



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association Vol. 31 No. 4 – November/December 2025

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Junior member Roux Struweg and his trusty Labrador Otto. Otto made a beautiful water retrieve to collect the Egyptian goose that Roux had shot. Photograph by Jean Struweg.



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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



Another FCA amendment Bill on the way...

It is always difficult to debate a topic with anyone or group who already believe that their views are correct. My father used to say... "You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts."

The government and other entities, who are by no means experts on the subject, are currently in the process of discussing new Firearms Control Amendments. We expect these to be published for comments fairly soon. We are not sure when, but most likely in December, when everyone is on holiday... as usual.

Each and every time, the powers that be place the blame and focus on the non-sensical, and attempt to restrict us hunters and sport shooters. Taking into account national crime figures and statistics from across the board, there is no way that hunters and sport shooters account for any significant portion of these statistics. Yet, we remain the focal point.

As I said in a meeting to the head of the CFR at the time (circa 2017)... the problem does not lie with members of SAPS accredited associations, as most members are qualified dedicated hunters and/or dedicated sport shooters. Associations have the addresses and personal details of their members, as required by the FCA. It is the people who are not members of associations who by-and-large are likely to be the main problem, as no one, not even the Government, has exact details such as correct domicilium, etc for them.

I want to ensure all members that the Association will do everything in its power and ability to oppose, with facts and conviction, any unwarranted, negative or unnecessary amendments to the current FCA. We will need your support on this. If asked, please help where you can.

As always, and most importantly, we'd like to thank all our members for your support, interaction and friendship. We wish everyone a restful and joyous holiday. May you be safe and blessed. Godspeed to you all.

Thanks to the National Council members and the Executive Committee for your continued teamwork and guidance, as always.

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Aorkuler A new product review

I recently tested a new product that offers significant advantages of simplicity and accuracy in locating your working dog. Pointing dogs hidden in thick bush and grass can be a real problem for impatient hunters.

There are, of course, several existing solutions to the problem. The most obvious are the GPS solutions like Garmin, which



have exceptional range and accuracy. However, these solutions are a little overengineered for a dog that usually works within a hundred metres of you, at least in thick grass.

Typically, these solutions use a tracking device on the dog's collar that reads a satellite signal, then transmits it directly to your hand-held monitor using (DMR) low frequencies of around 150Mhz. Other trackers transmit cell phone signals to a cell phone tower, which then transmits their location to your cell phone.

Base maps on these systems are either preloaded or utilise internet sourced base maps displayed on a cell phone.

There are pros and cons to these types of solutions. They are accurate and can locate dogs several kilometres away. However, the equipment can cost up to R25,000 a set, GPS subscriptions may be required, and the monitors are precise but unwieldy. The DMR frequency is power hungry and its ability to provide continuous location updates requires relatively large batteries on the dog that require frequent recharging.

Cell phone-based systems have their own disadvantages in thick bush, as does the need to have cell phone coverage.

At the other end of the RF spectrum are the small tracking tags sold by Samsung and Apple. These use low energy Bluetooth frequencies of 2400Mhz, but even the latest BLE3 protocol can only transmit a signal for up to between 100m-200m. In practice, these tags do not seem to carry a signal further than 10m, provide little directional information, and are easily blocked by buildings and bush.

Both brands of tags are restricted to their operating systems but promise the potential of discovering their distant locations through same-brand third-party cell phones.

These tags face competition from Google, which is now offering the Google Track app. This is promised to be pre-loaded on all cell phones using Google products and could provide a significant advantage in the numbers of phones that provide location data. Nevertheless, the utility of any of these Bluetooth systems in finding your dog appears to be very limited.

So, enter a new product called Aorkuler that fits nicely between the Bluetooth and the typical GPS systems in both price and functionality. It is made in Shenzhen and has a very glossy website hosting some validation videos made by various testers.

Aorkuler comprises of a tracker that is attached to the dog's collar and a hand-held monitor the size of a small TV remote. Like other GPS systems, the tracker receives the GPS signals but uses a lower power (LoRa) frequency of around 868MHz to send GPS coordinates directly to the monitor. This allows signals to be transmitted over a kilometre without the need for frequent

battery charges. In thick bush this should provide the location of a tracker one or two hundred metres away within several metres of accuracy, with ease.

The product allows the user to point the monitor directly to where the dog is located and walk up to it. This functionality promises the end of long searches for 'frozen' pointers.

In practice, the cons emerged. The devices must be tuned to each other and the satellites. This takes some time and the indicator lights are invisible in bright sunlight. The buttons are hard to use unless your fingernails are shaped and long which is unusual for most hunters.

The next set of cons emerged related to the power strategy used by the manufacturer. The tracker provides an occasional, regular signal, but this is so occasional that it is of little use for tracking a moving dog. Of course, a moving dog is usually less important than a pointing dog, so maybe that can be overlooked.

Another handicap is that for reasons that are not clear, the device does not allow a location to be established in a radius up to 20m away from the monitor, which, of course is an issue.

Finally, the killer con. The device simply does not work. After placing the tracker on a low platform in an open park, the monitor consistently pointed the wrong way and up to 40 degrees to the 'left' of the tracker. This test was repeated in different parks and orientations.

So, unhappily, this R4,800 product was found to be a waste of time and money. Even more unhappily, when the time came to claim the warranty advertised on the company's internet page, the until-then, ever-friendly 'Casou' became evasive, before going off the air entirely.

Looking through the internet, it seems that Aorkuler's LoRa RF solutions have been offered by other companies. Most have disappeared, so there is clearly a problem with both the application as well as its commercial feasibility.

Our advice to future buyers of these and other frontline gadgets is that they should buy them through Amazon. The refund structure is credible and the only risk is the return shipping charge.



— N. Dinham



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First .410 barrels for a 12ga Action

Longthorne Gunmakers are delighted to announce the completion of their very first set of .410 barrels built

to bring more choice, versatility, and performance to customers.

Even more exciting, this very first set will soon be making its way across the Atlantic to a customer in the USA, where it'll be put to good use. They look forward to hearing feedback from the field and can't wait to share more about what's



to fit a 12g action – a milestone they're incredibly proud of.

This exciting development gives shooters the flexibility of enjoying a .410 while retaining the familiarity and handling of a 12g action. It's another step in their mission

next in the Longthorne journey.

For more information please visit the Longthorne Gunmakers website or call them in the UK. www.longthorneguns.com/news/

– SA Wingshooters

The Conservation Illusion: When Saving the Planet Becomes a Business Model

In an era where urgency has been commodified, the planet's distress has become one of the most powerful marketing tools of the 21st century. Forests are disappearing, oceans are heating, and wildlife is vanishing. In response, conservation organisations have risen in number and in prominence, armed with compelling campaigns, celebrity endorsements, and calls to action that flood digital feeds and donor inboxes.

But while the slogans speak of protection and regeneration, a deeper, more unsettling reality begins to emerge when one scratches beneath the surface:

What if the conservation industry has become more dependent on the appearance of crisis than the resolution of it? What if the very business of saving the planet now relies on the problem never fully going away? What if many of these organizations are not solving the problem, but sustaining it? What if conservation, in its current form, has become less about regeneration and more about reputation, fundraising and performance?

This is not to deny the good that some organizations do. Many small, grassroots movements are quietly restoring landscapes, protecting wildlife and empowering communities. But beneath the surface the mainstream conservation industry lies a more uncomfortable truth: the problem-solution model has become the business plan.

