



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 32 No. 4 – November/December 2026

2026

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Photo Journal



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Lady members Petro Byleveld (left) and her GSP Ava (AKA Pocket Rocket) and Caren Ziady and GSP Kip, at the SA Wingshooters Lady Bird ladies upland shoot, hosted by SA Wingshooters & GH Wingshooting.

Photograph by André van der Westhuizen.



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A WORD IN YOUR EAR

Wynand Visser and Klaus at Pikeberg



Life is a dirt road

Life is a bit like travelling along a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. You never really know what lies around the next corner, how many bumps you'll encounter, or whether the road will take you where you originally intended to go. But that is perhaps what makes the journey interesting.

I've always enjoyed travelling on dirt and gravel roads, especially those less travelled. There is something special about leaving the tar behind, slowing down, and enjoying the countryside. The smell of the veld after rain, the early morning chill, and the anticipation of what the day might bring. No traffic lights, no rushing about, and hopefully, no cellphone reception!

Hunting and bird shooting are much the same. It is not always about how many birds you bag, or whether you manage to find that elusive kudu bull. In fact, some of my most memorable days in the veld have been those when very little was shot. Good company, a few laughs, a decent dog working the birds, and perhaps a cold refreshment at the end of the day. What more does one really need?

I believe we sometimes lose sight of the simple pleasures in life. We spend far too much time worrying about things over which we have very little control, and not enough time enjoying those that really matter. Family, friends, good health and, of course, the privilege of spending time in the veld.

As another year draws to a close, I'd like to sincerely thank each and every member for your continued support of the Association. Without your loyalty, participation and friendship, we would not be where we are today. Your support makes a difference, and is never taken for granted.

Thanks also to our National Council and Executive Committee members for their continued commitment, guidance and teamwork throughout the year.

May you and your families enjoy a peaceful and blessed festive season. Travel safely, enjoy the roads less travelled, and may the coming year bring good health, happiness, straight shooting and many more memorable days in the veld.

Godspeed to you all.

Waidmannsheil

André –



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EXPERIMENT: German Short- Haired Pointers Versus Snakes. *Report Snake Training Class*

At the recent snake training class by the TVI HPR Field Trial Club, dogs and owners were trained how to behave upon encountering a snake in the veld. The dogs

located and pointed the snake, all of them older experienced dogs and, not surprising, all which have won prizes at field trials. Most of the younger dogs have not yet learned or lack the ability to scent point gamebirds and were not expected to point anything at this stage.

The participants learned that it is a well known fact that except for one or two species, all snakes only react to moving objects and will not respond or attack immovable humans or animals. Therefore, a dog that points a snake is immovable

and thus safe. This will also ensure that the handler will be aware that there is something in front of the dog and therefore also be safe.

Most handlers learn to “read” their dogs and will know by the dog’s stance whether he is pointing a gamebird or a snake or other animal (figures 2 and 3). Thus, it is logic that if your dog is steady on pointing a bird, he will be steady on a snake. So to make your dog snake “proof”, teach him the basic discipline to be steady on gamebirds, and he will also be steady on snakes.

Dogs that flush or chase gamebirds or other animals, will usually also attack snakes and are usually bitten. There is a perception that dogs can be made to fear snakes by shocking the living daylight out of the dog when he gets near a snake. However, as shown at the HPR Club’s training, it is clear that more than 80 per cent of the dogs instinctively point the snake.

It follows thus that the only thing those advocates of shocking dogs, achieve, is to punish the dog’s pointing instinct. In the dog’s mind he is punished for doing what his instinct tells him.

Do not be surprised if your dog stops pointing birds after shock treatment because you invariably trained him not to point.

— Dr P.J. (Slang) Viljoen

Photos: Lola Crawshaw, Izelda Warne
and Gerhard Ebersohn Jnr.



were presented with a Ball Python and the dogs’ reactions observed.

In April 2026, there were 19 German Short-haired Pointers of various ages and various stages of discipline and experience during the club’s training class. None of the dogs showed any fear of the snake presented. Of the 19 dogs, 16 sight-pointed the snake (fig 1). Similarly, in 2024, 13 dogs out of 16 sight-pointed the snake.

