tip came from the book
"Straight Shooting – A World Champion's Guide to Shotgunning" by Anthony Matarese, Jr. with Kerry Luft.

So just what are the ingredients of a good, smooth, unhurried mount and swing? A perfect mount starts with perfect foot position. Get your feet wrong and it will be impossible to shoot rhythmically, swing smoothly, and, most important of all, remain balanced and in control. Good balance and body weight distribution are all-important. The weight should be slightly over the leading leg, or "nose over toes," as I tell my students. Why? Because the shooter's feet must provide a stable platform

so that the gun can be moved with perfect control, and this slightly weight-forward stance will help to soak up the recoil of the first shot so that there is quick recovery for the second.

– This tip came from the book
"Successful Shotgunning – How to Build Skill in the Field and Take More Birds in Competition" by Peter Blakeley.

Before getting into your pre-shot routine, get comfortable. After stepping into the box, create your nest. Kick spent shells out of the way. Adjust your hat for the sun or get behind a branch to eliminate sun glare. Move the trash can if it's in your way. Do whatever you need to do to create an environment where you are comfortable and can focus without distraction. You are in charge.

– This tip came from the book
"Shotgunning in the Automatic Mind – The Guide for Shotgunners and Instructors" by Warren Watson and Mike Wilfley.

Concentration can be easily broken: no-birds, late pulls, delays while traps are filled, back-ups on the stands, break-downs, a dozen fellow competitors watching... all these distractions combined with the inevitable fatigue and anxiety inherent in any competition, can cause you to lose focus.

– This tip came from the book
"Breaking Clays – Target Tactics, Tips & Techniques" by Chris Batha.

The shooter must make allowances for shooting conditions as well as speed and distance. He'll need a little more lead when conditions force a slower swing. But never slow down, look back, and try to measure up to see how far ahead [of the target] you are. That's the easiest way to miss.

– This tip came from the book
"Shotgunning – The Art and Science" by Bob Brister.

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The best-selling shotgun brands of the year

by George Browne - GunsOnPegs

Which brands of shotguns have UK game shots been buying over the last twelve months, and what's behind the success stories? The Game Shooting Census reveals some fascinating insights.

The Game Shooting Census 2022, carried out by GunsOnPegs and Lycetts, in collaboration with BASC, Countryside Alliance and GWCT, asks participants for information on everything from their preferred headwear when out shooting to where they shoot and how much they spend.

Although we try to keep the core questions consistent from year to year, we also drop and add questions as we see fit, as different talking points and issues rise and fall in the consciousness of the shooting community.

One such new question we were interested in this year was to discover whether the increasing requirement to have a gun that is steel-shot ready was encouraging game shots to buy new shotguns.

Did you buy a new shotgun in the last 12 months?

Sometimes when we put a question in the Census we reckon we have a pretty good idea of what the answers will be. This was not one of those times. Nevertheless, I found myself mildly surprised when the data revealed that one in five game shots bought a shotgun in the last 12 months. I don't know about you, but to me, that number seems quite high, especially given the supply chain issues that have plagued the gun trade over the last few years.

According to the Census, 73% of people have no need to make any changes to their equipment, whether that be having their gun sleeved, getting the chokes adjusted or buying a gun, a figure which has not changed at all since last year.

This is a bit of a puzzler - are

people buying guns to prepare for steel, or is that one in five quite normal? My instinct is that people don't buy a gun every five years: more like every 10. Perhaps I am wrong. Given that historically at least, many people will shoot with the same gun for most of their lives, I suspect that I am not...

Counter to this argument is the fact that people who currently shoot most often with a side-by-side – the group you would expect to be most likely to need to change their gun – are less likely to have bought a new gun in the last year.

New or used shotguns?

One way that we may be able to get a feel for the motivations that people had for buying a new gun in the last year is to look at whether they were opting for new or second-hand

shotguns. The former may suggest that the motivation is future-proofing, given that nearly all new guns on the market are steel proofed, whereas the latter may suggest the opposite.

The results reveal a slight preference for buying new guns over used ones, but not a huge difference.

Side-by-side vs over and under

The proportion of game shots that use a side-by-side shotgun has remained fairly steady over the last few years at around 30%. However, given the requirement for heavier loads when it comes to using steel, and the challenges of using steel in older, potentially more fragile guns, there is a question over whether some side-by-side users will bite the bullet and switch to an over and under.

There does seem to be some evidence for that, since only 17% of those who bought a new gun purchased a side by side. 72% opted for an over and under, with the remainder opting for a single shots, pump action shotgun or a semi-automatic.

What shotgun brands did people buy?

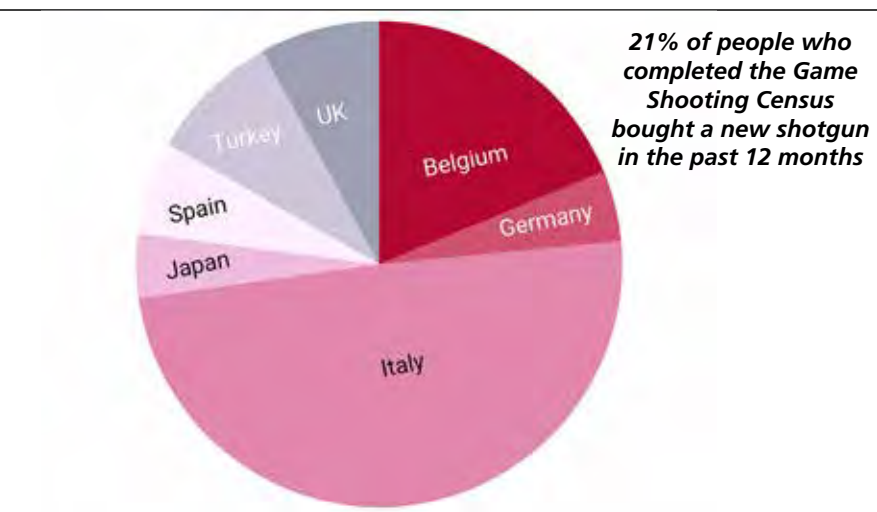
Each year we ask what brand of gun people use most often for their game shooting, and the results don't change all that much from year to year. Italian shotguns dominate, with Beretta, Perazzi, Rizzini and Caesar Guerini all taking top ten spots.

We should, therefore, expect that this will be reflected in the guns people have bought in the last twelve months.

If anything, Italian shotguns dominate even more than usual; the four brands mentioned above make it into the top ten. What I found intriguing was the apparent popularity of Turkish guns. Yildiz and ATA are both in the top ten most popular shotgun brands of the year, and Kofs and Hatsan also putting in a good showing.

I spoke to Richard Ryan, General Manager at Raytrade, who distribute Yildiz shotguns in the UK. He was pleased by the results, but not all that surprised. "We took Yildiz on in 2019 and it has grown exponentially since then," he told me. "They are high quality guns at a very competitive price."

Rank	Brand	Market Share
1	Beretta	27%
2	Browning	17%
3	AYA	5%
4	Rizzini	5%
5	Caesar Guerini	5%
6	Miroku	4%
7	Blaser	3%
8	Yildiz	3%
9=	Perazzi	2%
9=	ATA	2%



Why are Turkish guns so popular?

Turkish guns have seen rapid growth in the UK, especially now that people have overcome their initial scepticism. Richard added: "When they first arrived in the UK, there was a lot of apprehension from people about buying Turkish guns, but Yildiz has been in the UK for 17 years and people have seen how reliable they are. It takes people a long time to get used to something in our world!"

I was interested to know who it is that is buying these guns. "The people buying Yildiz are often on their second or third gun," said Richard. "They know a bit more about guns and have the confidence not to need the reassurance of a big-brand name."

The Yildiz over and under is built on a shallow Boss-style action (the same as a Perazzi), with fantastic wood, but the cheaper cost of labour in Turkey and favourable exchange rates means that they hit that

sweetspot in terms of price between £1,300 and £2,000. "OK, so a Yildiz isn't finished in quite the same way as a Perazzi, but you can have three Yildiz Pros for the price of a Perazzi. Turkey is the new Italy!" Richard commented.

He also thinks that there's been a shift in what people are looking for in their guns in recent years. "People aren't buying stuff for sentimental reasons, they're just after something that works."

It will be fascinating to see how these numbers change in the years to come, and whether Richard's prediction that Turkish guns will continue to flourish comes to pass.

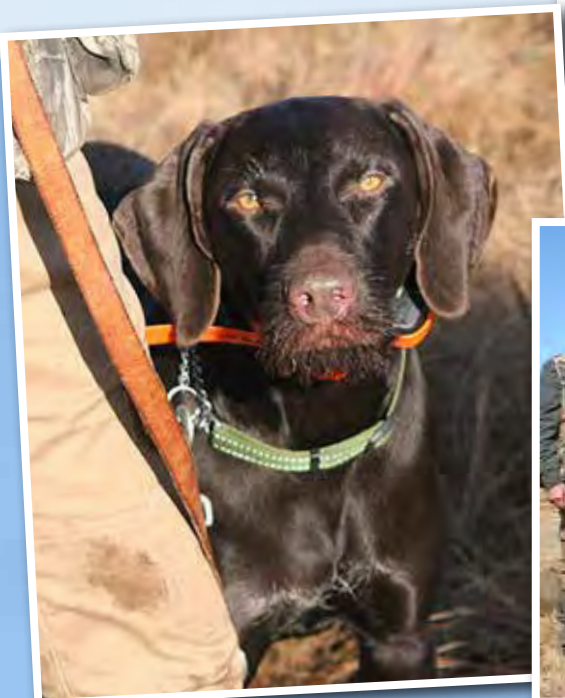
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Official Shoots... The Donkerhoek



Above: Rob Cook at the Donkerhoek shoots. A regular at this shoot.