The Crisis Economy

The formula is familiar: define a crisis, amplify public emotion, and offer an accessible, feel-good solution. "Donate now." "Buy the shirt." "Sponsor a rhino." "Offset your carbon." It works, because it plays directly into fear, hope and the human desire to help.

But this structure, while effective at raising funds, also creates a dangerous incentive: the need to keep the crisis alive. A solved problem is far less profitable than one that remains urgent, visible and dramatic. Read the full article here:

<https://gaaap.co.za/the-conservation-illusion-when-saving-the-planet-becomes-a-business-model/>

The Process to Ban Lead in Ammunition – Update

The European Commission is working on restricting lead in ammunition and fishing tackle under EU chemicals legislation (the REACH Regulation). The proposal has been under discussion in the EU REACH Committee since February 2025, where Member States and the Commission have been examining the technical, socio-economic, and practical implications for hunters, sport shooters and anglers.

In recent weeks, the Commission decided to split the proposal into two separate files: one covering lead in fishing

tackle and the other on lead in ammunition. This step may reflect the increasing complexity and political sensitivity of the ammunition file.

It is now expected that the restriction on lead in fishing tackle will move forward soon. However, the ammunition file remains under discussion within the REACH Committee, as a majority of Member States do not yet support the Commission's proposal, mainly due to geopolitical concerns and the wide-ranging socio-economic impacts as flagged by Agricultural and Environmental ministers in recent months. For FACE, any future measures must be realistic and technically feasible. www.face.eu

– SA Wingshooters

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2025 Competition Target Shooting Results



Annual PSP Target Shooting Winners 2025

HANDGUN – Centrefire

Gold –
A Harrison: 100 (10x rings)
Silver –
Mrs Z Harrison: 100 (10x rings)
Bronze –
Keith Atkins: 95 (5x rings)

RIMFIRE – Rifle

Gold –
A Harrison: 100 (8x rings)
Silver –
Mrs Z Harrison: 100 (8x rings)
Bronze –
Master SR Burman: 100 (7 x-rings)

HANDGUN – Rimfire

Gold –
A Harrison: 100 (8x rings)
Silver –
Mrs Z Harrison: 100 (8x rings)
Bronze –
G Moolah: 97 (6 x-rings)

RIFLE – Centrefire

Gold –
A Harrison: 100 (10x rings)
Silver –
Mrs Z Harrison: 100 (8x rings)
Bronze –
G Moolah: 97 (6 x-rings)

SEMI-AUTO RIFLE 50m FH

Gold –
A Harrison: 100 (10 x-rings)
Silver –
Mrs Z Harrison: 98 (10 x-rings)

CENTREFIRE RIFLE 300m

Gold –
A Harrison: 25mm Group 5 shots

.22PSBC 2025 Lady Winners



.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Christina Gallow
Silver: Jacky van den Berg

LRSC 2025 Winners

OVERALL 2025 Points Winners:

Gold: Bernard Cilliers
Silver: Shaun Ellithorne
Bronze: Johan Maree

.338 F-BA Division:

Gold: Friedel Kirstein

.300 NM F-BA Division:

Gold: Johan Maree

.300 Win. Mag. Division:

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne

Silver: Tony Ernst

Bronze: Andrew Human

.308 F-BA Division:

Gold: Neil van Vuuren

Silver: Kristina Gallow (Lady)

Bronze: Sydney van Vuuren (Girls U18)

6.5 F-BA Division:

Gold: Johan Maree

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Bernard Cilliers

.243/6mm F-BA Division:

Gold: Andrew Bowles

Silver: Larno Pienaar

Bronze: Jacques Mey

.223 F-BA Junior – Girls U18 Division:

Gold: Evangelene Hamilton

Silver: Sydney van Vuuren

.223 F-BA Division:

Gold: Bernard Cilliers

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Neil van Vuuren

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

Gold: Rui Torres

Silver: Jordan Toy

Bronze: Noel Gibson

Open Division (Major):

Gold: Johan Maree

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Vernon Harms

Open Division (Minor):

Gold: Marius Gericke

Silver: Johan Maree

Bronze: Juan Botha

TPS 2025 Winners:

Final Match 1:

4-Gun Division (SG / HG / SLR / Bolt):

Gold: Roux Wildenboer

Silver: Shaune Ellithorne

Bronze: Marius Gericke

Trad 3-Gun Division (SG / HG / SLR):

Gold: Roux Wildenboer

Silver: Marius Gericke

Bronze: Shaune Ellithorne

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

Gold: Marius Gericke

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Roux Wildenboer

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

Gold: Marius Gericke

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Noel Gibson

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: Roux Wildenboer

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Johan Maree

Final Match 2:

4-Gun Division (SG / HG / SLR / Bolt):

Gold: Noel Gibson

Silver: Hulme Scholes

Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne

Trad 3-Gun Division (SG / HG / SLR):

Gold: Hulme Scholes

Silver: Mark Schuurmans

Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne

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

Gold: André van der Westhuizen

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Hulme Scholes

2-Gun Division (Handgun / SLR Rifle):

Gold: André van der Westhuizen

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne

Bronze: Hulme Scholes

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: André van der Westhuizen

Silver: Bernard Cilliers

Bronze: Charl Jacobs

.22PSBC 2025 Winners



.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Ebbe le Roux

Silver: Johan Maree

Bronze: Tony Ernst

.22 LR Hunter Division:

Gold: Rendo Ferreira

Silver: Elmo Ferreira

Bronze: Charl Jacobs

Tried, tested and trusted:

Boost your potato yields with Dux Agri's proven solutions

by Bianca Henning, ProAgri

Potato farming in South Africa is not for the faint-hearted. From unpredictable weather patterns and rising input costs to the constant threat of pests and diseases, every harvest is a triumph of persistence and precision. As one of the country's most valuable vegetable crops, potatoes play a vital role in both the local food chain and export markets, but keeping yields high and quality consistent requires more than hard work. It demands innovation, technology, and the right farming partners who understand the unique pressures growers face from soil to storage.

In a sector where timing, soil health, and mechanisation can make or break a season, Dux Agri stands alongside South Africa's potato farmers, providing practical, field-tested solutions designed to boost efficiency and protect profitability. From planting to harvest, every step in potato production comes with its own demands. That's why Dux Agri focuses on giving farmers access to scientifically formulated products that support healthy plant growth, resilience, and yield potential.

Among the trusted names in their portfolio are **Kiplant Eckosil**, designed to strengthen plant cell walls and enhance resistance to stress; **Enermax** is designed to increase size uniformity while maintaining dry matter and nutrient density. **Cuperdem** offers the increased resilience to bacterial and fungal disease by offering copper that is rapidly absorbed into the plant. Together, these solutions help farmers maintain crop health and quality, even under challenging conditions.

Dux Agri continues to empower potato farmers across South Africa to get the most out of every hectare, ensuring that the country's favourite staple keeps thriving season after season.

For more information on
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Sporter Vs Game

Game Gun or Sporter: What's the Difference and Which is Right for You?

by GunsOnPegs
with kind permission

If you have ever wondered what the difference is between a 'sporter' and a 'game' shotgun, you're not alone.

Choosing the right shotgun for your shooting needs and style is tricky - there are just so many choices to make: side-by-side or over-and-under; gauge, maker, grip-type... the list goes on and on. Most gunmakers

ers, others designed for shooting game, and others are designed as all-rounders.

