



# WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 27 No. 2 – June/July 2021



## New Firearms Control Act

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Amendments  
we have to  
oppose

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Member Gerhard Laubscher at the official Singita pigeon shoot venue just outside Pretoria. Photograph by André van der Westhuizen. The shot column and muzzle blast is actual and not photoshopped.

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## A WORD IN YOUR EAR



## Resisting disarmament...

As you might be aware, or rather should be aware, the right to legally own legally in South Africa is under threat again!

This time, the Firearm Control Amendment Bill of 2021 threatens to remove and amend many section of the current Act, such as:

Removing Section 13 and Section 14 – Self-defence as a reason to own a firearm; Removing Section 17 – private collecting of firearms. Limiting the maximum number of firearms a dedicated hunter and/or dedicated sport person may own to a maximum of six (6) in total. Further limiting the maximum number of rounds/ammunition one may possess to 100 rounds; Introducing a new 'official travel permit' that one would need in order to be able to transport one's firearm/s anywhere!

Stricter control and amendments to Section 20, which affects the security industry in such a manner that it will have negative effects on all South Africans, whether you own a firearm or not. Introducing a minimum age of 16 years old before you may use a firearm for any legal purpose, failing which is a crime resulting a jail term or fine or both – yes, you will not be able to teach your kids how to shoot or gun safety, they will not be able to participate in any sport shooting, not at school, not anywhere, nor in the hunting field;

Dedicated Hunters & Sport persons will have to get a separate Competency, and must participate in association activities in order to maintain their statuses. The Registrar may declare any firearm type as a "prohibited" firearm at any time, which is not democratic at all. It gives the Registrar an excessive, unrestricted level of power and would be very difficult to challenge such a ruling in court, et cetera.

There are many more changes, limitation, restrictions and bans in this proposed amendment Bill that we have to fight against. All the associations, the dealers, the collectors, the civil rights and pro-firearms bodies are working together to counter this proposed bill by way of the formal commenting process.

These changes can only have negative effects to the detriment of all in our country. No scientific evidence or proof is presented to substantiate stricter gun control. Read part of our Executive Summary of our comments on pages 4 and 6.

We ask that every single member also make individual comments to the Civilian Secretariat of Police by no later than 4 July 2021. We, the SA Wingshooters Association, will submit our comments by 3 July 2021 on behalf of all our members as well.

*Waidmannsheil*

*André –*



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### NEW FIREARM AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENT

#### – The proposed Firearms Control Act amendment Bill 2021

We (SA Wingshooters) believe firearm ownership in this country is seen as a “privilege” because it is not written into the Constitution. However, once a firearm license has been granted for a specific firearm the “privilege” becomes a Vested Right that is

impact assessment system, to present an understanding of the full costs of the proposed regulation and especially the impact on society and on the economy.

This SEIAS assessment that is being used to motivate or support the amendment, according to itself, only has a 6 month validity period.

However, this SEIAS assessment that was authored in July 2016. In other words, 5 years ago! This same report notes a “lack of effective implementation of the FCA and other laws”. Whose fault is that?

Furthermore, this report contains numerous blatant

amendment targets legal firearms ownership as the sole or major cause of crime, which is not the case.

According to the Small Arms Survey, an international watchdog, monitoring firearms in 230 countries, there are around 5,3 million firearms in South Africa, of which 2,35 million are illegal and unlicensed.

Licensed firearms are not the problem. In government’s own report, no statistical or scientific evidence is presented in the SEIAS report to attribute the high level of violent crimes to legally owned firearms.

Regarding self-defence firearms – the question that begs answering is what is the real reason for the proposed amendments? Could it be an attempt to shift the focus and the blame from the Police force who are clearly unable to perform their core duty as protectors of the South African public?

Our country has around 58 murders per day with only 1 police station per 50,000 citizens. Who is going to protect our society if you take away an individual’s right to defend themselves?

Incidentally, the Police budget was decreased by R2.5 billion for the 2023/24 budget, but VIP protection for senior government officials was increased by R2 billion for the same period!

In the USA there are 120 firearms per 100 citizens, in South Africa we have around 9,6 firearms per 100 citizens. This amendment seeks to disarm and neutralise law-abiding citizens. Furthermore, it will have a severe effect on sport shooting and hunting, private firearm collection, eco-tourism, employment, etc.

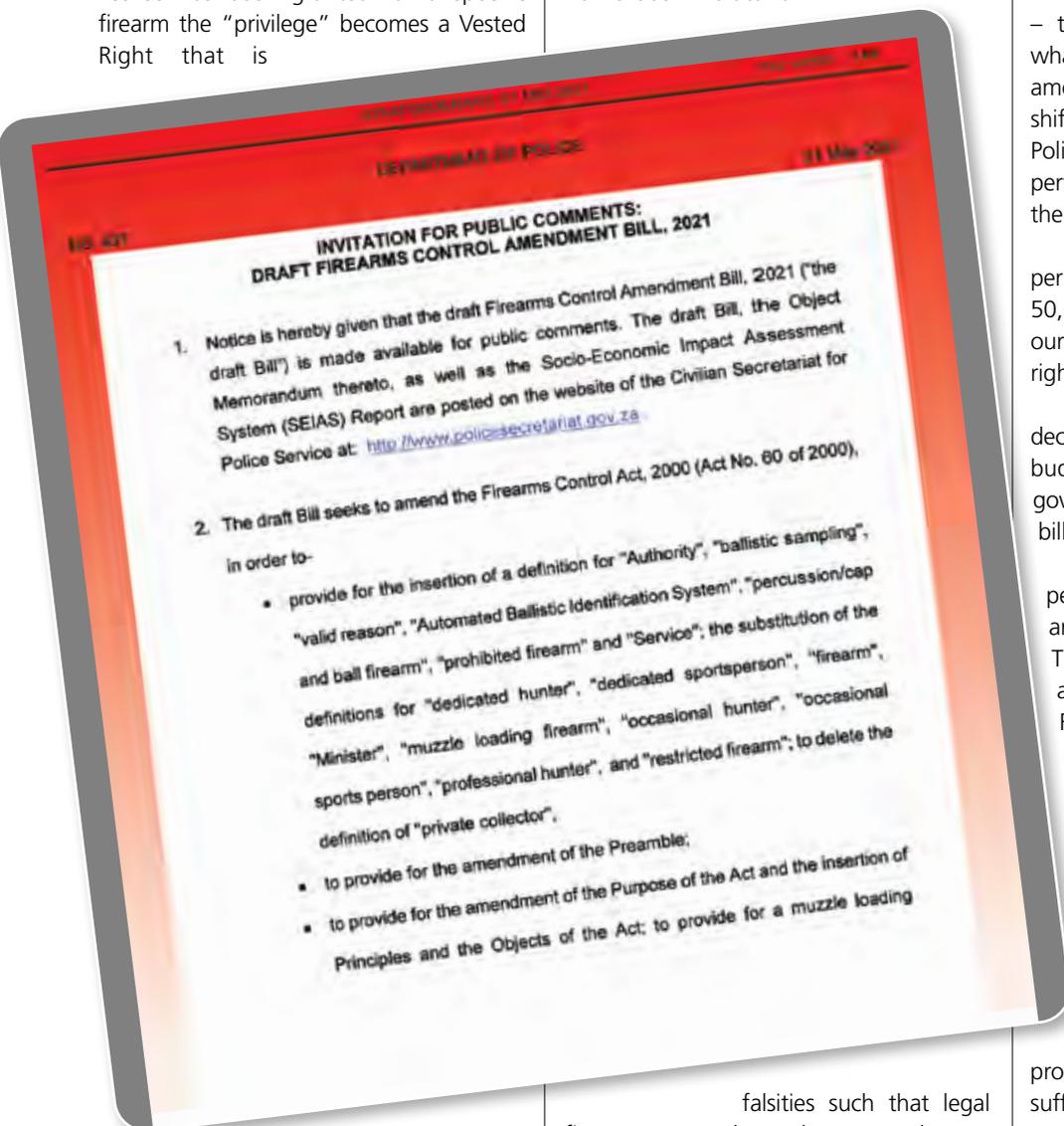
We are of the opinion that the entire amendment bill targets the wrong causes and that it should not be implemented at all. The SAPS should rather put their efforts into implementing and administrating the current Firearms Control Act properly, as intended, as it is currently sufficient.

This amendment bill would kill the hunting industry in South Africa, including international income of R5,1 billion for the hunting sector only. Not to mention sport shooting or other sectors such as eco-tourism, which provide tens of thousands

protected by the Constitution. Before an amendment can be made to a law there needs to be a valid reason or reasons to do so. Government departments accordingly make use of a socio-economic

falsities such that legal firearm owners do not have to undergo a competency assessment before applying for a licence – this is a blatant untruth.

Currently, obtaining a licence for a firearm is already a costly, tedious and timeous process. This new proposed



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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.

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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 25 February 2022 at 12H00 at the SA Wingshooters office in Randburg. 10. Winners will be contacted via phone and email. E&OE. SA Wingshooters 2021.

of jobs. The total eco-tourism income for South Africa amounts to around R126 billion per annum. Our current unemployment rate is almost 30%, as per Statistics South Africa.

In this regard, the new amendment, amongst many other prohibitive changes, seeks to prohibit the transport of firearms and ammunition by ANY PERSON without a specific transport permit.

This means that the legal owner may not travel anywhere to a hunting farm or shooting range, or gun dealer, or gun smith, at all without a permit. There are MANY more such examples in this proposed Bill. The SAPS cannot even manage the current renewal and new licence applications as it is.

We are of the opinion that the poor administration of the FCA has resulted in public resistance to the Act. Already, around 900 000 firearm licences did not transition from the old to the new Act, mostly due to the costly and impractical transitioning regulations. Subsequently, nearly 450 000 firearm licences issued in terms of the new Act have also expired as a result. This means that 1,2 million firearm that are on the SAPS system do not comply with the renewal requirements of the current Act – this constitutes nearly 48% of the total number of legal firearms.

We fully support responsible and legal firearm ownership and the management thereof, but it must be sensible and to the benefit of the country, safety, the economy and its citizens as a whole.

The bottom line is that this bill, should it be enacted, is effectively the same as immediately declaring all firearms illegal, as various sections prohibit transporting or travelling with a firearm/s or ammunition without an official Transport Permit, reloading of ammunition is prohibited, age restrictions, etc.

We are of the opinion that the current FCA as it stands is, if properly administrated, more than sufficient to regulate and control privately owned firearms (non-government) in of South Africa.

The pro-firearm stakeholder was never consulted and was not given the same opportunity to put forward, ideas, recommendations and suggestions. The

legal firearm owner is after all the individual that has to comply with any legislation. A large number of firearmson the system are non-compliant and an indication that the proposed amendments may result in large scale resistance.

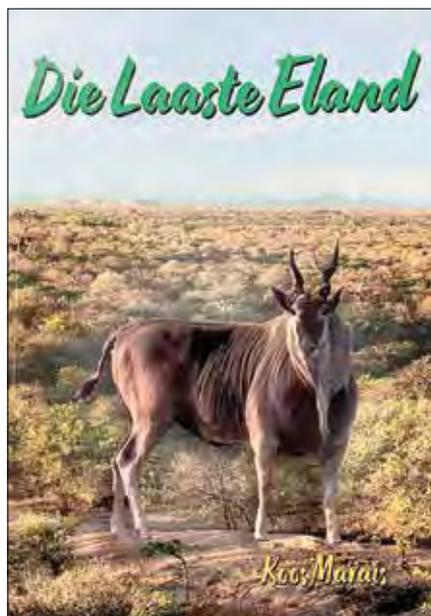
We, the SA Wingshooters Association, hereby reject the draft Firearms Control Act Amendment Bill 2021 in its entirety, and for these specific reasons, which we will submit to the civilian secretariat of police, et al by 5 July 2021. Should any member have any comment that they would like us to consider for including, please email the office.

