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Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 31 No. 2 – June/July 2025

30 Year Anniversary



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Fynn with Guineafowl at Gkhui Gkhui lodge, a wingshooting and plains game venue as listed in our annual hunting and shooting calendar. Photograph by Gerhard Laubscher.

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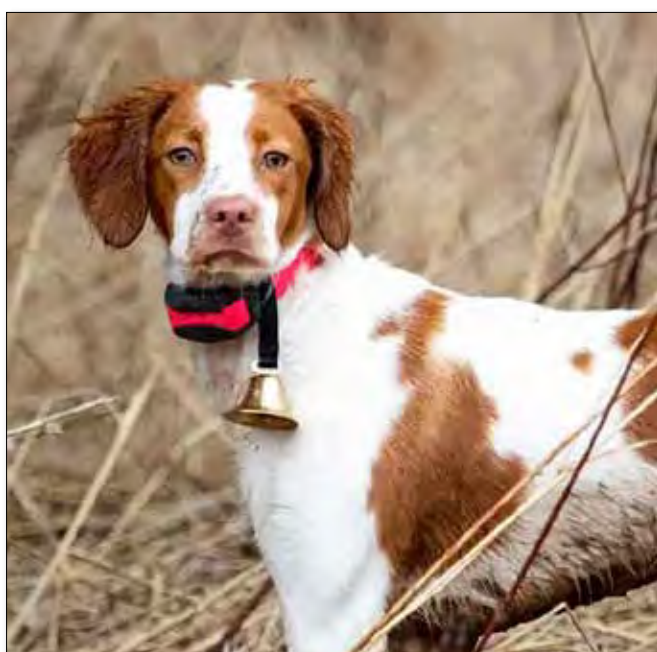
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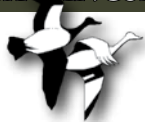
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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



The Power of a Dog...

Rudyard Kipling 1865 –1936

There is sorrow enough in the natural way
From men and women to fill our day;
And when we are certain of sorrow in store,
Why do we always arrange for more?
*Brothers and Sisters, I bid you beware
Of giving your heart to a dog to tear.*

Tim Babich's Lilly.
Photo by
Stuart Harley.

Buy a pup and your money will buy
Love unflinching that cannot lie –
Perfect passion and worship fed
By a kick in the ribs or a pat on the head.
*Nevertheless it is hardly fair
To risk your heart for a dog to tear.*

When the fourteen years which Nature permits
Are closing in asthma, or tumour, or fits,
And the vet's unspoken prescription runs
To lethal chambers or loaded guns,
*Then you will find – it's your own affair –
But... you've given your heart to a dog to tear.*

When the body that lived at your single will,
With its whimper of welcome, is stilled (how still!).
When the spirit that answered your every mood
Is gone – wherever it goes – for good,
*You will discover how much you care,
And will give your heart to a dog to tear.*

We've sorrow enough in the natural way,
When it comes to burying Christian clay.
Our loves are not given, but only lent,
At compound interest of cent per cent.
Though it is not always the case, I believe,
That the longer we've kept 'em, the more do we grieve:
For, when debts are payable, right or wrong,
A short-time loan is as bad as a long –
*So why in – Heaven (before we are there)
Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear?*

No comment required – just a beautiful poem!

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Extinction Rebellion Exposed

terms that solutions were counter to the goals of the movement and that I should stop," he reveals. This was the moment Phillips began to question the true motives of the group. "It was then that I started to

of renewable energy infrastructure," Phillips explains. "You don't have a factory. You have a market ecosystem. That's how technology works. It blew my mind that they didn't understand this."



Images: <https://countryquire.co.uk/>

In a startling exposé, Lachlan Phillips, a former member of Extinction Rebellion (XR), has lifted the lid on what he claims are the true motives behind the climate activist group. Phillips, who spent several years with the organisation and produced over 60 videos for their campaigns, has revealed that XR's agenda is not about saving the planet but about controlling the population and inciting a Communist revolution.

The Climate Mask: A Tool for Control

Phillips' account, shared on Twitter, paints a damning picture of Extinction Rebellion's inner workings. "I can tell you directly: It was never about the climate. It was about controlling you," he writes. According to Phillips, the movement's ultimate goal is to mobilise 3.5% of the population into a state of permanent revolutionary protest, a strategy inspired by figures like Trotsky, Gene Sharp, Roger Hallam, and Mao. This revelation, he claims, came directly from some of the organisation's leaders.

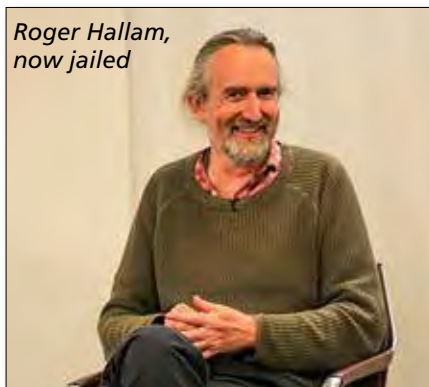
Phillips recounts how he attempted to introduce programmes aimed at helping businesses reduce their carbon footprints without sacrificing profit margins or impacting GDP. However, he was met with resistance. "I was told in no uncertain

realise their true motives, and understand that perhaps I was being taken for a ride."

The Hypocrisy of Degrowth

Phillips also highlights the contradictions in XR's ideology. He points out that Communist countries have historically had

Roger Hallam, now jailed



some of the worst environmental records, yet XR's proposals – degrowth, agitation, "decolonisation", and post-capitalism – would, in his view, set civilisation back to a pre-renewable era. This, he argues, would force developing nations into a prolonged industrial age, resulting in significantly higher carbon emissions than the incremental improvements driven by market innovations.

"Population density is a critical function

The Anti-Progress Stance

One of the most baffling aspects of Phillips' experience was XR's sudden opposition to Elon Musk and his electric vehicles (EVs). "After years of pushing against fossil fuels, they were suddenly vehemently opposed to Elon Musk and his EVs. It was mind-boggling to witness," he writes. Phillips argues that Musk has done more to reduce emissions than the entire climate activist movement combined, a point that was met with "bewilderment and anger" when he raised it within the group.

The True Agenda: Communist Revolution

Phillips' disillusionment with XR led him to a broader critique of the activist left. "At their best, they were devoid of ideas and completely incapable of making meaningful technological or engineering innovations. At their worst, they were actively working against their own stated goals in order to maximise agitation and mobilise discontent toward a destructive revolutionary movement that would ultimately lead to measurably worse outcomes."

Applying Occam's Razor, Phillips concludes that the true goal of these movements is not to address injustices but

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JONSSON
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to agitate blocs of “useful idiots” into a perpetual state of protest. “The goal is Communist revolution,” he asserts, “and all these random causes—climate, gender relativism, immigration, BLM, defunding police, Islamisation, etc.—weren’t about triumphing over injustices, but about seizing power and control in the name of Marxist Revolution.”

A Call to Build, Not Destroy

Phillips’ final message is one of hope and empowerment. “True change comes from the builders,” he writes. “Yes, there are problems on this earth, but they’ll only be solved by you tackling those problems, building useful things, and helping to push the species forward. If you’re smart enough to contribute, you belong amongst the builders.”

Lachlan Phillips’ revelations about Extinction Rebellion are a wake-up call for those who have supported the movement in the belief that it was solely focused on combating climate change. His account suggests that XR’s true agenda is far more radical and politically motivated than its public-facing campaigns would suggest. Whether or not one agrees with Phillips’ conclusions, his insider perspective raises important questions about the direction and intentions of one of the most prominent activist groups of our time.

As the debate over climate action continues, Phillips’ story serves as a reminder that the path to a sustainable future lies not in agitation and revolution, but in innovation, collaboration, and the relentless pursuit of progress.

*by Nick Pearce, with permission from
Country Squire Magazine
<https://countrysquire.co.uk/2025/03/22/extinction-rebellion-exposed/>*

40 Year Anniversary Trial

Tvl HPR Club

The Founder and oldest HPR Club in South Africa, the Tvl HPR Field Trial club invites everyone with a gun-dog to join us for our 40th anniversary. This will take the form of competitions and events for



anyone interested in pointing gun dogs and wing-shooting.

Everyone with a pointing gun-dog can participate or come and watch top gun-dogs in South Africa in action. The anniversary event will take place during the week of 12 to 17 August 2025 on the Springbok-flats where the dogs can test their hunting skills under Bushveld conditions, with Francolin the primary game bird. The competition will start with the Derby and Maiden Stakes followed by the Paul Kruger Hunting Stake to be finished by the Open Stakes, which run on Championship standard. In between we will have Working Tests and even a dog show to determine the handsomest hunting dog.

During the non-eliminating Hunting Stake you can demonstrate your dog’s hunting skills even if he lacks a bit of discipline. The Open Stake is for the top dogs in the country to demonstrate their skills. The celebrations will be concluded by a prize giving dinner in November which will include a couple of surprises! All participants will also receive an updated comprehensive copy of the Commemorative Issue book, which is the definitive reference manual for German Short-haired Pointers in South Africa. The book will richly demonstrate the Club’s and dog’s, history, information on the top dogs, anecdotes, training, guide to snakes, gamebirds and breeding advice and much more. We also invite adverts for the book or donations for trial prizes.

You can enter by emailing the Club at slangvil@iafrica.com or phone 0842020184 for all the information you need.

You can also visit our Facebook German Short haired Pointers - Tvl HPR Field Trial Club for more information.