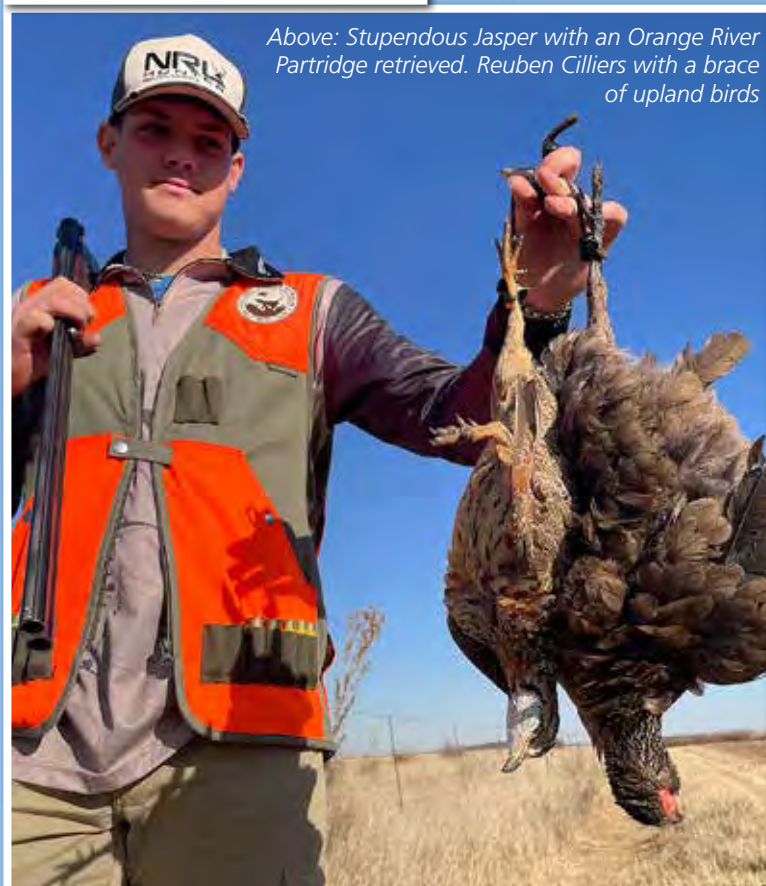
Right: Wayne Rabe, always friendly!
Team photo from left: Richard Curtis, Jan Breed, Rob Cook, Emil Engelbrecht, Shaun Hoare, Oliver Harmer, Wayne Rabe, Derek Garton and Theuns Oelofse kneeling.
Below: Theo Curtis



& Heuningspruit



Above: Stupendous Jasper with an Orange River Partridge retrieved. Reuben Cilliers with a brace of upland birds



Bernard Cilliers preparing lunch on the Weber Q1200

Official Shoots...



Great Francolin and driven Guinea-fowl shoots hosted throughout the season.

*Below: Dusan Janjic with a Natal Francolin.
Background image: Multiple Guinea-fowl drives and Francolin walk-ups daily.
Right: After a good drive.
Below right: Derek Garton enjoying some good shooting*



The Rustenburg



Rickus Boucher, Dr Marius de Wet and Derek Garton



The first drive of the day.



Official Shoots... The Rustenburg continued



Above: Courtney Field with his beautiful Westley Richards hammer side-by-side. Below left: Renier Coetzee and Brad Smith (right) at the mid-season shoots



Upland birds & Driven Guinea fowl



Top: Brandon Leech was on a mission to get some Guineas in the bag.
Middle right: From left Shaun Hoare, Rian Strydom and Oliver Harmer had a great shoot.
Below: Niell Grobler and Basjan Grobler



Members in the field...

*Blikkies Blignaut and Raja Blignaut
on a hunt near Nylstroom*



*Greywing at Molteno.
Photo by Gerhard Laubscher*



Tim Martin at the Greyton Shoot



*Philipp Schulz and Craig Sweet (left)
with Sneller & Patrys Visser*



*From left: Wynand Visser, Philipp Schulz
and Tim Martin*

Carel Combrinck hunting
with Luke & James Bell



Dr Klaus Eckstein
and his son Fritz
walk-and-stalk
hunting Springbok



Dr Stefan Roux and Conrad at Reitz.
Photograph by Ian Dodds



David Dodds and Duke.
Photo by Ian Dodds.



Official Shoots... Singita Dove and Pigeon venue



Jaco Weldhagen

We hosted fantastic shooting at our official Singita venue. Thanks to Danie Coetzee and Bernard Cilliers and who acted as Shoot Captains at this great venue.



Noel and Luna Gibson



Fred Kingsley and family



Jason Abbott



Paul Vetter



Marius du Plessis & daughter Robin, with Whiskey and Delta



The Kassardjian Clan is always there!



Mike Sedgman – Our first ever Shoot Captain in the 90's



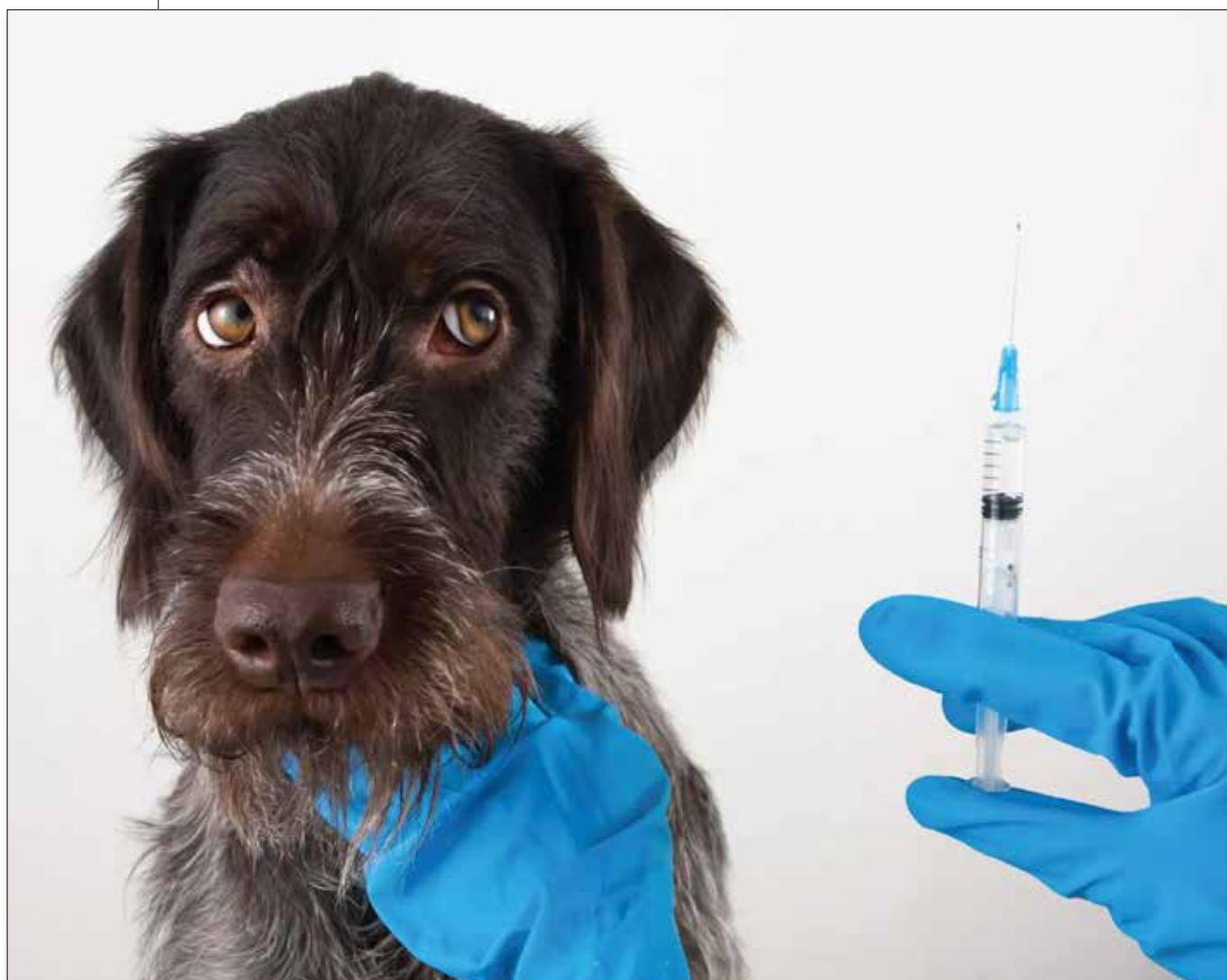
Jaco Fourie and his daughter



Canine Parvovirus: Protecting Your Dog Against **Parvo**

*Parvo, a deadly and preventable virus, is every dog owner
and veterinarian's greatest nemesis*

by Dr. Meg Puchlerz
with kind permission from Project Upland Magazine. projectupland.com



This summer, reports of a strange virus sickening dogs in the upper peninsula of Michigan made national news. Further testing at the Michigan State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab revealed this was not some new disease or variant, but an old, well-known foe: parvovirus.

Parvo is widespread throughout the world and most dogs will be exposed to it at some point (if not several times) in their life.

I'm not joking when I say that some dogs will see this virus daily, especially if you're a frequent dog

percent normal that morning and are on death's door a few hours later. It's extremely pathogenic and, sadly, almost always fatal without treatment. It is highly contagious and I personally have watched it rip through entire litters, kennels, and neighborhoods. Survival with treatment can reach about 90 percent, however, these cases often require extensive critical care, overnight hospitalization, and can cost thousands of dollars in veterinary care.

How does parvo spread?

