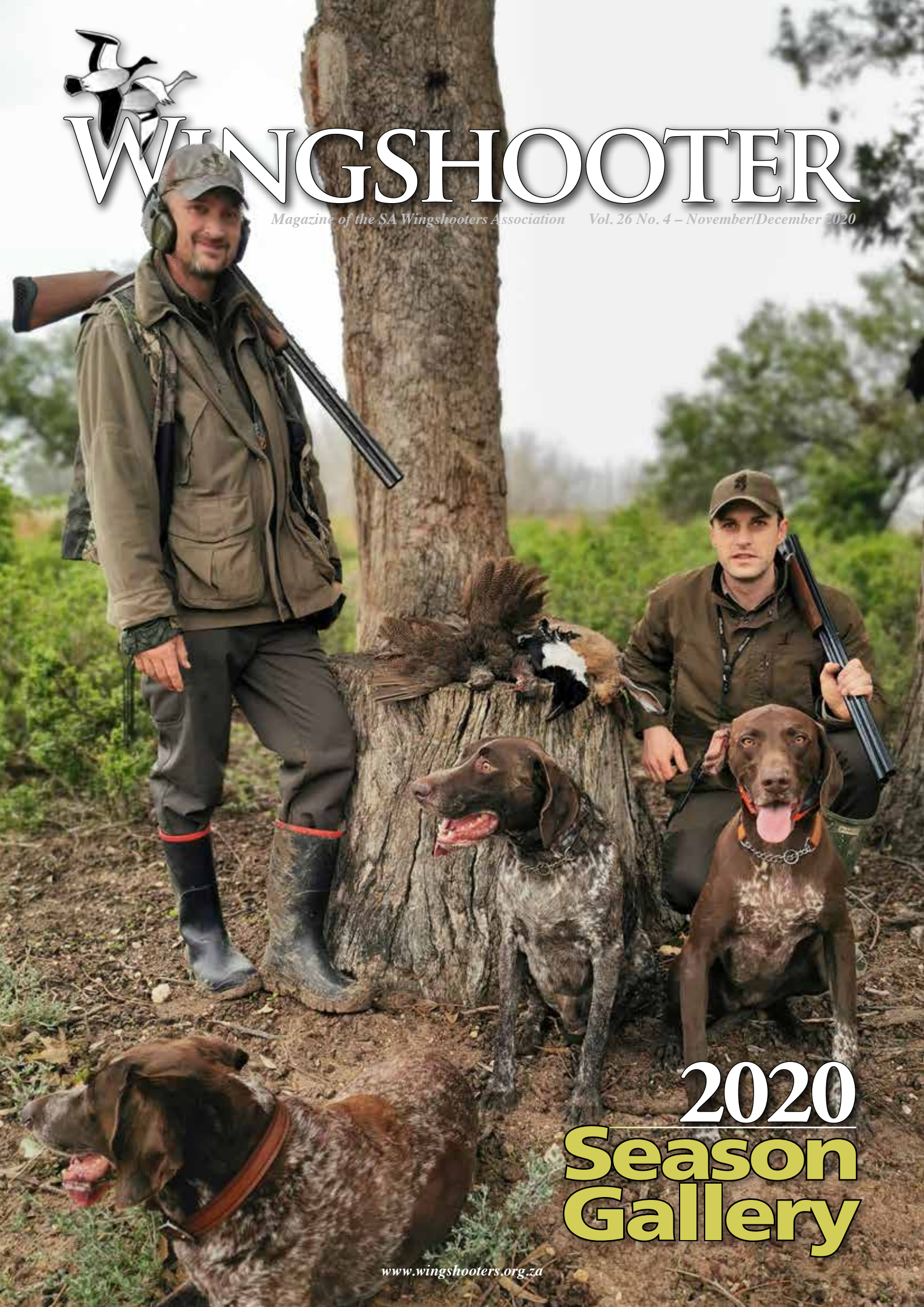




WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 26 No. 4 – November/December 2020



2020
Season
Gallery

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References:

1. Walther FM, Allan MJ, Roepke RKA, Nuernberger MC. 2014. Safety of fluralaner chewable tablets (BRAVECTO®), a novel systemic antiparasitic drug, in dogs after oral administration. *Parasites & Vectors* 7:87, pp 1-7.
2. Walther FM, Paul AJ, Allan MJ, Roepke RKA, Nuernberger MC. 2014. Safety of fluralaner, a novel systemic antiparasitic drug, in MDR1(-/-) Collies after oral administration. *Parasites & Vectors* 7:86, pp1-3.

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Members Philipp Schulz and Wynand Visser near Hopefield, Western Cape.

Photo by Neil Swart.



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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

SAPS-CFR Accreditation Numbers: 1300080 & 1300136

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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



Not an honest start...

You might have heard the recent worldwide (or so it seems) hype regarding how dangerous and poisonous lead (Pb) in ammunition is. Well, it has arrived at the door of our government and greenies now too!

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has created a 'Lead Task Team' to investigate lead and the effects of it on humans, wildlife, etc. and to then advise the government on new policies and legislation to control the use of lead in ammunition. I was invited to be part of this Lead Task Team, however our Executive Committee decided that I cannot represent the association on a task team whose dealings and meetings are bound by secrecy and confidentiality. Yes, believe it if you will – prior to being accepted, an individual (or organisation) has to agree to certain confidentiality and secrecy clauses. We are, and have always been, a fully transparent association on all levels, and we unfortunately cannot participate in such a suspicious task team. If one's dealings are legitimate and honest, then why the need to hide them?

The toxicity of lead (Pb) is well known and nothing new. Humans have been living with and using lead for the last 6 000 years, and there are more people on the planet than ever before. Why is it now becoming a problem? I believe it is now pushed as an agenda point by the anti-hunting fraternity, and the lead issue seems to be their new angle of attack.

Any argument against the use of lead in ammunition must be absolute and proven to be of serious impact, before we will accept further restrictions without opposing such. The fact is, there are just not enough bird hunters in South Africa to make a significant impact and our lead dispersal is negligent compared to the mining industry for example (more on this in future issues). The question would be 'to what extent' does lead have an impact? If it's a small percentage then it's negligible and insignificant – which it most probably is, as otherwise we would all have witnessed its negative effects. We've had a formal lead-shot policy since 2008, which can be downloaded from our website under "All Downloads" and is nothing new.

We will assist government where we can, as we always do, but we will be transparent, and factual throughout and we expect the same of any other. Lead research containing words such as "it is estimated that lead..." or "lead may ..." will not suffice. We will keep you updated as to the progress. Oh, did I mention that some of the biggest groups driving these pro-lead ban factions are part of the UN? But the UN uses lead ammunition themselves in the form of 9mm, .223, .50 BMG and 12 Bore shotguns and many more! It's all just another way to control people. Go figure!

I wish to thank all members! Your support, loyalty and friendship is what we are all about at SA Wingshooters. Have a safe and enjoyable festive season and a Merry Christmas.

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Financial Contributions made for legal action

Recently, we financially supported a court case brought by Martin Hood & Associates, regarding the the South African Police Services' refusal to accept Amnesty applications made by individuals who hand in and want to apply for a firearm or firearms that do not belong to them.

The law is fairly clear on this, and states the following: 139. Amnesty.—(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, declare an amnesty if –

(a) the amnesty may result in the

possession of that firearm without the appropriate licence, permit or authorisation; or

(b) the ammunition, for having been in possession of that ammunition without having been in lawful possession of a firearm capable of discharging the ammunition.

(4) (a) A person who surrenders a firearm in compliance with a notice published in terms of subsection (1) may apply in terms of this Act for a licence in respect of that firearm.

(b) If a licence is granted, the firearm and ammunition, if any, surrendered in terms of this Act must be returned to the holder of the licence.

(5) The Registrar must dispose of any firearm or ammunition surrendered in compliance with a notice in terms of subsection (1) in such manner and after the expiry of such period as may be prescribed.

Point (4)(a) and above clearly states – "A person who surrenders..." That means any person may apply.

The court ruled in favour of the applicant and we are happy with result and congratulate Martin Hood & Associates. We also financially supported the court case regarding the barrel change refusals and the SAPS' reluctance to authorise barrel changes in rifles. The problem is the SAPS does not seem to understand that a rifle barrel has a lifespan and depending on the calibre and the type of sport shooting the owner of the rifle participates in, can last as little as 1500 shots before it needs to be replaced. In the USA, for example, one can purchase a competition rifle barrel and have it put on your rifle the same day. We will endeavour to achieve the same here, as we can't see the reason why this is a legal issue. The old barrel can be handed to the SAPS for destruction – no problem!

– SA Wingshooters

The Tvl HPR Club made history – The first field trial during Covid-19 restrictions

An epic trial to say the least! Not only did the Club make history by having the first field trial during lock-down but also proved that it can be done during the

summer heat. At times it was 40 degrees and the dogs showed no slowing down.

In fact they seemed to thoroughly enjoy it provided we gave them a water trough to jump in from time to time. Even seasoned hunters were surprised by the dogs' hunting drive.

Once again, these super hunting dogs



proved what phenomenal athletes they are.