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Zen and the *Driven Guineafowl*

by Charles Duff

Photographs – André van der Westhuizen



*With good planning, area topography and
Guinea knowledge combined with
some Zen and good fortune,
you might just get it right...*

Those of us wingshooters who do read will undoubtedly know about the 'grand battues' of Edwardian and Georgian Britain where lines of guns (that's shooters in brit speak) stood at their pegs or in their butts as pheasants, partridge or grouse were driven towards and over them by lines of flag-waving beaters. Pairs of guns and even triples were tended by loaders and prodigious numbers of cartridges were ejected from smoking breeches as hundreds of birds came over them.

It was, and still is, a very expensive sport. It takes serious money to rear, raise and provide the required numbers of partridge or pheasants (you can't breed grouse in captivity) and disposing of the carcasses profitably thereafter.

In a much reduced, and much more expensive way, this still goes



*At The Rustenburg...
From left: Dieter Ochsenbein, Peter Fotakis,
Charles Duff (Author), James Dunlop and a friend*

on there while we South Africans can only look on in envy. Our most elaborate wing-shooting that was occasionally on offer was the 'surround shoot' in which, after much toing and froing of radio controlled teams of guns slowly pushing guinea-fowl flocks into a suitable area of good holding ground and then tightening the noose around them, the more nervous birds started popping out. The most famous of these being the Zunckel's shoot in mid-Natal near Bergville which takes two days to accomplish, rounding up several flocks off various farms into one very big horde.

However in the early nineties I was invited to my first driven guinea-fowl shoot, just off the N1 near the big weigh-bridge system by

*"To be successful it is
necessary to herd
them in a
direction in
which they are happy
to go"*

get to the right level of Zen you need to know the guinea's daily schedule: awakening in the pre-dawn sky lightening, they fly out of the roost and commence feeding. Where, is only to be discovered by experience, and can vary quite widely over the farm/s. This continues until midday and is the best time to hunt them.

They then retire into thick bush (or the thickest available cover) during which they frequently dust-bathe. About afternoon tea time, three o'clockish, they move out to feed again and usually go to water as the sun dips horizonwards. With dusk they head, either by foot or on the wing, to their sleeping quarters, usually the largest available collection of trees and this is a fixed location. Any disturbance while they are on the



From left, Harry Katrakilis, Peter Fotakis and Mike Bosch in 2009

Piensaarsrivier. The proprietor, Mike Bosch, an ex-Zimbabwean, organised half a dozen shoots yearly and these were all over driven birds, usually of six or so drives starting 'vroeg in die oggend' with a lavish luncheon at midday under some obligingly shady thorn trees.

I attended more than a few of these over the next decade or so and learnt from the farmer the Zen principle with regards to guinea-fowl - the golden principal of driving them is that they will not go anywhere that they do not want to. To be successful

it is necessary to herd them in a direction in which they are happy to go. Thus, it is incumbent upon the shoot leader to have intimate knowledge of where his guineas are throughout the day and where they would be going next. I have an (unconfirmed) feeling that pommy pheasant and partridge are much more ductile, amiable and easily directed.

Having earned a pittance for days beating while tramping through wet heather in August in Scotland I can tell you that the grouse were more like guineas in their attitude. Thus to

roost, especially being shot at, can cause them to decamp from that area and often from the farm for good. Never, ever shoot them on the roost!

Mike's beaters were given soda cans with small stones inside as rattles, but they were still vocally noisy, and I found that the herds were usually at least 500m ahead of their line, if not more. Also noticeable were the numbers of francolin that got drawn into the fray, usually a few pairs per drive.

This was the first of such hunts of which I, and my friends, were aware.



Sadly the farm got expropriated to the locals who promptly stripped it of everything movable, including two center-pivots, and then tried to get the previous owner to lease it back.

To cut to today there are now quite a few regular driven shoots. I am aware of at least half a dozen but the one that I favour is that run by Theuns Oelofse, a S.A. Wingshooters member, on the other side of Rustenberg where he, a HPR and one other aide manage nine times out of ten to put flocks of guinea-fowl over the line throughout the day. He does incorporate walk-up francolin drives in between. For several years Johan van Giessen ran a syndicate shoot at Rankin's Pass beyond Modimolle, which was excellent value for money though the accommodation was a bit stark. Again he and his HPR and sometimes a helping gun managed the drives well and most were productive. Sadly the farms were sold and the shoot lapsed.

I remain uninvited to the renowned Stella shoots which is just as well as I can't afford them! Russell Keaney, who uses farms near Potchefstroom as well as some Springbok flats farms, is well known. I have only been on one

of his shoots where we did a lot more walk-ups than driven drives.

What do you need to know so as not to make a fool of yourself? Firstly dress: while khakis or even brownish camo are ideal, stay well clear of any bright colours, blue being notably bad and safety orange a good way of getting kicked off a shoot. The guinea has excellent vision and hearing so once in the field keep your lips shut unless it is absolutely unavoidable. Getting out of the vehicles should be done as silently as possible – do not slam the doors shut! And for god's sake switch off the radio before you go out.

If you have an obedient gundog that is trained to the whistle then you will be welcomed as it is amazing how many hunters do not, and most are pretty bad at marking the fall of their birds. If this is your case then learn how to mark and remember your killed bird's falls. If your dog is not rock steady then keep it on a lead until the flock comes over and the guns begin to bark.

I remember a Rankins Pass shoot where we had an extended flight of birds and small coveys kept coming over. I downed four birds, which

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Donal (my Golden), picked up as they fell. After the last tail-enders departed heading for the nearby hills, a neighbouring gun called me and said that he had downed four or five birds. Asked where they fell he gave a lordly wave of an arm encompassing about 180° and said 'out there'. We managed to find two.

Your first flushed flock is going to be a surprise, in fact a bit of a shock. They generally take wings quite silently and suddenly a couple of hundred birds are flying at you. To achieve nirvana there is a rigid rule. Quickly pick a bird and stick with it, get your barrels onto the line of flight, smoothly swing the barrels and as the bird disappears from sight behind them pull the trigger.

If you are dogless then mark the fall before trying to shoot another bird. Generally the flocks are quite cohesive and the flight is over very quickly.

What you must not do is dither in picking a target – this one, no the next, no the lower one merely ensures you not getting a single shot off. If never experienced before it can be heart stopping when your first bunch of a hundred plus guineas launch themselves at you.

Another hard-earned tip – wherever you may be placed in the line, make sure that you are not too close to tall trees before you in the direction from which the guineas will flight. Too close and your reaction time is drastically cut short – you need every second that you can get. As the last straggler goes past out of your range you can now unzip your lips.

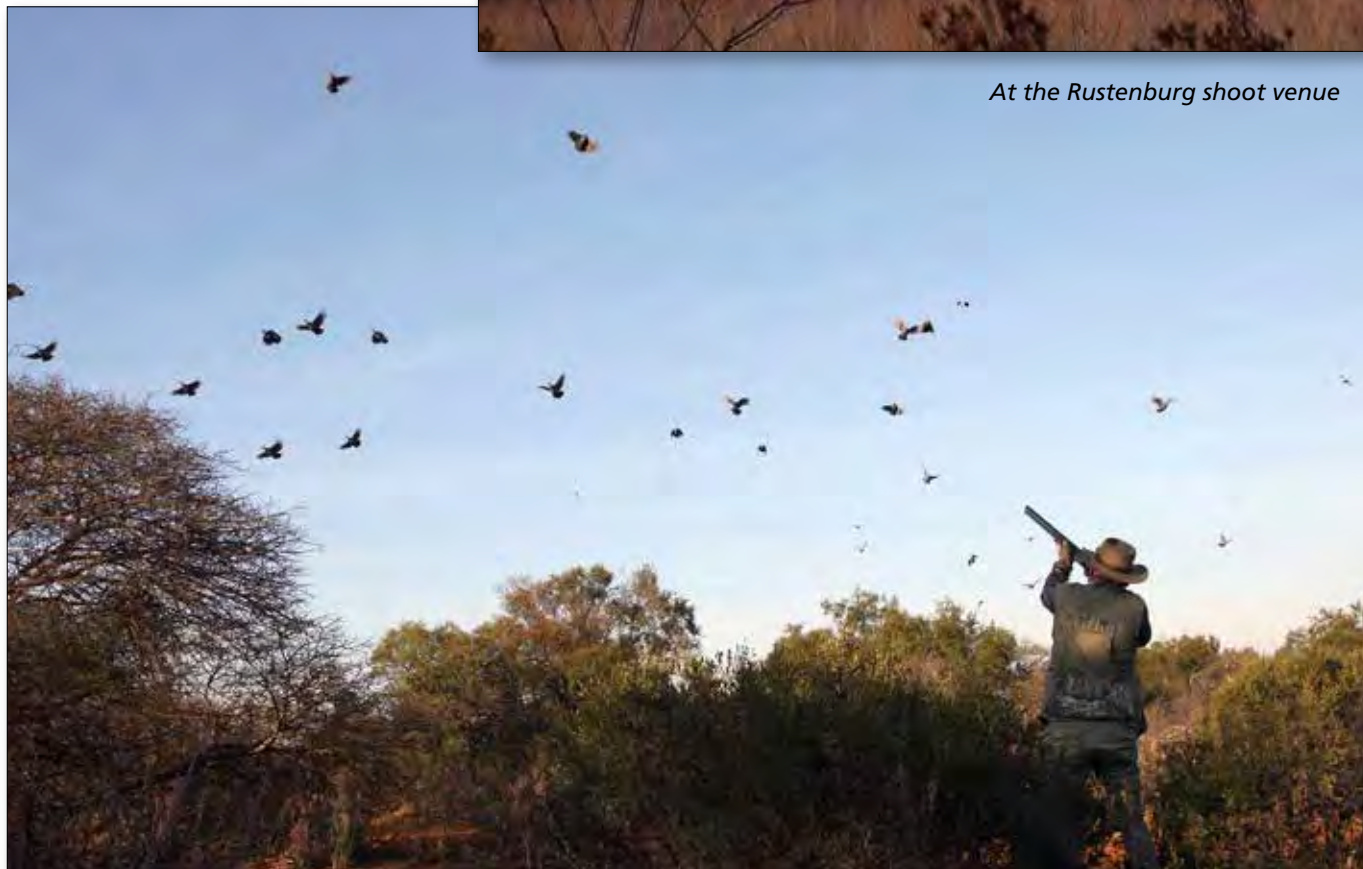
It is a very good idea not to get behind tall bushes or trees, the birds will be onto and over you too quickly; rather pick a place in the shade,

to hide your shadow, with a good forward view. Movement can cause the nearest birds to you to swerve, so try to remain relatively motionless as they approach.