Parvo is extremely good at spreading through environments. The most

common transmission methods of parvo are direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with infected feces or vomit. Very little fecal material is needed to spread the virus to other dogs or into the environment. This is one of the many reasons it's important to pick up your pet's poop in public areas. The soil itself can become contaminated as well as bedding, people's shoes or clothing, and porous surfaces.

Infected dogs have the virus throughout their hair and feet. They easily spread it through their regular daily movements. Even items such as toys, kennels, leashes and bowls



*Expert English Pointer and beautiful – "Diana"
owned by Roberto Marcer*

park visitor. Different variants exist, but the most common variant circulating in North America remains canine parvovirus-2c (CPV-2c).

What is parvo?

Parvo is a virus that affects canines causing massive damage to the intestinal tract resulting in vomiting and diarrhea that's often bloody in nature. It also causes lethargy and numerous secondary concerns such as dehydration, electrolyte changes, protein and blood pressure shifts, hypoglycemia, and even seizures.

Parvo can strike swiftly. Oftentimes, dogs with parvo act 100

***"Oftentimes, dogs
with parvo
act 100
percent
normal that
morning and are
on death's door a
few hours later"***

can help spread the virus. People handling suspected parvo cases need to take great care to wear gloves and disinfect or change their shoes and clothes before handling other dogs. The virus is resistant to freezing, severe heat, humidity and even dry spells. Plus, it can be found in contaminated soil for over seven months.

Who is at risk of contracting parvo?

Dogs who are not fully vaccinated for parvo are most at risk at contracting the virus. Although it's most common in dogs under the age of six months, dogs with subpar immunities are also susceptible.

I treated numerous parvo cases this year; a large number of our cases were in dogs over six months of age. I even had a symptomatic three year old dog this year.

Is there any good news when it comes to parvo?

The good news is that parvo is preventable in most cases. All of the dogs I saw this year as well as

last puppy series. From that point on, most dogs can be moved to vaccinating every three years or potentially monitoring titers on an annual basis.

Puppies who receive a vaccine at six weeks of age should still start their puppy boosters at 8 weeks. The vast majority of puppies are still covered by their mother's immunity at six weeks of age, so their body pays zero attention to any vaccines that are

What else can you do to protect your dog against parvo?

Breeders should ensure that female dogs are fully vaccinated for parvo prior to being bred. It is not recommended to vaccinate during your dog's pregnancy. This allows her to impart the best immunity she can to your new hunting companion.

For puppy owners, avoid areas highly trafficked by other dogs until

Member ZC Kruger's dogs



the positive cases in Michigan over the summer were in dogs who were unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated.

What does being fully vaccinated against parvo mean?

If your dog is fully vaccinated against parvo, it means that your dog has received its full puppy parvo series. Vaccines are usually administered at eight, 12, and 16 weeks of age per the American Animal Hospital Associations (AAHA) canine vaccine recommendations. In some areas, your veterinarian may recommend an additional vaccine at 20 weeks. Your dog then needs a booster about 12 months after their

administered. Maternal antibodies usually start to wane at eight weeks of age, opening the door for parvo. I have seen many cases of parvo in puppies who received a six week vaccine when the dog owners were told to boost it four weeks later at 10 weeks. Starting at eight weeks is key and continuing until 16 weeks or later is of the utmost importance.

Ideally, vaccination should be done by your veterinarian. Although vaccines are available at local feed stores, these are not equivalent in quality and, in most cases, have not undergone extensive research or challenge studies. Vaccination is not where you want to hunt for bargains.

your dog is two weeks past their final booster at 16 weeks. Many wild-looking trails, hunting grounds, and field trial areas are visited often by other dogs.

Remember that your dog does not need to be around another dog to contract parvo. If your dogs go to training camps, boarding facilities or groomers, inquire about what vaccines or titers folks require. If nothing is required, you may want to think long and hard about sending your pup there.

— https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/parvovirus-caninel?mc_cid=965c0af534&mc_eid=f4a76f1beb

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“Die Walther Selbstladerschrotflinte”

Or the Walther self-loading shotgun – yes indeed, Walther at one time made shotguns – and some side-by-side boxlocks as well. The Carl Walther GMBH company was formed by the eponymous owner, at that time 28 years old, in 1886 in the small town of Zella-Mehlis in Thuringia and produced under licence rifles, shotguns and pistols.

by Charles Duff

The concentration upon pistols did not happen overnight, but it was not that long before the excellence of the models being produced caused the long guns to be allowed to dwindle away. After WW2, and the pursuant Russian occupation, Walther and J.G. Anschutz both moved to the industrial city of Ulm where they still are today.

Pictures exist on the internet of a double barrelled boxlock shotgun, Models SF and SFD (with a cheek piece) in both double, and surprisingly, single trigger versions with the typically Germanic horn trigger guard.

In the autumn of 1921, the patent for a semi-auto shotgun was issued to Carl Walther GMBH, which on the passing of Carl was co-owned by brothers Fritz, Georg and Erich. However by the next year no production had occurred and Deutsche Werke AG in Erfurt, 65km away, was licenced to produce. Contemporary reports show surprise in the choice of 12ga calibre, as at that time the 16ga was very much top of the pops in Germany; the model number is



F/372. Eventually some 16ga versions were made and around 1926, Walther began production as well. But total production, from 1923 to 1931, certainly never exceeded 6,000 guns – the highest serial number so far recorded is 5751 and the lowest 1043 – making this semi-auto pretty rare and the 16ga versions even rarer. Thus, to come upon one in this country, and in very good working condition, was a pleasant surprise. Its serial number of 36xx puts it roughly in the middle of the production run.

The Model F/372 is unique among production shotguns in having a short recoil, spring-operated, toggle mechanism bolt similar to the Luger pistol; aka the “knee-link” action. The first patent for a toggle action shotgun was awarded to Sir Hiram Maxim in 1886, followed by John Moses Browning in 1899 and then Carl Hoffman in 1903,

however none ever went into production. But as a proven reliable cocking/extracting mechanism, it is perhaps surprising that other manufacturers did not jump onto the band wagon. Unfortunately the action is hidden in the receiver and it requires complete dismantling of the gun to see it. A second unique feature is how the tubular magazine is fed. A square release catch, on the LHS of the action, cross-hatched for ease of use, must be pushed backward, this causing the forearm (plus the magazine, obviously) to rotate about 10° downwards under spring tension, just clearing the action body floor. There is another small catch under the action right at the magazine opening which, despite its disassociated position, is the bolt release.

The suggested loading sequence is first to open the gun by turning the crank lever on the right-hand side of

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Fig. 1.

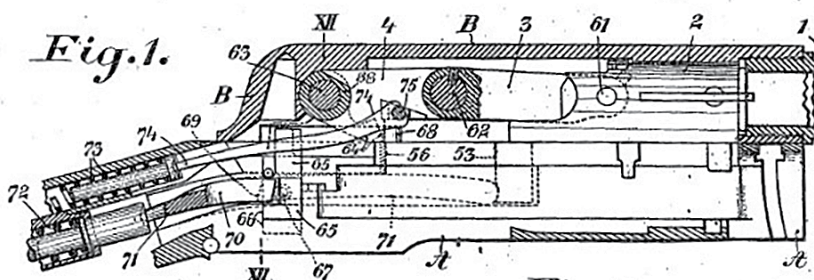


Fig. 2.

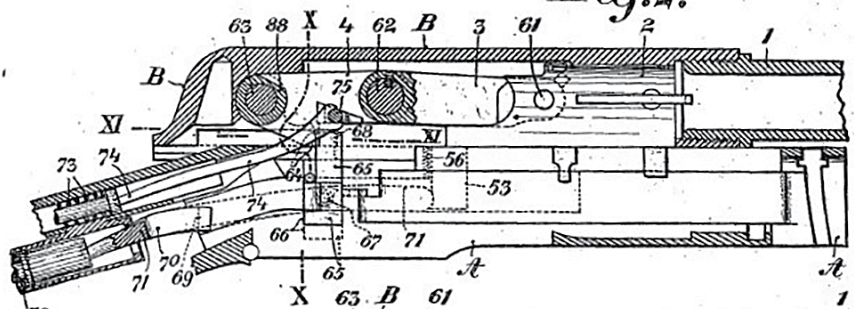
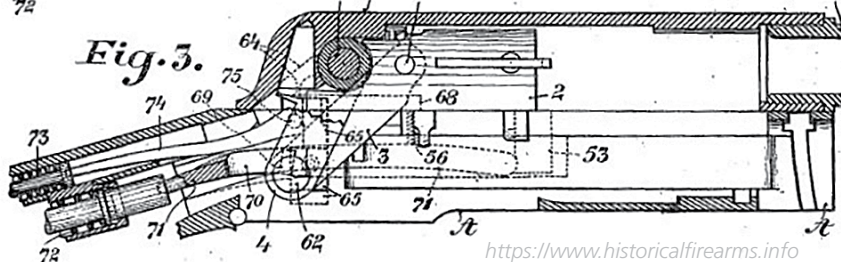


Fig. 3.



<https://www.historicalfirearms.info>

the action downwards and inserting a cartridge into the chamber, then release the bolt. Invert or turn the gun, push the release catch, fill the magazine to a maximum of three rounds, clip the forearm back into position, and you are ready to go.

The safety catch is a through bolt in the front of the trigger-guard, push in from the right to fire, from the left to activate the safety. Not the best nor the most ergonomic place for a shotgun safety, but still used today by almost all pump and semi-auto shotguns. All the guns were equipped with plain un-ribbed barrels, of a standard 27 1/2" (70cm) length and all were full choked at a constriction of 0.8mm on a nominal 18.5mm bore, the chambers were all 65mm (2 1/2"). The small bead front sight sits atop a miniscule ramp at the muzzle, there is a central shallow "U" groove along the top of the action which is cross-hatched to cut down on glare. The action is rather large and long and has a striker firing pin, it's said that

dry firing is a very bad idea as the internals of the action are somewhat complicated and instruction manuals are not to be had. The barrel removal for cleaning is said to be relatively easy, however, though I did not attempt it. Markings are minimal, the barrel has the usual proof marks of the period, plus 'Cal 12 65m/m 2 1/2" Kruppstaal'; the action shows 'Walther' on the left-hand side and 'Germany' at the left rear of the trigger guard.