Scouting conditions were sometimes poor, especially during the Derby and Maiden trials when the weather built up with the resulting drop in barometer pressure. Despite the drought, the birds were plentiful. During the Derby/Maiden no less than 63 Swainson's Francolin plus 16 Crested Partridge were counted during the rounds. In the Open Stake 79 Swainson's Francolin and 20 Crested Partridge were counted. Cover was a bit thin in some areas, making especially the

continued overleaf...

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
GAUTENG DIVISION, PRETORIA

ON THIS 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020
BEFORE MADAM JUSTICE VAN DER SCHYFF

CASE NO: 54506 / 2020

In the matter between:
BRENDON G. Applicant

And
THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES
GENERAL K J SITHOLE
(IN HIS CAPACITY AS REGISTRAR OF FIREARMS)
THE MINISTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICA POLICE SERVICES
MAJOR GENERAL MAMOTHETI
(IN HER CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE FIREARMS, LIQUOR AND SECOND-HAND GOODS CONTROL DEPARTMENT "FLASH")

2020 -11- 11
JUDGE'S DECISION
1st Respondent
2nd Respondent
3rd Respondent

ORDER

AFTER HAVING HEARD Counsel for the Applicant and having read the papers filed of record an order is granted in the following terms: -

1. The Respondents are ordered jointly and severally to:

2.1 Receive and process amnesty applications from, and applications to licence those firearms to, Brendon George Sternberg for the following

reduction of the number of illegally possessed firearms in South Africa, and

(b) it is in the public interest to do so.

(2) A notice contemplated in subsection (1) –

(a) will only be valid if it is approved by Parliament;

(b) must specify the period during which persons may apply for amnesty; and

(c) must specify the conditions under which amnesty may be granted.

(3) A person who surrenders a firearm or ammunition in compliance with a notice published in terms of subsection (1), may not be prosecuted in relation to –

(a) the firearm, for having been in



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Crested Partridge skittish, which caused the downfall of many a young (and not so young) dog. Significant for our sport is that no less than five newcomers competed for the first time, one of which even won the Maiden Stake. Some competitors came from as far as Port Elizabeth.

Thanks to everybody that competed and helped with the organising to make the field trial a great success.

— Slang Viljoen

Photo credits Izelda Warne, Pieter Claassen.



A simple paint job can save birds from wind turbines

Wind energy is one of the world's most popular renewables. It's also one of the most promising – some calculations suggest that strategically placed wind turbines could conceivably power the entire planet.

As more turbines go up worldwide, they'll help us reduce pollution, water use and carbon emissions, along with the environmental degradation, habitat loss and human health risks that come with fracking and oil extraction.

But there are some who don't benefit quite as much: flying animals. Each year, turbine blades kill hundreds of thousands of birds and bats. As wind power becomes more prevalent, this number may rise into the millions – although it's important to remember that other power generation methods likely kill far more birds than wind farms do.

This concern has led to a number of proposed interventions, from turning off

wind farms during migrations to installing special whistles only bats can hear. A new study presents a relatively low-cost, set-it-and-forget-it option: just paint one of the



turbine blades black.

For the study – which was based on previous laboratory experiments showing that kestrels could navigate effectively

around turbines with one painted blade – researchers gave this treatment to some turbines on the Smøla archipelago in Norway. The area is rich in both wind and birds: the wind farm there produces enough power to run nearly 18,000 households, while eagles, gulls, and crossbills fill the archipelago's lakes and marshes.

Researchers picked four pairs of adjacent turbines. One turbine in each pair was painted, while the other was left white. For three and a half years, they counted how many birds were killed by each turbine. They then compared these counts with the number of birds that had been killed by those same turbines in the years prior to the study.

While the raw numbers were quite small, the intervention was effective. "Overall, there was an average 71.9% reduction in the annual fatality rate" at painted turbines, the researchers write.

Collisions with unpainted turbines actually increased over time, while collisions with painted turbines went down. (The researchers investigated the possibility that painted turbines were driving birds into their unpainted neighbors, and found it was likely not a concern, as fatalities were increasing all across the wind farm).

Some species of high concern also benefited greatly – after the study turbines were painted, the number of white tailed eagles killed by them went from six down zero.

Although this is promising news, there are some things left to be worked out. It's not clear whether the method will help bats, which are also at great risk from turbines. It was not effective at all for willow ptarmigan, ground birds which tend to run into the turbines' base rather than its blades. And since the study was done at a single site, it's a good idea to repeat it elsewhere, to make sure birds in other places react similarly.

But a method like painting a single blade – something "practical and functional," as the authors write, that doesn't appreciably increase the cost or reduce the viability of wind farms overall – is exciting. If it is generalizable, it could be a way to make the skies a bit safer for those who were there first.



— [https://www.](https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org)

[anthropocenemagazine.org](https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org)

WIN R20,000!

in our **Member Get A Member** drive



Introduce a friend or family member to join and get the benefits of SA Wingshooters membership and you could BOTH be in with a chance of winning R10,000 EACH in our **Member Get A Member** prize draw this year.

Here's how it works:

Any member that recruits a new member to join full membership, stands a chance to win R10,000 and the new member also stands a chance to win the same amount! The more new members you sign up – the more chances you have at winning R10,000 each!



Rules:

1. Only current members may be eligible for a prize. 2. There is no limit to how many new members a current member may sign up. 3. The current member and new member pair will stand a chance together. 4. Full membership is our standard membership, and does not include junior or senior membership as per our join form. 5. The recruiting member's initials, surname, and first 6 digits of his/her ID must clearly appear on the new member's join form, or be sent in an email to us. 6. Members of management, their families and relatives are not eligible for any prizes. 7. This membership initiative is open to members of SA Wingshooters Association ONLY. 8. Valid for membership of SA Wingshooters (not LRSC, PSP, etc) only. 9. The draw will take place on Friday 26 February 2021 at 12H00 at the SA Wingshooters office in Randburg. 10. Winners will be contacted via phone and email. E&OE. SA Wingshooters 2020.

2020 Competition Target Shooting Results



Annual PSP Target shooting Winners 2020

HANDGUN – Centrefire

Gold –

KB Atkins: Score 100 (8 x-rings)

Silver –

EHvN Tredoux: Score 100 (8 x-ring)

Bronze –

D Fratti: Score 98 (6 x-ring)

4th –

MC Young: Score 90 (5 x-ring)

5th –

JE Taylor: Score 87 (4 x-ring)

6th –

BH Siegert: Score 81

RIMFIRE HANDGUN

Gold –

D Fratti: Score 100 (8 x-rings)

Silver –

G de Wet: Score 98 (7 x-ring)

Bronze –

GI Moola: Score 87 (5 x-ring)

RIMFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

D Fratti: Score 100 (10 x-rings)

Silver –

KB Atkins: Score 100 (6 x-ring)

Bronze –

EHvN Tredoux: Score 98 (3 x-rings)

CENTREFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

A Harrison: Score 100 (4 x-rings)

Silver –

LJ Krause: Score 90 (1 x-ring)

Bronze –

G de Wet: Score 88 (6 x-ring)



LRSC 2020 Winners

OVERALL 2020 Points Winners:

Gold: Marius Gericke (135pts)

Silver: Johan Maree (95 pts)

Bronze: Bernard Cilliers (90 pts)

.338 F-BA Division:

Gold: Johan Maree (75 pts)

Silver: Warren Britnell (20 pts)

Bronze: Riaan Alberts (20 pts)

6.5 F-BA Division:

Gold: Johan Maree (95 pts)

Silver: Bernard Cilliers (90 pts)

Bronze: Barend Venter (75 pts)

.308 F-BA Division:

Gold: Christiaan de la Rey (85 pts)

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne (45 pts)

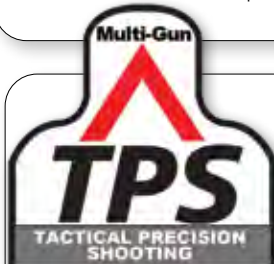
Bronze: Marius de Wet (30)

.300 Win. Mag. Division:

Gold: Tony Ernst (15 pts)

Silver: David Lillico (15 pts)

Bronze: Andrew Lillico (15pts)



TPS 2020 Winners

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

Gold: David Lillico (118.2")

Silver: André vd Westhuizen (157.2")

Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne (200.7")

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

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne (104.06")

Silver: David Lillico (113.6")

Bronze: Marius Gericke (164.9")

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: Bernard Cilliers (61.73")

Silver: David Lillico (100.0")

Bronze: Marius Gericke (102.0")



.300 Norma Mag. Division:

Gold: Riaan Alberts (15 pts)

Silver: Johan Mare (10 pts)

.243 F-BA Division:

Gold: Liam de Wet (Jnr) (60 pts)

Silver: Etienne de Waal (30 pts)

Bronze: Charl Jacobs (30 pts)

.223 F-BA Division:

Gold: Charl Jacobs (85 pts)

Silver: André van der Westhuizen (55 pts)

Bronze: Bernard Cilliers (50 pts)

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

Gold: Marius Gericke (135 pts)

Silver: Neil van Vuuren (45 pts)

Bronze: David Lillico (35 pts)

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

Gold: Marius Gericke (15 pts)

Open Division (Major):

Gold: Simon Steyn (70 pts)

Silver: Riaan Alberts (60 pts)

Bronze: Johan Maree (45 pts)

Open Division (Minor):