Most of your shots are going to be quite close, I find that an ounce (28grams) of 6s kills cleanly, others favour 5s, which have 20% less pellets in their pattern for a minimal increase in striking power. 4s have 50% less pellets than 6s though the increase in striking power is noticeable. Patterns kill regularly, single pellets seldom.



At the Rustenburg shoot venue





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The German Short-Haired Pointer

In trouble in South Africa

It is often said that the more popular a dog breed, the faster its decline. It might also be the plight of the German Short-haired Pointer in South Africa. We are at a crossroad, or even past it, and if we want to save the standard and integrity of the German Short-haired Pointers in South Africa, we should all strive to work together now. Let me explain...

by Dr. P.J. Viljoen



on the German tests or Versatile dog tests. However, during the past ten years, or even longer, there has been an alarming downward trend in the working standard of the German Short-haired Pointers.

Let us look at the trend during the last ten years. Between 2012 and 2022, a total of 1725 German Short-haired Pointers have been registered with KUSA. Judging by the ratio of unregistered German Short-haired Pointers against registered dogs in the training classes, by a conservative estimate we can double that amount with unregistered German Short-haired Pointers bred or German Short-haired Pointers that were registered by other registries. Therefore, we look at a minimum of 3450 German Short-haired Pointers that were bred in the last 10 years.

During the same time period only 192 German Short-haired Pointers passed the Natural Ability Test. This being the minimum standard for

As you might know, the Tvl HPR Field Trial Club is 40 years old. During that time we have tested more than a 1000 dogs for their conformation, temperament, biddability and hunting potential.

In addition, hundreds of dogs have participated in our various field trials with hundreds also attending

our training classes. It is safe to say that we have evaluated more German Short-haired Pointers than anybody in South Africa. In short our Club has been the innovators and custodians of the German Shorthaired standard since 1985 in South Africa and constantly strives to improve the standard.

Recently, various other clubs have introduced various tests, mostly based

German Short-haired Pointers where their conformation, temperament, biddability and hunting potential is tested. This translates to only 5.53 per cent of all German Short-haired Pointers bred in South Africa during the 10 year period between 2012 to 2022. It is clear that the vast majority of German Short-haired Pointers in South Africa, nearly 95 per cent were bred by breeders that perhaps do not have the standard of the German Short-haired Pointers at heart.

The often heard argument that they do not have time or are too far away to do the tests or do not recognize the tests, do not really hold water as we have found that if a breeder is proud of and confident in his dogs, he will make time and will travel far to come and do the tests (We had breeders come from as far as Upington or Kimberley). If the breeder's dog is not up to standard, he/she will not travel 20km to the testing grounds with all the excuses in the world.

The other argument is that they do not have the time to train the dogs. However, the Natural Ability Test is just that, there is very little training involved. You should not need to train a GSP to point, hunt or retrieve. That is genetic and these are the exact traits we are so concerned are being lost to the GSP in South Africa. You should only need do discipline training.

During the same ten year period some 180 German Short-haired Pointers got prizes at the field trials (this includes Puppy Stakes). This translates also to only 5.2 per cent of all German Short-haired Pointers bred. Again, some breeders argue that they breed hunting dogs and not field trial dogs. This is very far from the truth as the Tvl HPR Field Trials reflect practical and efficient hunting. The only difference between our trials and hunting is that highly efficient guns do all the shooting for obvious reasons.

The 192 German Short-haired Pointers that passed the test or got prizes at Field Trials, were bred by 46 breeders of which only 14 breed-



ers produced more than one litter. These breeders can with right be said to represent the responsible breeders of German Short-haired Pointers in South Africa. I think it is high time that we should publish the names of these breeders so the public will know who the reputable and responsible breeders are.

In order to reverse this downward trend let us all stand together and save the standard and integrity of the German Shorthaired Pointer in South Africa.

For all the HPR Clubs in South Africa, let us stand together in only recommending dogs that have passed the tests or got prizes at Field Trials. Let us actively discourage irresponsible breeding.

For you the breeder, please be responsible and do your part towards the improvement of the GSP standard in South Africa to have your dogs tested, otherwise get other breeding stock. If you do not subject your breeding dogs to the objective assessment by qualified judges, you run the risk of being branded as a backyard breeder who contributes to the ruining of the standard of German Short-haired pointers in South Africa.

For you the buyer, please do not buy any pups from untested parents. You will have much more pleasure from pups that are up to standard. The pups will have all the hunting potential in the world, will be great companions, not afraid of fire works and not bite children. Insist on proof that the breeder's dogs have passed the tests or contact the Tvl HPR club for the proof.

For the GSP rescue groups, you should actively encourage people to buy from responsible breeders only, in other words those breeders whose dogs have passed the Natural Ability Test. It is doubtful that you had to rescue even one dog that has passed the Natural Ability Test in the past ten years. By encouraging responsible breeding, there will be drastically fewer dogs to be rescued. The Natural Ability Test does not encourage breeding, in fact, it discourages irresponsible breeding.

For the kennel unions, do not ridicule the standard and integrity of the tests by allowing non HPR judges to judge the test.

There are qualified HPR judges that underwent stringent training in order to judge objectively.



Demystifying the *Gunfitting Process*

An in-depth look at the gun fitting process, from terminology to proper gun fit dimensions, with a professional gun fitter and stock maker.

by Del Witman
Courtesy of Project Upland Magazine
Photographs courtesy Project Upland

The process of fitting a gun to a person and its underlying principles have, at times, been made to seem mysterious and even alchemic. As a custom stock maker and gunsmith, gun fit is rather simple.

Gun fit is a necessary and integral part of making a custom stock for a client. It also provides the required stock dimensions for altering a client's

existing guns to fit better.

Gun fitting theory is based on a straightforward concept: using the physical architecture of the stock to control the shooter's point of aim and make the mounting and firing of the gun feel comfortable and natural. Remember that gun fitting adjusts the stock dimensions to the shooter; gun fitters don't expect the shooter to adjust to the stock dimensions.

Let's break down this concept in pragmatic terms:

- **Impact point:** the place at which a shotgun's barrels cause its patterns to strike at a given distance. In the gun fitting process, the impact point is assessed at sixteen yards.

- **Line of sight:** the linear alignment of the bead and the shooter's dominant eye. By controlling the position of the shooter's eye, we can control the horizontal and vertical alignment (i.e., the vector) of the line of sight in relation to the barrel's impact point.

- **Shooting to the point of aim:** when the shooter's line of sight aligns with the center of the gun's impact point. A common phrase for this is "the gun shoots where you look." If the stock fits the shooter properly, and the shooter mounts their gun correctly, the gun should shoot to the point of aim without the shooter having to adjust to the gun in any way.

Why are these details so important? Whether we're in the field or on a clays course, we have a relatively short time to bring a shot to fruition. At times, tenths of a second can make a difference. We have a finite amount of conscious attention to allocate to shooting situations. We must apply that limited attention to things that require it, like getting in position for the best shot opportunity, using proper shooting techniques, and being aware of omnipresent safety concerns.

Your attention is better spent thinking about things like, Where are my fellow hunters? Is this a safe shot? What kind of foul deeds is or isn't my dog up to? not consciously adjusting to a gun that doesn't fit properly. Doing so can have detrimental effects on shooting success.

A well-fitted gun and practiced technique ensure that mounting and



shooting become nearly subconscious, instinctual acts. In this sort of "flow state," we can develop shooting proficiencies that would otherwise be impossible to attain.

How does a batter hit a hundred-mile-an-hour fastball? How does a golfer make a hole-in-one? They will undoubtedly fail if they consciously think about it during their swing. What would happen if that golfer used clubs that are three inches too short? We can never maximize our full potential if we constantly compensate for poor-fitting equipment.

*My terminology relates to double guns, i.e., over-and-under and side-by-side guns. However, the same principles apply to single-barrel guns. In this article, I am assuming the double gun barrels are well-regulated. This means the patterns of each of the two barrels shoot at the same spot.

Off-the-Rack Guns

Again, an important underlying concept of good gun fit is that mounting and shooting the gun should feel natural and comfortable. We should never feel like we are struggling to mount the gun properly. The gun should never feel uncomfortable when we fire it. If the gun mount feels natural and comfortable, the process will become more and more consistent. A consistent gun mount is the

foundation for effective shooting.