– SA Wingshooters Association

## Die Laaste Eland 'n Boer deur lid Dr. Koos Marais

Koos Marais is 'n tandarts en skrywer van die historiese roman, *Die Keiservoël Oor Namakwaland*. Hy is ook die stigter en eerste redakteur van die SA Jagters tydskrif.

In dié boek vertel hy die epiese verhale van drie jaar se elandjagte. Rondom



hierdie kampvuur gesels hy ook oor die filosofie, etiek, tegniek, tegnologie en die veranderende wêreld van die jagter. Bowenal takel hy die groot vraag "waarom

jag ons?"

Bestel gerus die boek as jy belangstel in dié lekker kampvuur stories oor jag, die bosveld en mooi gewere. "...Hoe gebeur dit dat die jagtersbloed sommer net in jou are begin vloei?" Dit is 'n heerlike leesboek met baie interessante, snaakse en passiewolle vertellings.

Om te bestel, betaal R220 (posgeld ingesluit) aan JT MARAIS, ABSA tjek rekening: 4054843442, takkode: 632005 en epos betalingsbewys, selnommer en straatadres vir aflewering na kosiemaris@gmail.com

– Ed. SA Wingshooters

## Suspected Poisoning and Dismemberment:

Six lions had been found dead with several body parts missing in the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. This has been the latest attack within the protected area, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has been on the case, suspecting it to be the work of desperate poachers suffering the economic downturn brought by COVID-19.

Along with the lions, there were also dead vultures. This led the UWA to believe that the big cats were poisoned prior to dismemberment. Lion parts have been recently sought in the illegal wildlife trade for a number of reasons.

Specifically, poachers pluck out claws and teeth for use in alternative medicines as well as tribal jewelry. It is now the latest trends in the black market that have fuelled threats to the animal's population.

The Queen Elizabeth National Park continues to hold the highest number of lions for miles around, and treats any threat to its prides as a threat to the park's mission as well as its sustainability.

– Conservation Frontlines Foundation.

– Large-scale and indiscriminate game and bird poisoning is a serious problem and threat to wildlife – not the use of lead in ammunition as the anti-hunters want you to believe.

– Ed. SA Wingshooters Association

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# Ties for Shooting

*Wearing a tie when hunting in Africa is not really part of our hunting culture, mostly due to our climate. However, that does not mean that one shouldn't wear a tie when hunting in Africa. I personally quite like the gesture and respect it conveys. The history behind it is fascinating. – Ed.*

by George Browne - GunsOnPegs

One of the tenets dearly held by UK game shots is that a tie is absolutely *de rigeur* for a day's driven shooting. The reasons cited are usually that it shows respect for the quarry, and for the host. But is a tie always the right choice?

Increasingly in today's society, for better or worse, formality in gent's clothing is seen as somewhat anachronistic - gone are the days when it would be unthinkable to wear anything other than a suit, shirt and tie to the office. But one area in which such traditions are slower to change is shooting.

After all, while the materials may have been slightly updated (see technical tweeds, the rise of GoreTex for shooting coats and neoprene in wellies) the style of shooting attire is pretty well unchanged in a hundred years. The reasons are a tangle of traditions, practicalities and etiquette, and the same is true of our neckwear.

## ***Why do the British wear ties for shooting?***

One of the oft-cited reasons a tie is considered to be part of the "uniform" of driven game shooting is respect. Driven shoots take a great deal of organisation, time and, well, money to put on, and as such they are "formal" affairs. Even the most relaxed syndicate shoot, where the shoot lunch is a cup of soup and a pork pie consumed in a barn, takes a concerted effort to run. It is often stated that to show respect for one's host, a tie should be worn, and that to show up with one's top button undone and a bare neck is as rude as showing up to a wedding in jeans and a t-shirt.

It is also held that wearing a tie demonstrates respect for the quarry. The thinking is that if you are going to take a life, the least you can do is look smart while doing so. In this regard it is perhaps akin to Wimbledon's insistence that players wear all-white, or golf clubs insisting

that members dress in a certain way.

These reasons may seem spurious to you, in today's world of informal fashions - after all, it makes no difference to the pheasant if you're wearing a dinner jacket or denim, and the days of weddings being strictly topper-and-tails affairs are long gone.

## ***Practical reasons for wearing a tie for game shooting***

It is my suspicion that the real reason we wear ties for shooting are somewhat more rooted in practicality than tradition. Driven game shooting, as we have discussed before, is an activity that takes place during Britain's damper, colder, windier months. Being outside all day, often in some fairly wild landscapes, means that staying warm is important in order to derive the most from a day in the field. This is where a tie can be more than merely decorative.

As anyone who has felt a chill east wind playing around their collar will attest, having a cold neck can be a miserable experience.



A tie, and the correspondingly fastened top button, helps to create a (largely) windproof seal around the neck, helping to keep that all-important body heat trapped in. On wet days it can also prevent the deeply unpleasant trickling of water down the spine.

***Do you always have to wear a tie for a day's shooting?***

All this being said, does this mean that a tie is always the right choice for a day in the field? There are those who would argue that it does not. There are also those who would argue that the first two reasons – respect for the formality of the day and respect for the quarry – are bunk.

First, let us consider that if respect for the quarry were reason enough on its own to wear a tie then it would also be usual to wear a tie for wildfowling, pigeon shooting or walked-up shooting.

However, this is resolutely not the case. Second, as I have intimated above, even driven days vary wildly in their formality – sure, you might feel that a tie is obligatory for a day at a grand estate, and no one would likely argue with you, but is the same true for a small-bag farm shoot run by your mate who you happen to know holds his breeks up with bailing twine?

***Alternatives to ties for game shooting***

So is a tie always the most practical choice? Well, perhaps not. Here's a thing that you may not be aware of: the tie as we know it today has

its origins with a group of Croatian mercenaries who were fighting (on the side of France) in the 30 years war. These soldiers wore a traditional neckerchief-like garment that the typically dandyish Parisian society



*Wearing a tie in winter whilst shooting is actually comfortable. At the official Donkerhoek Guinea-fowl shoot held on 9 June.*

found rather dashing, and quickly adopted. This is where the French get their word for tie: cravat. In English we use that same word for a different garment.

***Is a cravat acceptable for game shooting?***

Let us take, for example, a warm August day on the moors, or an “Indian Summer” partridge day in September. In these instances, a tie

Then there are the cravat-adjacent garments made from a towelling material that would undoubtedly offer better protection from the rain. These are sometimes called “rain chokers”, and make a good alternative to a scarf, the bulk of which can, as I have discovered to my cost, affect your gun mount. That’s my excuse and I’m sticking to it!

Although rare, it is not unheard of

the arguments in favour of ties don’t necessarily always add up, I would still feel very strange turning up on a shoot day bare-necked.

The donning of a tie (or as it might be, a cravat) feels to me like part of the ceremony and pomp of a day’s shooting – it is part of the day as much as it is part of my outfit. I would no less arrive at a shoot sans cravat than I would arrive without



*The “Cravat Regiment” - a guard of honour in the Croatia Army, wears uniforms that are replicas of those worn by the Croatian mercenaries during the Thirty Years War. Credit: Roberta F., CC BY-SA 3.0,*

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22173244>

could well be rather a warm addition to one’s costume. A nice lightweight silk cravat, worn with an open collar might represent a more sensible choice.

A tie might not even be the most practical neckwear on a wet or cold day either. Since a cravat is worn inside the collar of one’s shirt, there’s an argument that these are a better foil against the wind. Schöffel sell a silk cravat lined with microfleece, which would no doubt be very cosy, as well as smart.

to see a cravat on a shoot day, but the consensus among the GunsOnPegs team is that it is a somewhat eccentric choice, and one that requires a certain flamboyance of style and personality to pull off.

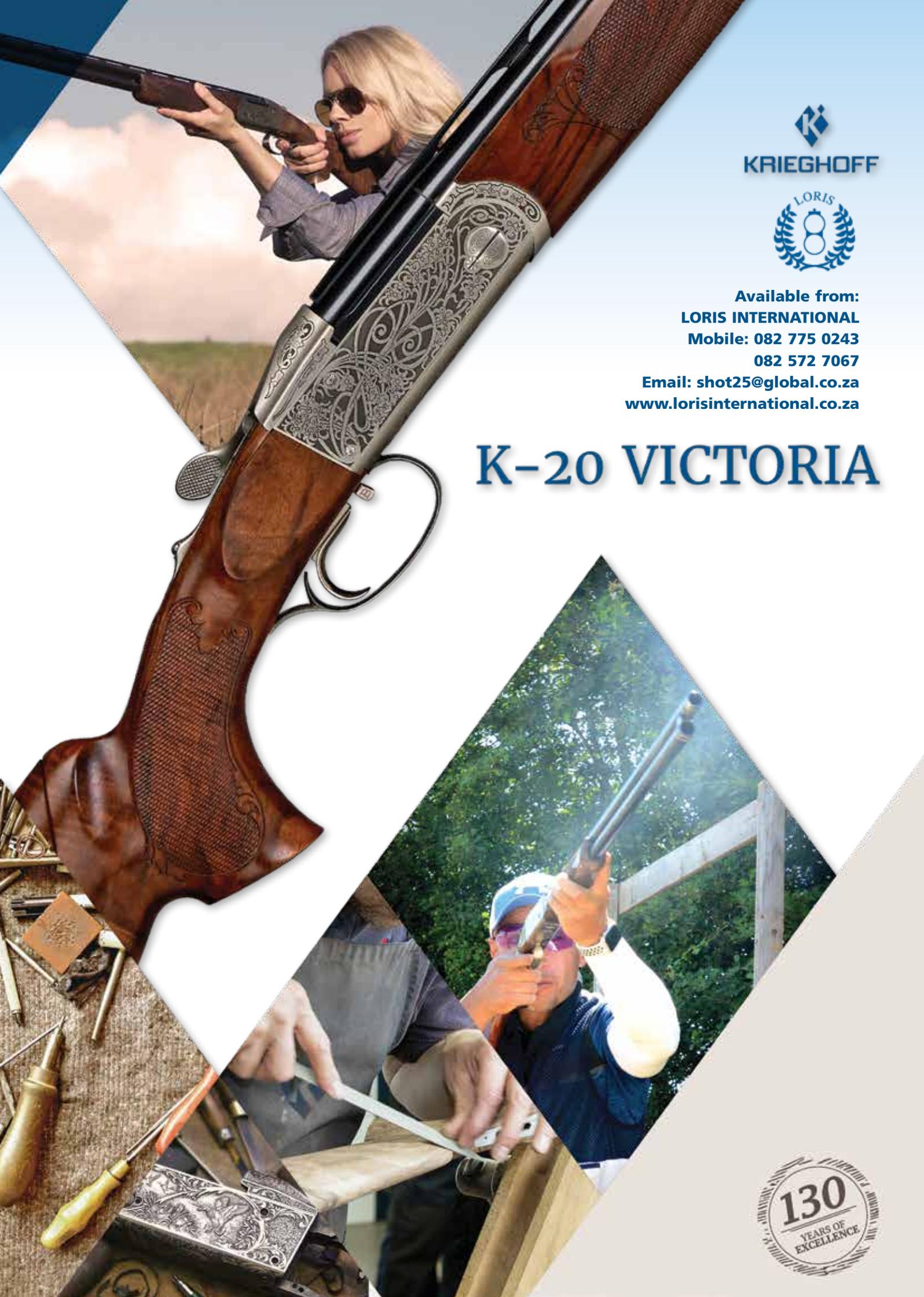
We have heard of a school of thought that neckwear of any kind is unnecessary, but we tend to shy away from that view. It just feels a bit arrogant. If a tie is good enough for the Prince of Wales, it’s good enough for us!