Gold: Marius de Wet (60 pts)

Silver: Danie Tait (50 pts)

Bronze: Ben van Dyk (30 pts)



.22PSBC 2020 Winners

.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Noël Gibson (260 pts)

Silver: Johan de Bruin (230 pts)

Bronze: David Lillico (210 pts)

.22 LR Hunter Division:

Gold: Martin Hood (210 pts)

Silver: Devon Hood (140 pts)

Bronze: Rui Torres (80 pts)



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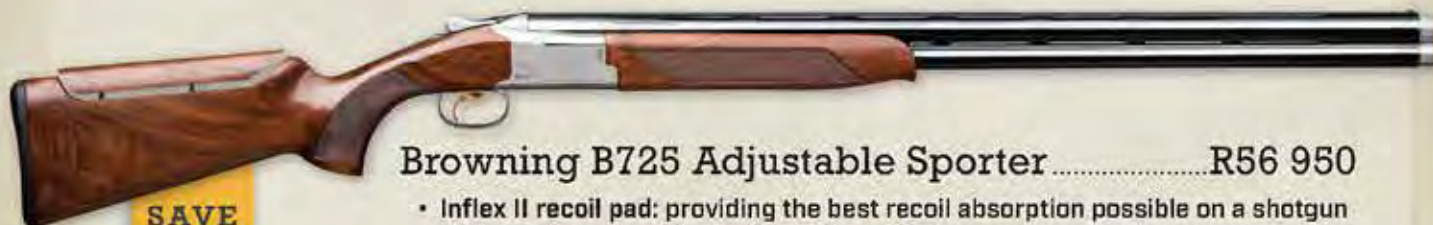


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What is the best shotgun cartridge for

Game Shooting?

Are you loyal to a particular cartridge brand? If not, how do you decide what cartridges to use for game shooting? If you are loyal, what might make you try something different? One good way to make an informed choice is to know what others are using and why they like them.

| by George Browne
| Guns On Pegs



The Game Shooting Census 2020



GunsOnPegs

Lycetts



The Game Shooting Census by GunsOnPegs and Lycetts, and in partnership with BASC, Countryside Alliance & GWCT, is the largest survey of its kind, and each year delivers fascinating insights into the habits of the game shooting community.

Cartridges are a common topic of discussion in the gunbus, as we seek to improve our shot ratio and achieve clean kills, so knowing which cartridges other guns are using is always useful.

Do you have a loyalty to a certain cartridge brand?

For some guns, all they ask from a cartridge is that it goes bang and makes lead (or some other substance) come out of the end of the gun. According to the 2020 Game Shooting Census this is true for some 55% of guns. But are this group missing a trick? The remaining 45% would say so, who profess to remain loyal to a favourite brand or cartridge.

Consistent cartridge performance is key

Once again, Gamebore led the field this year, with 32% of those loyal to a particular brand choosing to shoot their cartridges. When asked about the reasons for their fondness for Gamebore, the most commonly cited motivation was the confidence that guns gained from knowing that the cartridges perform consistently and reliably, as well as their efficacy at range and their knock-down power.

The same holds true for second and third placed Hull and Eley Hawk respectively, with their aficionados

The most popular game cartridge brands of the 2019/20 season

Cartridge Brand	Overall Market Share
Gamebore	31.83%
Hull	24.24%
Eley	15.81%
RC	10.61%
Lyalvale Express	8.47%
Fiocchi	1.57%
Caledonian	1.14%
Just Cartridges Xtreme Game	0.87%
Rio	0.66%
Cheddite	0.52%
Victory	0.44%
Churchill Hellfire	0.35%
Noble Sport	0.31%
Saga	0.26%
Rottwell	0.22%
Winchester	0.22%
Purdey	0.22%
Bornaghi	0.22%
Federal	0.13%
B&P	0.13%
William Powell	0.13%
Diana	0.04%
Kent	0.04%
Jocker	0.04%

similarly valuing consistent performance and reliability above all other factors, as well as the fact that the companies are UK-based - though, of course, Gamebore is also a UK company. Where these two are con-

cerned, value for money and price is also a factor in their popularity, more so than with Gamebore.

It is interesting to note a new entry into the list for this season in the shape of JustCartridges Xtreme

Cartridge Product	Percentage
Gamebore Black Gold	17.1%
Hull High Pheasant	10.1%
Gamebore Dark Storm	7.8%
Hull High Pheasant Extreme	6.8%
Hull Imperial Game	5.7%
Gamebore Clear Pigeon	5.5%
Eley VIP Game	5.3%
Lyalvale Supreme Game	4.4%
Gamebore Pigeon Extreme	3.2%
Hull Special Pigeon	2.9%
Eley Grand Prix	2.7%

Game, which is loaded by Gamebore but retails at a significantly lower price than many leading brands, something reflected in the fact that 90% of those loyal to these cartridges say that this is the main reason for their loyalty. It will be interesting to see if their new “Purple Fury” cartridges, which make use of Gamebore’s innovative Quad Seal eco-friendly wads, are as popular this season.

The top 10 most popular game cartridges

Drilling down a little deeper and looking at the most popular cartridge products, Gamebore occupy both first and third place, with their Black Gold and Dark Storm cartridges, with Hull filling the remaining Top 5 places.

Age makes a difference

As in previous years, we see a

marked difference in habit when age is taken into consideration. A smaller proportion of guns aged 55 or under say that they are loyal to a particular brand (42% vs 45%), but among those who do stick to one brand, Gamebore have a larger share of the market: 38%.

Among older guns, however, that difference is reversed. While Gamebore still tops the charts with this age group, their dominance is far less pronounced, with a 27% market share. Hull and Eley, predictably, are more popular, but RC and Lyalvale also have their fans among this group, where their share grows to 11 and 10% respectively.

Does the amount you spend on shooting make a difference?

The short answer is “yes.” 63% of guns who spent more than £10,000

on shooting last season say that they are loyal to one cartridge brand. However, there is a marked change in the dominant brands with members of this group. Gamebore’s dominance is again reduced, with a 29% market share, while Hull sees their share jump a couple of points to 26%. Most notably, RC are in third place with 16%, showing that they still enjoy popularity with high-bird shots.

What is the best cartridge for grouse?

Among grouse shots we finally see Gamebore lose the top spot, with Hull grabbing 29% of the market and Gamebore dropping back into second place with a 25% share.

*Among grouse shots we finally see Gamebore lose the top spot, with **Hull** grabbing **29% of the market** and Gamebore dropping into second place with a 25% share.*

Which Hull cartridge do people choose?	
Hull Product	Percentage
High Pheasant	59%
High Pheasant Extreme	40%
Imperial Game	33%
Superfast Pigeon	14%
Three Crowns	11%
Special Pigeon	9%
Driven Grouse	7%
The Partridge Cartridge	5%
Don't Know	1%

Among the specialist grouse cartridges, Gamebore’s Grouse Extreme and Hull’s Driven Grouse have an equal number of fans.

What about plastic wads?

Since the end of last season there have been significant changes in the area of shotgun cartridges, not only in the proposed 5-year phase out of lead shot, but also on the part of the cartridge manufacturers, who have wasted no time in developing eco-friendly alternatives to plastic wads for use with both lead and non-toxic loads. Once again we asked people whether they felt that plastic wads



should be allowed on driven game shoots, giving the following results:

Last year, 74% of guns felt that plastic should not be allowed in driven game shooting situations, however this year, this has fallen back to 72%. However, this year the proportion of guns who say that when a suitable alternative is available they will use it, has increased from 14% to 17%, so we can count them as in favour of eradicating the use of plastic wads for game shooting.

Only 2% of guns are unequivocally in favour of the continued use of plastic wads in such settings, while 7% say that they are indifferent. It will be interesting to see how the development of new non-plastic wads changes this over the next 12 months.



– GunsOnPegs is an online marketplace that connects guns (wingshooters) with shooting and hunting estates in the UK and around the world. Estates can create a free listing, and guns/shooters can search thousands of shoots and contact them directly. Unlike a traditional sporting agent, GunsOnPegs charges no commission and is free to join for guns and shooting estates alike. If you shoot in the UK often, like many of our members do, then Join GunsOnPegs for free at www.gunsonpegs.com



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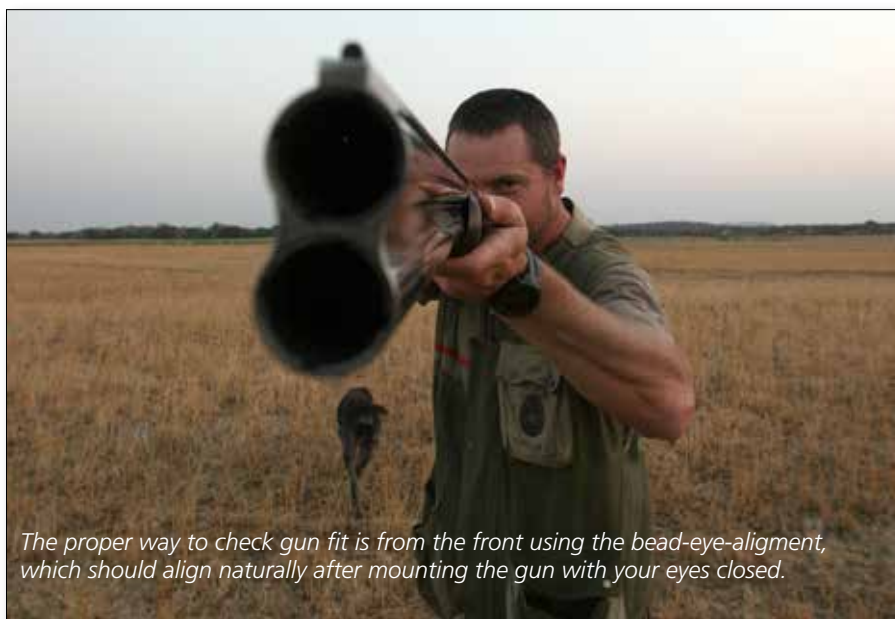
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SHOOTING TIPS

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



The proper way to check gun fit is from the front using the bead-eye-alignment, which should align naturally after mounting the gun with your eyes closed.

dropping targets. It is unusual for a target that is not dropping rapidly to produce a truly vertical line – usually there is a slight deviation to the left or right.