A sight-point is where the dog sees a bird or animal and froze into a point. In terms of Pointing dogs a sight-point does not mean much except that the dog showed a positive potential. During a scent-point, however, the dog must locate the bird or animal by scent, the true mark of a pointing dog. At the scent-pointing evaluation, the snake was hidden in such a way that the dogs could only locate the snake by scent. Here only seven dogs



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EU lead shot restriction moves towards adoption –

Seven-year transition secured; bullets and slugs excluded. Publication in the EU

European Parliament played important roles in securing these improvements.

Once the seven-year transition and the exclusion of bullets and slugs were secured, FACE's agreed approach was to accept the improved text. Returning the file to the European Commission would have created considerable uncertainty, with a significant risk of a new proposal



Official Journal is expected in the coming weeks.

Brussels, 8 October 2026 – The European Parliament concluded its consideration of the EU lead shot restriction today in Strasbourg. No objections were supported.

FACE's Members, comprising 37 national hunting associations across Europe, have been actively engaged in decision-making throughout this process.

The proposal has changed substantially: the transition period has been extended from three to seven years, while bullets and slugs have been entirely removed from its scope. Member States and supportive Members of the

with a broader scope and less favourable conditions for hunters.

The scrutiny period closed on 10 October, so the regulation is expected to be published in the Official Journal of the EU in the coming weeks.

"We must now use the seven years effectively to ensure hunters have good quality non-lead shot, clear information and practical support," said FACE President Laurens Hoedemaker.

FACE will work with its Members to exchange best practice and help hunters prepare for the transition.

– FACE
www.face.eu

partridge shoots in Spain, with the quantity and quality of birds required to guarantee an exceptional day for even the most discerning driven-shooting enthusiasts. This



is one of the reasons why some of the most experienced and demanding Guns in the world have chosen El Despeñadero over the years to organise their shooting, becoming not only clients, but friends of the family.

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Special Discount For Members At Sterkfontein Shooting Academy –

Members of the SA Wingshooters Association continue to enjoy clay target shooting at Sterkfontein Shooting Academy at a special discounted rate.

Association members pay just R180 per round, compared with the standard public rate of R250 per round. This represents a saving of R70 per round, or 28%.

This special offer provides members with an excellent opportunity to sharpen their shotgun shooting skills, practise their techniques and enjoy an outing on the clay target range at a reduced cost.

We encourage members to take advantage of this benefit and make regular clay target shooting part of their preparation for the wingshooting season.

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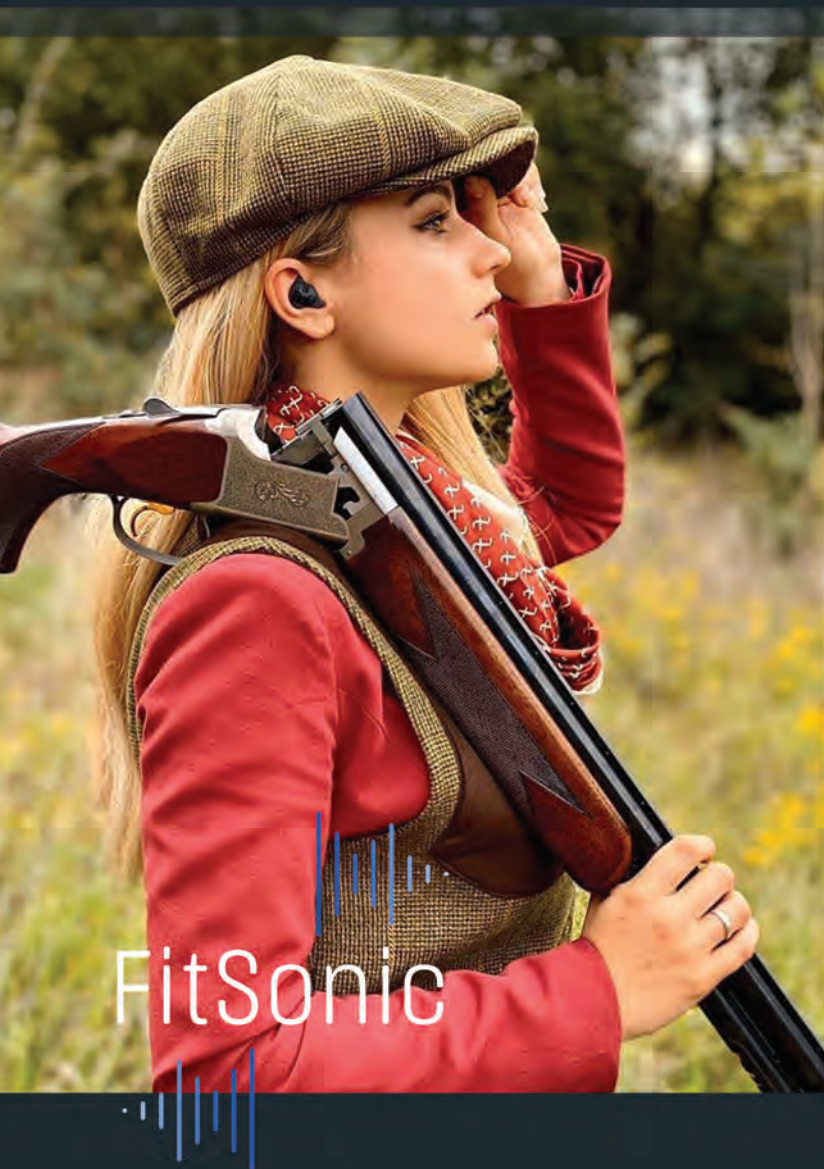
Generation after generation, we have preserved the traditions of Spanish shooting while continuously refining every aspect of the experience.