Although I have suggested that

my breeks.

– GunsOnPegs partners are: partner organisations Lycetts, BASC, GWCT and The Countryside Alliance. GunsOnPegs is an online marketplace that connects shooters/guns 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 direct. Unlike a traditional sporting agent, GunsOnPegs charges no commission and is free to join for guns and shooting estates alike. Join GunsOnPegs for free at [www.gunsonpegs.com](http://www.gunsonpegs.com)





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# K-20 VICTORIA



# Hobson's

# Choice

by Charles Duff

*The Browning B25 B2G*



image: guntrader.uk



*I was recently posed the question by the editor that, if given only one choice, what type of shotgun, from which manufacturer, and with what weight, barrel length, chokes, shot size, shot weight, velocity, etc would I choose.*

This seemed pretty easy to answer until I started to reply and I rapidly realised that it was apparent that some serious reflection was required and putting down my choices and how I have reached them, in writing, was necessary.

Insofar as what gun would I prefer, that's easy, it's Hobson's choice – an over and under without any doubt – because I prefer the single sighting plane and the single trigger, plus the utility of such a gun – clays, francolin, guinea-fowl, duck and geese are all grist to its mill – plus the fact that the recoil is more in line with my shoulder and there is no upwards and sideways moment to recoil as is inherent with a side by side.

As much as any shottist I am in awe of what ends up in our hands that started in the brain of a gunsmith; the intricacies of ejectors, safety catches, single triggers and suchlike are amazing. However, especially with

respect to guns, man's need to beautify his weapons can run somewhat amok and in my humble opinion this happens all too often. The Browning B25 is a classic example, the A1 was the basic model with minimal engraving and average wood and at the turn of the century a new one cost around R35,000. I paid R25,000 for an excellent second-hand one and later R14,000 for another somewhat worn-out one which was completely rebuilt for R16,000.

Today the basic model is the B2G at £12,000-14,000 (R240,000-280,000) and the top of the line models are about R500,000, yet they all have the identical barrels and actions. The rest is engraving and wood quality, and much as I admire such guns, they really are not suited to our bush hunting conditions. They are made for shooting driven pheasants at the peg, being replaced in its slip and onto the back seat of the Range Rover.

While I am very much a Browning

fan, and cherish the B25 A1, my ideal gun is the Blaser F3. I tried out a very early one and fell in love instantly, its plain unadorned simplicity appeals to me and in my hands the gun is alive, responsive and accurate; what more could one want? Well, a lower sale price for starters and in fact I would have to save my pennies like mad just to afford the Blaser F16, which only really differs in the striker mechanism and wood quality, and at present retails at R70,000. The F3 starts at only R30,000 more! My review was published in Man-Magnum of June 2016 with the usual mangling of what I had written by the editorial staff. They continually preach controlling the word count but casually add more words to suit themselves. The article was 1059 words long, 190 words were changed and 263 added (which I never wrote!), the reason I eventually gave up and no longer write for them. They don't edit, they interfere, they meddle.

My gun would be a field model

*continued on page 14...*

with 28" (712mm) barrels – present fad is for 30" and longer, but barrel lengths yo-yo according to fashion and in another decade we may well be back to 25" barrels. For me 28" is the ideal balance between live game and clay targets, getting the muzzles quickly onto the target and steadiness of swing. Plus with the gun broken

The barrels are already over-bored and the leads into the forcing cones and chokes are much longer. In my limited experience the barrels pattern very well with my choices of ammunition. The gun has a non-auto safety and selective single trigger, both of which are also my choice. All-up weight will be within the 7¼ and

cient. For the stock, the length of pull must be 14 ¾" (365mm) to a solid red sorbothane recoil pad. The drop at the comb a pretty-well standard 1½" (39mm) and at the heel 2½" (64mm); the pitch of the butt 4°, also rather standard. My choice of stock is the semi-pistol grip style with a relaxed curve out to the rounded



*The Blaser F3*

image: blaser.de

open and over my arm it is not going to continuously reap grass and weeds with the muzzles and front sight. The slim and compact action of the F3 is just superb and the ejectors toss out pairs of empty cartridges on top of each other, very useful when you have to pick them up!

While I acknowledge the utility of removable chokes, I would not bother with them. For well over 25 years I have shot all our feathered game with skeet barrels and since I take care not to shoot with those hopeful harrys who open up at 60 yards plus I have no need for full chokes. Instead I would want an improved choke in the bottom barrel and a maximum of a ¼ choke in the top. The red fibre optic front sight suits me fine as is, ditto the top rib.

7½ pounds range, mainly depending upon wood density.

As to the wood, while I am as susceptible to fancy walnut stocks and fore ends as the next man, my guns are tools and the quality and cost of the walnut adds nothing to the efficiency of the gun. So long as it has some pattern and contrast, and above all is suitably dense enough, I am content. The fore-end must have a rounded tip; I abhor the insidious invasion of the continental schnabel tips, they belong on Alpine rifles, not shotguns; it is similar to sling swivels on shotguns – akin to having a tow-bar on a sports car – oxymoronic.

A standard wrap-around multi-point chequering in 20 LPI would finish it off and the standard Deeley fore-end catch is positive and effi-

pistol grip end (which is not a Prince of Wales style! That has a grip cap, frequently skeletal), also with separate chequering panels on the sides of the pistol grip.

I bought a Beretta Ultralight 686 at a classic arms auction a few years ago, mainly because no one else wanted it, so for the opening call of R3,000 it was mine.

The plan was to re-do the stock, re-blue the trigger-guard, fit a decent butt-pad and sell it on. But the really light weight (5lbs 10oz!) attracted so I took it on a guinea-fowl shoot and found that the nearly two pound weight reduction from my Browning makes one hell of a difference at the end of a long hot day chasing our spotted friends. I have kept the gun. The fixed chokes are a loose quarter

and an equally loose half, good for the field, and the 28" barrels suit my style of shooting, plus with a 3/4" Pachmayr butt pad it handles the 29 gram shot loads calmly.

I hold that it is impossible to shoot everything with just one make of cartridge and size of shot, though one of the well-known Kenya white hunters, Tony Henley, who retired to Howick in Natal, used only size 7 British shot for everything including spurwing, and he was a deadly shot, I need two. For hunting I have long used the Hull Special Pigeon 29 gram load of size 6 shot with a muzzle velocity of 1350fps and with this I have shot waterfowl and terrestrial gamebirds.

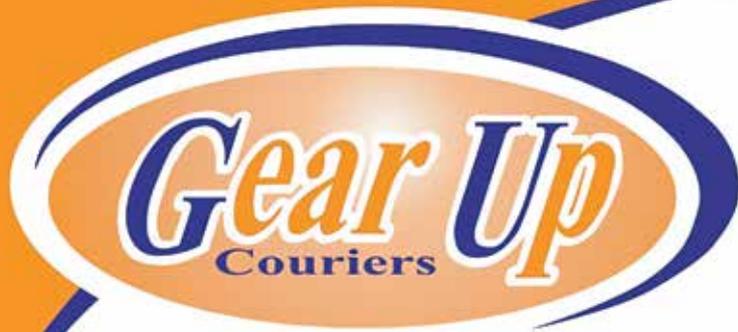
I believe that a shotgun kills with a pattern, thus the size 6s with their pellet counts of 55% more than size 4s and 27% more than size 5s have worked well for me over the years. I have had retrievers for over 45 years and I do not shoot ground game. Our so-called rabbits/hares are crawling with ticks and fleas and riddled with internal parasites, I won't touch them and I get really testy if anyone shoots low in my company as my dogs have always worked forward.

For pigeons, doves and clay targets I would use the Hull Pro One 28 or 24 gram at 1500fps MV. My preference is for size 8 shot, but if not available I can make do with size 7 1/2, again pellet numbers in patterns count. I know that the faster a shot charge starts out, the faster it sheds velocity and that the mid-range lead requirement between 1350 fps and 1500 fps at the muzzles differs by only a few inches, but to me there is an appreciable difference and those Pro Ones really smack targets and birds down.

What else – well I insist upon a well-padded tight-fitting canvas gun-slip with a zip from the heel to near the muzzles and a sturdy leather and canvas shoulder strap. It must have reinforcing around the muzzle end, preferably of leather. With a nearly full-length zip if the slip gets wet it can be opened right up for drying out. A pocket or two for dog and gun licences and other katunda does not go amiss.

Having tried every possible way of carrying cartridges my conclusions are that the slowest into action are cartridge belts, those with sprung metal holders are a bit quicker but can gouge out chunks of the stock if you have to run with your gun in your hands. My solution is about 20 rounds in the pockets of my shooting vest, backed up with a good leather cartridge bag, the 75 round capacity is a good balance between carry and weight and can be kept at your feet, or in the vehicle. The Payne-Gallwey version with a hinged lid is the best. In moments of possible quick action I carry two cartridges between the fingers of my left hand which gives me four reasonably quick shots.

So that's it for my Xmas wish list – how does yours compare?



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The Official Courier for SA Wingshooters

# Code of Conduct

## Pigeon & Dove Hunting

article and photos by André van der Westhuizen

*Pigeons and doves are probably South Africa's most utilised gamebirds. It is legal to shoot some of the species all year round...*

**T**he game makes for good eating if prepared correctly and provides nourishing food, which can also be donated to communities residing on and around the properties where shoots take place.

### **Pigeon & Dove Shooting And The Law**

The shooting of all the species are controlled by the provincial conservation ordinances, and is different for every area that you shoot in, so we would recommend that you obtain a copy of the relevant regulations prior to your shoot.

Bag limits as set out by the provincial regulations should be adhered to at all times, and where bag limits are not prescribed by provincial regulations we urge you to stick to the bag limits as recommended by SA Wingshooters.

Should the farmer or landowner feel the need to impose more restrictive bag limits, please adhere to these.

### **Field Identification**

SA Wingshooters recommend that you obtain an up to date bird identification field guide and acquaint yourself properly with the species that is legal to shoot in your area.

The most common species are as follows:

#### **Rock Pigeon (*Columba guinea*)**

also known as the Speckled Pigeon or Kransduif of Bosduif;

#### **Red-eyed Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)**

also known as the Redeyed Dove or Grootringduif;

#### **Cape Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia capicola*)**

also known as the

Tortelduif;

#### **Laughing Dove (*Streptopelia***

*sensgalensis*) also known as the

Rooiborsduif.

### **Decoying**

Pigeon and dove decoying is the art of setting out decoys and building a hide in a field where pigeons are feeding and using artificial or dead bird decoys to attract pigeons to within shotgun range (20 to 30 meters). This requires good local

knowledge or reconnaissance to determine when and where the birds feed in order to achieve results.

Hides may be built with camouflage nets, straw bales or natural cover. When using bales remember to ask the farmer's permission to move them and always replace them after the shoot. Natural hides are made with materials found on the farm and should be dismantled at the end of the shooting day.

Do not damage the farmer's property in your efforts to construct a hide. The hide should be large enough to accommodate the shooter, his dog and equipment, and have as level a floor as possible.

### **Flightline or Pass Shooting**

Shooting birds on flightlines is very popular and, after reconnaissance has determined the line of flight, guns stand concealed on the edges of woods or in hedgerows and shoot passing birds without the aid of decoys. This is the type of pigeon and dove shooting most often practised in South Africa



## Safety

Great care should be exercised when setting a hide or selecting a shooting position to make sure you are aware of all footpaths, roads and rights of way and that the angles of fire are safe before starting to shoot. Also make a mental note of where all other guns are positioned. Remember that no.7 shot can travel 300 meters.