Failure to see this subtle nuance in the target's trajectory, combined with the added effects of the weight of the gun, often will produce vertical momentum in the barrels as the shot is triggered, and a miss to either side of the target. As the upper torso moves forward with this bowing movement, the arms must guide the gun accurately on the same line as the target.

I often tell my students that line is more important than lead because if you get the target line wrong on a dropper, you might as well forget about lead.

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

Don't be frightened by the speed and curling flight of a wafer-thin battue. The golden rule is to choose your hold position carefully and to bring the gun into the path of the clay. Squeeze the trigger as soon as the stock has been securely mounted.

– This tip came from the book *“Move Mount Shoot – A Champion's Guide to Sporting Clays”* by John Bidwell with Robin Scott..

Don't anticipate your birds. They'll show themselves to you in their own good time, and if you are not keyed-up waiting for them, when the first covey appears over the skyline (and butts are nearly always sighted below a convenient skyline) you will focus on it immediately.

– This tip came from the book *“Robert Churchill's Game Shooting”* by Macdonald Hastings..

Guns in 12-, 16-, 20-, and 28-gauges are designed to throw the same size patterns at the same distances. Regardless of the gauge, a full choke gun is capable

of placing 70 percent of its shot charge in a 30-inch circle at 40 yard.

– This tip came from the book *“The L.L. Bean Upland Bird Hunting Handbook”* by Tom Huggler.

Use the best gun that you can afford and don't begrudge the extra expense of using a gun that fits you. Don't fool about with a battery of guns of one kind or another. The best gun is the one with you are most used to and the gun that you yourself shoot best with.

– This tip came from the book *“Robert Churchill's Game Shooting”* by Macdonald Hastings.

Avoid tracking the target with the muzzles over a long distance because this tends to make most shooters too deliberate. When you get deliberate, the tendency is to “aim” your gun rather than “point” it.

– This tip came from the book *“The Sporting Clays Handbook”* by Jerry Meyer.

Just as with standard target presentations, target trajectory or line is the most important thing to consider with

I believe the word concentration has been written so much in interviews with skeet and trap champions that it has become misinterpreted by many new shooters. Concentration does not mean the champions think of nothing else from the time the shoot starts, nor does it mean they are so buried in concentration they don't see what's happening around them or hear things. They have developed the ability to concentrate totally at the time they are shooting; then they can turn it off and relax in between.

– This tip came from the book *“Shooting — The Art and the Science”* by Bob Brister.

Learning physical technique comes first. When it is second nature to keep your head on the stock, exerting this kind of cheek pressure on the comb will keep proper sight alignment. Then you can move on to the mental game.

– This tip came from the book *“Finding the Extra Target – The Ultimate Training Guide for All the Clay Target Sports”* by John Linn S. Blumenthal.



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The Steel Shot *Curse*



photos by André van der Westhuizen

by Charles Duff

We live in an age of steel and one of its unwanted side effects is going to catch up with us shotgunners, probably sooner rather than later. For more than 12 years now our fellow sportsmen in the Western world have been afflicted by the curse of steel shot being mandated to exclude the old trusted, tried and true lead shot. A change for us would most probably not be for the better.

Birds have gizzards in which their food, which is frequently hard and dry, is ground up to facilitate its absorption. Thus if a dabbling duck should swallow some Lead shot this grinding action will allow the more rapid oxidation of the lead. It is the oxides of lead that are very toxic, not the plain metal, which is relatively inert.

An initial surface layer of oxide soon forms on lead and this layer is impermeable to oxygen, thus preventing more oxide formation. Ground-up lead particles obviously circumvent this, offering up much more surface area to the air. Should a human swallow some Lead shot it will almost inevitably end up in the appendix which dangles at the bottom of the colon. In 1996 a

well-known hunting shooting fishing member of the English gentry died at the ripe old age of 94 or thereabouts, of a heart attack. At autopsy his appendix was found to be twice the usual length and filled to the brim with birdshot. So swallowing lead pellets has minimal effect on humans. It can be expensive to chew on one though, and make your dentist's day.

The initial paper on the subject focused on an American Bald Eagle (the national bird, nogal!) found near Tule Lake in California, which on autopsy and analysis was found to have very high lead tissue levels. This was postulated to come from wounded and dead waterfowl shot with lead pellets. The possibility that the lead compounds might have come from another source was ignored, as was the fact that the bird had died

after being hit by a truck! This was way before lead-free petrol became widely available. Even the authors stated that they felt the results to be inconclusive.

It was then stated that bottom-feeding ducks would be most affected by picking up pellets from spent shot in the mud of water catchments. After a couple of rather dodgy papers blaming lead for multiple waterbird deaths, the greenies got hold of the idea and ran with it to our detriment. Estimates were put forward that at least 2% of all waterfowl in the USA died annually of lead poisoning, however no solid facts were ever produced to substantiate this. Greenies have rarely allowed the truth to impinge upon any favourite whipping-boy project guaranteed to give them a livelihood and keep them

going on donations from an ever gullible public. For example the effects of lead emissions in vehicle exhausts, then annually running into hundreds of thousands of tons across the USA, were completely ignored. As was the distinction between background and abnormal lead levels. There is an absence of hard scientific proof in every paper. The fact that a much higher percentage of the birds would die of starvation was also ignored. Be this as it may, the upshot is that a ban on lead shot for any waterbird shooting, or for use anywhere near water, is now in force in the USA, Britain and most of Western Europe; even the UN got involved (*yet, the UN themselves use lead ammunition in 9mm, .223 and .50 Cal BMG to name a few – Ed.*).

Small lead fishing sinkers like split shot have also been banned in fresh waters in some countries. These are estimated to be in the order of a couple of thousand tons tons per annum in both the USA and in Europe. With respect to wing shooting, the USA has about 2 million hunters who deposit plus/minus 3,000 tons of lead around the countryside. Since the surface area of the USA is 3,797 million square miles, this works out to an average of 1 ton of lead over every 1,266 square miles! Not exactly a huge amount.

Nevertheless it is just a matter of time before we will face similar proposals for bans in South Africa. I will attempt to present a balanced view of what can be expected of steel shot by the shotgunner. Though the very thought has me frothing at the mouth...

Firstly it is not steel shot – it is ordinary common-or-garden iron. But the spin doctors got to work really quickly and the so much more strong-sounding, invincible, clean “steel” is now firmly embedded. The pros say:

- Steel shot is not deformed by contact with barrels, leads and chokes. Thus better, tighter patterns ensue.
- Shot is loaded by mass (weight), thus the steel load contains about 30% more pellets due to the lighter Specific Gravity (SG). Iron (or steel) is around 31% lighter than lead.
- Since the pellet cloud is more cohesive, less choke is needed to keep

the pattern together.

- The shot-string is half the length with steel, thus more like 5 feet for a 12ga compared to the 10 feet for lead.

There are many more cons and some have serious implications, such as: steel shot ricochets off water and hard surfaces very readily, much more so than lead. Being non-compressible, steel can cause barrel rings in tighter chokes and even blow the muzzle. The equivalent sized shot being 30% lighter, steel runs out of velocity and thus energy very quickly. Should the steel shot come into contact with the barrel the scoring that results can ruin the barrel, so a very thick-walled plastic wad is mandatory; fibre wads

double now? Not one South African peer-reviewed paper on the subject exists.

In the search for a replacement for lead shot, the ammunition manufacturers soon ran into problems. What is required for good shotgun shot is a balance between availability, workability, specific gravity and reasonable cost, and these requirements are excellently served by lead, in fact it is ideal, even though its price has doubled in the last few years. Its SG is 11.34gm/ml; pure lead is rarely used as shot because it is so soft and easily deformed.

The so-called “chilled shot” or hardened shot is an alloy with 2% to 4% antimony (SG 6.68gm/ml)



are out. The wad has to lose its concertina section to accommodate more shot and becomes a very thick-walled open-topped tube to protect the barrel. The harder the shot, the more likely it is to go right through the prey, thus not dumping its full kinetic energy inside the animal.