Since you're reading this, there's a pretty good chance that you plan to shoot some game, so for the purposes of this article we will ignore those guns that are exclusively intended for use as clay shooting guns (though there's nothing stopping you from



**Top: Browning B725 'Sport' - Sporter;
Bottom: Browning B725 'Hunter' - Game**

offer a variety of models in a range, each subtly (but importantly) different, depending on their intended usage. For example, there are guns designed specifically for trap shoot-

using a trap gun on game if you so desire) and focus on sporters and game/field guns.

In simple terms, game guns are designed to be used in live game situ-



ations, where sporters are designed to sit somewhere between a game gun and a dedicated claybuster. But what are the major differences, and do they matter? Let's take a look at a duo of entry-level guns from the same range – Browning B725 – and compare them. In the game corner, we have the B725 Hunter 'Game' in 12 bore, and in the Sporter corner we have the B725 Sport 'Sporter', also in 12 bore.

These two guns are built on the same action, and are more or less the same price, the Game having an RRP of £2640, the Sporter slightly cheaper at £2600. Both have non-adjustable stocks with the same measurements, with pistol grips.

Both feature back-bored barrels, manual safeties and are available in both left- and right-handed versions. That's the similarities, so what makes these guns different from each other, and why does that make them better suited to their particular jobs?

Aesthetics

For whatever reason, a rule of thumb is that game guns are likely to

“While this obviously doesn't change how the gun performs, many game shots prefer to have a gun that reflects the grandeur of a day out in the field.”

have more elaborate aesthetics than sporters. While this obviously doesn't change how the gun performs, many game shots prefer to have a gun that reflects the grandeur of a day out in the field. In the case of our two test subjects, the Game gun has acanthus-style scroll engraving, while the sporter has a plain action stamped with the B725 logo.

Sometimes Game guns will feature gamescene engraving. In terms of the woodwork, the Grade 3 Turkish walnut is probably slightly fancier than the Grade 2 / 3 American walnut on the Sporter.

Stock and forend

Here we start to see a few more practical differences. The Sporter's pistol grip features a palmswell to improve the gun's ergonomics, which is not found on the Game.

Up at the front, the Sporter's tulip forend also gives the shooter a good chunk of wood to grasp, all of which helps to deliver the repeatable gun mount that delivers consistent shooting on the clay ground. Both



Left: The Sporter's Tulip Forend;
Right: The Game's Tapered Forend

quently a problem on a round of a hundred clays than it is on a day's shooting, reducing the impact of heat haze coming off the barrels.

The wider rib also helps to create a bigger sighting plane, assisting with target acquisition. The narrower rib on the Game allows for the more instinctive style of shooting that game shooting requires, where the focus of

“The Sporter features an adjustable mechanical trigger, as well as a selection of different triggers, allowing you to not only adjust the length of pull, but also the shape of the trigger itself.”

the eye should be on the bird – game shots prefer not to ‘see’ the barrels, hence, also, the less noticeable brass bead.

Weight

Naturally the overall weight of the guns will depend on what barrel length you choose, but a key difference between a sporter shotgun and a game shotgun is that the former is likely to be heavier.

The extra weight in a sporter is well suited to clay shooting, allowing for a more precise, considered swing of the gun.

Meanwhile, the relative lack of weight of a game gun makes them more agile and instinctive to shoot, making them more capable of the kind of snap shooting one might encounter in the field (or the woods!).

The extra weight of a sporter also helps to reduce felt recoil and muzzle flip, a boon not only when it comes to consistent shooting, but also in reducing the impact on one's poor shoulder of a hundred cartridges fired over the course of two hours.

In a similar vein, a game gun's lack of weight makes it far more comfort-

guns are fitted with Browning's Inflex II recoil pads, which allows you to adjust the length of the stock using the interchangeable pads, increasing the length by as much as 20mm.

While the stock dimensions – in terms of drop-at-comb and drop-and-heel – are the same on both guns, the B725 Game has a slimmer, sleeker stock with the nose a little further back than that of the Sporter, and the neck of the stock is somewhat longer, giving a more elegant look.

The narrower stock results in a narrower butt, which suits itself to the variable nature of shooting live game, where you need a little more versatility in the way you mount your gun.

Trigger & Safety

Clay shooting is all about marginal gains and everything being just so. To this end, the Sporter features an adjustable mechanical trigger, as

well as a selection of different triggers, allowing you to not only adjust the length of pull, but also the shape of the trigger itself.

Conversely, the Game has a fixed mechanical trigger. Both guns have manual (non-auto) safety catch, and a barrel selector.

Barrels, ribs and chokes

The B725 Game is available with 28 or 30 inch barrels, with a 6mm ventilated top rib leading to a brass bead and a solid mid-rib. It comes with flush fitting interchangeable Invictor DS chokes.

The Sporter, by comparison, has extended chokes, a ventilated mid-rib and a white front bead. As well as 28 and 30 inch barrels, you can also get the Sporter in 32 inch.

The top rib is 10mm. The advantage to the wider top is that it helps to dissipate the heat from the hot barrels, something that is more fre-



The subtly different stocks,
Left - Sporter;
Right - Game

Which is right for you?

Well... that all depends. And I know, that sounds like a cop out. It would be easy to say that if you plan to exclusively shoot game, then a Game model is the one for you, and that if you want to do a bit of game and a bit of clay shooting, then the Sporter is what you should choose.

But the fact is that you are going to shoot far better with a gun that suits your own personal build and shooting style. It isn't even true that a light(er)weight, shorter barrellled game gun is best for all game shooting situations – for example, if you're doing lots of shooting in the Welsh Valleys or on Exmoor, where heavy loads are de rigeur, there are lots of good reasons for choosing the heavier and longer Sporter.

Nor is it true that you can't or shouldn't shoot clays with a 'Game' gun – if that's what fits you best and suits your build and style of shooting,



able to hold when standing on the peg waiting for the first birds of the drive – which on some shoots can be a fair old while – or to carry on a walked-up day.

There are no gunracks on a game day as there are at each stand at the clay ground! David Stapeley of International Sports Brands, the UK importer for Browning, told me that where the weight is positioned is also important:

In generic terms, a sporting gun will have a slight front-heavy bias to aid swing-through on the target, where as the game gun will aim to get the weight centred between the hands, making the gun feel alive and fast-moving for

reactive shooting. Some more proficient shooters may want to adjust their gun's balance to suit their own style of shooting.

On some of the more dedicated Browning target guns, "Pro" models will include a weight system for both the barrels and the stock, allowing a near infinite level of adjustment in terms of overall weight of the gun and the balance point.

Even on the base level gun discussed here, the sporting stocks are pre-prepared to accept the stock weight system and the barrel weight fit through the vented side ribs, offering the same custom set up as enjoyed by current World Champions and everybody else below!

have at it. The answer to the question 'Should I buy a game gun or a sporter,' unhelpfully if you're looking for a definitive declaration, is 'whichever you like the best.'

Find out more about Browning shotguns on: <https://browning.eu/>

– <https://www.gunsonpegs.com/articles/guns/shotguns/game-gun-or-sporter-whats-the-difference-and-which-is-right-for-you?ref=related>

– Editor's note: Should you be interested in Browning shotgun models, kindly contact the SA Wingshooters Association office and we will assist you with information on where to purchase.



Ask the instructor – New gun, lower scores

By Don Currie

Question:

Last month I bought a sporting clays gun with 32 inch barrels and as a result my scores have fallen sharply. I started out with 28 inch barrels then moved up to 30 inch and now with the longer barrels, I can't seem to catch up to the target. I'm 6'5" and 250 pounds so the gun does not seem too big to me, but any tips for improving my scores would help.