Remember that the shooter will be concealed from any approaching pedestrian or vehicle and it is the duty of the shooter not to endanger anybody. This equally applies to any of the farm employees working in nearby fields, remember it is your duty to ensure their safety at all times. Avoid shooting within 50 meters of a public road.

Shooting from a hide often involves taking shots at birds approaching the decoys at or near ground level. Care must be taken over the possibilities of pellets ricocheting off the ground. Do not shoot in a unsafe direction or towards livestock.

Farm and other boundaries must be respected and shooting should not be undertaken where shot may drop on buildings, houses or neighbouring land. Always be aware of the noise factor when shooting and do not unnecessarily disturb the public or livestock. No rifles are allowed at any official wingshooting (bird hunting) activities for obvious safety reasons!

## Warning!

Shooting near overhead power lines or insulators can result in severe injury or death. The main points to remember are:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarise yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Avoid the use of lofting poles near overhead powerlines – remember, electricity can jump across a considerable distance.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical apparatus.



Bobby Lotter and his Springer Spaniels

## Guns And Cartridges

A double-barrelled, ejecting, well-fitting gun will be the most effective and no. 7 or smaller shot (7,5 or 8) is recommended. 12-bore shotguns are most commonly used but the smaller gauges such as 20-bores and 28-bores are equally effective.

Semi automatic shotguns may not be used for hunting of gazetted birds in all provinces (except KZN) without a permit obtainable from the nature conservation department of the respective province.

Hearing and eye protection should be worn at all times.

For reasons of security the gun should be unloaded/safe and taken with you whenever you leave the hide.

Remember that a gun must not be taken and dogs should also not be sent onto neighbouring land for any reason without permission.

## In The Field

Permission from the landowner/farmer is needed for the following:

- Before shooting each day;
- Before driving across fields;
- Before inviting a companion to shoot;
- Before taking a dog with you.

When walking through fields with growing crops take care to do as little damage as possible. Respect the farmer and his property, do not cause damage to fences and leave gates as you find them.

Do not disturb nesting birds when building a hide. Ensure that all efforts are made to pick up each and every shot bird, to this end we

recommend that you pick up all shot birds immediately, prior to shooting the next bird. This applies especially to wounded birds and birds falling a distance away.

Whenever possible dogs should be used to ensure all shot pigeons are retrieved, particularly from thick cover, and a priest or spike or other effective method is recommended for despatching wounded birds.

Remember to take water for the dog in summer. Do not clean birds on the property and leave feathers and or innards on the property, unless the farmer or landowner gives permission and designates a specific area, for the cleaning of birds.

Farmers and landowners should be offered some of the bag and any surplus should either be eaten, given to friends or given to the farm workers. Do not leave dead birds or unused carcass portions lying in fields or in vegetation or ditches.

Never leave empty cartridges or other litter and clear up the site after shooting. Always behave in such a manner that you do not bring yourself, the association or your family's name into disrepute.

Finally, remember that the farmer is actually doing you a favour by letting you shoot on his/her property and that good relations with landowners and farmers are essential, not just for future pigeon shooting, but also for many other shooting opportunities.

– We may repeat specific articles and codes of conduct to inform new members of the proper etiquette and safety rules for wingshooting.



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# Avoid Serving SHOT

*How to Avoid Serving Shot in Your Upland Bird Meals.  
Use these techniques when hunting, preparing, and cooking  
your upland game birds to avoid encountering pellets in the  
meat...*

*Written by Jack Hennessy  
projectupland.com*

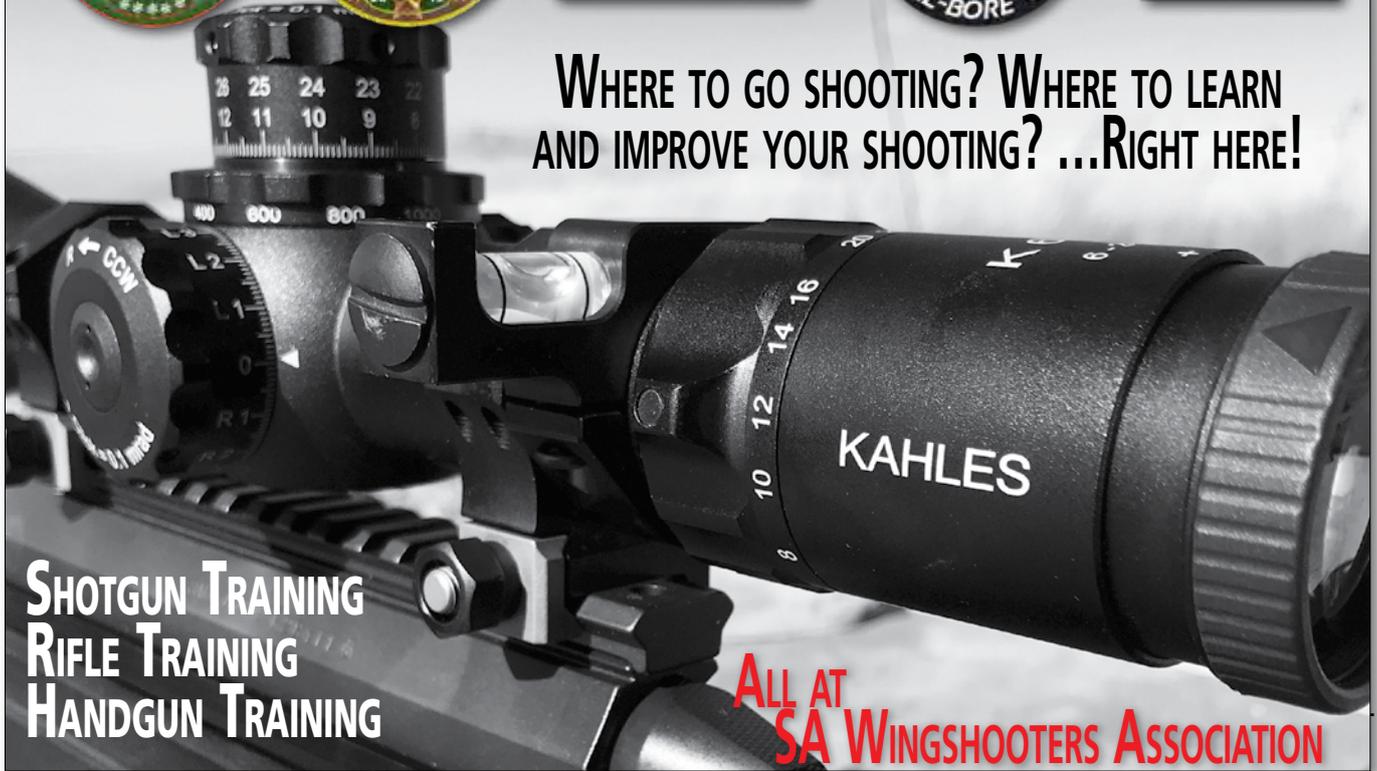
**T**ruth be told, there is no foolproof method for ensuring that you never serve shot in the birds that you cook. However, there are several techniques to help reduce the chances of doing so, as well as some things to keep in mind if you're worried about dishing out a smattering of shot with your upland meals.

## ***Hunting Techniques to Avoid Too Much Shot***

As you might have guessed, reducing the likelihood of serving shot in your meat starts when you first step afield, not once you're back in the kitchen. For starters, it's a matter of shotgun choke choice, and if running tighter chokes—as you might do for late-season roosters—knowing how long to hold off on squeezing the trigger if the bird flushes close. I hunt with an over-and-under shotgun with an improved cylinder choke in my



*Francolin and Guinea-fowl  
on the Weber.*



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Gun maintenance boxes / Hunting jackets





Photo by Jack Hennessy

first barrel and a modified choke in my second. If I miss the first (closer) shot, I need that tighter choke to knock the bird down at a greater distance, allowing the shot pattern to open up a little later. Of course, a tighter choke means a tighter shot pattern and potentially more shot in your birds—especially at close range. For example, my father-in-law hunts with a fixed full choke and he rarely misses. He also doesn't wait for the birds to get out very far, so if one flushes at the dog's feet, that bird gets knocked down at 10-15 yards and is peppered with shot. That bird likely becomes hamburger.

If you're an expert wingshooter running a proficient dog, you're likely targeting wings, which means fewer pellets in your meat. That is the way to go, if this style of hunting suits you.

#### ***Finding and Removing Shot While Cleaning Birds***

No matter what, if you kill a bird

with a shotgun, you'll have to contend with potential shot in the meat. The first step to avoiding shot in your meal is to inspect the shot holes while cleaning your birds. Once plucked or skinned, you'll notice that most shot holes are also accompanied by a wet, thin string of feather(s). That's because the shot pushes bits of feather into the meat along with the pellet. If you are breasting out the bird, examine the backside of the breast. Is there also an exit hole to accompany the front entry hole?

If not, chances are that pellet is still lodged inside the breast. For big spring turkeys, even though aiming for the head means that shot rarely ends up in the breast meat, I have found a couple pellets in the breasts because those pellets will rarely (if ever) penetrate and pass through all of that muscle. What this means, though, is that your smaller birds with smaller cuts of meat are less likely to contain shot, while your larger birds have denser meat and are

more likely to retain shot.

If you don't see exit holes and you wish to serve the breast whole, you can gently work a toothpick into the hole and see if you can fish the pellet out. Alternatively, you can cut the meat into strips for future fajitas, making it easier to find the pellets. The bottom line is that shot is much easier to find in raw meat than it is to find in cooked meat—there is a distinct difference in texture. So if you wish to put in the effort to remove shot, I recommend doing so while the meat is raw.

#### ***Cooking Techniques that Help Prevent Serving Shot Pellets***

The next safety measure you can take is to decide how you plan to prepare the bird. If my bird is pretty heavily shot-up, I will likely turn the bird into a burger, snack sticks, or work into some sort of recipe that requires braising and shredding the meat. Grinding the raw meat helps you find any pellets while processing,

while braising and hand-shredding meat once it is fully cooked and falling apart will allow you to easily pick out the shot.

Note: if you are concerned about putting shot through your grinder plate, opt for the coarse grinding plate. I also recommend initially cutting the meat into chunks and searching for shot that way prior to grinding. Once the meat is ground, you can sort through the ground bird meat (while wearing gloves, of course) to pick out shot if you so desire.

Deboning is also a great technique that allows you to check for and remove shot. However, some recipes call for bones, since bones add flavour. For example, I made Pheasant Vesuvio for Pheasants Forever's Wild Game Cooking Stage at Pheasant Fest a couple years ago. After the demo, I was asked how to serve the dish if worried about shot. In that case, I suggested deboning first, then adding the bones back into the skillet with the deboned meat. This way, you can check for and remove shot but still imbue dish with rich flavors

that come from slow cooking with bones.

Lastly, we all know the sage advice: "Chew slowly." It's a line I give my wife and daughter whenever I set down a plate of wild-shot game. It's important to make the distinction between a bird that's been shot with lead versus steel, as anyone who has bitten down on both types can attest that steel is not ideal between your teeth. It's a much harder metal than lead, with no give.