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Wing shooting TIPS!

When shooting game birds such as guinea fowl, francolin, or sand grouse having superior hearing in the field whilst protecting your hearing at the same time are extremely important – the thrilling sound of a francolin getting flushed by your well-trained dog (or by accident) is often followed by a loud gunshot that can permanently damage your hearing. Why compromise on any sound when shooting game birds if you can have both!!



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Did you know that repeated gunfire can affect dogs too? While dog ear protection exists, distance and positioning are usually more practical in the field. The most practical ways to reduce the impact of noise on your dog is to:

- Maintain distance between shooter and dog when firing
- Train dogs to flank or stay behind you during shots
- Use softer loads where possible (still lethal but less ear-splitting)

Bottom line: When shooting game birds this year, keep your ears sharp and protected by using custom made electronic hearing protection... and keep your dog behind you during shots.

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2026 Competition Target Shooting Results



Annual PSP Target Shooting Winners 2026

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Gold –
W.A. Lambrechts: 99 (7x rings)
Silver –
Dr R. Howard: 90 (2x rings)
Bronze –
T.M.R. Dearden: 82

.22PSBC 2026 Lady Winners



.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Christina Gallow
Silver: Ardia Ferreira



LRSC 2026 Winners

OVERALL 2026 Points Winners:

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

.338 F-BA Division:

Gold: Vere Elliott
Silver: Friedel Kirstein

.300 Win. Mag. Division:

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne
Silver: Tony Ernst
Bronze: Andrew Human

.308 F-BA Division:

Gold: Kristina Gallow (Lady)
Silver: Hulme Scholes
Bronze: David Scholtz

6.5 F-BA Division:

Gold: Johan Maree
Silver: Shaun Ellithorne
Bronze: Jacques Mey

.243/6mm F-BA Division:

Gold: Jacques Mey
Silver: Bernard Cilliers
Bronze: Andrew Bowles

.223 F-BA Division:

Gold: Bernard Cilliers
Silver: Shaun Ellithorne
Bronze: Friedel Kirstein

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

Gold: Greg Tearnan
Silver: Christo van Eeden
Bronze: Noel Gibson

Open Major Division:

Gold: Johan Maree
Silver: Shaun Ellithorne
Bronze: Tony Ernst

Open Minor Division:

Gold: Johan Maree
Silver: Cliff Alexander
Bronze: Marius Gericke

TPS 2026 Winners:

Finals Match

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

Gold: David Lillico
Silver: Shaun Ellithorne
Bronze: Roux Wildenboer

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

Gold: Roux Wildenboer
Silver: Noel Gibson
Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne

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

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne
Silver: David Lillico
Bronze: André van der Westhuizen

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

Gold: David Lillico
Silver: André van der Westhuizen
Bronze: Noel Gibson

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: André van der Westhuizen
Silver: Bernard Cilliers
Bronze: Roux Wildenboer



Night Shoot Winners:

Standalone Match

Gold: Hulme Scholes
Silver: Tied: André van der Westhuizen & Johan Maree
Bronze: Fred Vivier

Junior Division:

Gold: Tyler Lillico (Boys ≤ 16)
Gold: Emmie Jacobs (Girls ≤ 16)

.22PSBC 2026 Winners



.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Bernard Cilliers
Silver: Marius Gericke
Bronze: Charl Jacobs

.22 LR Hunter Division:

Gold: Elmo Ferreira
Silver: Ardia Ferreira
Bronze: Jacques Naudé



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How Rock Pigeons Beat Sunflower Farmers

Many years ago, I learned that the best science often begins not with a microscope, but with a simple, sometimes exasperating, question...