Answer:

Answering your question is sort of like trying to conduct a gun fitting by e-mail or Skype. It's impossible! But allow me to speculate. First of all, I seriously doubt that a two-inch difference in barrel length is the cause of your catastrophic reduction in scores. At 6'5" tall, you are certainly tall enough, and the length-of-pull of your gun presumably long enough, to carry the extra two inches.

Ballistically speaking, there is no appreciable difference between 30" and 32" barrels on the same gun. More or less weight at the front end of a gun will affect weight, balance, and the dynamics of a gun in a shooter's hands. I seriously doubt, however, that this slight increase in weight at the muzzle is the cause of the plummeting scores you are describing. There are many other factors that impact your shotgun's performance to a much greater degree than a 2-inch variable in barrel length.

From your question, I understand that you didn't just switch to a longer barrel on the same gun. You changed guns. More than likely, that's where the problem lies. My guess is that the new gun doesn't fit you. Is it possible that your old gun had a higher comb? An adjustable comb perhaps? With such a dramatic impact on your scores, I am speculating that you



might not be seeing the target when the gun is fully mounted. Shooting with a gun that has a comb that is too low, or a rib that is too high, will sometimes cause the shooter to lose sight of the target through the breakpoint. Again, this is just a guess based on the information in your question. I would suggest that you set up a short session with a gun fitter and have him look at both guns. Let me know what your gun fitter determines.

– This tip came from: <https://www.doncurrie.com/post/ask-the-instructor-rising-outgoing-targets>.

Ride and miss:

The longer the ride the more likely the miss. The moment the comb of the stock reaches your cheek, the quality of the visual information reaching your brain begins to degrade.

Conversely, the moment the comb of the gun reaches your cheek, the quality of the target information resident in your brain will be at optimal level. As a result, it is critical to time your move, mount, focus and execution to converge at the break point.

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

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Some interesting gauges most have never heard of...

by Charles Duff



Back in the '90s when I wrote my never-published wingshooting book I stated in reviewing shotguns that while we still had the 12, 16, 20, 28 gauges and the .410 bore smoothbores, quite a few smaller gauges had slid into extinction.

These being the 14ga, which was just too close to the 12ga to survive; the 24ga with a bore of 0.529", 14.71mms; the 32 bore at 0.526", 13.36mm; the 36ga at 0.506", 12.85mms; and the 9mm with a bore of 0.360", 9.14mm.

As an aside, several European cartridge makers label their .410 ammo as 36ga, which is a confusing error, it

would be a 67.6ga. Also mentioned were the 8mm and 6mm, plus the smoothbore .22s, all of which were probably used for garden pests, rats and mice or the collection of ornithological specimens. The smoothbore 9mm still survives in Europe.

Gun manufacturers are always on the hunt for something different to tickle the fancies of their customers and keep the factories rolling: interchangeable chokes, single triggers, shorter barrels, longer barrels, hand detachable trigger plate actions etc, etc.

So it should come as no surprise to find that a rebirth of the 32gauge shotgun has recently happened. First produced during the late 1800s, it was originally touted as a lightweight, quick-handling weapon for grouse, snipe, woodcock and quail. Compared to the 28ga it is only 24/1000ths smaller in barrel bore, but whereas you can overload the heavier 28ga with a 28gram (1oz) load, even 21gram (7/8oz) would be asking for a belting in the cheek and on the shoulder.

Anyhow the Shotgun Life magazine announced its availability from the B. Rizzini factory of Gardone, Italy. It can be had in either over and under or side-by-side sidelever versions. Multi-barrels sets are proposed, such as 28ga, 32ga and .410 bore.

Both single and double trigger versions plus sidelock actions. At present the chokes are fixed and the solid ribbed 66 cm (26") barrels have improved cylinder and modified as standard, though others can be selected.

As yet, interchangeable chokes are not offered, but don't hold your breath, ditto for longer barrels. Gun weight is not stated though it should be less than 5 ½ lbs (2.46kg). The side-by-side model has an articulated front trigger, stocks are of the relaxed

*"So it should come as no surprise to find that a rebirth of the 32gauge shotgun has recently happened. **First produced during the late 1800s** it was originally touted as a lightweight, quick-handling weapon for grouse, snipe, woodcock and quail."*

Ammunition is already available from Fiocchi in Italy and Federal plus RST in the USA.

Case length is 65mm (2½") and shot sizes from size 6 through to dust shot size 12. Normal load is the same as the .410 at 14 grams (½oz), though I think we could expect 17 gram (5/8oz) loads should the fad catch on, 19 gram as well, probably, though this is the sensible upper limit if one is to stick with the 'square load' concept for best patterning.

One caveat, as the owner and user of a 2.57kg (5¾lb) 27.5cm 12ga barreled Beretta, if you are not used to very light and/or short barreled guns, they are a bit 'bouncy' and care has to be exercised to keep the muzzles steady and just under the bird for the 'bum, breast, beak, Bang!' swing.

Do we need the 32 gauge? Honestly – no. But there will always be those who will fall for its allure and also the experts who can handle it and its small shot load properly.



The Rizzini Regal Royal Special is made in a 32ga

pistol grip genre, the chequering quite fine at 28LPI, and the safety catch is manual.

The through-the-target B.Rizzini custom shop are only too happy to cater to individual choices and the action engraving can be either light scroll or deep chiseled scroll.

Background image: Johann van de Giessen
and his GSP Jasper.

Official Shoots...

Kendal, Winddam, Witkoppies...



Above: Dr Gareth Hardie at the Witkoppies shoot.

Above right: Derek Garton & Nic Mentis at the Kendal shoot.

Right: Andy Charalambous & Gary Hagemann at the Kendal.

Below left: Marc Lax & Kaptein with a brace of red-billed teal at the Kendal.



Andrew and Tanya Toy at
the Kendal shoot

& Merinovlakte



Oom Jan Breed at the Merinovlakte shoot.



Ras & Kobus Myburgh at Merinovlakte



Quintin Cass at the Witkoppies shoot.



Danie Coetzee at Merinovlakte



PhotoReview

of 2025

Join us on these fabulous Official shoots next season! See the dates in next year's shooting calendar, out in early February.

Below: Pierre Kearns.
Bottom: David Gudmanz & Sasha Taylor

Official Shoots...



The Rustenburg

From left: Dusan Janjic, Michael Anderson & Corrie Jordaan



Top left: Mike Parton. Bottom left: Rian Strydom. Top right: Shawn Kennard. Bottom right: Yodi – Deutsch Drahthaar, partner to Marco Tarantino.

Top centre: Labrador retrieving a Natal Francolin. Photograph by Jed Vaughan.



Official Shoots...

The Rustenburg continued



Above: Andriaan Venter with a double on Swainsons Francolin.

Below: Jakkals Bothma and Frans van Wyk discussing how Guinea fowl are.



Upland birds & Driven Guinea fowl

Richard Curtis and Theo



Marius du Plessis and Whiskey

Francois Pienaar Senior & Junior



From left: Marco Tarantino, Brad Smith, Derek Garton, Douglas Smith and Corrie Jordaan.



Members in the field...

Wynand Visser's GSP Sneller and DD Klaus at the Rûens shoot



Alan Fraser and Bobby Lotter at Leandra



The late Mauritz le Roux. RIP



From left: Charles Trollope, John Smillie, Carl Bosman, Fred Kingsley, Calvin Fisher and Francois Breedt at Rustenburg.