The walnut stock and forearm are hand-cut chequered to a normal 20 LPI diamond pattern with a single border line. The semi-pistol grip has a relaxed curve and a rather exaggerated rounded end or pommel which is a bit foreign to the eye, leaving the join between it and the body of the stock rather minimal, considering that a tube housing the coil mainspring goes through it. The black plastic butt pad has the Walther cartouche upon it. Sling swivels were routinely fitted - another continental fad - that

on the butt has been removed. I believe that these on shotguns are like tow-bars on sports-cars - definitely oxymoronic. The forearm has a quite deep finger groove on each side above the chequering and the tip has the metal joint that swivels about the barrel as the forearm catch is released. Between the hands the gun balances and points well, overall length is 1.18m (38 3/8"), the length of pull was shortish at 368mm (14 1/4") and the drop at comb was a bit excessive. All-up weight came in at 3.5kg (7.72lbs) unloaded. At 70cms (27 1/2") the barrel might be considered a bit short nowadays, but taking into account the length of the action, any longer would make for an unwieldy weapon, it only just fitted into my safe.

On the range the first negative was the miniscule brass bead front sight, I would need a white one at least double the size for comfort. Also, while I'm used to rolling semi-autos over to load them, the magazine release catch was small and fiddley and had to be held open to return the magazine tube to battery. I fed it a mix of 65mm cartridges, all plastic cased, and I would like to say that it handled 24 and 28gram loads with aplomb. Unfortunately this didn't happen and I had two non-ejection of empty cartridges and three feeding jams in a round of 25 Compak clays. I tried a couple of 21gram 65mm Hull cartridges, which have a muzzle velocity of a reported 1325fps but these unsurprisingly failed to actuate the action. Possibly a more comprehensive service and oiling and greasing, since the gun had been unused for many years, might improve matters, but the fact that so few were made is telling.

At a Classic Arms auction some years ago, another Walther was advertised at R7000 but fetched only R 4,500, a standard model of serial number 37xx, also in 12ga for the 65mm cartridge, plain but in good condition; this example was bought for R6,500. In the USA, both would fetch much higher prices, I wonder how many more are out there. On a humorous note, I must say that, in my book, 'sebstlader schrotflinte' beats 'semi-auto shotgun' hands down, every day of the week, it really rolls off the tongue!



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Images from our 2022 *LRSC events*



*Kristin Schuurmans (14) & Akira Savage (11) –
The future Long Range shooters*



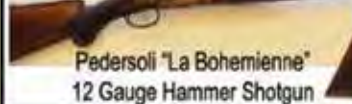
*Top left: Handgun segment at the multi-gun match. Top right: James Greeff,
Pieter Greeff, Ryan Thomshon and Mark Schuurmans.
Below: Rui Torres and Fred Vivier*





Left: Cliff Alexander, Dr Mongezi Milela & Hennie Grobler. Below left: Checking wind & environmental conditions is crucial. Below: Shaun Ellithorne and Kristi Peyerlova. Bottom: Some of the targets downrange – the close Springbok target is at 831m (903 yards). Targets are out to 1453m.



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Members hunting & shooting 2022

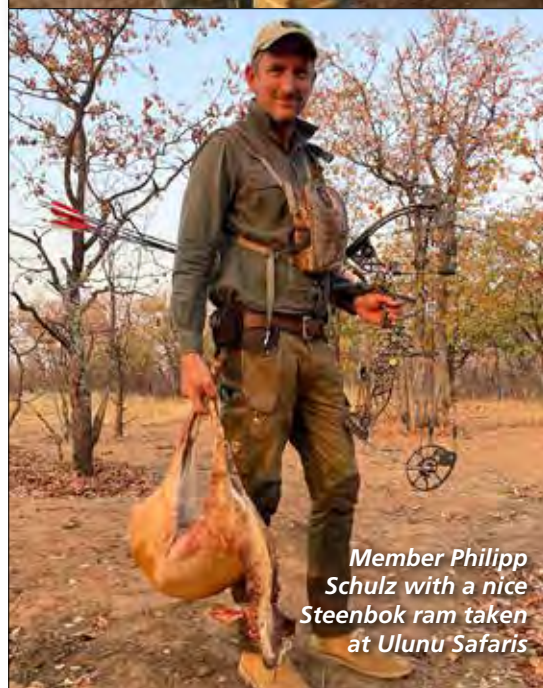
Below: Dr Mongezi Milela with a beautiful buffalo



9 year old member Tyler Lillico with one of the Guineafowl he hunted at the Rustenburg shoot



Long Range Dassie hunting near Carnarvon with Bernard Cilliers and Marius Gericke. Photo by Cornell vd Westhuizen



Member Philipp Schulz with a nice Steenbok ram taken at Uluntu Safaris

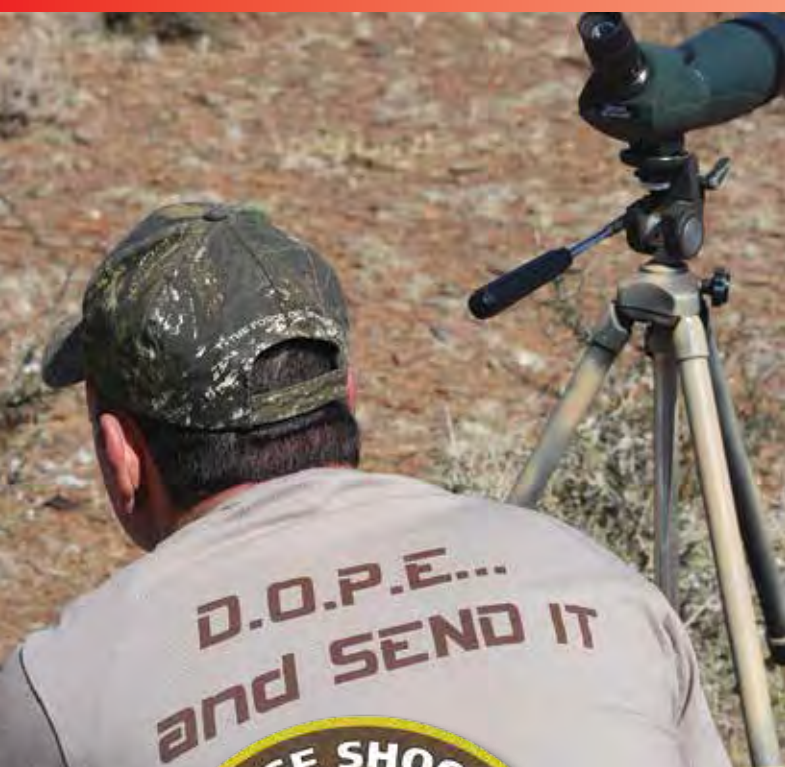


Mike Schuurmans and tracker hunting in the Eastern Cape

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The LRSC is a sub-club of the SA Wingshooters and requires an additional membership to SA Wingshooters

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SA Wingshooters Association is truly the one association for all shooting disciplines. With us you can do it all. We offer shooting events and venues in all divisions, including shotgun, rifle, handgun, semi-auto rifle, long range target shooting and multi-gun sport shooting...



The SA Wingshooters Association has been accredited by the CFR as a Dedicated Hunting Association, since 2004.

In fact, we are the second oldest accredited association in South Africa.

We have current members, many of whom regularly participate in the various sport shooting disciplines available and thus have a definite need to be able to grant such members the Dedicated Sport Shooting status, in order to enable them to fully participate in their chosen sport.

So, we are both an accredited sport shooting and hunting association, as we have members who want dedicated status, but who do not hunt.

We currently offer the following sport shooting disciplines to our members, either at our own facilities/ranges, or at any range country-wide and internationally:

PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) target shooting for handguns, manual rifles and self-loading rifles. Various target shooting tables/disciplines are offered, which can be practiced at any range world-wide. All our targets are available on our website.

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target

Shooting using shotguns at any accredited clay target range or club (CTSASA, COMPAK, etc.) country-wide.

Long Range Rifle Shooting – we have our own dedicated long range rifle shooting range in Gauteng, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1900m. This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 2-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 600m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles.

Handgun Shooting – we offer handgun shooting, again at our LRSC range, or any other range world-wide via the PSP, on our 17 target steel pistol range with targets from 10m to 100m, and includes a 6-plate duelling tree.

Multi-gun (3-gun & 2-gun) sport shooting – we offer multi gun events, where self-loading rifles, handguns and bolt action rifles are used, at our LRSC range and elsewhere

Membership of the LRSC gives you additional membership of the following sub-clubs:

- The LRSC (Long range shoot-

ing club for rifles in both Bolt Action and Self-loading rifle, which are to distinct separate divisions).

- The .22PSBC (Precision Small-Bore Club)

- The TPS (Tactical Precision Shooting) multi-gun club for 3-gun and 2-gun shooting and competition

- The LR Open Sight club (Open Sight rifle division)

- The LR Handgun and Revolver sub-club – for handgun shooting in various divisions.

The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) and the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) are part of SA Wingshooters and are subject to its constitution, disciplinary codes and rules of ethical conduct.

Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting-related activities.

We are proud to be an association that offers all forms of shooting and hunting to our members. Thanks for your support!