In this case, it came from a South African farmer standing at the edge of a sunflower field, staring at a vast field of sunflowers stripped bare of seed.

"Professor," he said, "yesterday the rock pigeons (aka speckled pigeon, *Columba guinea*) ate half of my crop. Today they're gone and tomorrow they'll hit my neighbour's fields. How on earth do they know where to go next, and how do they tell each other?"

These are fair questions. Anyone who has watched flocks of pigeons roll across ripe sunflowers on the

Highveld knows the feeling: you are dealing with something that seems to think ahead. One day they are in your lands; the next, as if by agreement, they are hammering someone else's. It looks like organised intelligence, a coordinated raid.

As an avian physiologist and biophysical ecologist, I have spent much of my career asking how birds cope with the physical world – heat, cold, deserts, altitude, long flights. Yet the more I watched pigeons flying in flock from resting place to feeding site or vice versa, the clearer it became that to manage them, one

by Prof. Berry Pinshow

Photographs: André van der Westhuizen



must understand how they experience their world.

The answers I found are more elegant and more unsettling than most farmers suspect.

Two invisible compasses in one small brain

We used to navigate with maps, magnetic compasses, and half-remembered landmarks; today we each have a GPS in our phone. Pigeons do not rely on a single sense. They combine several – rather like carrying a GPS, a map, and a compass at the same time.

One of these systems is magnetic.

Decades of work on homing pigeons show that they can use the Earth's magnetic field to determine direction, especially when the sun is obscured. Release trained birds under solid overcast from an unfamiliar site, and they still tend to set off roughly homeward. Disturb the magnetic field around their head, and their initial bearings become scattered.

This is not a tiny internal compass needle. It is a chemical, light-dependent system. In the retina, light-

sensitive proteins, whose reactions are subtly influenced by the alignment of the Earth's magnetic field. To the bird, this may appear as a faint directional pattern overlaid on visual built-in guide that works even when the sun is hidden.

It is an inclination compass: it tells “poleward” versus “equatorward,” not true north versus south (Wiltschko & Wiltschko 2005, 2019). That provides direction. But how does a pigeon know where it is?

Evidence suggests the existence of a second, partly independent system – a magnetic “map.” Pigeons can detect changes in magnetic intensity and anomalies via the ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve, rather than the optic nerve (Mora et al. 2004). Interfere with that pathway, and their responses to magnetic irregularities disappear.

For years, the favoured explanation was simple and appealing: microscopic crystals of magnetite in the beak acting as tiny compass needles. Elegant but wrong, or at least incomplete. Careful histology has shown

*“To the bird, this may appear as a faint directional pattern **overlaid on visual** built-in guide that works even when the sun is hidden.”*



A pigeon crossing the agricultural mosaic of the Highveld is therefore simultaneously seeing, sensing magnetism, and “smelling” geography.

For a seed eating bird, this is not theory. It is a working navigation system; one that allows daily commuting over tens of kilometres between roost and whichever field offers the best return.

So how do they “tell” one another where to feed?

Back to the farmer’s question.

His observation is correct: pigeons can strip 50–70% of a sunflower crop in days and then, almost overnight, shift to another field at a similar stage of ripeness. It is tempting to imagine some form of deliberate communication – a “pigeon parliament” allocating targets.

They do nothing of the sort. What they do have is a set of simple behavioural rules that, when combined across a flock, produce exactly that effect.

Four ingredients are key.

1. Memory for “what, where, and when”

Laboratory studies show that pigeons remember not only what they ate and where, but also when. (Skov-Rakette et al. 2006).

Applied to crops, a bird that fed well yesterday in Field A will return, but if that field is depleted or disturbed, the expected payoff drops. At that point, the bird does what any adept forager does, it explores or follows others. Each individual is simply updating its expectations. Collectively, this looks like a coordinated decision.

2. Local enhancement: follow feeding birds

Pigeons are highly responsive to the behaviour of others. A group actively feeding on the ground acts as a powerful attractor. Behaviourists call this local enhancement: the sight of others successfully engaged in an activity draws additional individuals, without any explicit communication.