Casper Strydom on a waterfowl shoot



John-Patrick van Rensburg and his son Owen at the Bredasdorp venue



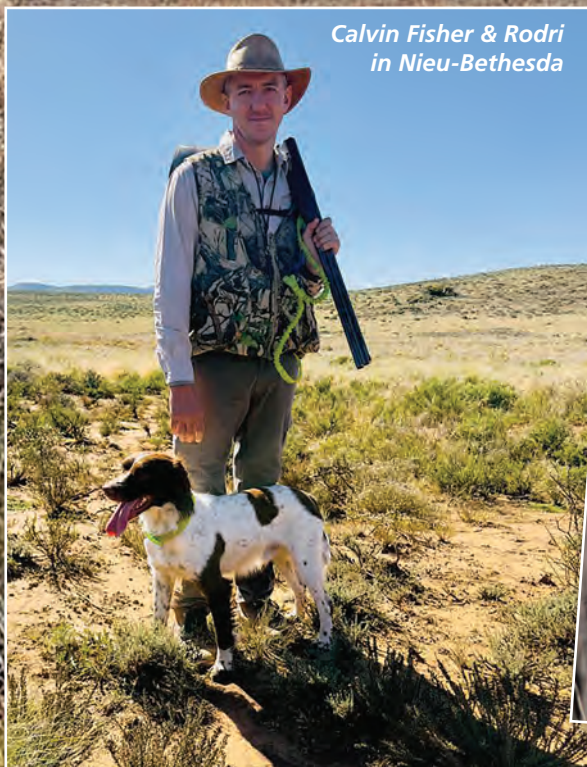
Petru Pienaar with Daffodil at Villiers



Emil Engelbrecht and Mila



Calvin Fisher & Rodri in Nieu-Bethesda



Lize Venter and D-Drahthaar Wenke at the Lady Birds shoot



Official Events... Timbavati Course for members

Members attended the advanced handgun shooting and animal tracking course during June, as advertised in the calendar hosted and instructed by friend and member, and super qualified Andreas Liebenberg (above). As always, a valuable and unforgettable experience. Below: Frans van Wyk. Bottom right: Cornell van der Westhuizen Master class IDPA shooter also giving a few tips.

Luna the extraordinary all round tracking Malinois





Below: Raoul van der Westhuizen.
Left: Evening camp fire and discussing the day's
training and tracking.



Noel Gibson – always has one's six



Jakkals Bothma and
Johan Opperman shooting in
two-man team format



The ever present Mark Schuurmans



Mark van Heerden during a
training session

Emotional Dysregulation in **Dogs and Puppies**

*Helping Dogs Stuck in “Drive”
to Relax and Self-Regulate*



Techniques and strategies for shifting excitable, anxious, and emotionally dysregulated dogs into “neutral.”

Most of us have experienced a situation where someone’s level-headed thinking helped bring a sense of balance back into our lives. Like a diesel truck shifted into drive, we were ready to power straight through the problem. But cooler heads throttled us down and shifted us back into neutral. Like people, puppies have similar emotions and the ability (or lack thereof) to regulate them.

by Jason Carter
projectupland.com

Puppies can be characterized by intense emotional responses to stimuli, excitability, stubbornness and relentless misbehavior. No matter how much training, exercise and stimulation you provide, puppies seem to always be in drive. Getting them to relax and have a calm state of mind seems to only be accomplished through sleep.

If you’re wondering how to calm an excitable or anxious puppy, you are not alone—many owners face this challenge. Thankfully, there are calming techniques and strategies that can help bring our dogs back to a calm and stable state during training and in the home.

Understanding How Dogs Use Their Senses

During the quest to develop the bird dogs of our dreams, folks tend to get a bit over-excited. This is often characterized by being repetitively loud and commanding and presenting a heightened energy around the dog. Dogs respond to our emotions

in a like minded-way. They become dysregulated, incapable of settling or returning to neutral.

Dogs interact with their world starting with their nose, then their eyes, and their ears last. Dog owners inherently want to interact with their pups in ways that work best for humans, which just so happens to be the polar opposite of how dogs operate. We want our dogs to listen to us first, then to make eye contact with us. We also completely disregard their sense of smell.

How We Unintentionally Keep Our Dogs “In Drive”

Insisting a dog perform for us for a sustained period of time can create nervous energy and anxiety. Some folks over-train and attempt to hurry along the pup’s development. Nervous, anxious dogs will also struggle to settle. These dogs are in perpetual states of unrest, never learning to self-soothe or quiet themselves. The lack of self-regulation gets in the way of helping the dog find neutral; it creates a busy, anxious pup. In other words, these dogs are kept in drive, or in a heightened mental state, all the time.

Owners are typically very good at rewarding and punishing behaviors from their dogs. They can excitedly send the dog chasing a toy, rough house on the floor, or spoil the dog with hugs and kisses. They can show displeasure and punish wayward behaviors. If their dog is overly excited, they depreciate the excitement with pressure. If the dog is displaying sensitivity, they shower the dog with love and attention, essentially rewarding the dog for being in a state of dysregulation. This can lead a dog down a road filled with highs and lows. They may never truly find that calm, neutral mindset we desire from them.

If our dogs live indoors, we expect them to remain in a neutral state. Being a good citizen in the home requires the dog to be able to relax and settle. In all the training methods we read about, very little is said about the importance of getting your dog out of drive and into the neutral

state also known as “the off switch.” Truthfully, the ability to de-escalate a dog is something often undervalued in dog training altogether.

Techniques For Teaching Dogs To Emotionally Self-Regulate

Helping your pup self-regulate and settle down will benefit you both. Thankfully, there are a number of techniques to achieve neutrality in our dogs. I will discuss three common techniques below.

waiting. Though the dog may initially fight the restraint, it will eventually learn to self-soothe and return itself to a neutral or calm state.

Some dogs take to the system quickly, but most require a bit of time to learn that settling gets them off the chain. For the more dysregulated dogs, they may require us to intervene to enforce calm behavior on the line.

Given enough time, most dogs learn to accept the limits the chain



The Chain Gang

The most popular and well-known approach is called the chain gang. The idea is that the limits of the chain gang or tie out makes anxious behaviors (barking and whining) ineffective and inefficient ways of getting what the dog wants.

The chain gang is a long chain secured to a tree or stake at either end where a single dog or multiple dogs can remain secure and comfortable on a line.

Dogs that are acting out remain on the line until they are patiently

gang provides, setting the stage for acceptance of other limits found throughout your training.

Keep Yourself In Neutral

Another technique that gets your dog into a neutral state is providing the dog with leadership that is void of emotions. By doing so, we lead by example by keeping ourselves in neutral. But doing so is easier said than done.

As we work with our dogs, we tend to get emotionally invested in training. Our emotions get com-



municated in so many subtle ways, most of which are oblivious to us. Examples include tightening on the lead, changes in breathing patterns, stiffening gestures, intense stares, and tonal changes in our commands. These are all recognized by and elicit reactions from our dogs.

It's nearly impossible to hide our emotions, which is why we need to only train when we are calm. This is a common problem where the dog gets boxed in by your strong emotions and feels it can't escape. As a result, the handler inadvertently loses the dog's trust.

The impact of emotional training has severe ramifications, which can impact both short- and long-term learning. When handlers feel overly emotional, it's best just to call it a day and try again another time.

Maintaining Routines and Rituals

Setting situational expectations and holding the dog to them allow the dog to know how to mentally prepare itself when faced with similar situations. Maintaining these rituals creates routines, which lead dogs away from stress and shift them towards a neutral mindset.