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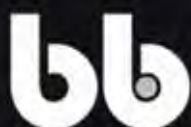
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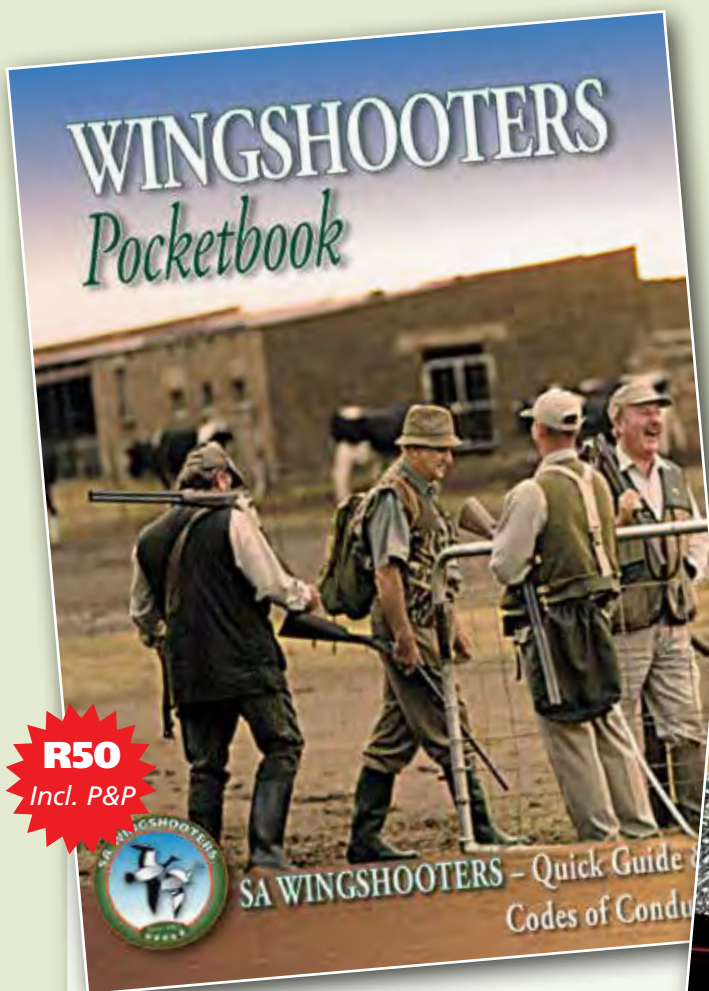
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— Dr Alan Klocek

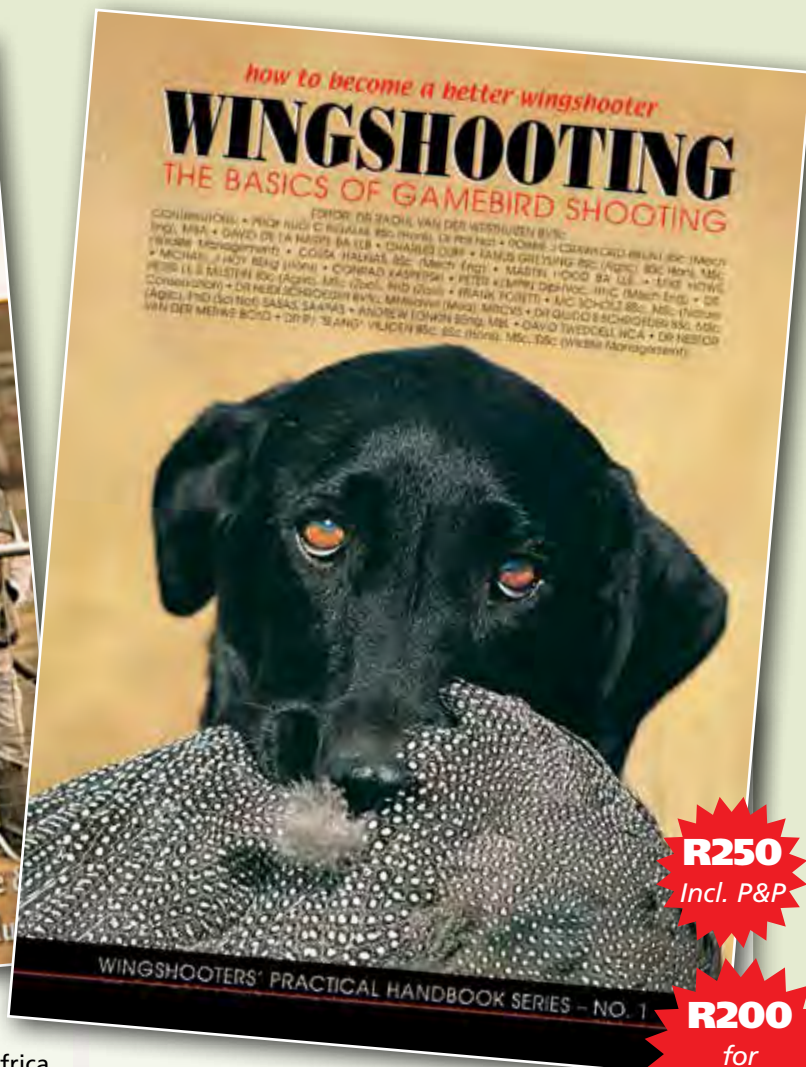
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— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen

Chairman: SA Wingshooters



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For the first time, this book brings together the collective know-how and experience in game bird shooting of many of the leading wingshooters in Southern Africa — be they scientists, field trialists, gun dog experts, veterinarians or lay people — who all share the passion for wingshooting and the joy of the great African Outdoors. The section on shotgun marksmanship alone makes the handbook worth having. In this section the greatest South African sporting clay shooter ever and 20 times Springbok tells how to shoot any target under any condition. The handbook is edited by the co-founder and first chairman of the SA Wingshooters Association, Raoul van der Westhuizen.

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New Member Online Portal

For Dedicated Activity Reports & Firearm Licence Renewal Notices –

Firstly, It's nearing the end of the season, thus all Dedicated members need to send in their dedicated hunting activity report. **It's a legal (Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) requirement for Dedicated Hunters and Dedicated Sports persons.** You can send any hunting activities report, whether it was plains game, bird hunting or range shooting and includes rifles, shotgun, handgun use, etc. You only need to list two (2) activities for the year. Remember to send us a report before end October, as we have to send a 'members activity report' to the SAPS every year in November, listing all the members who did not send in a report.

Our online member portal –

You can do it on our new member online portal. Please go to our online member area and 'Register' with us:

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Once we've approved your registration request, you can 'Login' and start to use this service for your dedicated reporting and to list your firearms renewal dates for our renewal reminder service. Call the office if you don't know what to do! Tel: 071 132 5450.

You can also enter your dedicated hunting/sport shooting activities report online, on our website! Go to www.wingshooters.org.za and click on the "Dedicated Hunters" menu and complete the form right at the bottom of the page. It's quick and easy!

Or, if you prefer to remain old school you can download the form from the "All Downloads" page on our website. You can fax it to 086 211 5111 or 071 132 5450. You can also send us the same one you might have done for another association you belong to... it needn't be our form.





WE NEED YOUR HELP URGENTLY!

The NGO Wildlife Poisoning Prevention & Conflict Resolution (NPO 132-047) was born from a need to address the problem of wildlife poisoning, initially in South Africa; but also across the sub-region since vultures and wildlife ignore human political boundaries. The training project over the past 5 years aimed to train 100 rangers and enforcers per year (target 500). This goal was addressed by fund-raising internationally; and the goal was exceeded by 20%.

The Annual report of March 2020 shows 601 rangers trained. Whilst others claim to train many people, their training simply comprises anti-poison information, whilst we enable trainees to respond appropriately as first arrivals/responders at a toxic wildlife crime scene; in a scenario where mistakes lead to loss of court cases. Another significant observation is that poisoning of elephants in and around Hwangwe National Park, Zimbabwe has decreased annually since Zimbabwe Republic Police trainees conducted roadblocks, and confiscated almost 6 tonnes of Sodium cyanide from Zama-zama miners and their associates. Whilst there is no direct link to our training we feel this assumption is plausible.