It has been proved that steel over a Vickers Hardness test (VH1), of more than 100 at velocities of over 1,350fps causes much accelerated barrel wear. If the gun is not steel-proofed, do not use more than ½ choke. Whereas almost all reasonably modern guns have chrome-lined barrels and can handle moderate steel shot loads, it would be extremely foolish to use such in the older British doubles. There are no steel loads for 65mm (2 ½”) chambered guns. What price your old treasured British

and/or tin (SG 7.3gm/ml) added to harden it. A beneficial side effect is that this causes the molten Lead to flow better and reduces the incidence of non-spherical shot markedly. I always used a mix of 93% lead, 2% antimony and 5% Tin which gives a SG of about 10.96gm/ml and this is more than satisfactory both for production, hardness and effect upon the target.

The problem is that there are not too many viable alternatives to lead. The rare earth metals such as osmium, thallium, iridium and palladium etcetera, are indeed rare and extremely costly though all have specific gravities much heavier than lead. Rarity and cost rule them out. Of the precious metals, gold and platinum are heavier, and silver slightly lighter than Lead at an SG of 10.5gm/

ml, but let us get real, no-one other than the Rockefellers could afford the shot, even the Oppenheimers would blink at the price! Besides, the vision of a shotgunner firing a shot and then scrabbling about on his hands and knees looking for the spent pellets is pure theatre of the mind!

Uranium (SG 18.7gm/ml) is somewhat deadly to everything. Even depleted uranium (SG 19.1gm/ml), much used in modern armour-piercing ammunition and tungsten (SG 19.3gm/ml) ditto, are very user unfriendly. This doesn't leave many alternatives with molybdenum (SG 10.2gm/ml) and bismuth (SG 9.8gm/ml) leading the bunch. Tungsten, with a SG 1.7 times that of lead, was a front-runner and development rapidly passed into production. But it is now becoming suspect due to its toxic effects. All the present manufacturers proclaim it to be non-toxic which is definitely not true. Somebody should challenge this false advertising.

That Denmark has just a couple of years ago banned tungsten, stating that its health risks are too serious to be ignored, must lead to its exclusion as a candidate by any democratic state. The main producers, Remington Arms with a tungsten/bronze/iron alloy, marketed as "Wingmaster"; Hevi-shot with a tungsten/nickel/iron mix and Kent Cartridges with "Impact", a tungsten/copolymer product - all at 8-10 times the cost of equivalent lead ammunition will hopefully have taken this into consideration and should cease manufacture. It readily dissolves in acidic water, especially that containing iron - no prizes for guessing what our acidic Highveld mine waters contain in abundance!

Also, it can dissolve happily in our gastric juices. Amongst its several adverse effects are causing epileptic-like seizures. This leaves bismuth as the next heaviest alternative, but initially the pellets were found to be very frangible. The most publicised producer is Eley Hawk with "VIP", a bismuth/tin alloy, whose cartridges are all made for them by MAXAM of Spain, who also produces Rio, Saga, Melior, Eley Hawk and GB cartridges amongst others. Also expensive at around six times the cost of the equivalent lead loads. Apart from

its dust being toxic, molybdenum's rarity, 2,623°C melting point and extreme cost has ruled it out of contention.

So all ammunition producers offer a variety of steel loads, some call it "soft steel" whereas it is actually soft iron. The problem with small, or even only relatively small spherical pellets is that the smaller they are, the lighter and thus the lower the momentum and retained kinetic energy. A sphere has low sectional density, a large frontal surface area and its ballistic coefficient and aerodynamics are not great.

The larger and heavier a pellet, the greater the air resistance. These effects quickly slow down the pellet

energy is minimal, just a few yards extra killing range. The makers say, rightly, that there are 30% more pellets for the equivalent Lead shot weight, giving a better pattern, but going up 2 pellet sizes largely negates this minor advantage.

The other almost insuperable problem is that whilst Lead is relatively soft and malleable, all the alternatives are very much harder. Thus as the shot charge exits the cartridge and is compressed into the forcing cone (or lead) into the barrel and similarly as it enters the choke, the non-compressibility of the shot makes for high pressures in these two areas of the barrel. This inevitably leads to accelerated wear and eventually, after



and gravity takes over. So starting off with pellets that weigh 30% less than the predecessor has caused the makers to suggest going up at least 2 sizes of shot. If you are used to No. 5s in your bird shooting, you should change to No.3s. Even so, these still run out of steam quicker than the Lead No. 5s because of the increased drag of a larger pellet. For example a 3mm lead pellet weighs much the same as a 3.4mm steel. The obvious answer would be to increase velocity to compensate, but in creeps physics to deliver a mortal blow.

The faster a load starts out at, the greater the air resistance and the down-range increase in speed and

who knows how many rounds, failure. Thicker barrels are the maker's solution, heavier guns result.

In clay pigeon shooting, the effects will be serious; FITASC's present legal limit of its maximum pellet size (under 2.5mm in diameter) and maximum load of 28gm (1oz) of No. 7s, which contains 350 lead pellets. Steel is 420 pellets which is 20% more. But after 20 yards the Steel load's velocity is below that of Lead. FITASC states that the minimum energy required to break an out-going clay is 1ft/lb which limit is reached at 27 yards with Steel 7s. Increasing the speed of the load to 1,500fps from 1,300fps increases the effective

range by only 3 yards more, but the recoil markedly. An edge-on crossing clay requires 0.75 ft/lbs minimum kinetic energy which steel reaches at 37 yards. In comparison lead No.8.5s go another three yards before falling below this. So were FITASC events to be prevented from using lead, the rules would need changing. Further, the American Trap Association (ATA) has recently stated that "Any gun club allowing shot materials other than lead, shall be required to cover or shield all hard surfaces on trap fields which are known, or reasonably believed, to cause pellet ricochets with materials which will prevent the shot pellets from rebounding or ricocheting".



Winchester Blindside Waterfowl (left) and 'Sporting Clays' shotgun cartridges. Both are steel shot cartridges

In the field, initially there was a lot of wounding of birds and the manufacturers kept beating the "keep the ranges shorter" drum. 35 yards was said to be the safe limit and all recommended #3s as the minimum size for wild gamebirds. It did not take long before "Special Performance" (SP) loads soon developed, with a concurrent increase in cartridge size for the 12ga from 70mm (2 3/4") to 76mm (3") and 89mm (3 1/2"). Loads now go up to 56 grams (2oz), and velocities have been increased up to 1,500fps.

This has required specially toughened and bolstered actions and much thicker barrel walls, obviously much

increasing gun weight. It is strongly advised that any gun without markings showing the chambers are 3 inch or larger should definitely not be used with these high performance loads, they will certainly adversely affect the integrity of the gun. What they do to your shoulder I can only imagine, no wonder there is a rash of recoil-reducing devices appearing on the overseas markets. The European "Commission internationale permanente pour l'épreuve des armes à feu portatives"¹, better known as CIP, requires proofing at 1320 bar (way over the 740 bar for lead) and barrels to be marked "Steel Shot" with a fleur-de-lis stamped on each barrel. Moreover minimum chamber length is 70mm (2 3/4").

The American SAAMI has no such requirements, though most modern barrels are marked for steel and are 3" or 3 1/2" chambered.

Throughout this whole debacle the ammunition manufacturers have sat on the fence, continuing with lead shot cartridge manufacture alongside their new lines of steel and other substitute shot cartridges; raking in the profits. Anyone hoping for assistance from them in exploring the full impact of stopping lead pellets is whistling in the wind. The costs of all the alternatives is, cynically and actually, way more than lead. Checking the retail prices of 5 popular brands in Britain shows current prices for a 32 gram steel load of an average of £6.60 per box of 25, which is around R4.91 per cartridge.

But these still have to be shipped to RSA, with freight, duties, tax and local mark-up; expect to pay at least 50% more – R 7.40 each, R185 per box of 25! The bismuth rounds from Eley Hawk retail at £47.00 per 25 for 46 gram hunting loads down to £37.00 per 25 for 28 gram loads. That is R35.00 and R27.00 respectively per cartridge – again add 50% this to get it into the country and at your local friendly gun shop. The American Hevi-shot are priced at between US\$230-280 per 100 cartridges, which translates to around R 50.00 per cartridge – how about paying R75.00 per shot?!

What can we do about this? For starters we must all learn more about the enemy. Go to the following very

good site: www.fourten.org.uk/steel - there are 4 sections. Read them all! There are many more sites full of information. Then be prepared to defend your use of lead shot. Recent events must give us a glimmer of hope – Norway, which had a country-wide ban on lead, has repealed this ban as the amount of lead that is discharged throughout the country is negligible and their Hunters Association believes the long term effects of the alternatives has not been properly addressed and they are not as effective as lead, plus cost is excessive. As previously mentioned, Denmark, with a similar total ban on lead, has just banned the use of tungsten, saying that its health risks are too serious to be ignored in the context of hunting in their small heavily populated country.

We can use, as a very effective argument, the fact that there are so few bird hunters and clay pigeon shooters in this country, that the effect of our lead deposition country-wide is less than negligible. Our constituency is almost certainly not in excess of 25,000 people. Contrast this with 2 million fishermen in RSA, happily using lead sinkers and split shot every day! And never forget the lingering effects of anti-knock tetraethyl lead that was in our petrol, lead just doesn't dissipate, its effects are going to be with us for a long time.