Most of the shotguns available to us are made via a mechanized, assembly-line-like process. Of course, depending on the cost and quality of the gun, there will be varying degrees of hand work and final finish.

However, by and large, the guns of today are made in this assembly-line fashion. The design features are limited and standardized to create efficiency in the manufacturing process. It's shocking how few design choices we have in new off-the-rack guns. This is especially the case with stock dimensions.

Most well-known companies offer only one or two different sets of stock dimensions. Most "factory average" stocks are made to fit the ubiquitous 5'10", 180-lb male with an average build. If you're this person, consider yourself lucky when purchasing shotguns. If, like myself, you do not fit into this category, getting a well-fit gun can require more effort.

As a side note, it's worth mentioning that some shotguns have adjustable shim systems that alter the stock dimensions. They are primarily auto-loaders and pump guns, but I know of one over-under that has one. The amount of adjustments these systems are capable of is somewhat limited.

A person must understand how gun fit works to use these shim systems effectively, too. I have seen



the habit of way overextending my neck to get my head far enough forward. Overextending my neck was uncomfortable and riddled with inconsistency. This compensating technique eventually ironed itself into my shooting style. I shot like this for years.

As I started my career and learned about gun fit and proper shooting techniques, I eventually corrected the issue. But even with a well-fit gun, it took a long time to fix that bad habit. Twenty-five-plus years later, I still occasionally have problems with it.

It's incredible how marketers try to tell us it's acceptable to buy guns that don't fit. Then, they try to convince us the best way to compensate for our shooting deficiencies is to use ridiculously overpowered shotshells. It's best not to nosedive down that rabbit hole, but I digress.

clients drive themselves insane with a shim system because they didn't understand how or what they were trying to accomplish. If you are partial to shotguns of this design and have the aid of a component gun fitter, shim systems can be effective.

The Skill of Compensation

In American shotgun culture, shooters are expected to buy and immediately start using an off-the-rack gun. By design, we are expected to alter our shooting form and technique to guns that may fit us terribly. We develop many bad

habits and coping techniques while attempting to become proficient with poor-fitting guns. We teach ourselves the skill of compensation without realizing we are doing it; it's a genuinely insidious process. Once these bad habits ingrain themselves in our shooting technique, they can be incredibly hard to correct. This issue is particularly relevant to youth and new shooters.

I am a perfect example of this. Due to my stocky build and short neck, from the very start, my stocks were far too long for me. To compensate for this, I developed

Gun Fitting Tools

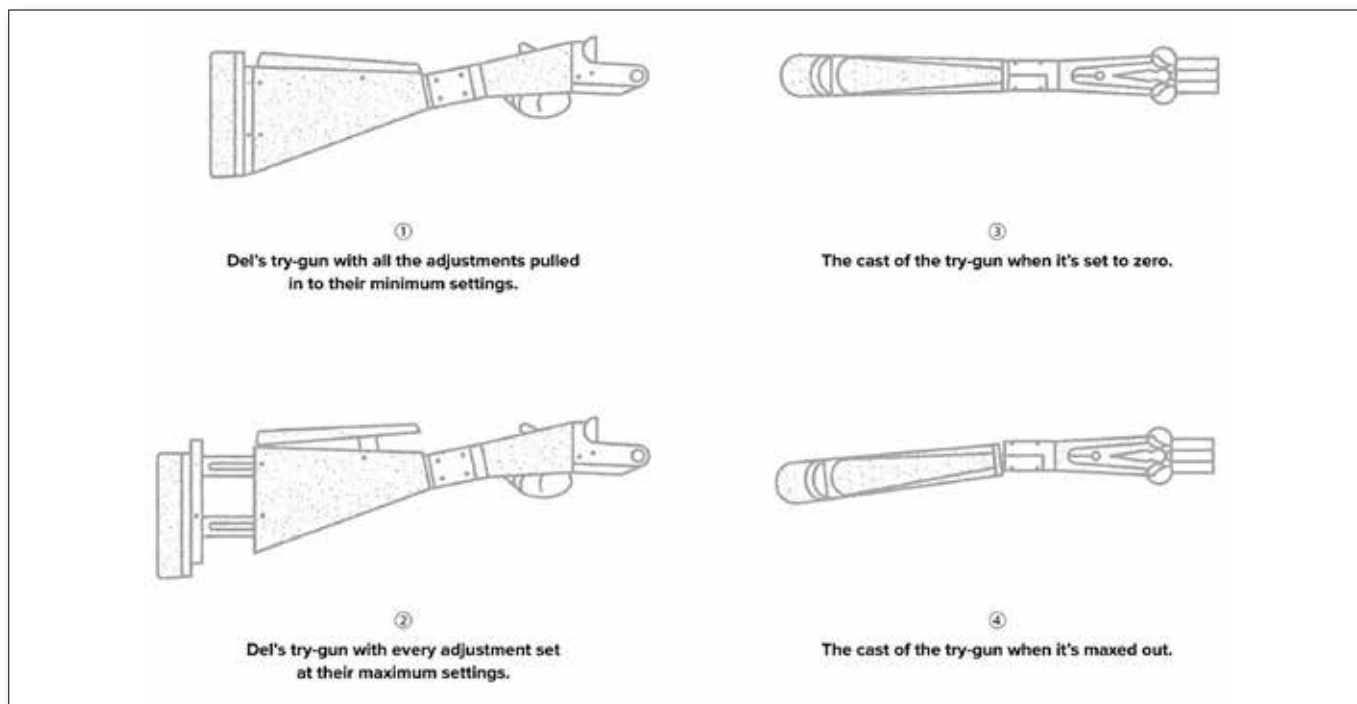
The tangible product from a gun fitting is a set of data points. These data points are a three-dimensional map of your ideal stock. With these data points in hand, someone can order a new gun from the factory with a custom stock, have a custom stock made for an existing gun, or have the stock of an existing gun altered to fit.

These aforementioned data points are referenced from a rearward projection of the line of sight. This rearward projection is created by a stock measuring tool, which is a long, perfectly straight aluminum bar that straps onto the barrels and extends out over the entire stock length. There is a moveable gauge attached to the bar that has both horizontal and vertical scales. The gauge is lowered onto the stock in specific places, and measurements are taken.

One of the main tools I use during my gun fittings is a try-gun. A try-gun is a shotgun with a fully articulated stock that can be altered to nearly any reasonable dimensions. The butt can swing side to side and up and down via a locking ball and socket joint in the wrist. This joint is of my design and manufacture. The length of the stock, the angle of the comb, and the angle of the butt are also fully adjustable.

The side-to-side movement is





called “cast off” for a right-hand shooter and “cast on” for a left-hand shooter. The up-and-down movement is called “drop.” Cast and drop are measured at three places along the top of the comb: the nose, face, and heel (i.e., the front, the middle, and the rear of the comb).

The rear of the comb is also hinged and can be raised and lowered. The two opposing pivot points, one at the wrist and one at the rear of the comb, allow me to control the front-to-back downward angle of the comb. I can move the comb like a swing arm, up and down in a parallel fashion, or keep the drop at the heel constant and push the nose down.

The distance from the center of the front trigger to the center of the butt is called “length of pull,” or LOP for short. The butt plate is mounted on two telescoping rods that move in

and out of the stock, thus increasing or decreasing the LOP. The rods are mounted at the top and bottom of the butt plate and move independently, so I can also affect the angle of the butt in relation to the line of sight. This angle is referred to as “pitch.” The pitch is measured via a protector mounted on the stock measuring tool.

The wrist is a ball and socket joint. So, I can not only move the stock horizontally and vertically, but I can twist it radially. I can keep the drop and cast at the heel in the same spot and twist the bottom of the butt out. The bottom of the butt is called the “toe.” This outward movement of the toe is called “toe-out.” Toe-out is referenced to the cast at heel. So, if you have $\frac{1}{4}$ inch toe-out, that means the toe has been twisted $\frac{1}{4}$ inch farther out than the heel.

Now, we have the nine dimensions of gun fit:

- Cast at the nose, face, and heel
- Drop at the nose, face, and heel
- Length of pull (LOP)
- Pitch
- Toe-out.

The grip design and trigger configuration are also always taken into consideration.

Shotgun Fittings

So, how does one go about getting a fitted shotgun? The first step is to get a gun fitting from a competent Gun Fitter. My gun fittings consist of four segments and take roughly three hours.

When I begin a gun fitting with a new client, first, I explain the theory of gun fit, why it's essential, the data points I obtain, and how they are referenced. Much of this has been





relayed in this article. I like my clients to understand how, why, and what we are trying to accomplish together. This enables the client to give me good feedback and have a positive experience during the fitting. Once this is done and questions answered, we walk down to my gun-fitting range.

My range comprises a four foot by eight foot heavy steel plate mounted on a sturdy wood frame. The vertical center of the plate is seven feet off the ground. Exactly 16 yards from the plate is the covered deck of my shooting shed. Its barn-style doors face the patterning plate. The doors swing open and stop on the corner posts, supporting the roof section that covers the deck. This setup provides good protection from wind, rain, and sun.

Next, I give the client brief instructions on how to properly handle the try-gun. I demonstrate the three shooting techniques necessary to get good, clean data from the fitting.

These techniques are not intended to alter the style or nuance of the client's shooting; instead, I want how

the client shoots at the plate to be as similar as possible to how they shoot the field. These techniques are:

1. Proper stance to the target.
2. Having a weight-forward posture.
3. Comfortable and natural head placement on the stock.