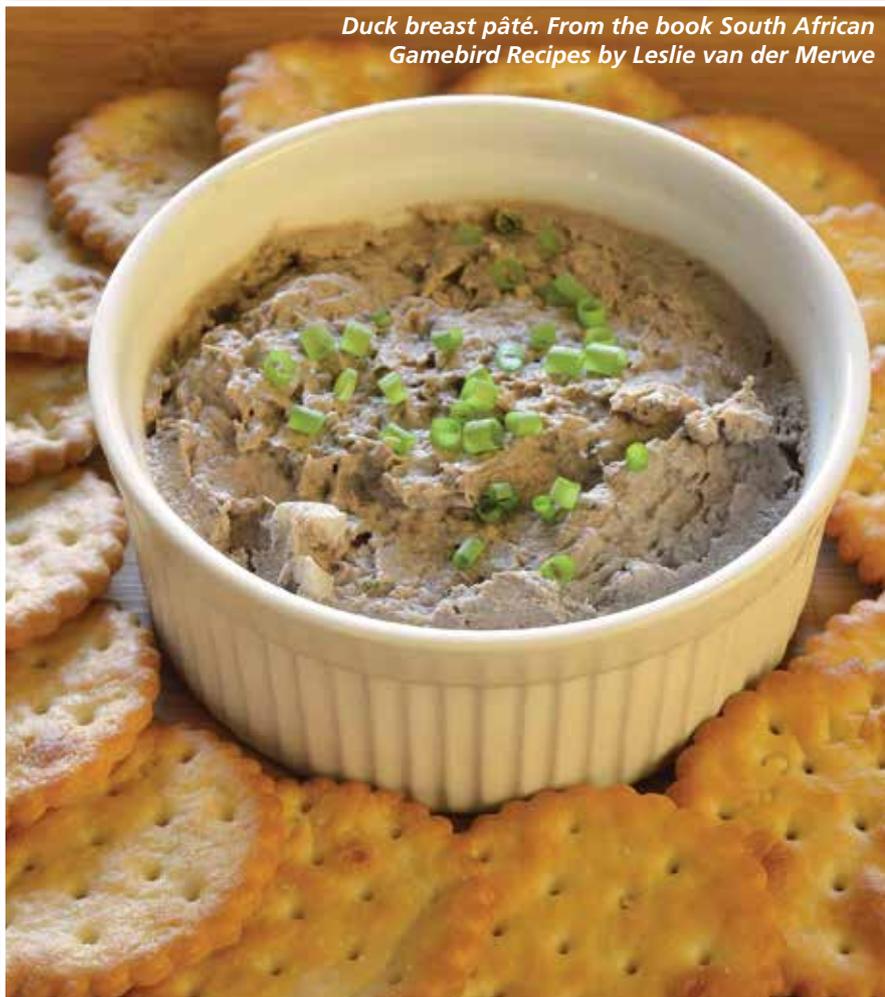
Therefore, if you shot an upland bird with steel, label that bird accordingly—it may determine how you prepare the bird and for whom you prepare it. Additionally, consider labeling those "busted up" birds prior to placing in the freezer. If my mom or other grandparents are visiting, I might sort through my freezer for what to prepare and will set aside any birds labeled "busted" or "steel." ❦

— [https://projectupland.com/wild-game-recipes/how-to-avoid-serving-shot-in-your-upland-bird-meals/?mc\\_cid=1c255a9059&mc\\_eid=f4a76f1beb](https://projectupland.com/wild-game-recipes/how-to-avoid-serving-shot-in-your-upland-bird-meals/?mc_cid=1c255a9059&mc_eid=f4a76f1beb)

*“Once the meat is ground, you can sort through the ground bird meat (while wearing gloves, of course) to pick out shot if you so desire.*

*Deboning is also a great technique that allows you to check for and remove shot.*

*However, some recipes call for bones, since bones add flavour.”*



*Duck breast pâté. From the book South African Gamebird Recipes by Leslie van der Merwe*

# Members in the Field

Johan Maree,  
Maryke Botha and  
Mesno van Zyl  
at the Tuli Safaris shoot



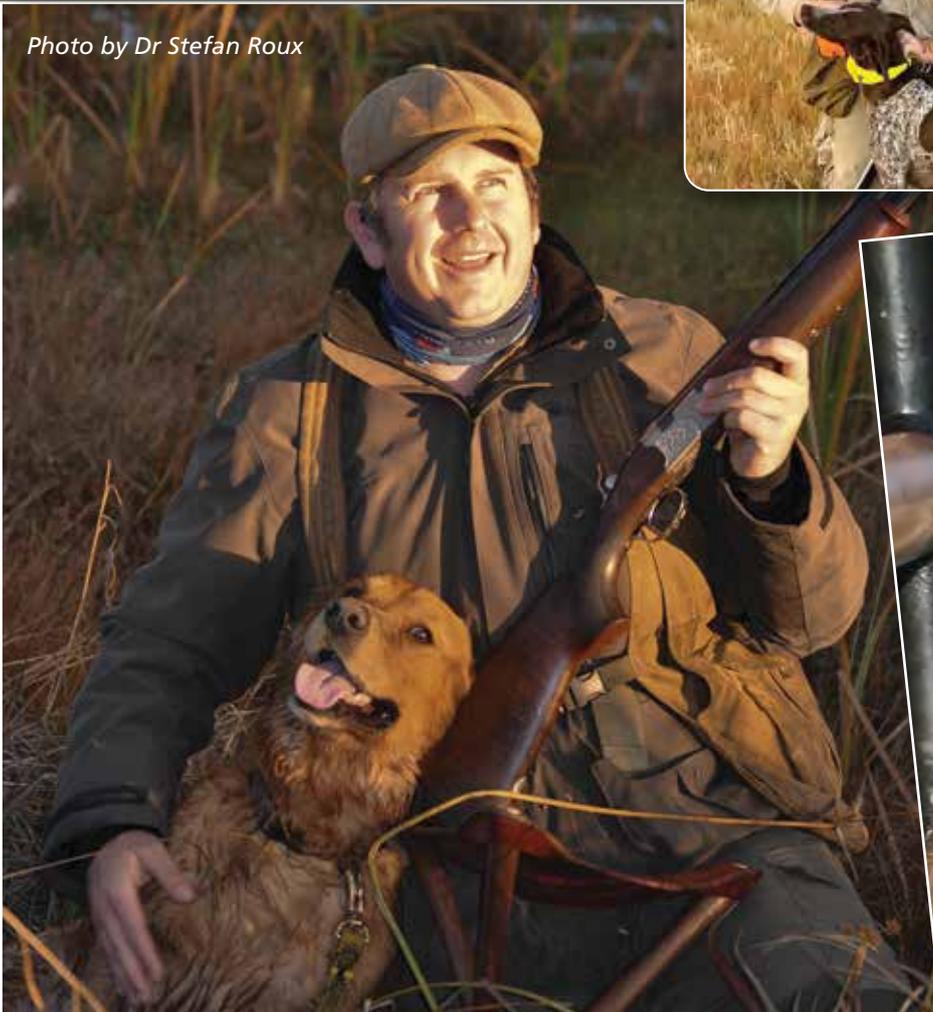
Wimpie Grimbeek and sons  
at an upland shoot last month



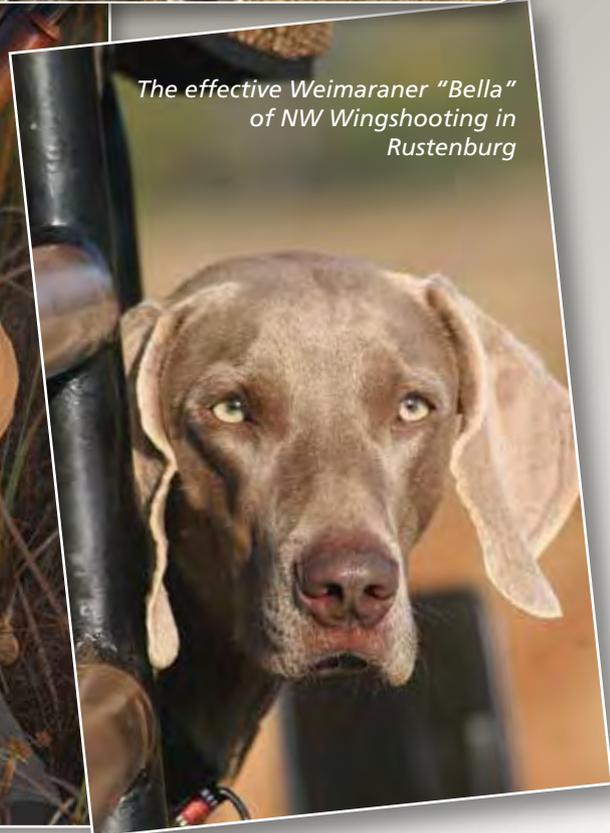
Eddie Mortimer at  
the Delmas shoot



Photo by Dr Stefan Roux



The effective Weimaraner "Bella"  
of NW Wingshooting in  
Rustenburg





*Kennedy & Rui Torres at Singita*



*Richard Adams at Singita*



*Dave and Chris Winckler in 1974*



*Angelo Spada with a Rameron Pigeon*



*Dave Winckler and sons at shoot near Northam many years ago in 1977.*

# Members on our LRSC Range

Friedel Kirstein

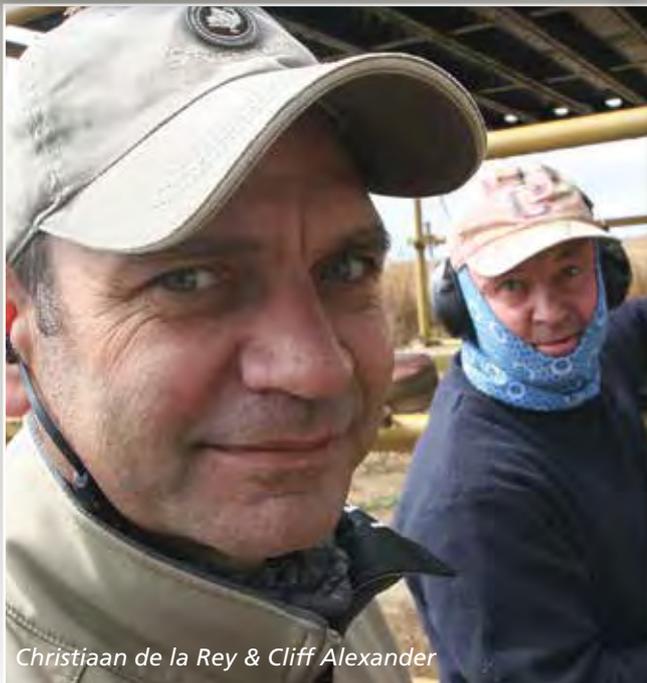


LRSC Junior member Leo van Vuuren getting ready!



Doc Mongezi putting that AI to work!

Closest: Junior Xander "Dude" Jacobs, Warren Britnell and Johan Maree



Christiaan de la Rey & Cliff Alexander



Elmo Ferreira happy with his score!



## 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>

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# Gun Dog – The Evolution & Definition of Modern Dog Breeds

*The history of gundogs and firearms are intertwined as the development of one fueled the development of the other*

Written by Craig Koshyk  
[projectupland.com](http://projectupland.com)



"Shooting at Goodwood" by George Stubbs

“Strictly speaking, once you have named a distinct group of dogs as ‘gundogs,’ their history begins with the invention of firearms. But hunters were ‘armed’ long before the introduction of firearms, with the spear, the bow and arrow, the boar-lance and the bolt-firing weapons to the fore... Before the invention of firearms, hunters were reliant on dogs which could indicate unseen game and not run-in, as well as those which could retrieve valuable bolts, especially from water, when used on wild fowl.” – David Hancock.

Hunting dogs are as old as the hills and guns have been around since the 1300s, but the idea of hunting with dogs and guns together didn’t really catch on until nearly two centuries after firearms first appeared on the battlefield. And even though the words dog and gun both trace back to the 14th century<sup>1</sup>, they weren’t combined to form the term “gundog” until the mid-1700s, nor did “gundog” become part of the common vocabulary until the mid-1800s.