Finally, it is a fact that many of our foods contain lead, root vegetables being well to the fore in terms of quantity. But European figures show that lead from wild game – fur or feather is well below the halfway mark in the list. The Countryside Alliance of Great Britain have stated that "the onus should be on those who push for a ban to prove that a ban is required". And very recently the Ammunition Manufacturers of Great Britain have come out firmly against any ban, saying that costs will soar.

Convince any antis that we are prepared to engage with them, provided everyone acts only on solid evidence when considering a ban on lead shot and ignores all anecdotal evidence, of which they will have lots.

– ¹Permanent international commission for the proof testing of portable fire-arms.

Official Shoots...



Above: Marius Gericke with a brace of Swainson's Francolin

Below: Decoys are crucial for duck hunting

Background image: André Westerveld and Marius Gericke in the duck blind

Below middel: The beautiful iridescence of duck wings

Right: The evening braai at the farm house is always enjoyable.



The Rietpan

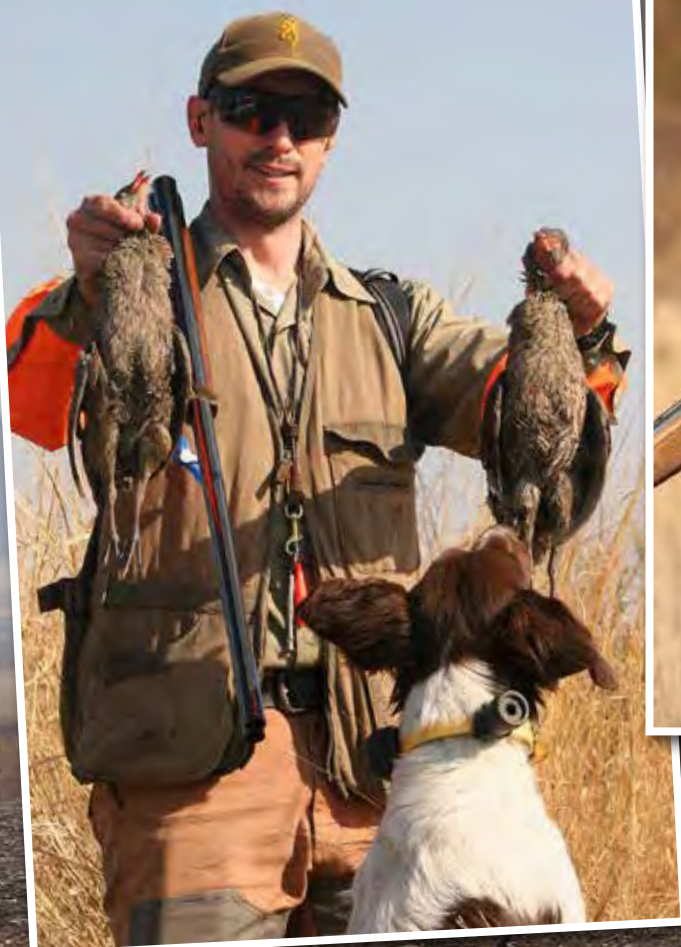


Marius Gericke and André Westerveld at the Rietpan shoot, hosted by André van der Westhuizen. We only accommodate two guns on this exclusive shoot to make it as memorable as possible for members. If you want to book for this shoot be sure to do so within the first minute or two once the shoot bookings open. Above right: 'Nubbin' worked beautifully!



Official Shoots... The Rustenburg

Chris Hardy with a great double on Swainson's Francolin.
Right: Pete Aling waiting for the Guineafowl drive.



GWP speed
retrieve



From left: Jaco Weldhagen, Bennie Viljoen,
Oliver Harmer and André van Tonder



Upland birds & Driven Guinea-fowl

Right:
Mike Piper.
Below: Noël Gibson,
Theuns Oelofse (host) &
Courtney Field.



Dusan Janjic taking the first swing
at the driven Guinea-fowl

Above:
Anthony Coward on
his first driven Guinea-
fowl shoot.
From left:
Oliver Harmer, David
Lillico, Andrew Lillico,
Tony Ernst, Hannes
Graham and Theuns
Oelofse



Members in the field...



Chris Christodoulou in the highlands



Estene Trollope & Marianna Oelofse



Leslie van der Merwe and members at the Grootfontein shoot near Bela-Bela



James Wardlaw shooting Greywing in the Stormberg mountains.



Stefan Roux, Alan Kloeck and friends waterfowling near Reitz

Top Left: Angelo Spada with an all-white Swainsons Francolin

Brad Smith and friends hunting in the Free State



Great photo of members just before dark at the Tuli Safari calendar venue



Charles Trollope

Official Shoots... Singita Dove and Pigeon venue

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



Charles Steffen



Christopher Pretorius &
Mario Neofitou



Bobby Lotter



Johan Opperman



Cooperation in a dog fails at the Handler Level

Cooperation is a foundation of a dog's success, but the failures lie in a handler's ability to read a dog.

by Scott Frasier

with kind permission from Project Upland Magazine. projectupland.com

The young wirehaired dog lets out a happy yip as it wraps the jager lead around the handler's legs who spins to unwind himself, tugs on the lead, and again commands "heel" exactly as the group leader demonstrated moments ago. Or so he thought. The dog, now seemingly irritated, dashes off and the handler nearly falls over as the dog reaches the end of the lead and flips to his back with a thud. A calm voice from behind asks: "May I handle your dog?" It's the group leader. "Sure," the handler sheepishly responds, handing off the jager, the leather still wiry with newness. The group leader walks away silently holding the lead as the young dog begins to yield and is at a heel by the 10th step. The handler is left in awe. "How did they do that?" he wonders with a murmur.

It's a scene that I have seen repeatedly at countless dog training events. Occasionally I was the group leader and often I've been the embarrassed handler. If you have ever shared this experience, like me you probably assumed it was witchcraft. Bolstering this magical sense is that the group leader will have a hard time describing what exactly they did differently.



Hannes Oberholzer's 'Jess' with a lightning retrieve

This is because what was done differently is not so simply explained and is usually gained only through experience.

You may have heard this described as the ability to “read” a dog. I find this term interesting because it contains an implication that may hide its true definition. When you think of the word “reading,” what comes to mind? I see logs burning in the fireplace, two fingers of whiskey in a crystal tumbler, a roan Spinone balled up on a coach, and an endless stack of books. I don’t see anything that helps me understand or communicate with a dog as if I am a witch.

So what does reading have to do with communicating in this context? Another way to describe the ability to “read” a dog might be to say that someone can listen to, or understand a dog. So the group leader was better at understanding what the dog was communicating at any given moment. This superior communication made cooperation between the group leader and the dog much more likely. This ability comes in handy because understanding a dog gives insight into what a dog is thinking. This, in turn, allows you to better communicate to the dog what you are thinking. Because this communication is often imperceptible to the uninitiated it might as well be magic to them. It’s what might be described as a feeling or a sixth sense.

So, if we are still learning to “read” a dog—and honestly who among us isn’t?—experience is the only way to get better. Maybe we should turn from the what and take stock of the how. Or in other words, how does a dog think? Scientists studying animal cognition have done some work in this area but it is an ever-evolving field with more to be done. With that in mind, the following study caught my eye. Let’s see if we can tease out any insights into our bird dogs.

The Science of Reading a Dog

A group of researchers decided to study the stress response of dogs that found their way into a shelter. They wanted to know if petting sessions would reduce the dog’s stress response, which they tested by measuring the cortisol levels in the blood. Reducing stress levels would allow the dogs to adjust to the shelter environment more quickly and a well-adjusted dog is more likely to be adopted than a stressed dog.

Researchers measured cortisol levels by taking blood samples before and after 20-minute petting sessions.

But, the results were not as expected. Some of the dogs showed a significantly reduced stress response while others didn’t. What was even stranger was that dogs that had a reduced stress response had female petters, while the ones that didn’t show a reduction had male petters.

This raised the question: why were female petters more effective at reducing stress levels in dogs than their male counterparts? Was it something indescribable?

Can the dogs smell and react differently to estrogen than they do testosterone? Or were the female pet-

Boavida ‘Ross’ – what a beautiful Drahthaar



ters simply just better at petting a dog? If the female petters were better there was no obvious reason as all the petters were reported to have similar experience levels with dogs and similar petting techniques.

The researchers set out to answer this question in a second study set up much like the first. Except in this study the female petters trained the male petters. The following are the

from medium to firm. Petter will need to allow his/her intuition and the dog's response to guide him/her. Throughout the session, the petter should speak to the dog in a calm and soothing voice."

The female petters trained the male petters until they were satisfied with their ability. Researchers conducted the experiment again and observed that both female and male

for the petting to produce the desired physiological effect in the dog.

The act of petting our dogs is so ingrained in us that I would guess you can feel the sensation of your dog's fur in the palm of your hand and in between your fingers just from reading this sentence. Yet this simple and common act may hold the key to better communication between you and your dog. It may be the easiest way to learn to "read" your dog more effectively.

A dog's proclivity towards cooperation is often touted as the most important factor in a hunting dog's success. Yet, the old adage is that cooperation is given, not trained. I believe this adage to be true but I also know that cooperation thrives in good communication. So, cooperation may not be able to be trained into a dog but it seems likely it can be fostered between a dog and a handler. I'm going to start by petting my dogs like the women petters above to see what I can learn. I encourage you to do the same.