For example, the dog knows that car rides are done quietly in its crate. Laying quietly on its dog bed is required before meeting guests in the home. Waiting quietly for food, to go out a door, and to get out of the kennel are routine behaviors that get the dog what it wants. Rough and

tumble play happens outdoors and is not allowed in the home. All of these expectations promote the neutrality and balance we need for steadiness in the field.

Ignoring Attention-Seeking Behaviors

Some behaviors we need to ignore or place on extinction, or stop reinforcing a previously reinforced behavior, for them to go away.

Attention-seeking behaviors such as jumping, excessive licking, or barking can be maintained by our attention to them.

Through denying the dog what it seeks, the frequency of those behaviors diminish. In time, they should hopefully vanish all together. As a result, the dog is forced to learn other ways to get our attention.

At this point, we can then teach the dog that if it wants our attention, it must first greet us in an acceptable way such as making eye contact and waiting patiently. If we become emotionally heightened by the dog's behavior and respond aggressively, it can generate excitement in the dog, which encourages jumping, biting, and keep-away games.

It's important to remember that the energy we feel, we express down to the dog. Our emotions will change how our dogs work for us. If you are a calm leader, the dog will react similarly. The highs and lows of excitable behaviors are replaced by a neutral state where learning flows easily.

Be A Role Model For Your Dog

As the alpha, you provide the tone and energy of your dog's world. If you are perpetually punitive and angry, your dog will live in fear of the world that surrounds it. It will exhibit anxious energy and avoidance with low affect. The dog will question its safety in response to your commands.

Its actions will be characterized by slow responses or avoidant behavior. Alternatively, if a majority of your interactions with your dog provide excited energy, you may find your dog bouncing off the walls. The dog perceives its world without limits or rules. Too much excitement opens the door for your dog to replace your role as leader.

A dog capable of a neutral mindset is achieved through being predictable and patient. Be religious in keeping to your routines. Train your dog to accept your limits and boundaries. Know that a hundred trials can be overturned by a moment of weakness. For example, the dog that once slept comfortably on its dog bed for years now whines at the side of your bed because your house sitter allowed it in bed while you were on vacation.

Don't underestimate the comfort a dog feels knowing what it can expect and that it is being protected and led by a consistent and fair leader. A dog finds solitude in a self-aware leader who provides a calming energy and trains with a neutral demeanor.

When done properly, you will be left with a dog who can tear it up in the field and then be quietly parked on its bed while you relax by the fireplace reading your favorite upland novel—proof that your dog has truly learned emotional self-regulation.



— https://projectupland.com/dogs/emotional-dysregulation-in-dogs-and-puppies-helping-dogs-stuck-in-drive-to-relax-and-self-regulate/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=fUSZQJgzqvSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTVldmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu

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“That’s why we are all optimists”

The sun touches the horizon...

by Gustav Vermaas



Roga is busy with a retrieve, carrying the francolin carefully despite a faint limp from the injury, two weeks earlier. He drops it a meter short and I instantly forgive him. It’s been a long day – a hard, productive day. I can tell he is tired, my buddy certainly made me proud.

Let’s call it a day. It is always best to end on a high. The dinner at the Heilbron community hall starts in ninety minutes – just enough time to make the drive back, shower off the dust, and enjoy something cold.

And with that, the 2025 wingshooting season ends for Roga and I.

Driving back, the yellow hills roll out ahead, the last light painting

them in red and gold. The landscape never fails to intrigue me. In truth, the same goes for any patch of grass. I can’t drive past a field or look across an open space without wondering whether birds live there.

My mind starts the story without my permission: where they might hide, where Roga and I would start, which angle the wind would favour.

Before I drift too far into the daydream, I pull myself back – back to the road, the hum of tires on gravel. But that is not where it ends.

If a certain stretch of veld looks promising, I quietly mark it in my mind. It feels like discovering a private secret written into the land – a small pledge between hunter and horizon.

That discovery is thrilling, but also bittersweet, because the chances of returning to every imagined place are slim.

Maybe wingshooting is a decadent pursuit, or not.

As a boy, I hunted not because it was noble, but because it felt natural – your contribution to the clan.

As an adult, standing in a winter field on a weekday afternoon, it’s something more deliberate – an intentional pause. I still do it for the same reasons: the joy of being outside, the focus it demands, the uncertainty, the fleeting reward, the way it anchors me to the land. Wingshooting offers a quiet, lasting satisfaction.

It’s a pleasure much like a prop-



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er lunch – three hours long, wine ordered by the bottle, not the glass. Rare, deliberate, restorative. Not forbidden, but certainly removed from the rush of the modern world.

When people ask why I do wingshooting – because they always ask after meeting Roga, and they always sound slightly confused – I give them the simplest answer: it's an outdoor sport, and I love sharing it with my dog.

You are where life still breathes freely, usually somewhere beautiful. Every time I arrive in the veld, I'm surprised by how innocent it feels – completely unaware of my intent. The tall grass and low thorn trees move restlessly in the wind. It's just another day like countless others – except today, I'm here. I've come to interrupt what would otherwise unfold untouched.

Look closely, and that peaceful veld reveals its pulse: faint tracks, a single feather, a few scratch marks in the dust. The wind tells its own story – it carries the scent, shapes the day, moves the clouds – it actually decides everything.

The wind is everything.

Walking into it gives Roga the



edge – the scent travels farther, clearer. I can see him drink it in, muscles tightening, tail stiffening.

Then the point: frozen, perfect. A sudden rush. An explosion in the grass. Wings hammer the air. Shots fired. The bird falls. The dog retrieves. The drama lasts maybe twenty seconds but feels forever. When it all works, it feels inevitable, almost easy

– as if it could never have gone another way. Of course, it often does. There are plenty of ways to be heartbroken in the field. Sometimes the joy comes simply from avoiding a mistake, or a run of bad luck. Every time we return from a hunt, I pause to say thank you that nothing major has gone wrong.

To take a bird cleanly, alone with your dog, is a small, perfect satisfac-

tion – the alignment of wind, dog, bird, and moment. Alone and nobody knows where I am. Sometimes, life is good.

Wingshooting demands skill and experience, but it also requires faith. Control is only part of the story. Yes, knowledge and training improve the odds – but the bird and the dog must complete the loop.

It also means accepting that success, as it's usually defined, depends on something beyond you. You learn to trust the unseen, to walk the field knowing not all the cards are yours to see.

There is no other way to walk into a seemingly empty field, in uncertain weather, with long odds and no promise of reward. Beauty alone can be reward enough, but sometimes you still need that bird at the far end of the loop to make the belief real.

Every hunter's faith is tested.

The true ones return.

They return because they believe.

They believe – and that's why we are all optimists.



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Images from our 2025 *LRSC* events



Right: Spottersd Up! Members and ROs spot for hits and to confirm and assist with wind calls.

Below: Xander Jacobs coaching his girlfriend Monize.

Middle right: Cliff Alexander & Marius Gericke... always a laugh going on.

Bottom: Shooters participate in squads, depending on your calibre. We have specific calibre divisions, however, we host an Open Minor division and an Open Major division, and you are welcome to compete with any calibre.





Left: Hulme Scholes ready for the TPS 4-gun event.

Below left: RO and instructor Bernard Cilliers coaching Cayden Harmer.

Below: A sneak peek at some of the targets on the multigun handgun range.

Bottom right: Shaun Ellithorne, Mark Schuurmans and Kristina Gallow at the TPS multi-gun shoot.



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Members hunting & shooting

2025

Top left: Warren Britnell & Dr Etienne de Beer at the Lapua Gong challenge. Below: Harry Katrakilis & Eben Espach hunting in Kazakhstan.