A few birds find a productive sunflower field and land. Others see them and join. Within minutes, a small discovery becomes a full-scale raid. From the farmer’s perspective: “they told each other.”

that most of those iron-rich cells are in fact macrophages, i.e., immune cells storing iron, not sensory receptors (Treiber et al. 2012).

So, at the time of writing, the “iron-based” receptor in pigeons remains a functional mystery. We have convincing evidence that some iron-dependent, trigeminally mediated sense likely exists; we still do not know precisely where the sensor resides. Nature has yet to show us her cards.

Smelling their way across the landscape

Magnetism is only part of the story. A great surprise is that pigeons also navigate by smell.

If you block a pigeon’s olfactory nerves, it can still find its way home from nearby using familiar landmarks. But release it from a truly

unfamiliar site – 50 or 100 kilometres away, without the ability to smell its sense of direction collapses (summarized in Gagliardo 2013). The modern view is that pigeons construct an olfactory map.

Over weeks and months at the home loft, a bird samples the air. Winds that pass over pine plantations, maize fields, or coastal plains carry distinct mixtures of volatile chemicals. Gradually, the pigeon learns that certain odours are associated with wind direction.

Displace that bird and at the release site, it samples the air again, compares the odour mixture to its learned associations, and infers where home lies relative to its current position. That gives it a homeward vector, which it then follows using the sun, the magnetic compass, and, closer in, familiar visual landmarks.



In reality: each bird follows a simple rule – join success, leave failure.

3. Roosts as information hubs

Many seed-eating birds gather at communal roosts. Picture a blue gum stand or abandoned structure holding hundreds of pigeons overnight. The so-called information center hypothesis (Ward & Zahavi 1973) proposes that these roosts function as hubs of indirect information exchange: Successful birds return with full crops. Unsuccessful birds observe and follow them the next morning. No signals, no maps – just “follow the bird that did well yesterday.”

Homing pigeon studies confirm that naïve individuals can learn routes entirely by following experienced birds (Biro et al. 2006). Crop-raiding pigeons very likely use the same logic.

4. Economics: when to leave a field

Sunflower heads pass through a narrow window when seeds are both accessible and energy rich. Early arrivals enjoy a bonanza; later, as seeds are depleted and disturbance increases, returns decline. Thus, optimal foraging theory predicts that animals should leave a patch when returns fall below what they can expect elsewhere.

Pigeons follow this rule precisely.

From the ground, it looks like this:

1. A few birds discover Field A at peak ripeness. Feeding is excellent. Others join. Damage escalates rapidly.
2. That evening, successful birds

return to the roost in good condition.

3. The next morning, many birds head toward A, but early arrivals find it depleted and disturbed.
4. Some individuals explore and locate Field B, just entering its prime. They land and others follow.
5. By the following day, B is the new hotspot.

No bird announces the plan. Yet the outcome is indistinguishable from coordination.

Why this matters on the ground

All of this is only useful if it changes what you do. A few practical implications follow:

You are not dealing with simple animals. Pigeons combine sophisticated navigation, strong memory, and flexible social behavior. They adapt quickly to crude deterrents.

Roosts matter.

Locate major roosts and observe morning flight lines. These often predict which fields will be targeted.

Departure timing is predictable. Sustained disturbance (shooting, scaring) can push birds to abandon a field but often simply shifts the problem to a neighbor.

Think at landscape scale. Pigeons treat mosaics of crops as a single foraging system. Effective control may require coordination between farms. For the shooter, understanding that a flock behaves like a single, many-headed organism. Guided by simple

rules can make you more effective, and perhaps more respectful, in the field.

For me, the lesson goes beyond pigeons. What looks like cunning, even malice, dissolves under scrutiny into something more interesting: a set of well-tuned biological systems interacting with a structured environment. The birds are not conspiring. They are simply exceptionally good at being pigeons.

Further reading

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Ask the instructor – *Technical Targets*

By Don Currie & Others

Question:

In sporting clays, I often hear the term “technical targets.” What does this mean?

Answer:

A “technical target” refers to the way in which a target is presented or thrown and is characterized by inconsistent speed or line through the natural break area. A skeet or trap target would not be considered a technical target, as the speed and line are fairly consistent through the break area.