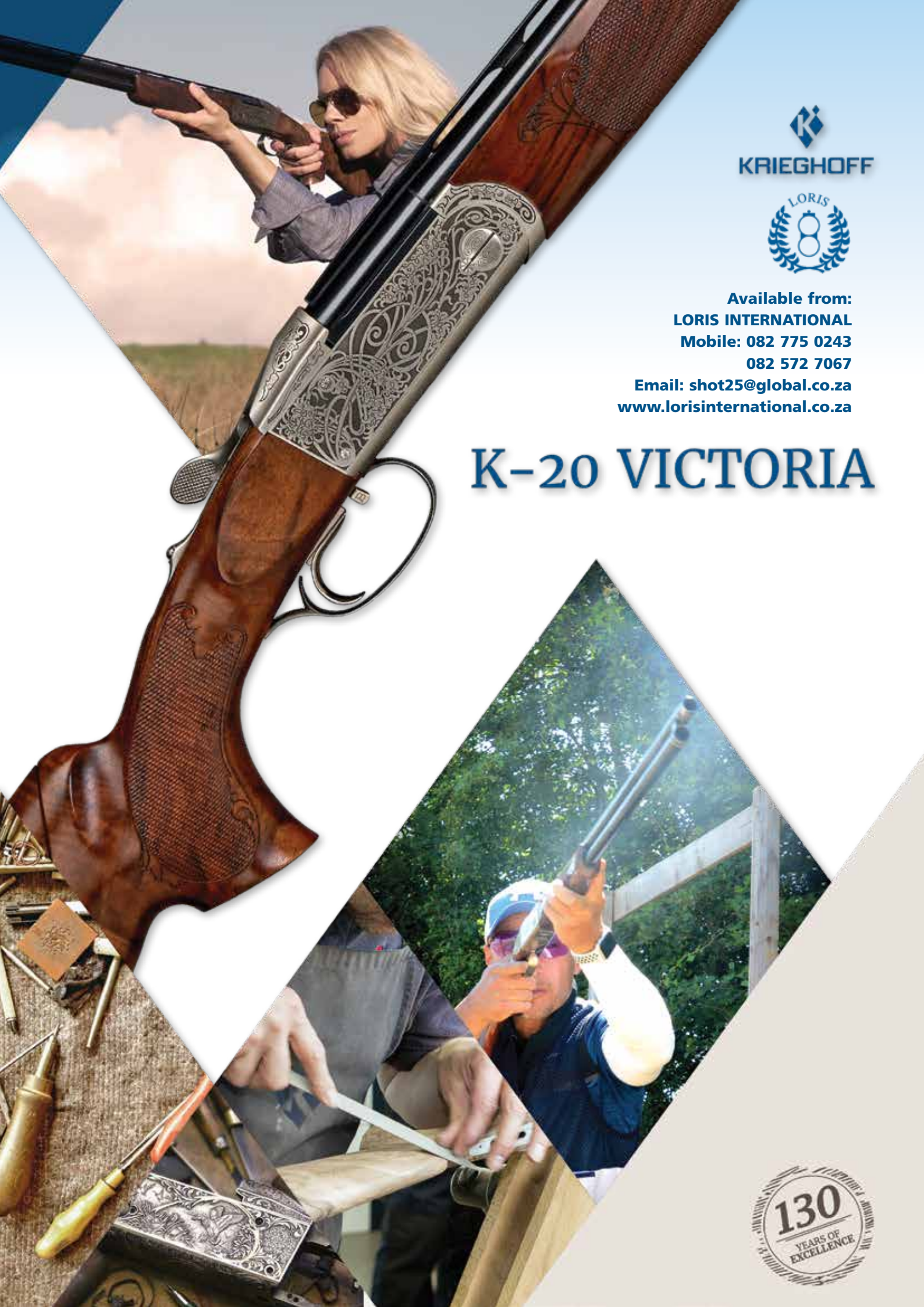
We also are able to consult to and advise game ranchers and the wildlife industry on game ranch management, wildlife management, stocking rates and carrying capacities. We use game-birds as indicators of environmental health and can advise on their management. A key issue that we promote is Systems Thinking and its application to management; including predator and wildlife conflict management, with emphasis on non-lethal control systems.

Our projects may be viewed on <https://www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za>

Financially, we operate solely as a non profit organisation, so any profit on income re-cycles through our activities. We rely heavily on international donors, since the exchange rate makes international donations very valuable and significant to us. Covid 19 has closed the gates of many zoos who are our primary source of funding; however, we are registered in South Africa as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO 930047988) which enables us to issue certificates of donation in terms of Section 18(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act. This enables tax deductions in the hands of the donor, whether corporate or private. Such donations must be used within South Africa. As a non-profit, we are required to report annually to the Department of Social Development, both on activity and financially; and we follow good accounting practices, including Annual Independent Financial Statements. A business stress-test conducted in August 2020 indicates success as we have repeated financial surpluses, albeit with poor cash flows and poor sustainability indications. Perhaps this indicates a very frugal operation where all income reaches the projects?

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* If you are a dedicated hunter at any other association please attach a copy to receive a credit towards decated hunter status.

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SA WINGSHOOTERS
2022

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* The entry fee of R350 is not payable by younger than 21. The annual subscription fee for Juniors (persons younger than 21) is a nominal R253.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships do not pay any once-off join fee.

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by Carolyn Baker



REFLECTIONS ON A BUSY WEEKEND

While the dust slowly settles after the 2022 retriever trialling season comes to a close, we have time to look back on the Champs weekend at the beginning of September and re-live some of the highs and lows of this prestigious event. In our previous supplement we provided a comprehensive outline of what happens at retriever trials and what sort of expectations there are of those dogs and handlers that enter a Championship Stake. In this report we reflect on the events associated with the weekend and go on to describe the course that was set by the officials and then show each series through the eyes of a competitor.



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Over the two days of the trial, competitors were required to complete four series, entailing 20 pick-ups. As always, the course was designed to start off relatively simply, and then become increasingly more complex and challenging.

Twelve retrievers that qualified for the Championship entered the trial (7 Labradors and 5 Golden Retrievers). Amongst these, the oldest was 11 years-old and the youngest 5. Interestingly, three of the Labradors were owned and handled by a single competitor and two others (also Labradors) by another. On arrival at the beautiful Baynesfield Estate on Friday evening (2 September), competitors and officials were treated to a splendid dinner in the Clubhouse during which the running order for the trial was determined. This is always an exciting part of the weekend, since up until that moment, no one had any idea who might be first in line or last! All competitors received their commemorative number that they would then wear for the duration of the trial. At the end of the evening the running order was inserted into the catalogue and everything was then set for an early roll call the following morning.

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The Course

Course setting on Friday revealed pretty tough terrain.

Judges set three series for Saturday, entailing a total of 14 pick-ups, and for the finale on Sunday a single series was set comprising six pick-ups.



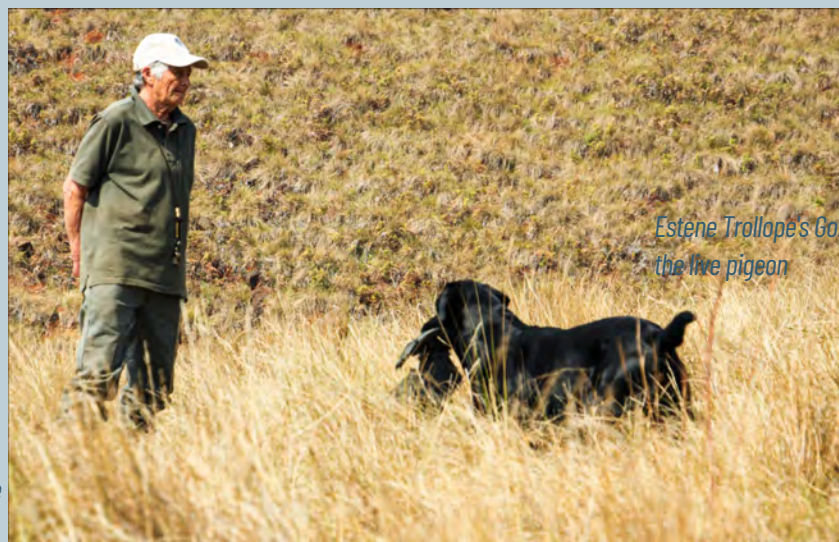
Series One

Saturday was extremely hot, and temperatures soared during the course of the day.



In **Series One**, there were five pick-ups, but with two dogs on the line, it meant that Dog 1 picked up three birds and the Honouring dog picked up two. At the judge's signal, a live pigeon was shot to land approximately 60 metres ahead on rough ground that sloped uphill. As soon as the bird was down a second bird (a live guineafowl) was shot to land to the right and deeper at an angle of about 50 degrees. Then two saluted pigeons were shot to land in the same line of fall as the first bird, but deeper and over a rocky ridge.

Handler 1's dog was to pick up the live birds first (in any order) and then one of the salutes. On picking up the salute and on the return, a further live guinea was shot to fall across a gully and to the left of the line. As soon as Dog 1 returned with his salutes, the honouring dog was sent for the live guineafowl and then the remaining salute.



Patrys, Enette van Dyk's Labrador returning with the first live guineafowl

Estene Trollope's Go the live pigeon

The series got off to a rough start. We had some trouble getting the birds to land in the right area, and so adjusted the area of fall for the live birds and changed the angle of the Line.

After that the series 'worked' well and despite the considerable delay at the beginning, only one dog was ruled 'out of control'. It was the youngest dog, Estene Trollope's Golden Retriever Kahlo, who, on the second live guineafowl, went straight out into the area but then faded to the right and stopped listening to the whistle.



Charl Snoeck, one of the supporting Guns patiently awaiting the Line Judge's signal for the release of the second live guineafowl



Estene Trollope's Golden Retriever Kahlo, delivering the live pigeon

Interestingly, the first dog in line, André Thuynsma's Labrador Moxie, who had several miscalls due to the changes in the set-up, and consequently had to come back into line much later in the morning – did very well.



The challenge for competitors in this first series, was to be sure that their dogs did not get distracted by the deep saluted pigeons when picking up the first two live birds, and then if they had not marked the return live guinea across the gully, getting them into the area proved challenging for some.

The oldest dog, Kobus le Roux's Labrador Artemis, completed the series admirably, but because the terrain was proving too tough for her to continue, she was withdrawn and did not go into the second series.

So, of the 12 dogs entered, 10 progressed to Series 2.



*Kobus le Roux's
Labrador Artemis,
returning with her
saluted pigeon*



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Series Two

Series Two entailed working through and across a gully and comprised four pick-ups. A saluted pigeon (B) was shot to fall across the gully and up on the opposite slope, followed by a saluted guineafowl (D) on the left also across the gully and over a small dry stream bed. A live guineafowl (C) was then shot to land at the bottom of the gully and directly to the left of the line. A blind (A) was placed along the gully to the far right.

2022 CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE - 2ND SERIES (LAND)

FOUR PICK-UP SERIES

Single dog in line

Bird Order

- B Saluted pigeon
- D Saluted guineafowl
- C Live guineafowl

Pick-up Order

- C Live guineafowl
- A Blind (guineafowl)
- B and D Either order, handler nominates



The terrain in Series Two was even more challenging with the line positioned on a slope overlooking the gully. Retrieving the live guineafowl (C) was relatively simple since it was the last bird down, but for one dog in particular (Kobus le Roux's second Labrador, Deehana) accessing the gully became difficult when she chose to take a line through a deep bank of brambles to get to the bird. Her courage was remarkable.