## ***Early History of Hunting With Dogs***

Prior to the invention of firearms, if a hunter wanted to shoot game

instead of netting it, snaring it, or using a hawk or dog to catch it for him, he'd use a bow and arrow, stone bow, crossbow, or spear. But he'd want to find slow-moving or stationary targets to shoot, since hitting a running or flying target with a rock or arrow is extremely difficult.

Even after the advent of sporting firearms in the 15th century, hunters continued to focus on stationary targets because early "fowling-pieces" required the shooter to use some sort of rest. Worse yet, if the gun was pointed even a few degrees above horizontal, the priming powder tended to slide out of the pan. So the best kinds of dogs for a hunter armed with a bow, an arquebus, a blunderbuss, or any other kind of early firearm, were dogs that could help him find game—without causing it to flush or run away—or dogs that would retrieve anything he managed to hit, especially if it fell into water.

That is why the very earliest illustrations and descriptions of hunters working with dogs and guns together feature pointing dogs, retrievers, and water dogs. Other dogs like sighthounds, running hounds, and flushing spaniels, were of little use to a hunter that wanted his quarry to stand still. Eventually, however, firearms became light enough and shooters became skilled enough to reliably hit swift-running deer, rabbits, boar, and even birds on the wing.

A fascinating example is an illustration found in the book *Habiti d'huomini* (Gentlemen's Attire) written by Giacomo Franco in 1609. It is a detailed engraving from the transitional period in which many hunters were still using stone bows while others were trying their hand at the new art of "shooting flying." The image depicts the nobles of Venice, some armed with stone bows and others with guns, shooting at birds on the water and in the air while dogs retrieve fallen birds.

Another example is from a manuscript published in 1644 in which the author, Alonzo Martinez de Espinar, laments the fact that because guns

had become so easy to use and deadly on game, the art and skill of using dogs and crossbows was being lost.

"Formerly when this sport was practised, the dogs were very clever and the men very scientific about it, and he who prided himself on being a sportsman shot over a dog so well-trained that, as the saying is, he could do everything but speak; and those that kept their dogs in food by the crossbow were always the most eminent, as the skill of the sportsman and his dog had to make up for the deficiencies of the weapon."

"Today, when one no longer has to shoot with a crossbow, no one remembers the craft the sportsman formerly possessed... The partridges are shot with an arquebuse flying, and for that reason they do not exist in such numbers as formerly, nor are there any longer such pointing-dogs (perros de muestra) to find them and point them with cleverness so great that great quantities of them could be killed with a crossbow. In those days the sportsmen were most dexterous, now such are wanting; for, as the game is killed more easily, nobody wishes to waste his time in training dogs, as the man has not to shoot the partridges on the ground; and the only use he has for dogs is to flush the game, and that takes no training, as the dog does it naturally." — Alonzo Martinez de Espinar.

While Espinar is correct in stating that the training, hunting, and shooting skills required of a hunter armed with a crossbow would be lost, he overlooked the fact that new training, hunting, and shooting techniques were being developed to replace the old ones. Among them was something that every owner of a gundog does to this day: correctly introducing a young dog to gunfire. After all, a gun-shy dog isn't much use as a gundog. So imagine a hunter—who'd been using dogs and crossbows for years—bringing out his fancy new "fowling-piece" for the first time. Did he just head to the field and hope his dog wouldn't run off after the first shot? Did he ruin a few dogs before realizing that

he had to get his pups used to the sound of gunfire? I don't think that either would have been the case. Early adopters of firearms would have known the importance of making sure their animals were properly introduced to gunfire. After all, firearms were first used on the battlefield where soldiers used horses, oxen, mules, and dogs. So long before hunters began to shoot game over dogs, they would have developed methods to get them used to gunfire.

### ***Developing Gundogs to Fit Modern Hunting Methods***

Another thing that changed when guns replaced crossbows was that dogs with greater speed, larger range, and stronger pointing instincts began to appear. A hunter with a gun didn't need a dog to "circle" the bird anymore. He preferred a solid point, based on scent alone; he didn't need to see the birds on the ground, since he could wait until they took to the air. And he no longer needed a dog to stay close, because he could kill a bird on the wing at 40 yards or more.

The concept of selecting and training dogs specifically for hunting with a gun began to take hold in 1700s, when English sportsmen imported short-haired pointing dogs along with the art of wingshooting from France and Spain. By the late 1700s, Pointers and "shooting flying" had become so popular that the term "gundog" was coined. At first it seems to have applied mainly to Pointers, Setters, and water dogs used for "fowling," but it eventually came to mean any kind of dog used by hunters armed with guns.

### ***History of the Term "Gundog"***

Interestingly, the term "gundog" appears to be uniquely English. Other languages don't have an equivalent compound word made up of gun and dog to describe these types of dogs. Most just use a general term like "hunting dog" or, if referring to a specific kind of hunting dog, terms like "bird dog," "flushing dog," or "pointing dog." While there is a term in French *chien de fusil* (literally "dog

*continued on page 30...*

of the gun”) it refers to the hammer (the *chien*) of a shotgun.

When the term was first coined it was most often hyphenated as “gun-dog.” Later on, the hyphen was dropped. In 1900, the term was so well-known that when the Retriever Society, the Pointer and Setter Society, and the Sporting Spaniel Society decided to amalgamate, they named the new organisation The International Gundog League. When Great Britain’s Kennel Club reorganized their Division 1 Sporting Dogs and Division 2 into seven separate groups, they placed all pointing, flushing, retrieving, and a few water dog breeds into the newly formed gundog group. Today, of the 221 breeds recognized by the KC, 38 are in the gundog group. The Australian Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club also have gundog groups, but the American Kennel Club does not—they place pointers, setters, and retrievers in the sporting group, although they do run gundog stakes in some field trials.

Some of the terms used by gundog trainers and owners are directly related to the use of firearms, too. The most obvious is the now-obsolete “down charge” or “down to charge,” where a dog is trained to drop down and lay flat on its belly when a shot is fired. It reflects that fact that in the early days, it took a minute or more to reload a musket or muzzleloader, so training the dog to lay down when a shot was fired gave the shooter time to “charge” (load) his gun.

“Every spaniel must be made perfectly steady at ‘down charge;’ and until the gun is reloaded, not even the regular retriever must be allowed to move towards the wounded game.” – The Shot-gun and Sporting Rifle: And the Dogs, Ponies, Ferrets, &c., Used with Them in the Various Kinds of Shooting and Trapping by John Henry Walsh, 1859.

“Many persons, who otherwise take pride in breaking their dogs, frequently omit to teach them a most important accomplishment, or at least neglect to keep them to it after they have been taught. I allude to down charging. By want of attention

*“Early British field trials were sponsored by gunmakers who also bred and kept their own strains of Pointers and Setters.”*

on this point many shots are lost, especially in turnips and potatoes, where birds being dispersed, rise one or two at a time. The instant you fire, each dog should down, and not move again till you say ‘Hold up.’ A dog I once had, always remained quiet till he heard the click of the lock preparatory to putting on the cap; this he took as a signal that all was right. Nine keepers out of ten neglect to teach their dogs to down charge. I cannot make out why such should be the case, but certainly so it is. I observed a short time since, as I rode along the road, two men – keepers I imagined them to be by their appearance – who were shooting. Each time they fired their dogs were on the move whilst they were loading. As it happened no birds were sprung, for the covey had all risen nearly together, but had there been any remaining the men would have lost the opportunity of getting shots.” – American Farmers’ Magazine: Volume 2, Jan 1849, editor J. A. Nash.

### ***The Shared History of Gundogs and Guns***

It is also interesting to note that many of our modern gundog breeds

were actually developed in regions known for gunmaking. The Bracco Italiano traces its roots to Lombardy, a region in northern Italy where some of the world’s oldest gun makers are still located.

The French gun industry is centered around the city of St. Etienne in central France, which is also the ancestral home of the Braque d’Auvergne and Braque du Bourbonnais. In Spain, the same region that has produced guns for centuries also produced the old Spanish Pointer. In England, the first dog shows took place in Birmingham, one of the main centers of gun making in Britain. Early British field trials were sponsored by gunmakers who also bred and kept their own strains of Pointers and Setters. Even in the early days in America, centers of gunmaking like Pennsylvania and New York were also home to some of the country’s greatest gun dog breeders.

Today, the term “gundog” and the concept of breeding, training, and using dogs exclusively for hunting with a gun is universally understood. Sure, there are plenty of non-gundogs in use; in fact, some hunters choose sighthounds, podengos (warren hounds) or falconry dogs precisely because there are no guns involved at all. But for the vast majority of upland hunters (and, in some regions, big game hunters), the go-to dog is a gundog. Some hunters prefer big-running Pointers while others look toward dependable Labradors, energetic Cocker Spaniels, or versatile Griffons. But they are all gundogs, created to serve the gun and adapted to the tastes of the hunter carrying it.

*“The word “gun” may come from the Old Norse word for battle, gunnr, or from Gunilda, a woman’s name given to a giant 14th century crossbow (Domina Gunilda, or “Lady Gunild”). The word “dog” traces back to the Old English word dogg, which is of uncertain origin.*

*– Article courtesy of: <https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/hunting-dog-health-and-first-aid/dental-disease-in-hunting-dogs-leads-to-poor-scenting-abilities-2/>*

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## SHOOTING TIPS

*Some tips and hints from shotgun shooting pros and authors...*

**A**s the gun is mounted, your eyes are hard focused on the target. If your eyes are good enough, they are hard focused on the front edge of the target. When possible, the hands and muzzle of the gun start below and in front of the target. The gun is mounted up to the committed breakpoint. It is managed automatically to this point by your subconscious mind.

– This tip came from the book *“Shotgunning in the Automatic Mind – The Guide for Shotgunners and Instructors”* by Warren Watson and Mike Wilfley. This coffee-table-quality book, crafted for durability in the field, is filled with instructional illustrations to accelerate your shotgunning skills.

The reality is that the rabbit always looks like it is moving faster than it really is due to its proximity to the ground. Most misses, therefore, are in front, and most shooters have their hold point too far back toward the trap, thinking they have to rush to the target. Consequently, shooters often mistakenly apply forward allowance to a rabbit as they would to a fast-moving standard target. The result is that most novice shooters miss the rabbit in front, even though their squad members all call the shot as a miss behind. For the rabbit your focal point is on the front foot of the rabbit – that’s about 4:30 on the clock for a left-to-right and 7:30 for a right-to-left rabbit.

– This tip came from the book *“Mastering Sporting Clays”* by Don Currie.

If you feel that you are not following your bird with your chest, in the same way that you should feel you are following your bird with your whole body when you assume a natural stance, you can be sure



that, on the marshes, you will be missing behind.

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

Imagery is the simple previewing of the intended outcome of impending action in the moments prior to shooting. You imagine the target breaking as preparation to call for the action and so keeps irrelevant thoughts from intruding as you make your shot. Both Visualization and Imagery are improved by practice.

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

The top four mental errors committed on the shooting course are 1) trying too hard, 2) becoming distracted, 3)

succumbing to stress, and 4) focusing on the outcome rather than the process. If your conscious mind is occupied with a memorable, repeatable, and effective pre-shot routine, your subconscious mind can make the shot without distraction and with very little effort.

– This tip came from the book *“Mastering Sporting Clays”* by Don Currie.

In Sporting Clays, one-third of lost targets are missed in front, two-thirds are missed behind. The competitors who miss out front are among the winners. My first rule to overcoming Separation Anxiety is to recognize that “they don’t fly backwards,” and so if you are going to miss, which is inevitable, “miss in front.”