Authors Note: I became interested in this topic after reading *The Genius Of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think*. I plan a series of articles on how dog cognition relates to our beloved bird dogs, their training, and our training. I encourage the interested readers to read the aforementioned book as many of the studies I plan to reference will be taken directly from the notes of this book.



— References:

- Hennessy, Michael & Williams, Michael & Miller, Deborah & Douglas, Chet & Voith, Victoria. (1998). Influence of male and female petters on plasma cortisol and behaviour: Can human interaction reduce the stress of dogs in a public animal shelter? Applied Animal Behaviour Science – APPL ANIM BEHAV SCI. 61. 63-77. 10.1016/S0168-1591(98)00179-8.*
- Hare, B. and Woods, V., 2013. The Genius Of Dogs: How Dogs Are Smarter Than You Think.*

Arnold Slabbert's next level GSPs
'Flight' and 'Cindi'.



petting instructions taken directly from the research paper.

"Petter should gently encourage the dog to maintain body contact with the petter. The dog should be encouraged to lean against the petter, sit, or lie down. The dog's size and controllability are factors in the position.

"The petter should strive for a deep massage to the dog's shoulder, back, and neck muscles, or long, firm strokes of the hand from the dog's head to the hind quarters. Since the petter will not be just working to move the skin, but the underlying muscle, pressure should vary

petters were able to reduce the shelter dogs' stress responses. As it turns out, the female petters were simply better petters. But the good news was that this was not witchcraft or magic. In fact it just took a little instruction and practice for the male petters to get up to speed.

If we take a closer look at the female petters' instruction there is one sentence that stands out to me. And it's the only sentence that does not describe the physical action of petting: "Petter will need to allow his/her intuition and the dog's response to guide him/her." In other words the petter will need to "read" the dog

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WHY I SHOOT

With many countries of the world in lockdown again, and many forced to stay at home or indoors, we are left empty...

by Cornell van der Westhuizen

We try and keep ourselves busy, at least for a while or a day, to keep the void at bay.

This quietness is a good time to reflect on what is important in life, to re-evaluate life's direction, its course and its depth.

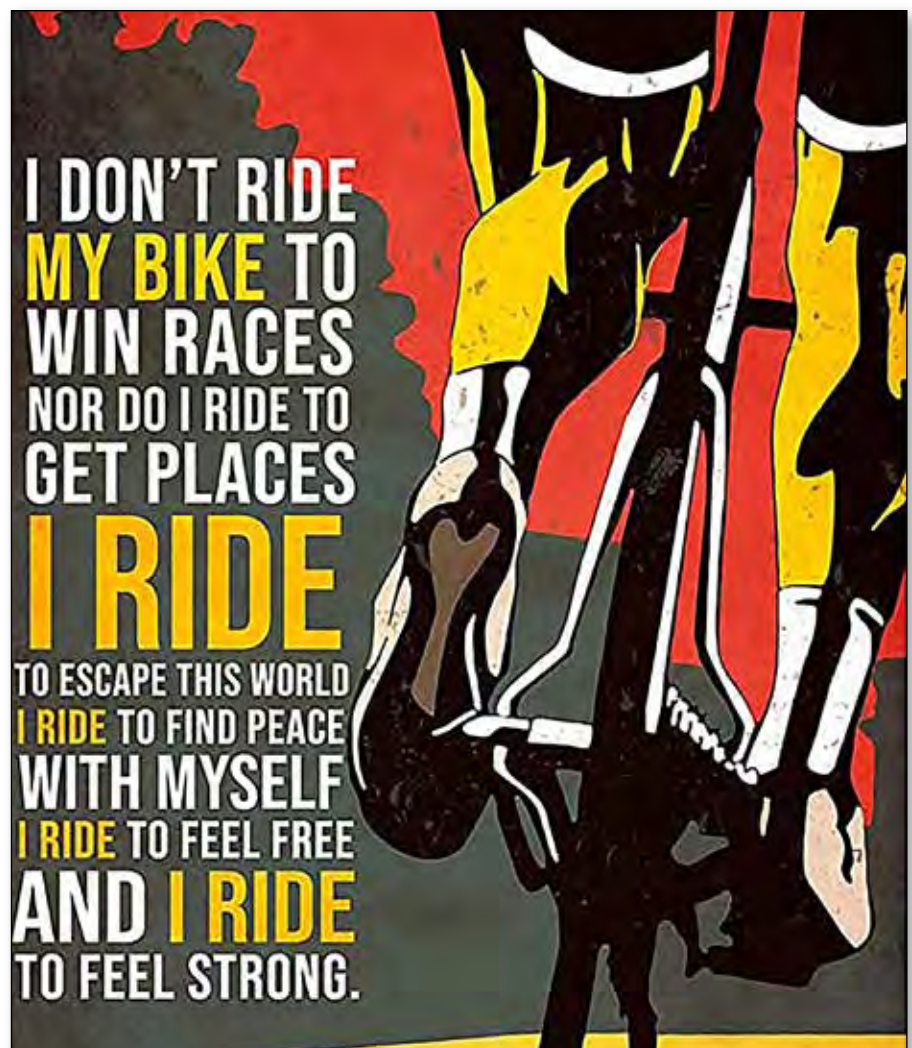
How strong and deep is my river of love?

How does the family relationship flow... is it a meager trickle?

Is work just an adrenaline-filled, white water, white knuckle run, bouncing from one rock to another with no end in sight? Is there perhaps a questionable friendship, like a whirlpool, sucking me into its dark depths?

Is my health murky and sludgy? Is my mind a clear and fresh fountain? Do I still have passion or is it a dry riverbed that has run its course?

We all have to take stock and





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answer these questions, and others, for ourselves.

I have been shooting, cycling, running, windsurfing, practising judo and other sports my whole life. I was naturally talented and fortunate enough to be competitive. In the rush of adrenaline there was always a thrill.

The ego felt good from all the accolades and people respected me.



It is a very deep pit trying to sustain that competitive level time-wise, relationship-wise, money-wise etc. while at the same time, constantly evaluating myself against others. Over time I have paid a price.

In this time to reflect, I have managed to deeply reflect on these questions: what were the original reasons why I like shooting or cycling so much? What has kept me at it for so many years? Why did I get into them in the first place? I guess with of age and hindsight comes some wisdom...

*Why did I get into
them in the first
place? I guess
**with age and
hindsight**
comes some
wisdom...*

I don't shoot to win trophies,
or claim any medal, accolade or
even for self esteem,
nor do I hunt to fill bag limits,
rowland awards or blood lust.
I hunt to escape society,
to smell dust, hear the francolin,
feel frost and smell a wood fire.
I shoot to challenge my limits,
to shoot better than before, better
than I can dream!
I shoot to find who I am,
humble and grateful for His
grace!



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Images from our 2020 *LRSC events*



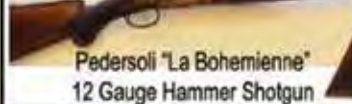
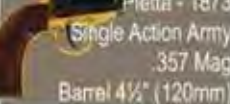
Top: Liam de Wet getting some coaching from his dad Marius. Top Right: Didi Taking a power nap – its always on the cards. Middel: Ben Richardson of Legionnaire. Bottom: Stephanie and Riaan Alberts





Left: Families are welcome at our range.
Below left: Johan de Bruin shot well at the .22PSBC match. Below: Shaun Ellithorne's Cruiser always looks like a firearms dealership inside. Bottom: Wizard, Jacobs, Martin and Berns



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Members hunting all over 2020

Below: Johan Geldenhuys wiht a beautiful Klipspringer he patiently hunted.



A lucky snapshot taken by Arnold Slabbert of his falcon in persuit of a Redwing



Kevin Reynders with a Red Hartbeest he harvested



Dr Mongezi Milela hunted a fine Eland this past season



Ray Fletcher with a nice Eland.



Stelios Christofi took his AR hunting and bagged a nice Nyala



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I HAVE THUNDER
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One association

We do it all

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. 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, 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 350m to 1708m.

This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 3-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 400m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles. We also offer .22LR Precision Small-Bore club rifle shooting through our LRSC membership.

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.

The requirements for obtaining a Dedicated Sport Shooting status are as follows:

All prospective applicants will have to complete a practical shooting qualification exercise, in either handgun, rifle or shotgun.

A minimum final score of 50%

must be attained in order to qualify and must be signed off by a range officer or club official.

All qualified members must submit an annual report to us, in confirmation of their minimum dedicated sport shooting activities, as required. We propose a minimum of three sport shooting activities per year for members in order to retain such status.

Should you hold current dedicated sport shooter status elsewhere, we will accept that status, if it is indeed current, on the basis of RPL.

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, but requires an additional membership. LRSC and SA Wingshooters membership together includes membership of all the sub-clubs.