With a technical target, the target’s line and speed are less well defined and often deceptive with subtle changes in line and speed through the area where most shooters would choose to break the target. Any target that is losing its line, losing speed or transitioning in a way that is deceiving is considered a technical target.

In the early days of sporting clays, most all presentations were straightforward. After all, sporting clays was originally intended as a means to maintain one’s bird-hunting skill in the off season, with most presentations mimicking birds in the wild. The incredible advancement in trap technology over the last 10 years, and the corresponding sophistication and creativity of target setters, has led to an increase in technical targets and therefore a rise in the difficulty of your average registered tournament course.

The increase in technical targets has also led to the more frequent use of movement techniques beyond the traditional methods of sustained lead, pull-away and swing-through. Often, less gun movement and techniques such as intercept and diminishing lead are more effective on technical targets. The most talented target setters, regularly engaged for the National Championship, U.S. Open and other major events, can make targets fly in a way that



baffles and deceives. The best way to combat a technical target is to observe all targets carefully during pre-shot planning in an effort to uncover the subtle changes in line and speed throughout a target’s flight path.

– This tip came from <https://www.doncurrie.com/post/ask-the-instructor-technical-targets> by Don Currie.

Shoot Mechanics

You cannot shoot birds consistently if you are thinking of the mechanics. The fundamentals must be practiced to the point where they become automatic and

the movement to and in from of the target can be made without conscious thought.

– This tip came from the book *“The Instinctive Shot – The Practical Guide to Modern Wingshooting”* by Chris Batha.

Recoil

Subconscious recoil, even though you do not physically feel it, can affect your shooting by throwing off your timing, rhythm and swing.



– This tip came from the book *“The Instinctive Shot”* by Chris Batha.



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Beretta – 500 Years of *Gunmaking Excellence*



*From the gunmakers of Renaissance
Italy to some of the finest sporting and
competition shotguns in the world.*

by André van der Westhuizen

Very few can claim to have remained in the same family throughout that time. Imagine a company that has survived wars, revolutions, economic disasters, the rise and fall of empires, and just about every technological advancement imaginable, while continuing to manufacture firearms. Quite remarkable, don't you think? Well, that company is Beretta.

For those of us who enjoy wing-shooting, clay target shooting, or simply appreciate a beautifully made shotgun, Beretta needs little introduction. Whether you shoot an old Silver Pigeon, a competition-grade DT11,

or one of the magnificent SO-series sidelock guns, there is something special about owning a firearm made by a company that has been around for half a millennium.

In 2026, Beretta celebrates its 500th anniversary. Yes, 500 years! The company was making gun barrels long before anyone had dreamt of motor cars, electricity, or modern shotgun cartridges.

So, how did it all begin? Their story starts in Gardone Val Trompia, northern Italy, near Brescia. The region was already famous for iron-working, with its rivers providing water power for the machinery of the day.

In 1526, gun barrel maker Bartolomeo Beretta supplied 185 arquebus barrels to the Arsenal of Venice, receiving 296 ducats. The transaction, dated 3 October 1526, provides the earliest surviving documentary evidence of the Beretta family's gunmaking business.

Remember, these were the days of muzzle-loading firearms, black powder and primitive ignition systems. Not exactly equipment one would take to a modern sporting clays competition!

Nevertheless, Bartolomeo clearly knew his trade. His barrels earned a reputation for quality, and the business passed from generation to generation.

Over the centuries, matchlocks gave way to flintlocks, percussion ignition followed, and eventually breech-loading firearms changed the industry forever. One thing remained constant: the Beretta family's involvement.

By the nineteenth century, breech-loading shotguns, particularly double-barrelled guns, were becoming increasingly popular amongst European sportsmen. Beretta was well positioned to benefit, having accumulated centuries of barrel-making experience.

The company's transformation accelerated under Pietro Beretta, born in 1870, who modernised production and expanded its firearms range during the early twentieth century. Beretta was no longer simply a traditional barrel maker. It was becoming an internationally recognised firearms manufacturer. And for us shotgun enthusiasts, things were about to get interesting!

In 1933, Beretta introduced what would become one of its most prestigious shotgun families, the SO series.

The original SO1 was a beauti-

fully crafted sidelock over-and-under, designed for discerning hunters and competitive shooters demanding the very best. These were not ordinary production guns. They were individually fitted, finished and engraved by skilled craftsmen, combining mechanical precision with traditional Italian artistry.