David Lillico won the SA Championships and President's Cup FITASC Compak



Douw Steyn and Mark Rolland on a Buffalo hunt



Tyler Lillico won Colts division at the President's Cup Compak



Vere Elliott adding experiences every year

worldwide...

Robin Jeffrey and son Jesse near Middelburg



Ebbe le Roux on a long range hunt



Anton Viljoen pheasant hunting in Nebraska, USA, with trusty retriever Gunner



Harold du Pont (centre) won the FITASC Compak C class division

Shaun Ellithorne hunting Stag in Scotland



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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 (4-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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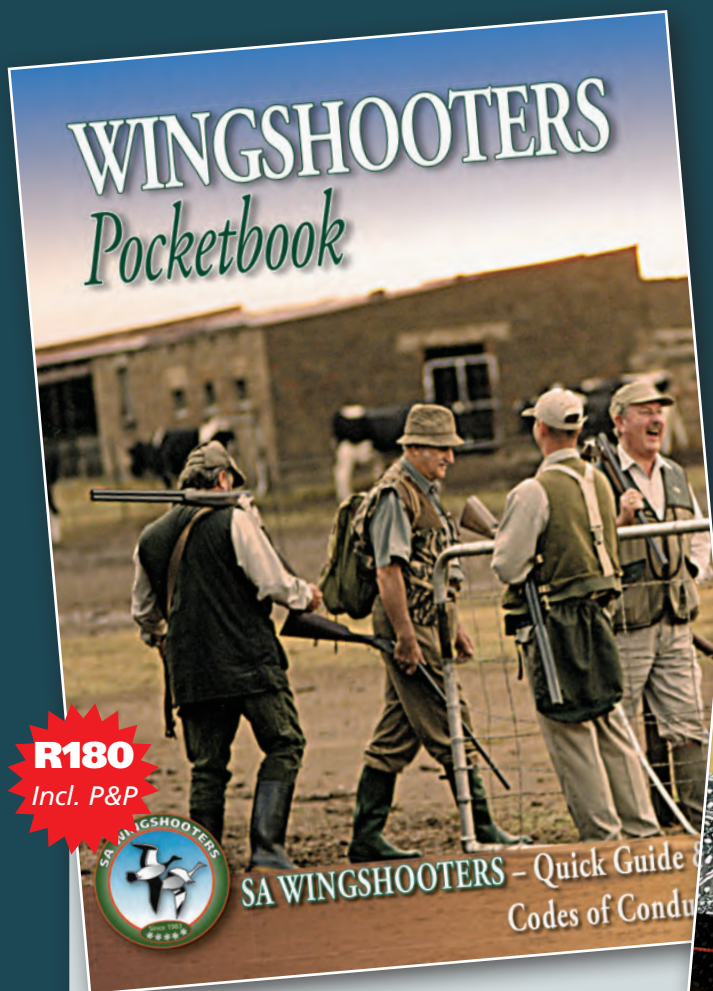
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This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters*, and contains:

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- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
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'In today's world, where it is so important that all hunters act in a responsible and ethical manner, this pocketbook is an essential part of the field hunting gear of every gamebird shooter. We are pleased to support this pocketbook and I strongly recommend it to all who wish to hunt more responsibly. Every Wingshooter should carry it on him in the field'

— Dr Alan Klocek

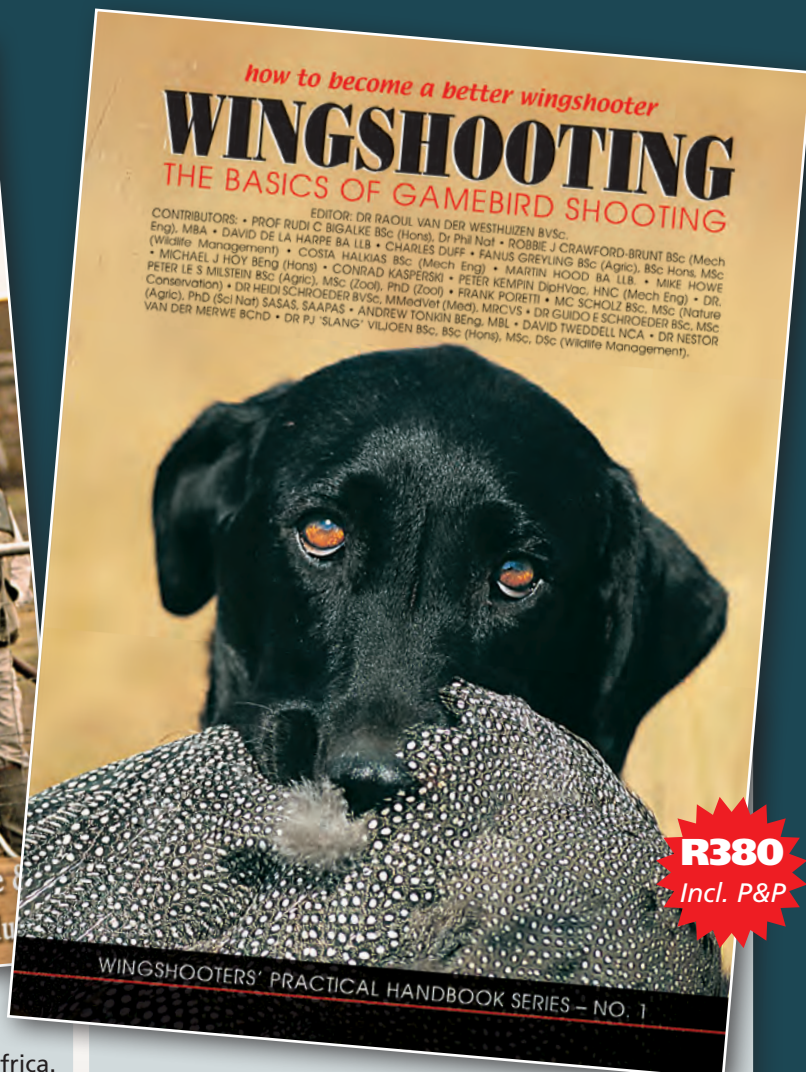
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'There are very few, if any, hunters who can say they have never shot the wrong quarry by mistake or have committed some thoughtless act, which they, in hindsight, would like to undo. This pocketbook will help all of us to prevent such mistakes and to embody the Wingshooters motto of Respect For Life.'

— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen

Chairman: SA Wingshooters



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- Shotguns • Gun fit • Gun care • Gauges & shot sizes • Shotshells and ballistics • Shotgun marksmanship • Safety • Game bird identification • How to shoot francolin, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, sand grouse, rock pigeons, etc. • Gun dog breeds • Training your gun dog • Gun dog nutrition and health • Shooting ethics and etiquette • The Gun Control Act • How to get a hunting licence • Game birds for the dinner table • Field trial clubs & associations

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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Complete a report (you can download it from our website: www.wingshooters.org.za) and e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za or fax to 086 211 5111, or you can email us a report listing 2 activities you did during the year. Dedicated activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated members!

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 on-line member portal –

You can do it on our new member online portal. Please go to our on-line 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.