Successfully having negotiated the brambles, Deehana awaits further instruction





Charles Trollope giving his Golden Retriever Rookie, a strong line to the blind

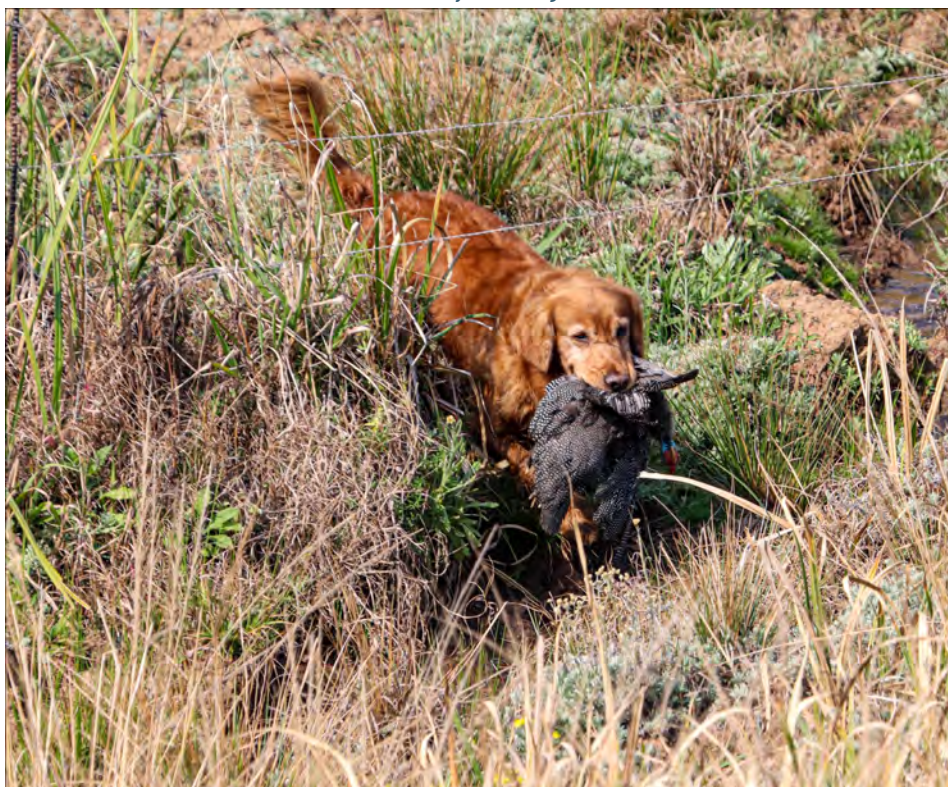
Directing to the blind (A) required a strong and unambiguous line since the terrain was likely to pull dogs down into the gully on a direct path towards the first bird (B) that was down.

Once having collected the blind, handlers were given the choice on the order in which they were to pick up the remaining two birds. There was a 50:50 split with half the handlers sending for the pigeon (B) first and the remainder sending for the guinea fowl (D).

Despite the rough terrain leading to the guinea fowl and having to be sure that the dogs did not get waylaid en-route by re-investigating the area of fall of the first live guinea (C), most of the dogs fared better on this leg than the other.

Many of the dogs got themselves stuck in the gully when going out for the saluted pigeon, largely because it was easy to track up and down the gully rather than to push through it and up the slope to the bird. However, no dogs were lost on this series.

Rookie carefully negotiating the stream bed and returning successfully with his guinea fowl





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Series Three

In Series Three, the final one of the day, there were five pick-ups around a small dam. It entailed a single dog walking-up along the dam wall (with the dam on the left) and with three salutes being shot at various stages along the walk-up, one to the left (B) beyond the dam, another to the right (E) below the dam wall and a third straight ahead and beyond a rocky ridge (D). The dog was first sent for a blind (C) across the corner of the dam and was able to move forward along the wall for the delivery. From this position the dog was instructed to collect the first saluted bird (B) beyond the dam, before doing a second blind (A) directly across the dam and placed further over to the left. This was followed by collection of the second salute (D) and finally the third (E).





Jenny Smith lining her Golden Retriever Haley, for the first angled blind

With 10 dogs going into the third and final series of the day, it was always going to be touch and go whether the light would fade and make working impossible. As the first couple of dogs ran, a light mist began descending – providing a typical KZN Midlands backdrop.

Since the first bird (B) went up while the dogs were stationary on the line, their perspective on its flight was restricted due to the thicket that obscured both throwers and guns. Dogs were able to hear the shots and then see the bird only as it reached its apex in the air behind the trees. The handler was instructed to leave that bird and walk-up.

During the walk-up, the two further saluted birds (E went up at position 2; and D at position 3) served as strong distractions. Collecting the blind (C) across the corner of the dam meant an easy retrieve for those dogs that were not water-shy.



Terry Watson's Golden Retriever Kester, on the way out to the blind



It was hard work for the spectators in the very beautiful surroundings!

However, for those dogs that disliked an angled entry into the water, the risk associated with running the bank meant that they would be out of sight for a brief time and directly on the line leading to the saluted guineafowl (D). Several dogs did run the bank and had to be handled over to the blind – but no dogs were lost on that leg.

While returning with the blind, the handlers walked further along the dam wall to receive the bird, and then had to weigh up whether to send their dogs directly across and through the water to pick up saluted bird B or risk losing them if they ran the bank near D.

Three dogs were lost here – all of them being loathe to swim the length of the dam and either kept exiting and then having to be corrected; or they simply stopped listening after being repeatedly pushed across the dam and being handled off the blind that was positioned at A.

Sam, Henry Playne's Labrador made an impressive entry into water



David Padbury's Labrador Major, delivering the saluted pigeon to Line Judge, Alan Kloeck

Picking up the duck blind at A proved relatively easy and all dogs managed that respectably. Next, the dogs were sent for the saluted guineafowl at D, and despite the fall being out of sight all managed it. Perplexingly though, many dogs spent quite a while hunting for the bird despite it being a large bird in a relatively small area of fall. Finally, the long memory bird E provided a great opportunity to see the dogs' noses working and all managed to locate it.



The day ended with the mist becoming increasingly thick and seven dogs remained in the running to tackle the final series the following day. At that point most of the dogs were still in contention, with scores all tightly clustered together.

Moxie, André Thuynsma's Labrador, shaking off on the Line Judge, Alan Kloeck



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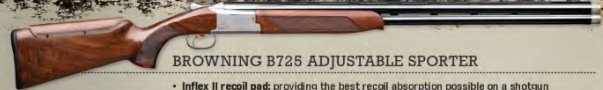
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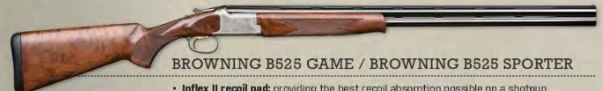
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Sunday, the Finale – a single series with six pick-ups

Two handlers were on the line in a hide overlooking a stream and working at the same time. Handler 1 worked to the left of the hide while Handler 2 worked towards the right.

A duck (A) was shot to land upstream to the left in a pool just below a weir followed by a live bird (pigeon C) across the stream and on the opposite slope. Handler One sent their dog for the live bird and on picking it up, a return (pigeon D) was shot to land to the right and across the stream. Once pigeon C was delivered to Handler 1, the second handler sent their dog for the return (pigeon D), while the first handler continued to collect the saluted duck (A) in the pool on the left, followed by a blind (B) that was placed across the stream and about 15 metres back from the bank at an angle of 30 degrees to the right of the first duck. In the meantime, Handler 2 was required to send their dog for a blind (E) that was positioned on the same slope as the return bird they had collected but much deeper and further over to the right. Once collected the handler was able to walk along the stream bank to the right to send for a second blind (F) that was positioned further downstream.

Although the day started off pleasantly cool, it was purported to be another steamy day. Fortunately, with only one series to complete, it meant that the work would be done before the intense midday heat.

Judges and Guns surveying the ground on which the Fourth and Final Series was run. They are standing where the hide was positioned to overlook the stream



SIX PICK-UP SERIES

Two dogs at the line in a hide

Bird Order

1. Saluted duck **A**
2. Live pigeon **C**
3. Live pigeon **D** - on the return from **C**

Pick-up Order**Handler 1**

- C** Live pigeon
- A** Saluted duck
- B** Blind (guineafowl)

Handler 2

- D** Live pigeon (once Dog 1 returns from picking up **C**)
- E** Blind (rabbit)
- F** Blind (duck) – handler walks forward once the dog goes out



In this final series, because two dogs worked together, handlers were required to be quiet and considerate when handling their dogs. Being situated in the hide also offered some challenges, with one of the dogs electing to rather be inside the hide with their handler than outside it, consequently impacting on his ability to mark the fall of birds.

Handlers working to the left of the hide (Handler 1) had little difficulty in collecting the first live pigeon (C). It was the duck (A) that posed the greatest challenge to most dogs because its position in the stream just below the weir seemed to confuse them. Scenting in that area would have been difficult and despite handlers desperately trying to control their dogs, the noise from the tumbling water made hearing any commands very difficult.

Kobus le Roux and his third Labrador Mooshus outside the hide attentively awaiting the Line Judge's signal to release the first live pigeon





The team at the weir: Judge Judith Buchanan watches closely as Gun Cheryl Retief gets ready to salute the duck that Walter Makhathini will hoist below the weir

Once having collected the duck, Handler 1 had to decide whether to send their dog on a straight line to the blind B (which entailed a more difficult angled entry into the stream) or to send their dog directly across the stream in front of them and then stop their dogs on the opposite bank and give them a hard 'over' to the left. Handlers that elected to do the latter generally fared better. One dog was lost at that point when it failed to respond to the handlers' directions.