I want the fitting data to result from a natural, comfortable, and most importantly, consistent gun mount. When employed together, these three techniques are the bedrock of consistency. Every conceivable shooting style will evolve from these three simple, yet vital, techniques.

It doesn't matter if you're shooting American trap, Olympic skeet, grouse in Maine, or sharptails in Montana; these foundational techniques apply. Applying these techniques is so simple and easy, they rarely change the dynamics of a client's style.

Third, the fitting transitions into the "dry fit" segment.

The client starts a series of practice gun mounts. The client is gets used to handling the try-gun during these practice mounts. At the same time, I am beginning to assess the needed initial dimensional changes. An eye dominance check is worked in at

this point as well. The goal is to get dimensions as close as I can by eye. That way, when we start shooting live ammunition, we can spend more time fine-tuning the point of aim. Once the dry-fit is as close as I can get it, we are ready for the final segment.

The fourth segment during my gun fittings is the live fire portion. The plate is painted white. A stencil is used to spray paint a six-inch orange dot on the plate. The client then fires three to five shots at the dot. I am standing just to the side of the client as they shoot, assessing how the stock dimensions affect their gun mount as they shoot. I am also observing the placement of the patterns on the plate. We always shoot three to five times at the same target.

No shooter's gun mount is ever entirely consistent from shot to shot. So, I use the combined average placement of the shots to assess their point of aim. I will then make dimensional changes to the try-gun to align their head and eye better and help make the gun mount comfortable and natural. Then, the plate is repainted, and the process is repeated until the stock dimensions are adjusted so that the client's point of aim places the patterns directly on target.

The number of cycles this takes varies significantly; it mostly depends on how close I get during the dry fit segment. It also depends on the shooting proficiency and mounting consistency of the client. Sometimes, it takes as few as three cycles, other times, as many as fifteen.

Once the try-gun is altered to the client's optimal dimensions, the nine gun fitting dimensions are recorded onto a gun-fit spreadsheet. The client can now use this data to order their new custom-made stock or alter their existing guns for a better fit.

The benefits of a custom stock require some time and money, but I've never had a client go through the gun fitting process and believe it wasn't worth every bit of the investment. 🦅

— https://projectupland.com/shotguns-and-shooting/gunfitting-process-and-dimensions/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=campaign&_kx=fUSZQjgzqv vSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTvldmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu.XSVPXG



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How to hunt

Redwing Partridge

From the official WINGSHOOTING HANDBOOK
Available from the SA Wingshooters office

By the late Frank Poretti (17.05.1941 – 1.9.2021)

Redwing (Rooivlerkpatrys) are found mostly at 1 800 – 2 300m above sea level, and always restricted to virgin veld....

Photographs by Philipp Schulz & André van der Westhuizen



Redwing habitat



It follows that redwing shooting will invariably take place in mountainous areas, requiring the hunter to be more than moderately fit and properly kitted-out in order to cater for wet, windy, even snowy and often warm conditions.

Your choice of shooting companions is important. They must be equally well equipped, fit and compatible. Try never to have more than four guns on a shoot, otherwise it

can easily become a circus. Redwing hunting is 'wingshooting' in the finest and truest sense of the word and amongst the best in the world, but it may take a few excursions before you get anywhere near mastering it.

Your choice of shotgun and ammo is equally important and nowhere is the expression of 'being at sixes and sevens' more applicable than on a redwing shoot. As your shooting is going to take place over dogs, the shot range is going to be quite close and snappy,

so avoid heavily choked barrels. Use at least no. 7s in 32 gram loads. Anything lighter will only prick and hurt birds, even in a light breeze. As the wind blows quite hard most of the time at these altitudes, the recommendation is 32 gram of no. 6 shot.

Redwing shooting, more than any other wingshooting (with the possible exception of greywing), require the use of very fit, well disciplined, wide ranging pointer dogs, lots of them, which should never be run

more than three at a time and never for more than half an hour without either swapping or resting them. Don't over-work the dogs and ensure that clean water is always available. Rest them and yourself as often as need be.

At the midday break feed each dog a goodly slice of bread smothered in suet or butter, also glucose water or electrolytes. A recent experiment involved using a global positioning system device strapped to a pointer's collar, and a fit, wide ranging dog which ran in the order of 35 to 40 km/h for an extended period. This easily translates into a dog covering anything from 40 to 50 hectare in an hour. This is some achievement, and if you are working a brace of dogs at a time or more, for 5 to 6 hours of the shooting day — it can truly be said that they are saving the hunters' legs. Gundogs are essential. If your survival is dependant on shooting redwing without gundogs, you will die... unhappy, exhausted and hungry...

Dogs must hold their points for as long as it takes for you to get to them. Under no circumstances must you run to them, which is a no-no with a loaded gun! If the dogs cannot hold a point solidly, stay home or go fishing.

Every shoot should have a shoot-master who is familiar with the preferred terrain of the quarry and who can coordinate the gun's positions, determine the pace, the shape of the front, the general direction of the beat, matters of safety, dogs' manners, pairings and well-being, the hunt ethics and protocols and all else that will make the shoot a successful one — without having to regiment or dictate proceedings, but able to run the shoot in a non-confrontational and friendly manner.

Park the shooting brake (English shooting word for car) where it will not be tampered with, or damaged by veld fire. Everyone must know where the keys or spare keys are kept, so that in an emergency anyone can gain access to the vehicle. The best plan is to leave the keys concealed in or around the vehicle. This can save lives in an emergency!

Evaluate the terrain, note the wind direction, cast the dogs into the wind and keep them hunting into the



wind, if possible. On the Highveld, redwing occur in pairs or small coveys, seldom more than six birds. They favour the fringes of wetlands in areas that skirt rocky, grassy slopes above valleys; often also somewhat bleak grassland cover. They prefer hilly situations away from trees and shrubbery. Coveys which are flushed a number of times may link up with the adjoining covey.

They have even been observed linking up with greywing coveys where they occur together. They may continue linking up in ever-increasing numbers; the combined coveys eventually numbering thirty birds and more. There is not another gamebird that sits as tight for the dogs as our redwing.

After the first heart-stopping and adrenaline-inducing burst from cover, it is difficult to get it to flush again from the marked relocation. They are known to dig into the rank grass cover to avoid detection. They can even be hand-captured with the assistance of a good dog.

Redwing are easy prey to the 'double' or 'left-and-right'. You must

avoid this temptation as invariably one or both are lost if not well-shot, due to their habit of digging-in and their remarkably efficient cryptic coloration. At all times, every effort must be made to locate and bag the downed birds. It is a shame to waste such wonderful gamebirds. Marking downed birds and assisting in the search for them should be the responsibility of everybody at the scene.

The hunters must also be disciplined and ensure that not more than a third of any covey is taken off in a season. This may require that a member of the group keeps tally of downed birds and calls out loudly for the shooting to stop when the limit is reached, even if the dogs are still on point on other birds. This will make the pick-up of the downed birds easier and avoid waste. Killed birds should be gutted immediately or as soon as is practical and stored out of the sun in a well aerated place.

Shooting redwing over dogs is a special experience. Each time you go hunting them, pay homage to St Hubert, the patron saint of hunting, for your good fortune.

Members in the Field

Ross Cowlin & Philipp Schulz at the Gouda shoot



Ellie with her first Guinea for the season



Adriaan Venter at Gkhui Gkhui lodge



Heilbron pigeons... from left: William Hill, Dean le Roux, Brad Smith and Douglas Smith.



Derek Garton & Rian Strydom at the Kendal shoot





Tyron Theessen packing his daughter along in the Eastern Cape. Tops!



Christoph Grey and companions



Johann van de Giessen & Blikkies Blignaut

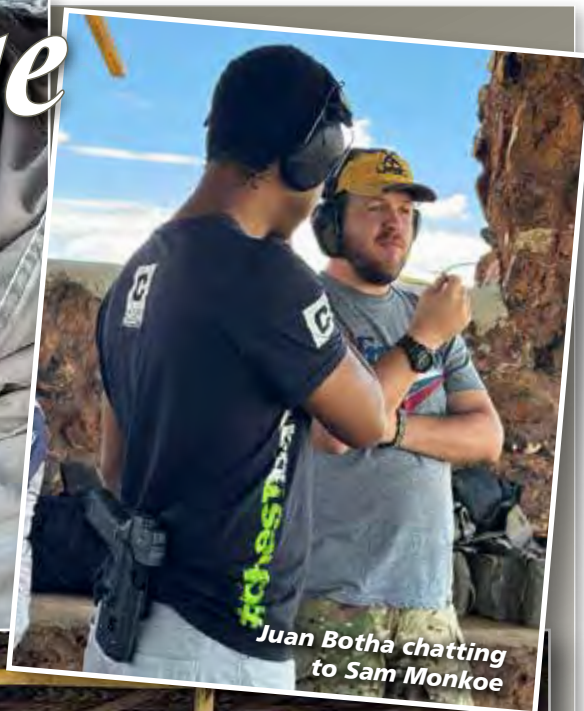
Marius Gericke at Winddam venue, Parys.