The family eventually included the SO3, SO4, SO5, SO6 and magnificent SO10. The SO5 became particularly respected amongst serious clay target shooters, while the SO6 and SO10 represented the pinnacle of Beretta's luxury shotgun manufacturing.

If you've ever handled a properly fitted SO-series shotgun, you'll understand why these guns command such respect – and rather substantial prices! The SO series demonstrated that Beretta could compete with the finest British and European gunmakers on craftsmanship, elegance and performance.

Following the Second World War, Beretta recognised an enormous opportunity in the growing civilian hunting and sporting market. Not everyone could afford a handcrafted SO-series shotgun. Most hunters simply wanted something dependable that would survive years of hard use without costing the equivalent of a small farm.

Enter the Beretta S55. Introduced during the 1950s, the S55 over-and-under became a popular hunting shotgun. It was relatively simple, robust and affordable, while retaining Beretta's manufacturing quality.

Another significant development was the ASE, introduced in 1947. This competition over-and-under combined robust engineering with the precision required for high-volume clay shooting. The ASE helped pave the way for Beretta's later competition successes. Beretta had clearly found a winning formula: build a dependable shotgun, make it handle well, ensure durability and offer it at a sensible price. Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? But achieving all four is easier said than done.

If one had to nominate the shotgun family that cemented Beretta's reputation amongst everyday wingshooters and competitive clay shooters, the 680 series would certainly be

near the top. Introduced around the end of the 1970s, the family included the 680, 682, 686 and 687 models.

The engineering was clever. Beretta developed a low-profile action incorporating conical locking bolts engaging recesses in the barrel shoulders. The result was a strong, reliable and comparatively slim action that became one of the company's most recognisable designs.

The 682 became a favourite amongst trap, skeet and sporting clay shooters, while the 686 developed into one of the most successful hunting and sporting over-and-under shotguns ever produced. Its best-known descendant, the Silver Pigeon, remains hugely popular. And for good reason.

The 686 Silver Pigeon offers an excellent combination of quality, balance, handling and durability. It's not the most expensive or exotic shotgun, but it does what a good shotgun should – shoot consistently and keep doing so for years.

A properly maintained 686 can digest tens of thousands of cartridges, making it suitable for serious wingshooters and recreational clay shooters alike. The more luxurious 687 models offered upgraded wood, engraving and finishing, while retaining the proven mechanical design.

In my opinion, this family represents one of Beretta's greatest achievements: making genuinely good shotguns accessible to ordinary sportsmen.

And let's face it, when you're walking through the veld after francolin or spending a morning shooting guinea-fowl, reliability matters considerably more than fancy engraving! As competitive clay shooting became increasingly specialised, Beretta continued developing shotguns for demanding competition use.

The ASE90 was followed by the DT10 around the beginning of the 2000s.

The DT10 featured a robust action with a cross-bolt locking arrangement, designed to withstand the enormous round counts associated with serious competition. Its successor, the DT11, introduced a wider receiver, refined balance and advanced barrel technology.

The DT11 became one of the

most recognisable shotguns on international competition ranges. Beretta also introduced the 692 and subsequently the 694, aimed at serious shooters seeking high performance without necessarily purchasing the flagship DT11.

The 694, with its redesigned action and competition-oriented ergonomics, has proved particularly popular amongst sporting clay shooters. Of course, an expensive shotgun won't magically turn an average shooter into a world champion. If your fundamentals are poor, you're still going to miss that crossing clay! But a well-balanced, properly fitted gun certainly helps.

Its handcrafted SO-series guns remain outstanding examples of Italian craftsmanship, while the elegant 486 Parallelo revived the company's side-by-side tradition. There's something rather special about a beautifully balanced side-by-side when walking behind a good pointing dog on a crisp winter morning. Some things simply never go out of fashion.

At the Paris 2024 Olympics, athletes using Beretta shotguns won 14 of the 15 medals awarded across the shotgun disciplines. Rather impressive, whichever way you look at it!

Today, Beretta remains under family leadership, spanning fifteen generations. From Bartolomeo's 185 arquebus barrels in 1526 to the sophisticated competition shotguns of 2026, the company has travelled a remarkable road. And here's something worth considering – when you next take your Beretta out of the gun safe, whether it's an old S55, a well-used Silver Pigeon or a shiny new DT11, you're handling a product backed by five centuries of gunmaking experience.