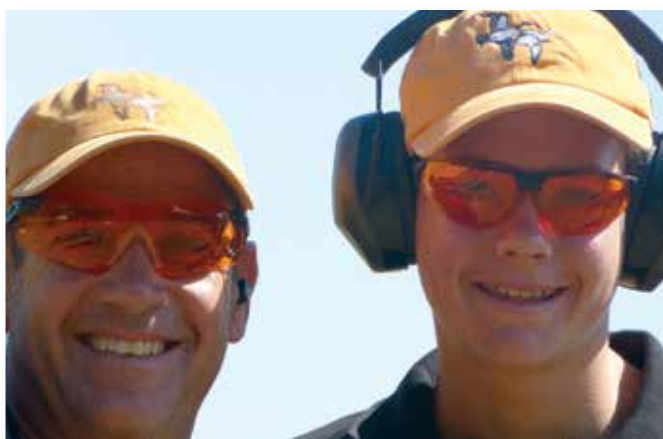
Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting related activities.

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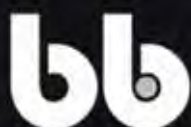
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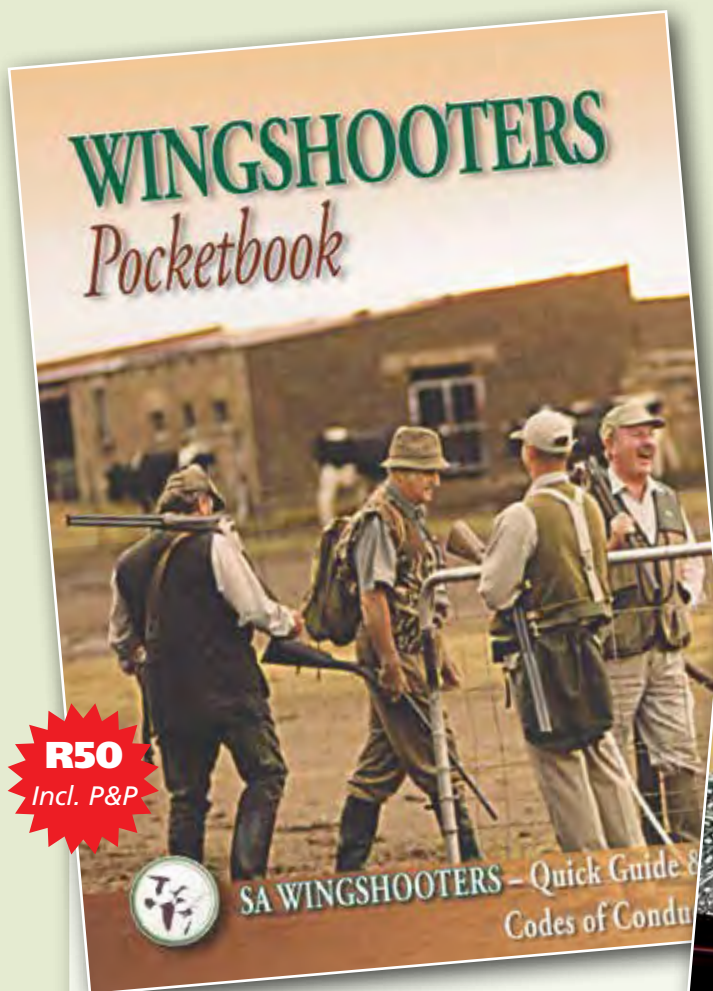
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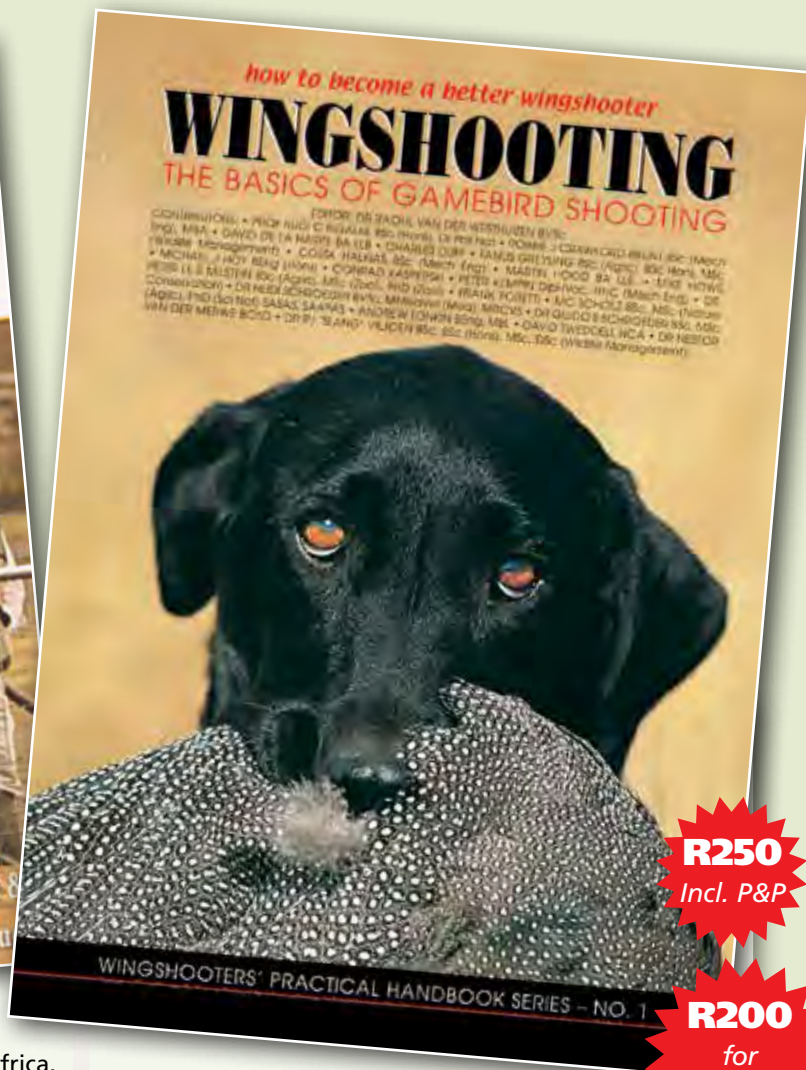
'In today's world, where it is so important that all hunters act in a responsible and ethical manner, this pocketbook is an essential part of the field hunting gear of every gamebird shooter. We are pleased to support this pocketbook and I strongly recommend it to all who wish to hunt more responsibly.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

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— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen
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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 triallists, 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.

To order your books today, call the SA Wingshooters Association office: 011-781 4762 or 011-781 3613.

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Complete a report (you can download it from our website: www.wingshooters.org.za) and email 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 Hunter activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated hunters!

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:

<https://members.wingshooters.co.za>

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?

<https://www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za>

PLEASE DONATE !
We can issue section 18a certificates for Tax purposes

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YES! Sign me up and rush me my membership documents

Deposit your subscription by means of Internet banking (EFT) or deposit it in our bank account as per the details below (email us the proof of payment with the application form) to:

anel@wingshooters.co.za

Bank: ABSA Brooklyn
Branch Code: 335-345
Account Name: SA Wingshooters
Account Number: 1500165460

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

Some of the great benefits:

- Exclusive members-only access to the Gun Licensing Help-line
- 'Bona-fide Hunters' recognised as credit to Dedicated Hunters, or
- Option to qualify as Dedicated Hunter/Sports Person in terms of Act 60
- Membership of Police-accredited Hunting & Sport shooting Association
- Exclusive hunting rights and shoots for members only
- Access to the National Shooting Venue Database
- Up-to-date information on the Firearms Control Act
- 4 'WINGSHOOTER' magazines with full shooting calendar
- Provincial hunting licences (for most provinces)
- Access to clay shooting clubs, shotgun/Rifle/Handgun clinics and training
- 25% saving on the handbook WINGSHOOTING, with tips & hints by 21 experts on game bird hunting
- Free advice on shooting seasons, gundogs, shotguns, rifles, handguns, etc.
- Free firearm ENDORSEMENTS for any type of firearm.
- R20 million wingshooters' liability insurance included
- Option to join PSP – Postal Shooting Programme for Handguns & Rifles
- Option to join the Long Range Shooting Club and TPS 2-gun/3-gun, etc.

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E-mail: anel@wingshooters.co.za

or Fax to Email: 086 211 5111

SAPS Accreditation No's: 1300080 & 1300136



SA WINGSHOOTERS
2020



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: (Tick all appropriate boxes)

1. I wish to join for	☐ 1 Year	☐ 2 Years
Join Fee – Once off, plus:	R 350.-	R 350.-
Subscription – Annual*	R 1,362.-	R 2,650.-
*Subscription – over 70's:	☐ R 903.-	☐ R 1,700.-
*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 253.-	☐ R 500.-

You can also join the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) for rifle and handgun shooting. The PSP offers participation in our annual target shooting competition in various divisions for rifle and handgun shooting:

2. I also wish to Join the PSP ☐ R 100.- ☐ R 190.-

3. I also wish enroll in the Dedicated Hunter Course and/or Dedicated Sport Shooter course:

Dedicated Hunter Manual & Test: R 570.- ☐
Dedicated Sport Shooter Test: R 570.- ☐

TOTAL R .- R .-

Payment Method:

EFT ☐ Bank Deposit ☐

You can also pay in person with a card at our offices.

Your Signature

Date

I agree to honour the constitution and and charter. 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.

Title (Mr,Mrs,Dr)

Full Names

ID Number

Postal Address

Postal Code

Residential Address

E-Mail *

*(we email members with news regularly)

Office Tel No.

Fax Number

Home Tel No.

Cell Phone No.

* 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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