LRSC Members on the Range



Christa Bowles... one of the top lady competitors



Juan Botha chatting to Sam Monkoe



At the start line... pre-match group photo



Evangelina Hamilton, Sydney and Leo van Vuuren



Jordan and Andrew Toy



Roux Wildenboer taking aim. Johan Maree and Johann de Bruin in the background

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Brittany:

Breed Characteristics, Abilities and History

How a little French spaniel developed into an internationally popular versatile hunting dog.

by Craig Koshyk
projectupland.com



Brittanies are the fulfillment of a French dream to build a better bird dog. I am sure that if those old bracconniers from La Bretagne could see the breed today, they would be thrilled to know that Brittannies have conquered the world.

I've seen Brittannies in European trials. I've shot roosters and ruffed grouse over Sporty, Bandit, and

Buster, three tremendous Brittannies owned by a good friend. I've spoken at length with Brittany owners and breeders and some of the best trainers in the world. The more I learn about the breed, the more I admire it.

If you really want to understand why hunters fell in love so quickly with the little dogs from Brittany, watch a couple work a cattail slough in North Dakota and pin rooster

after rooster for their proud owner. Or attend a spring field trial north of Paris and watch the cream of the Épagneul Breton crop fly across the ground seeking wild partridges. Or ask any Brittany owner how their dogs are around the house and hear nothing but praise for the breed's loving temperament.

"The Brittany breed is the complete package: upland hunter, water-

fowler, retriever, tracker, and loving family member,” said Nell McKim, a Brittany owner and breeder and NAVHDA member. “Their medium size makes them easy to live and travel with.”

Among the smallest of the pointing breeds, the Brittany has “maximum qualities in a minimal size.” It has a unique, square “cob” body shape, a slightly rounded head, and triangular, high-set ears. Some even have a naturally short bobtail.

The ideal Brittany coat lies flat on the body and is feathered on the ears and legs. The French standard permits five colors, with or without a roan pattern: white and orange, white and black, white and liver, tricolor (liver, white orange), and tricolor (black, white, orange). The American Kennel Club standard does not allow black.

The Brittany is also one of several breeds that has the gene for a bobtail. Historically, the bobtail was a defining breed feature and even part of the name of its breed club, the Club de l'Épagneul Breton á Courte Queue (Club for the Short-tailed Brittany). But breeders had a hard time maintaining the trait and some resorted to secretly cropping any long tails that occurred in their litters, claiming they were naturally short. In 1933, club members voted to remove the Courte Queue from its name and to remove the word “natural” from the description of the short tail. Today, naturally short or absent tails still occur in the breed, but less frequently than in the past.

Brittany Training and Hunting Ability

According to Rick Smith, a professional dog trainer, training a Brittany is straightforward.

“Brittanies are on the soft side, and some of them can really sulk if you get on them too much,” Smith said. “But they have a lot of desire and can be as tough as nails when it comes to getting the job done.”



Brittany Characteristics and Form

Characteristics	Details
Name	Internationally: Épagneul Breton (EB)In the US: Brittany Spaniel (until 1982), Brittany (after 1982)In Canada: Brittany Spaniel
Size	Small to medium
Tail	Some dogs carry genes for a naturally short bobtail. Long tails are cropped.
Coat	Medium long
Coat Color	Orange and white, liver and white, black and white, tricolor
Health Issues	Seizure disorders, patellar luxation
Personality	Good-natured, eager to please
Population	Large. More than 20,000 Brittany pups are whelped each year worldwide, mainly in France, Italy, and the US.
Pace	Medium to fast gallop
Range	Medium to wide
Good Choice For	Grouse, woodcock, pheasant, snipe, partridge, hare, rabbit

Although they can be sensitive dogs, those working with Brittanies should know it's okay to be firm at times. However, it's best to rely on their natural talents and their desire to hunt during dog training sessions.

Field Search

Due to their compact build, most Brittanies have a unique rolling gait. They generally cover the ground at a fast gallop at a medium range. Some lines work closer in and some, especially those developed for field trials in the US, can work much farther out. "The Brittany is a Continental breed so we don't expect them to run as fast or far as the British breeds," said Pierre Willems. "But they are faster and wider running than the other breeds of *épagneuls* which usually work within gun range."

Pointing

Typically, Brittanies are very strong pointers. Some develop early on while others take a while longer. But both Willems and Smith told me they are not really known as natural backers.

"Most trials here are run solo and when we do run in braces, it is okay to command the dog to back," said Willems. "We don't really select for dogs with strong natural backing instincts. Of course, some are natural backers, but that certainly is not the majority."

"Backing is really a question of honoring another dog and it depends on the pecking order in the pack," said Smith. "We do see some natural, spontaneous backing in Brittanies, but not a lot. Anyway, it's also very easy to teach."

Tracking

While a number of Brittanies have proven their worth as good tracking dogs, the breed was never really designed for anything beyond tracking a wounded bird or hare.

"Brittanies are bird dogs and most people don't want them for tracking," said Smith, "but I guarantee that they will track anything you want if you start them out right and teach them to do it."

Photograph from projectupland.com



Photograph from projectupland.com

Retrieving And Water Work

Most Brittanies take to water fairly easily, but some need a certain amount of encouragement. Although the breed was not developed to be a water dog, that doesn't mean it can't be taught to be a good water worker. In France, in order to become a champion in shoot-to-retrieve trials, Brittanies must pass their deep water retrieving test. However, most Brittanies do not have a thick enough coat to sit in a cold, wet blind for hours on end.

Brittany History and Development

The history of the Brittany can be divided into two parts: before 1907 and after 1907. Tracing the breed's progress since 1907 is relatively easy. Getting a clear picture of its development before that time is next to impossible.

Brittany is a beautiful region of France. The people who live there are French citizens; they speak, read, and write French and they enjoy a thoroughly modern lifestyle just like the rest of the country.

But in order to understand the development of its native breed of pointing dog, it is important to consider just how isolated the region

was, and in some ways still is, from the rest of the nation.

Geographically, La Bretagne ("Brittany" in English) is a peninsula in the far west corner of the French hexagon. Culturally, its people have always felt somewhat separate from the rest of the country. Their traditional language, Breton, is not a French dialect but a Celtic language related to Welsh and Cornish. In fact, until the turn of the 20th century, much of Brittany's population did not even speak, read, or write French. Very few French texts make any mention of what kind of dogs there were in Brittany before 1900.

Fortunately, many of the British sportsmen who traveled to the region in the 1800s wrote articles and published books about their adventures. Reading through them today, a fascinating picture emerges of what the dogs in Brittany were like in the mid-1800s. One of the most detailed accounts is from a book titled *The Wanderer in Western France*, written in 1863 by George T. Lowth. In it, Lowth describes short- and long-haired hunting dogs that were "found everywhere" in Brittany.

He was likely describing *choupil-les* (French flushing spaniels), *Épagneuls de Fougères*, and other



Photograph from projectupland.com

chien du pays (country dogs), including Brittanies.

More than any other French dog, the Brittany was influenced by the land and culture of its native region. It was generally smaller than the others, came in a variety of colors, and was renowned for its robust build. Gaston Pouchain wrote, "This is true for the sheep, the goat, and the horse (of Brittany)... All those men and animals appeared stocky, close coupled, solid, very hardy and with an incomparable, natural strength."

In 1907, a breed club was formed in Loudeac, France. Led by a lawyer named Arthur Enaud, its members drafted a breed standard and submitted it for approval to the SCC.

Also around this time, Brittanies began to appear in shows and trials. In 1905, a male named "Boy" was entered into the L.O.F. (the French stud book). He was the first to be registered as an Épagneul Breton.

From 1907 onward, detailed information about the breed's development became commonly available.

By the 1960s, the Brittany was becoming the most popular gundog breed in France. It was also developing strong followings elsewhere in Europe, as well as in North America, where it soon became one of the top

Continental pointing breeds on the field trial circuit.

Today, the Brittany is one of the most popular pointing breeds on the planet. Descendants of the little dogs from La Bretagne can be found serving hunters from the plains of Patagonia to the Alaskan tundra. They can be seen in the wheat fields north of Paris to the bocage country of their native Brittany. And if your truck breaks down on the dusty prairies of southern Saskatchewan, don't be surprised to see a Brittany sitting next to the friendly farmer that offers you a lift into town.

The Split Between American and French Brittanies

For any breed with a strong following on both sides of the Atlantic, there is a risk of different types emerging as breeders follow different paths. In the Brittany, differences in type and hunting styles were first noticed just after the Second World War, and became more obvious after 1956 when the breed standard in France was changed to allow a black coat.

Through the 1960s and 70s, the Brittany also developed a strong following on the North American field trial circuit, even among horseback field trial enthusiasts, which led to the

development of big running "all age" Brittanies.

These and other factors caused what many feel is a split between American Brittanies and "French Brittanies." Everyone recognizes that the two types have a shared ancestry and are the same breed genetically, but some believe that after nearly 80 years of moving in slightly different directions, the two types are irrevocably split. In fact, in 2002 the US-based United Kennel Club formally recognized the American Brittany and the French Brittany (or Épagneul Breton) as separate breeds. Members of the Club de l'Épagneul Breton of the United States (CEB-US) now register their dogs as Épagneul Bretons and follow the French (FCI) standard for the breed. The club also sanctions tests and field trials based on French regulations.

The American Brittany vs. Épagneul Breton question is the subject of sometimes heated debate within the various clubs, on internet forums, and in email lists. Personally, I have no dog in the fight. I have seen tremendous Brittanies on both sides of the Atlantic and have a great deal of admiration for the supporters of both types.

But anyone looking to purchase a Brittany should investigate the various organizations and breeding approaches to find one that best suits their individual needs and goals.