Charles Trollope elected to send Rookie at an angle across the stream for the blind - and he took a beautiful line



Until such time as Handler 2 was instructed to send their dog for the return live pigeon (D) they were under judge's orders, and hence any command that ostensibly served as an instruction to their dog would be construed as a 'break'. Sadly, one of the top dogs (André Thuynsma's Labrador Moxie) was lost at this point.

Collecting bird D posed little difficulty for most of the field but handling their dogs back across the stream and to collect the blind (E) proved to be quite challenging.

Finally collecting the last bird, a blind duck (F), tested handlers' trust in their dogs, since once the dogs entered the stream channel they were largely out of sight and had to slowly work their way down towards the duck.

André Thuynsma receiving the blind guineafowl from Moxie, watched by Line Judge, Carolyn Baker

At the conclusion of the trial, five dogs finished, and three were placed.



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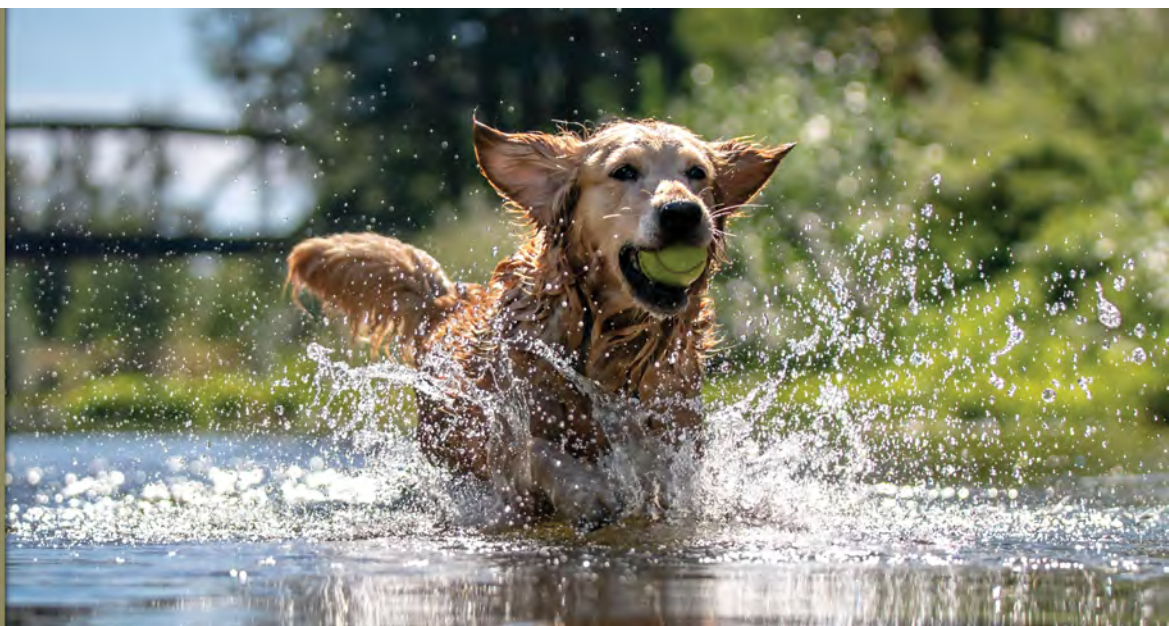


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Henry Playne receiving the winner's trophy from Senior Judge Carolyn Baker. Henry also received awards for the best Labrador Retriever and the Most Consistent Dog between Championships



Terry Watson and Kester placing second and winning the Guns Choice award and also the Best Golden Retriever Trophy



André Thuynsma and Moxie received awards for the Best Water Series and also the Best Multiple Retrieve

Prizegiving

The Natal Gundog Club acknowledges the hard work and commitment of all who participated (competitors, officials and organisers) without whom the weekend would not have been a success.

Congratulations to the award winners for a job well done!

The judging panel spent some time agreeing the merits of the finishing dogs while competitors and guests gathered for an alfresco lunch at the Baynesfield Lodge adjacent to the dam. It was a wonderful setting, and a good end to two days of very hard work.

In First Place (top left) was Henry Playne's black Labrador Sam, Ch.FT Copperbirch Bushmills (Imp Ire) GMHR;

Second Place (centre) went to Terry Watson's Golden Retriever Kester, Ch. FT Roodehek Orions Longbow of Lymond GMHR;

and **in Third Place** was Charles Trollope's Golden Retriever Rookie, Ch. FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) MHR. This team were the winners of the previous KUSA Champs!

Guns Choice was also awarded to Terry Watson's Golden Retriever Kester, Ch. FT Roodehek Orions Longbow of Lymond GMHR;

The **Best Water Retrieve** and **Best Multiple Series** Trophies were awarded to André Thuynsma's black Labrador Moxie, Snowpine Moxie of Kinndell FTA MHR.

COMPETITORS AND OFFICIALS

JUDGES

Carolyn Baker (Snr), Neil Tatham, Alan Kloeck and Judith Buchanan

GUNS

Tex Westgate (Snr), Pierre Retief, Cheryl Retief, Charl Snoeck, Peter Christie, John Purcell

FIELD TRIAL MANAGERS

Fred Kingsley and Rob Ainslie

KUSA REPRESENTATIVE

Wendy Sanzin

TEST and PICK-UP DOG

Tushielaw Stealth WHR handled by Fred Kingsley

1 Snowpine Moxie of Kinndell FTA MHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Moxie
Sire: Ch.FT Bardale DB's BestFriend GMHR
Dam: Ch.FT Ravenside MadamFranki of Snowpine GMHR ZA004025B15
Breeder: Mr HJ Emin 945000001604325
Reg Owner: Mr A Thuynsma Dob: 18-Oct-2014
Handler: André Thuynsma

2 Ch.FT Om'anam Artemis GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Artemis
Sire: Ch.FT Ravenside BlueMoon of Snowpine GMHR A2-A2 ED00
Dam: Highdale Tadorna B1-B1 ED00 ZA003340B12
Breeder: Mr PG Forsythe 900008800196356
Reg Owner: Mr JG le Roux Dob: 28-Nov-2011
Handler: Kobus le Roux

3 Ch.FT Copperbirch Bushmills (Imp Ire) GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Sam
Sire: Copperbirch Lancelot
Dam: Copperbirch Clough Fern ZA001071C18
Breeder: Mr K Mathews 900079000289370
Reg Owner: Mr HS Playne Dob: 22-Aug-2017
Handler: Henry Playne

4 Chardale Cherrybomb FTA NHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch Kahlo
Sire: Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR
Dam: Siatham Poppadom of Chardale (Imp UK) MHR ZA010657B17
Breeder: Mrs E Trollope 900050000480671
Reg Owner: Mrs E Trollope Dob: 08-Jun-2017
Handler: Estene Trollope

5 Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Major
Sire: Ch.FT Burwell Ben of Tashinga GMHR B1-B1 ED00
Dam: Bardale DB's Triumph of Walkabout FTA MHR A2-B2 ED00 ZA007094B12
Breeder: Mrs EM Walker 900008800197543
Reg Owner: Mr DW Padbury Dob: 12-Feb-2012
Handler: David Padbury

6 Ch.FT Wildwings Diana of Tamboersknaal FTA WHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Deehana
Sire: Copperbirch Spear of Wildwings (Imp Ire) NHR
Dam: Wildspirit Sure Shot Aya of Wildwings NHR B1-B2 ED00 ZA010873B17
Breeder: Dr APR Kloeck 945000001822925
Reg Owner: Mr JG le Roux Dob: 09-Jun-2017
Handler: Kobus le Roux

7 Walkabout Java of Knapskoot FTA NHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Patrys
Sire: Ch.FT Burwell Ben of Tashinga GMHR B1-B1 ED00
Dam: Bardale DB's Triumph of Walkabout FTA MHR A2-B2 ED00 ZA011502B16
Breeder: Mrs EM Walker 953010001232682
Reg Owner: Dr E Van Dyk Dob: 01-Jun-2016
Handler: Enette Van Dyk

8 Ch.FT Zaniri Up and Away to Pareora (Imp Can) GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch Haley
Sire: Choctaw's Yukon Copper Penny
Dam: Can Ch GMH Zaniri's Cheeky Monkey ZA001266C13
Breeder: Ms L Kinney & Ms JT Kinney 956000003105100
Reg Owner: Ms JL Smith Dob: 20-Jan-2013
Handler: Jenny Smith

9 Ch.FT Roodehek Orions Longbow of Lymond GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Dog Kester
Sire: Dairycott Helianthus (Imp UK) FTA GMHR
Dam: Ch.FT Tinvane Lowly Flyte of Roodehek GMHR ZA011635B15
Breeder: Mr TPG Teale 945000001558115
Reg Owner: Mr T Watson Dob: 09-Mar-2015
Handler: Terry Watson

10 Sugarville Gunner of Tashinga FTA WHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Gunner
Sire: Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR
Dam: Menneheim Barbet of Sugarville ZA052666B14
Breeder: Miss TD Ellender 953010000433653
Reg Owner: Mr DW Padbury Dob: 16-Oct-2014
Handler: David Padbury

11 Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Dog Rookie
Sire: Joyful Hugo of Philchris
Dam: Nordenlights Cheyanne of Gospelash ZA001070C16
Breeder: Mr NJ Coates 953010000952029
Reg Owner: Mr CE Trollope Dob: 09-Oct-2015
Handler: Charles Trollope

12 Bardale DB TheWayWeWere GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Mooshus
Sire: Ch.FT Abbeystead Into Africa at Bardale (Imp UK) GMHR HD00
Dam: Bardale DB's Legacy NHR ZA020196B13
Breeder: Miss DA Fabian & Mr DV Brown 111100000005096
Reg Owner: Mr JG le Roux Dob: 17-Oct-2012
Handler: Kobus le Roux