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

Shooters who struggle with teal targets usually start with their gun down near the top of the trap. They see the initial speed of the target and accelerate the gun at that speed or greater and shoot over the top of the target. They are attempting to shoot a decelerating target with an accelerating gun..

– This tip came from the book *“Shotgunning in the Automatic Mind – The Guide for Shotgunners and Instructors”* by Warren Watson and Mike Wilfley. This coffee-table-quality book, crafted for durability in the field, is filled with instructional illustrations to accelerate your shotgunning skills.

As the size of the shot is increased, the deformity that will occur as it passes through the constriction of the choke will increase. Therefore, while 0.040 might produce the tightest possible pattern in a barrel with small shot, less constriction might produce the tightest possible pattern with large shot.

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

Yes, there is more than one way to break targets. Experiment with gun cant, hold points, foot position and stance geometry, moving gun techniques. Call to mind, each post usually requires a different method and plan of attack. If you’re shooting each post the same, errors will persist. Know the formula to break the targets on each post.

– This tip came from the book *“Precision Shooting – The Trapshooter’s Bible – The Next Step and Beyond”* by James Russell.

With a very close-in target, one that resembles a garbage can lid, you had better pick out a spot on that target to focus on rather than looking at the whole target. If you focus loosely on the whole target inside of 25 yards, you are likely to use your peripheral vision and thus become

consciously aware of the barrel and barrel-target relationship. To avoid this pitfall, pick out a specific half of the target or some smaller detail on the target to focus on rather than the whole target.

– This tip came from the book *“Mastering Sporting Clays”* by Don Currie.

If you’re a right-hander, remember, on the right-to-left targets, anything from the right you need to play twice as far in front of that bird because it’s coming to you. You have to look across the gun. Bring the hold point out a little more than you would on a left-to-right. Bring the hold point down a little bit, so that it doesn’t matter what the bird does. If it does get too close, at least the gun will be in the bottom part of the circle, and you can easily come up in front of the bird.

– This tip came from the book *“The Coaching Hour Chronicles – Conversations in the Pursuit of Sporting Clays Excellence, Volume 3”* by Gil and Vicki Ash.

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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...*

**T**he 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 near Leandra, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1300m.

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 is 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.

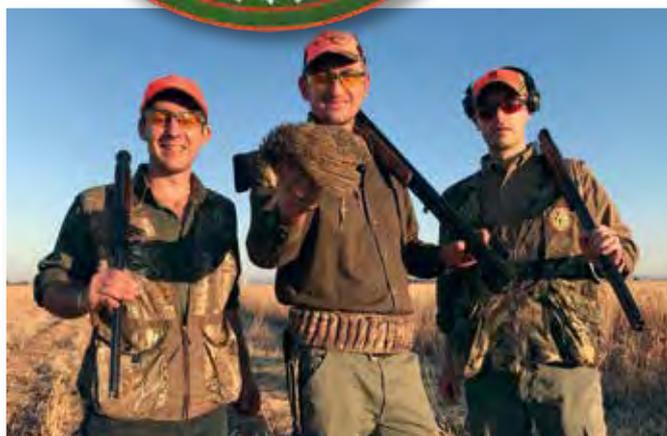
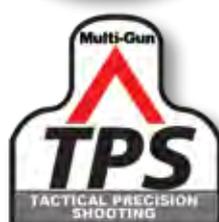
All qualified members must submit an annual report to us, in confirmation of their minimum dedicated sport shooting activities, as required. We propose a minimum of three sport shooting activities per year for members in order to retain such status.

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!



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



## PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

### MPUMALANGA – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl and Spurfowl.
1 April-31 Jul	Grey Wing, Orange River Partridge
1 May-30 Sep	Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Red-wing, Shelley's Partridge

### FREE STATE – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove.
1 May-31 Aug	Greywing & O/River partridge, common quail, guinea fowl, Swainson's francolin, yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing.
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

### GAUTENG – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

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). <b>Note: Spurwing remain closed!</b>
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

### N-WEST PROVINCE – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

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 – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guinea fowl (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).
15 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), guinea fowl (10),
1 Jan-30 Jun	Yellow-billed duck (5), red-billed teal (10), shelduck (5), Cape teal (10), Cape shoveler (5), southern pochard (5) (10 in all total).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge; Cape & Red-necked Francolins (6 in all). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

### NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Gazetted – Same as last year

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	<b>Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District</b> Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (10).
1 Jan -31 Mar	Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Jan-30 Apr	<b>Namaqualand Magisterial District</b> Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
Note:	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

### EASTERN CAPE – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

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 (2).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (10).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31 Jul	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	Guinea fowl (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), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

### KZ-NATAL – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

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. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year.**

*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**  
 Fax to: 086 211 5111 or e-mail to: [anel@wingshooters.co.za](mailto:anel@wingshooters.co.za)

<b>Year of Report:</b>	<b>PROVINCE</b>			
<b>Member's Surname:</b>				
<b>First Name:</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>			
<b>Initials:</b>				
<b>ID Number:</b>	<b>FARM / CLUB</b>			
<b>Signature or e-mail</b> .....				
<b>RIFLE SHOOTING</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HANDGUN SHOOTING</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>SHOTGUN SHOOTING</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GAMEBIRD HUNTING</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PLAINS GAME HUNTING</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>OTHER HUNTING or RELATED activities also count towards activities, such as reloading, HuntEx show visit, etc.</b>				
<b>Activity Description 1:</b>				
<b>Activity Description 2:</b>				
<b>Activity Description 3:</b>				

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

# Why we SHOOT THEM

*When asked: 'Why do you shoot birds?', how do you explain the magic, the oneness with nature, the timeless moment..? Who better to do it than Ernest Hemingway. This article first appeared as one of his Key West Letters in the February 1935 issue of Esquire magazine. It was later reprinted in the book By-Line: Ernest Hemingway, by Ernest Hemingway. It's a classic.*

**T**here is a heavy norther blowing; the gulf is too rough to fish and there is no shooting now. When you are through work it is nearly dark and you can ride out on the boulevard by the sea and throw clay targets with a hand trap against this gale and they will dip and jump and rise into strange angles like a jacksnipe in the wind.

Or you can throw them out with the gale behind them and they will go like a teal over the water. Or you can get down below the sea wall and have someone throw them out high over your head riding the wind, but if you puff one into black dust you cannot pretend it was an old cock pheasant unless you are a better pretender than I am.

The trouble is there isn't any thud, nor is there the line of bare trees, nor are you standing on a wet, leaf-strewn road, nor do you hear the beaters, nor the racket when a cock gets up and, as he tops the trees, you are on him, then ahead of him, and at the shot he turns over and there is that thump when he lands.

Shooting driven pheasants is worth whatever you pay for it.

But when you cannot shoot you can remember shooting and I would rather stay home, now, this afternoon and write about it than go out and

sail clay saucers in the wind, trying to break them and wishing they were what they're not.

When you have been lucky in your life you find that just about the time the best of the books run out (and I would rather read again for the first time Anna Karenina, Far Away and Long Ago, Buddenbrooks, Wuthering Heights, Madame Bovary, War and Peace, A Sportsman's Sketches, The Brothers Karamazov, Hail and Farewell, Huckleberry Finn, Winesburg, La Reine Margot, La Maison Tellier, Le Rouge et le Noir, La Chartreuse de Parme, Dubliners, Yeats's Autobiographies and a few others than have an assured income of a million dollars a year) you have a lot of damned fine things that you can remember.

Then when the time is over in which you have done the things that you can now remember and, while you are doing other things, you find that you can read the books again and, always, there are a few, a very few, good new ones.

But this is supposed to be about shooting, not about books, although some of the best shooting I remember was in Tolstoi and I have often wondered how the snipe fly in Russia now and whether shooting pheasants is counter-revolutionary. When you have loved three things all your life,

from the earliest you can remember; to fish, to shoot and, later, to read; and when, all your life, the necessity to write has been your master, you learn to remember and, when you think back you remember more fishing and shooting and reading than anything else and that is a pleasure. You can remember the first snipe you ever hit, walking on the prairie with your father. How the jacksnipe rose with a jump and you hit him on the second swerve and had to wade out into a slough after him and brought him in wet, holding him by the bill, as proud as a bird dog, and you can remember all the snipe since in many places.

You can remember the miracle it seemed when you hit your first pheasant when he roared up from under your feet to top a sweet brier thicket and fell with his wings pounding and you had to wait till after dark to bring him into town because they were protected, and you can feel the bulk of him still inside your shirt with his long tail up under your armpit, walking in to town in the dark along the dirt road that is now North Avenue where the gypsy wagons used to camp when there was prairie out to the Des Plaines river where Wallace Evans had a game farm and the big woods ran along the river where the Indian mounds were.



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I came by there five years ago and where I shot that pheasant there was a hot dog place and filling station and the north prairie, where we hunted snipe in the spring and skated on the sloughs when they froze in the winter, was all a subdivision of mean houses, and in the town, the house where I was born was gone and they had cut down the oak trees and built an apartment house close out against the street.

So I was glad I went away from here as soon as I did. Because when you like to shoot and fish you have to move often and always farther out and it doesn't make any difference what they do when you are gone.

The first covey of partridges I ever saw, they were ruffed grouse but we called them partridges up there, was with my father and an Indian named Simon Green and we came on them dusting and feeding in the sun beside the grist mill on Horton's Creek in Michigan.

They looked as big as turkeys to me and I was so excited with the whirr of the wings that I missed both shots I had, while my father, shooting an old lever-action Winchester pump, killed five out of the covey and I can remember the Indian picking them up and laughing. He was an old fat Indian, a great admirer of my father, and when I look back at that shooting I am a great admirer of my father too. He was a beautiful shot, one of the fastest I have ever seen; but he was too nervous to be a great money shot.

On a day as cold as this you can remember duck shooting in the blind, hearing their wings go *whichy-chu-chu* in the dark before daylight. That is the first thing I remember of ducks; the whistly, silktearing sound the fast wingbeats make; just as what you remember first of geese is how slow they seem to go when they are travelling, and yet they are moving so fast that the first one you ever killed was two behind the one you shot at, and all that night you kept waking up and remembering how he folded up and fell.

While the woodcock is an easy bird to hit, with a soft flight like an owl, and if you do miss him he will probably pitch down and give you another shot. But what a bird to eat

flambe with Armagnac cooked in his own juice and butter, a little mustard added to make a sauce, with two strips of bacon and *pommes soufflé* and Corton, Pommard, Beaune or Chambertin to drink.

Now it is colder still and we found ptarmigan in the rocks on a high plain above and to the left of the glacier by the Madelener-haus in the Vorarlberg with it blowing a blizzard and the next day we followed a fox track all day on skis and saw where he had caught a ptarmigan underneath the snow. We never saw the fox.

There were chamois up in that country too, and black cock in the woods below the timber-line and big hares that you found sometimes at night when we were coming home along the road. We ate them juggled and drank Tyrolean wine. And why, today, remember misses?

There were lots of partridges outside of Constantinople and we used to have them roasted and start the meal with a bowl of caviar, the kind you never will be able to afford again, pale grey, the grains as big as buckshot and a little vodka with it, and then the partridges, not overdone, so that when you cut them there was the juice, drinking Caucasian Burgundy and serving French-fried potatoes with them and then a salad with Roquefort dressing and another bottle of what was the number of that wine? They all had numbers. Sixty-one I think it was.

And did you ever see the quick, smooth-lifting, reaching flight the lesser bustard has, or make a double on them, right and left, or shoot at fighting sand grouse coming to water early in the morning and see the great variety of shots they give and hear the crackling sound they make when fighting, a little like the noise of prairie chickens on the plains when they go off, fast beat of wings and soar stiff-winged, and see a coyote watching you a long way out of range and see an antelope turn and stare and lift his head when he hears the shotgun thud?