Brittany Clubs

The parent club for the breed in France is the Club de l'Épagneul Breton. There are also breed clubs in over a dozen other countries. Among the largest are the Club Italiano Epagneul Breton in Italy and the Brittany Club of America. For French enthusiasts in America, there is the Club de l'Épagneul Breton of the United States. For Canadians, there's The Brittany Spaniel Club of Canada.



— https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/brittany-dog-breed-profile/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=campaign&_kx=fUSZQjgzqv vSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTvldmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu.XSVPXG

Ask The Instructor:

Lifting Your Head From the Stock

by Don Currie

Question: What is the secret to keeping one's head on the stock? When I raise my head, I miss. I can't seem to stop it, and it's very frustrating.

Answer: Shooters who have trouble with head lifting usually premount or mount to the shoulder first instead of mounting to the cheek first. The first and best thing you can do to prevent head lifting is to mount to the cheek first, instead of the shoulder. If a shooter properly mounts to the cheek first and maintains the weight of the gun in the hands throughout execution of the target pair, it is virtually impossible to lift the head. If you premount your gun to the shoulder or shift the weight of the gun to the shoulder after you mount, you will have a greater tendency to lift your head from the stock during shot execution.

There are typically three reasons you would tend to subconsciously lift your head from the stock after shifting the weight of the gun into the shoulder:

1. Gun fit. If the drop at comb is too excessive (the height of the comb is too low), the lifting of the head is a subconscious effort to see the target as it disappears behind the barrel and receiver.

2. Gun mount. Assuming that your shotgun fits you properly, you might be "digging in" to the stock with your head as you mount. Once again, this can cause the target to be occluded (blocked) by the shotgun, and you will tend to lift your head subconsciously in an effort to see the target.

3. Ejecting from the gun prematurely.



Occasionally, I will work with a shooter who is dismounting the shotgun very quickly after executing the shot, perhaps even before the shot is complete. This is usually caused by a failure to maintain acute visual focus on the target as it breaks. So, make sure your gun fits, keep the head still and oriented on the target (don't dig in)

and follow through with your eyes (watch impact).



— Don Currie is NSCA's Chief Instructor, an Orvis Wingshooting School instructor, and Master Class competitor. You can also see more tips from Currie at www.doncurrie.com.



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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, PCC, 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!





We offer all types of shooting and hunting... as well as coaching!



PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

MPUMALANGA – Gazetted

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl, Spurfowl, Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Orange River Partridge, Shelley's.
1 June-31 Aug	Grey Wing, Redwing

FREE STATE – Gazetted – Same as 2024

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove.
15 May-15 Sept	Greywing & O/River partridge, all Spurfowl, common quail, guineaowl, all Francolin (except Redwing), yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing, Red KnbKoot
1 Jan - 30 Apr	Shelduck (1)
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – (NOT YET GAZETTED)

1 May-30 April	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Egyptian geese (5); Red-bill teal (5); Yellow-bill duck (5). <i>Note: Spurwing remain closed!</i>
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5). Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Same as 2024 for now (Draft in process)

All year	Rock pigeons (No limit), Red eyed dove (20), Cape turtle dove (20), laughing dove (20) (licence required).
1 May-30 Sep	Francolin: Red-billed (3), Crested (5); Partridge: Coqui (5), Guineafowl (10).
1 May-30 Aug	Partridge: Shelleys (5), Redwing (5); Quail: Harlequin (5), Common (10); Rameron Pigeon (5).
1 Apr-31 Jul	Partridge: Orange River (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (5).
1 Nov-31 Apr	Sandgrouse: Burchells (5), Double-banded (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Duck: White-faced (4), Yellow-bill (4), Cape Teal (4), Red-bill (4), Cape Shoveler (4), Southern Pochard (3), Knob-bill (4), Spurwing (4).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (3).
1 Jan-31 Jul	Egyptian Goose (4).
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (2).
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

LIMPOPO – Gazetted

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guineaowl (10), Crested Francolin, (6), Shelley's (2); Natal francolin (6).
1 May - 31 Jul	Egyptian (6) & spurwing (4), white-faced whistling duck (6), Yellow-bill duck (4), red-billed teal (4).
1 Jun- 30 Sep	Swainson's francolin (8).
Note:	Total combined daily bag of (10 land & 10 water birds)

WESTERN CAPE <https://www.capenature.co.za> – Gazetted

1 Jan-31 Dec	Spurwing (3) & Egyptian goose (10), rock pigeons and Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove, Speckled Pigeon (40 in total), guineaowl (10), Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 Jan-30 April	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge (3); Red-necked Francolins (3); Cape Franc. (6). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Gazetted Same as 2024

All year	Egyptian Goose (10); Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves (10 each) and Rock Pigeons (50).
1 April-31 Dec	Helmeted Guinea-fowl (10);
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Spurwing (5).
1 May- 30 Jun	Orange River Partridge (5), Red-billed Francolin (5), Cape Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (5), Swainsons Francolin (5), Grey-wing Partridge (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10). Namaqua Sandgrouse (10).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Jan -31 Mar	Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Jan-30 Apr	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.
Note:	

EASTERN CAPE – Gazetted – Same as 2024

1 Jan-31 Dec	Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves and Rock Pigeons. (need licence).
1 Jun-31 Jul	Rameron Pigeon (Olive Pigeon) (5).
1 Jan-31 Mrt	Shelduck (4).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (15).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31Aug	Red-billed Teal (3), Yellow-billed Duck (3), White-faced duck (2), Southern Pochard (2), Cape Teal (2), Cape Shoveler (2).
1 May-30 Sept	Guineaowl (5).
1 Oct-30 Nov	Quail (10). (Note: Different in former Ciskei)
1 May-31 Jul	Red-Wing Partidge (2).
1 May-31 Jul	Grey-wing (4), but in Queenstown (2), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL – Same as 2024

31 May-31 Aug	Ordinary Game Licence Required for all. Common Quail, White-faced Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Spurwing, Helmeted Guineafowl, Rameron Pigeon. Francolin: Red-necked, Natal, Swainsons. Partridge: Grey-wing, Red-wing, Coqui, Crested & Shelleys.
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

Other game birds can be shot under a SPECIAL PERMIT during the open season, please contact KZN Hunting & Extension Department on 033 845 1652.

PLEASE NOTE that all members must still consult the respective provincial ordinances, as we do not list species that are not traditionally gamebirds, and we do not take responsibility for information correctness on this page. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year. E&OE.

Please Note: You have to return your licence to the respective provinces, after each season, stating on the licence all the relevant details as asked. This applies to provinces who require this, such as NW Prov, and is stated as such on your licence.



DEDICATED ACTIVITIES (Act 60/2000) - ANNUAL MEMBER'S REPORT
e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za

Year of Report:	PROVINCE																
Member's Surname:																	
First Name:	DISTRICT																
Initials:																	
ID Number:	FARM / CLUB																
Signature or e-mail																	
		DATE															
RIFLE SHOOTING			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
HANDGUN SHOOTING			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
SHOTGUN SHOOTING			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
GAMEBIRD HUNTING			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PLAINS GAME HUNTING			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
OTHER HUNTING or RELATED activities also count towards activities.																	
Activity Description 1:																	
Activity Description 2:																	
Activity Description 3:																	

Please note that this report completed by you is an affidavit under oath

One Rifle

Choosing a rifle suitable for both hunting in various habitats and for successful long range target shooting, becomes technical. The solution involves various factors...

by André van der Westhuizen



The majority of rifles built for hunting have thin barrels, are light weight with light and slim stocks with telescopic sights designed for hunting.

An example of such a rifle is your old inherited or first rifle your father gave you when you were 10 years old. Comes standard with the old, yet beautiful, diamond checkering, ebony forend tip with white spac-

ers, topped off by the good old 4 x 40 wide angle, or if you were lucky a boastful 3-9x44, with extra high scope rings causing your cheek weld to be nothing more than a jaw touch on the stock... you know exactly what I mean.

These rifles used to be good quality and fairly accurate, though, as we used to only have limited brands available to us in South Africa back in the day.

Nowadays, this same basic rifle style comes with a rubber stock, featuring more flex than what your wife's Yoga instructor can manage.

Top this beauty off with an old cheapo one inch tubed duplex reticle scope inside some airsoft scope rings and you have a winner for the once-a-year 200m maximum range bushveld hunting trip. Nothing wrong with a basic setup – I have one too. However, such a rifle has limited functionality and purpose.

Flip the coin and you have a top of the line, customised to include even your personal colour scheme chassis, long range precision competition rifle.

This rifle features the very best of everything, including a super lightweight trigger pull, often set to break crisply when your buddy closes his bakkie door. With an all-up weight of around 10kg this is sure to be a good setup for long range shooting competitions.

While we are on match guns, it is always interesting to see that many shooters will skimp on a quality bipod. If you do go all out for a top LR rifle, do spend the money on a proper bipod as well.

So, we have the traditional hunting rifle and the top match rifle. Now how do we combine the two to create a rifle suitable for all hunting scenarios and for fairly competitive

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long range rifle shooting and longer range hunting?

You don't want to be hauling your 10kg match rifle in the mountains of Rhodes at an elevation of 10,000 feet above sea level when hunting Mountain Reedbuck. Similarly, you also don't want your lightweight bushveld hunting rifle with that duplex scope on, as you cannot risk taking that 450m shot on that magnificent Mountain Reedbuck on the other slope – yes, that one you stalked for the last 3 hours on your last day of the hunt.