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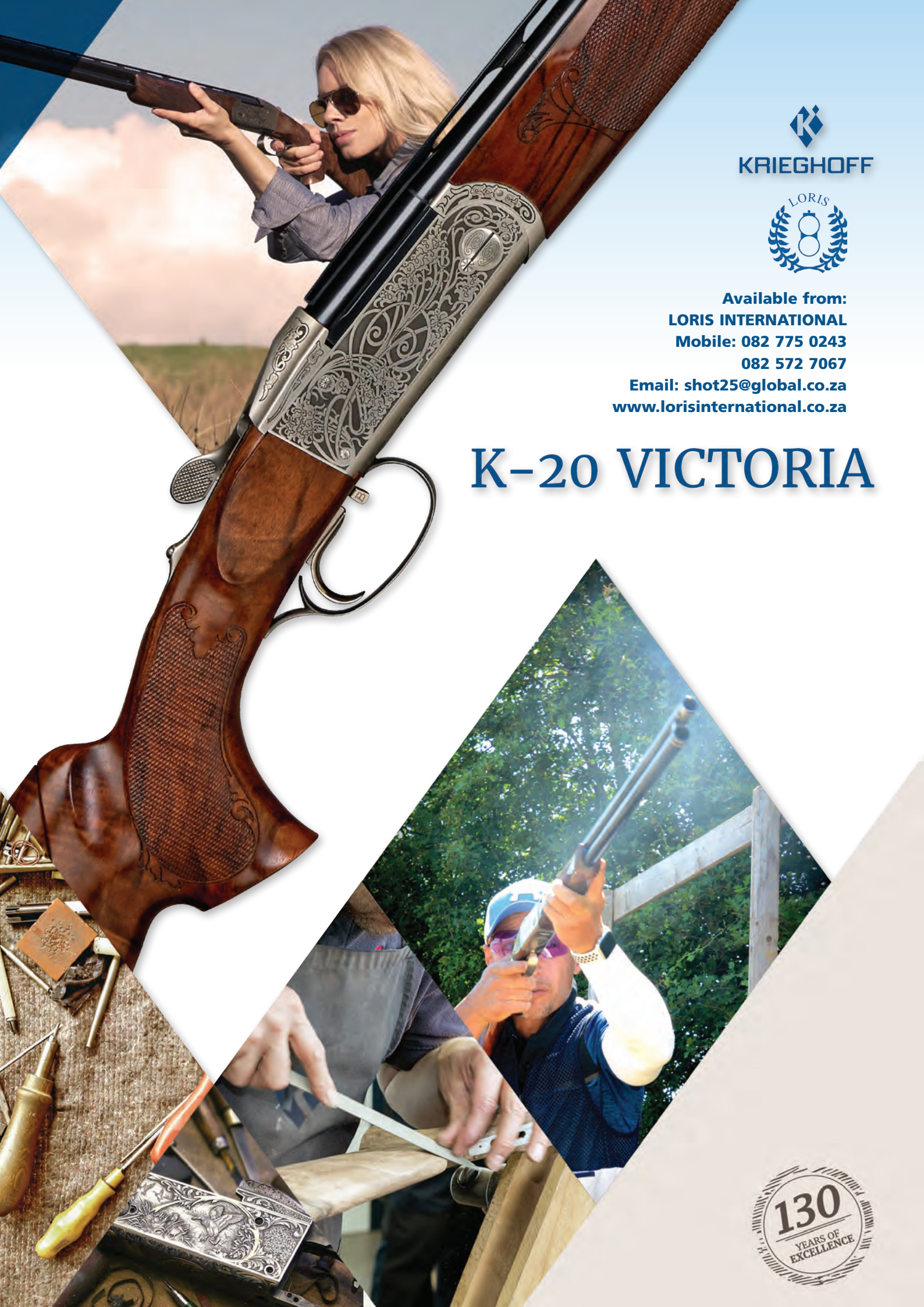


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A GREAT MILESTONE REACHED –

The Tvl Field Trial Club's 40 Year Anniversary Trials in The Springbok Flats.

The oldest and largest Hunt, Point and Retrieve club in the country again reached another great milestone.



It was indeed the trial of the decade with 40 different dogs competing in all the stakes, birds in 97 per cent of the rounds and above all, the camaraderie, friendship and a great spirit made it an unforgettable experience.

The number of birds proved to be a bit overwhelming for most dogs, with, for instance, 104 Swainson's Francolin and four Crested Partridge counted in only one two-hour round. For those that attended all four stakes, we walked nearly 75km in five days.

Our youngest competitor was 10 years old and our oldest competitor was 81 years young. A number of the contestants were under 30, which spells a good future for our sport.

The organising of the trial was no mean feat and we would like to thank Slang, Izelda, Rene, Paul, Sjaak and Hannes for their contributions.

Great many thanks to the farmers, Johan, Hendrik, Andries and Dannhauser, for allowing us on their farms and caring well for their birds.

The judges Slang, John, Christo,

by Dr P.J. Viljoen
Photographs by Izelda Warne, Rene st
Arnaud, Lola Crawshaw.

Alfred and Christine for sacrificing their time and dogs to walk after someone else's dogs.

Photo credits to Izelda Warne, Rene St Arnaud, Lola Crawshaw. Also, we would like to thank Rene, Izelda, Dennis and Aki for helping with the surveys and Stefan for providing the ducks.

Guns: JW Horn and Jaco Vermeulen.

MAIDEN STAKE

Com Hannes Davel GSP bitch Venari Bella (SA Wingshooters member).

Com Dennis Leisegang (SA Wingshooters member) GSP bitch Tara. No other rewards.

Field Steward: Izelda Warne. Assistant Field Steward: Rene St Arnaud.

1st Johan Meyer's Stormberg Vygie.

2nd Stefan Buys's von Jagdwebel Cruiser.

3rd Albertus Coetzee's Stormberg Jacusse.

4th Dennis Leisegang's Tara.

5th Mathej Tasovack's Kynigos Issa.



RESULTS: OPEN STAKE

24 German Shorthaired Pointers

Judges: Christine Jansen van Rensburg.

Chief Judge: Christo du Plessis and Alfred Ayres.

Field Steward: Rene St Arnaud.

Guns: JW Horn and Jaco Vermeulen.

RESULTS:

1st Slang Viljoen's GSP dog Jagblits Basjan (SA Wingshooters member).

2nd Rupert Dedekind GSP bitch von Jagdwebel Maddy (Missy).

3rd Rupert Dedekind GSP bitch du Saint Lady of von Jagdwebel.

Com Stefan Buys's GSP dog von Jagdwebel Cruiser.

MAIDEN/DERBY STAKE

22 German Shorthaired Pointers.

Judges: Slang Viljoen – Chief and Christo du Plessis and Alfred Ayres.

Field Steward: Izelda Warne.

Derby Stake winner –
SA Wingshooters
member,
Rene St Arnaud &
"Ruby"



DERBY STAKE

1st Rene St Arnaud's Ruby (SA Wingshooters member).

No other awards.

Results Of The Tvl Field Trial Club's Paul Kruger Stake in the Springbok Flats. August 2025.

14 dogs, each getting 30 minutes to show their stuff.

Judges: Slang Viljoen – Chief and John Weavind.

5th Rene St Arnaud's Ruby.

6th Rene st Arnaud's Dusaint Saddle.

Gun's Choice: Hannes Davel's Venari Bella (SA Wingshooters member).

Best Chase: Martin Crawshaw's Jagdwebel Kovu.

Most Promising Pup: Rene St Arnaud's Ruby.

Best Cameraderie: Albertus Coetzee's Stormberg Jaccuse.

Congratulations to all the handlers and dogs!



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- Option to join the Long Range Shooting Club and TPS 2-gun/3-gun, etc.

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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.

* Please enquire about our family memberships.



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SA WINGSHOOTERS 2025

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I agree to honour the constitution and I do not have a criminal record. You hereby confirm that you are subscribing to SA Wingshooters Association for a period of one year or two years, depending on your option.

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