Sand grouse, of course, fly nothing like a prairie chicken. They have a cutting, swooping flight like pigeons but they make that grouse-like cackle and, with the lesser bustard and the teal, there is no bird to beat them for

pan, the griddle or the oven.

So you recall a curlew that came in along the beach one time in a storm when you were shooting plover, and jumping teal along a watercourse that cut a plain on a different continent, and having a hyena come out of the grass when you were trying to stalk up on a pool and see him turn and look at 10 yards and wanting to let him have it with the shotgun in his ugly face, and standing, to your waist in water, whistling a flock of golden plover back, and then, back in the winter woods, shooting ruffed grouse along a trout stream where only an otter fished now, and all the places and the different flights of birds, jumping three mallards now, down where the beavers cut away the cottonwoods, and seeing the drake tower, white-breasted, greenheaded, climbing and get above him and splash him in the old Clark's Fork, walking along the bank watching him until he floated onto a pebbly bar.

Then there are sage hens, wild as hawks that time, the biggest grouse of all, getting up out of range, and out of range, until you came around an alfalfa stack and four whirred up one after the other at your feet almost and, later walking home, in your hunting coat they seemed to weigh a ton.

I think they all were made to shoot because if they were not why did they give them that whirr of wings that moves you suddenly more than any love of country?

Why did they make them all so good to eat and why did they make the ones with silent flight, like woodcock, snipe, and lesser bustard, better eating even than the rest? Why does the curlew have that voice, and who thought up the plover's call, which takes the place of noise of wings, to give us that catharsis wingshooting has given to men since they stopped flying hawks and took to fowling pieces?

I think that they were made to shoot and some of us were made to shoot them and if that is not so well, never say we did not tell you that we liked it.

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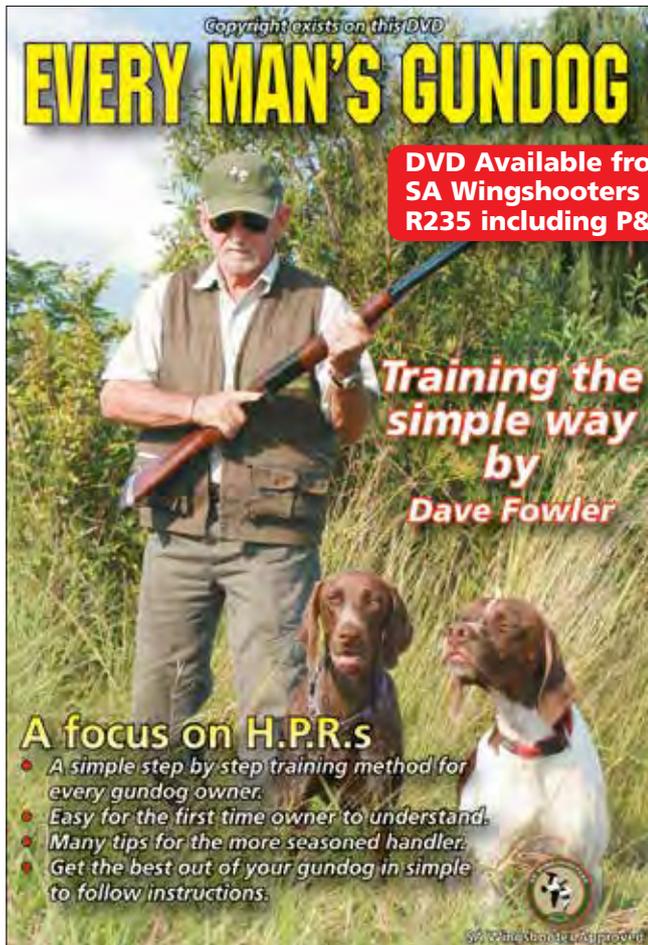


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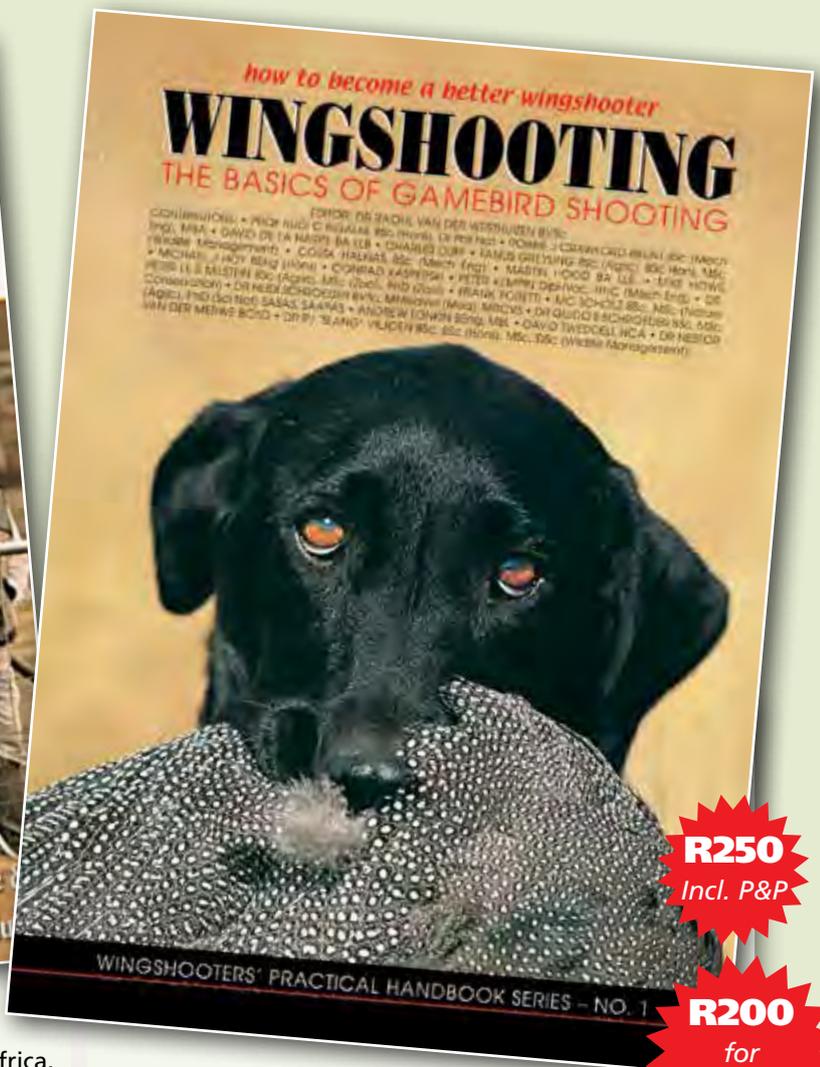
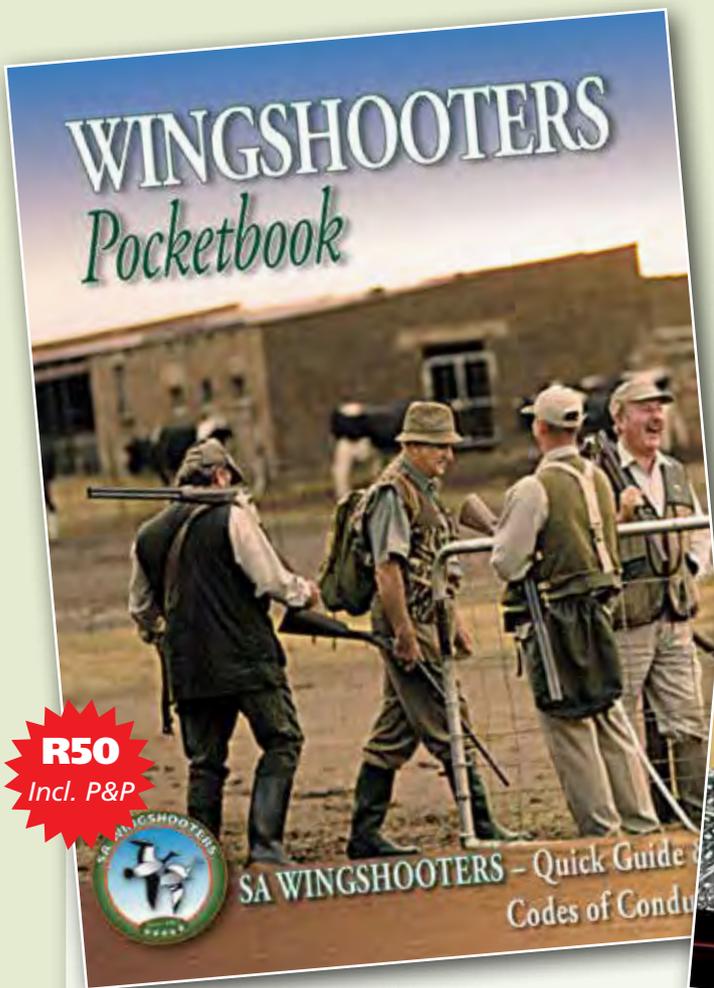
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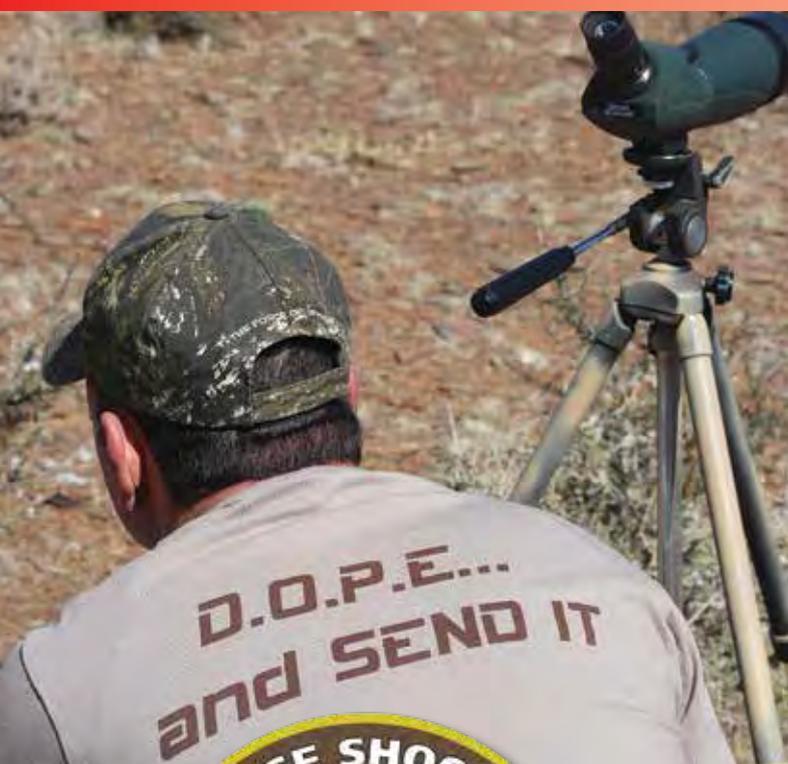
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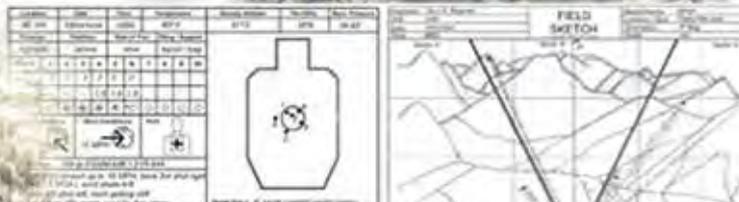
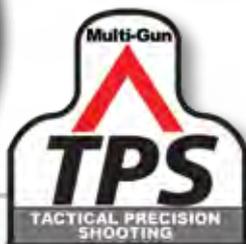
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