You want a rifle that is fairly light in weight, not too bulky, features an

Idaho with “industry standard” scope rings. Fast forward to today and the company, based in Idaho, has evolved and expanded to one of the best rifle factory brands out there. Especially, when considering price compared to other custom and many factory rifles.

Every rifle they build is a complete in-house build where Seekins make all the parts themselves – except the triggers. They use various Trigger Tech models as their preferred choice.

Now, you will rightly say, there are many other factory rifles that offer the same. Indeed there are many, but almost all of those rifle brands you have to upgrade or customise to

The bolts are field strippable too and have a 60° throw.

All the PH3/M3 model rifles are also completely interchangeable with all of the Seekins stocks/chassis, with no bedding required at all, as all their stocks are built around a mini internal chassis.

You can also easily swop out bolt faces and barrels to other calibres for a specific need or if you are going to the mountains in Eastern Cape or the Karoo “vlaktes” for a hunt, or a rifle match for that matter.

Seekins rifles come with an unlimited lifetime guarantee, which is fully transferable, no warranty card



excellent trigger, superb bolt design, five to ten shot magazine, yet still low profile enough to not cause hindrances when using a natural or factory made rest... and can guarantee half MOA groupings.

There are a number of rifles in this ‘class’ out there, but very few are offered without making any changes or that don't need customisation of some sort. For a rifle that comes standard without you needing to do anything to enhance it, you can't beat these guys for the moment. Meet Seekins Precision!

Seekins Precision started in 2004 as a company making precision scope rings, after the owner, Glen Seekins, had a bad experience on a hunt in

get them to the same level as these Seekins rifles. Examples of upgrades one would need to do include a new trigger, often having to change the bottom metal/floorplate to fit a box AICS-style magazine, and so on.

Recently, Seekins have completely changed their bolt design from a round action type, such as in the PH2 models, to a flat bottom action as seen in the new PH3/M3 models. Their new bolt is also designed for high pressure cartridges.

Barrels are interchangeable in the field with minimal effort or tools. Hand tighten the barrel until it clicks, slip the collar over the barrel and tighten to about 15 to 20 inch/pounds torque and you're ready to go.

or receipts required. Their rifles are guaranteed to shoot half MOA at 100 yards! There are just too many features to mention here that make these rifles a fantastic option! Go and have look at www.seekinsprecision.com to view all the detail and offerings. Also, take thirty minutes of your time to view this review on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjZa6bksUkA&t=430s>

Consider what we pay for rifles here in South Africa and you will see that these rifles cost the same and even less than comparable rifles. There is no upgrading required with these rifles to get the best performance. Contact Euro Optic Africa for more information: www.euroopticafrica.co.za

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Guinea fowl	1 May - 30 Sept
Francolin	15 June - 30 Sept

Make a booking as a client, go home as a friend.

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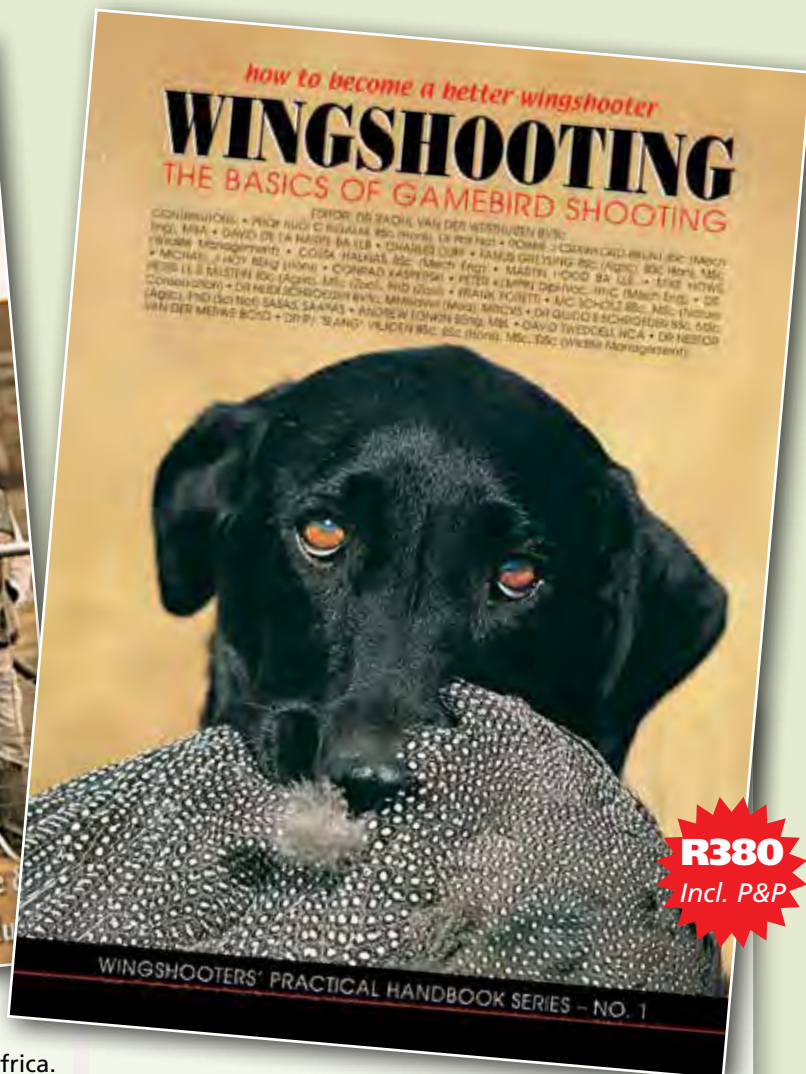
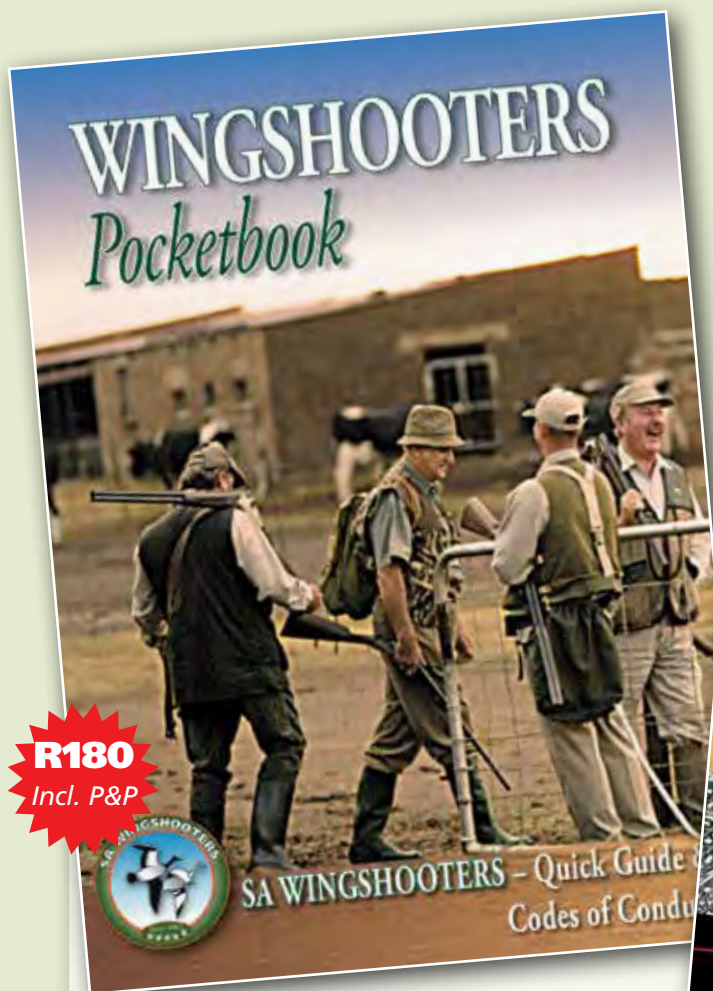
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Contact Dr Slang Viljoen:
084 202 0184, or email:
slangvil@iafrica.com



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:

- The Wingshooters Codes of Conduct, including the codes for bird dogs, shoot organisers and wildfowlers,
- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
- The combined shooting and hunting log for use by dedicated hunters to comply with the regulations of the Firearms Control Act, incorporating the landowners' hunting permission form... And much more...

'Every Wingshooter should have one'

'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 Kloock

MD: MSD

'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

'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

HINTS AND TIPS FROM 20 EXPERTS ON THE BASICS OF WINGSHOOTING

This is not just another book on Wingshooting in Southern Africa. It is the definitive practical handbook by 20 top experts, packed with facts. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced shooter, in these pages you are sure to find lots of new tips and tricks from the old hands. The subjects are covered in short and concise fashion and include:

- 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.

To order your books today, call the SA Wingshooters Association office: 071 132 5450.

Dedicated REPORTS

Go to:

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

and register to create your own profile for your dedicated reports & firearm licence renewal reminders



YOUR ANNUAL DEDICATED ACTIVITY

REPORT (Hunt & Sport) – What to do:

How you can send us your report:

Via e-mail, fax or on-line on your personal member profile.

Go to:

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

and register to create your own profile; or

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:

<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.



Join South Africa's No.1 accredited Hunting & Sport shooting association



All the hunting & sport shooting, at one association

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.

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.

* Please enquire about our family memberships.



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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 2025

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 1,462.-	R 2,750.-
*Subscription – over 70's:	☐ R 903.-	☐ R 1,700.-
*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 280.-	☐ R 520.-

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 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 R280.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships & Student rates available – Contact us

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