Of course, the fellow behind the trigger still has to do his bit. No amount of Italian engineering will compensate for poor gun fit, incorrect technique or shooting behind every second bird!

Nevertheless, 500 years of family involvement, engineering development and firearm manufacturing is an achievement very few companies can match.

Happy 500th birthday, Beretta. Here's to another 500 years! 

Background image: Stephan Röhrs, Grant Cornish-Bowden & Greg Higgs at Leandra

Official Shoots...

Leandra, Malmesbury, Singita...



Above: Shawn Kennard and Kimber at the Leandra

Right: Spurwing... our own A380s of the waterfowl world.

Far Right: Kaptein on an air scent point.

Below left: Andrew Cameron walking up in the line



From left: Gary Hagemann (GH Wingshooting), Greg Higgs, Andy Charalambous, Andrew Cameron, Stephan Röhrs, Corrie Jordaan, Grant Cornish-Bowden & Shawn Kennard.



& Merinovlakte



Left: Leslie van der Merwe & Roland Boesch at Singita

Oom Jan Breed and Bernard Cilliers at the Merinovlakte shoot.



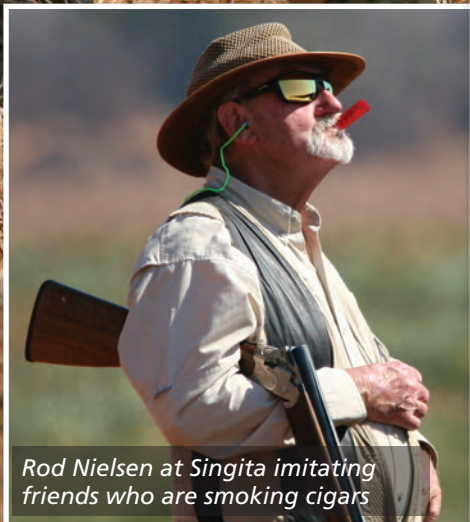
Wynand Visser & Gavin Scholz at the Malmesbury



Dusan Janjic & Derek Garton taking dual swings at Singita



Rod Nielsen at Singita imitating friends who are smoking cigars



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

Official Shoots...

Below: Oliver Harmer on them.
Bottom left: Brad Smith
Bottom right: Nic Dinham and niece



The Rustenburg



Top left: William Hill, Dusan Janjic.
Top right: Derek Garton before a drive.
Bottom left: Evening pleasures.
Bottom right: Jonathan Miller.



Official Shoots... The Rustenburg continued



Above: Hull No.4, 34gr loads are very effective on Guineas.

Below: André, Frans van Wyk, Jakkals Bothma, Bernard Cilliers and Ebbe le Roux



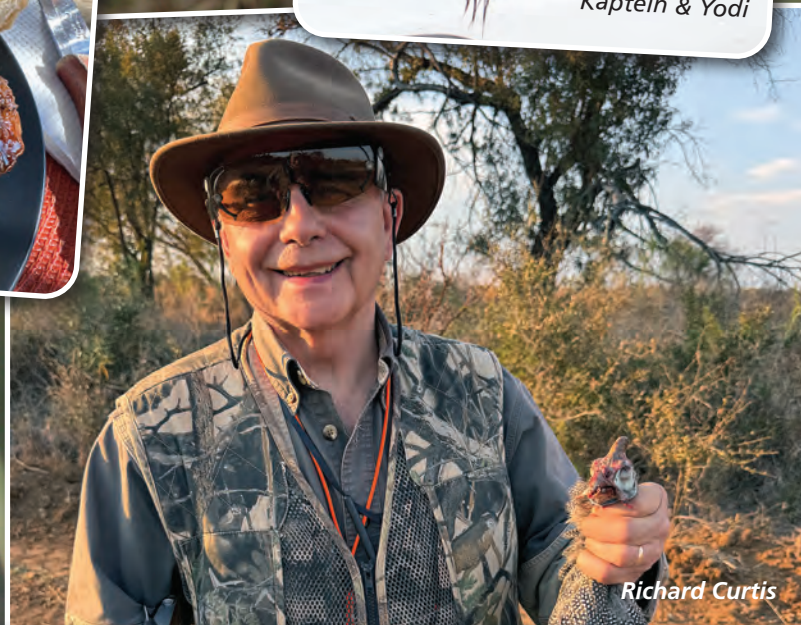
Upland birds & Driven Guineafowl



Sebastian Oelofse with a brace of Swainsons



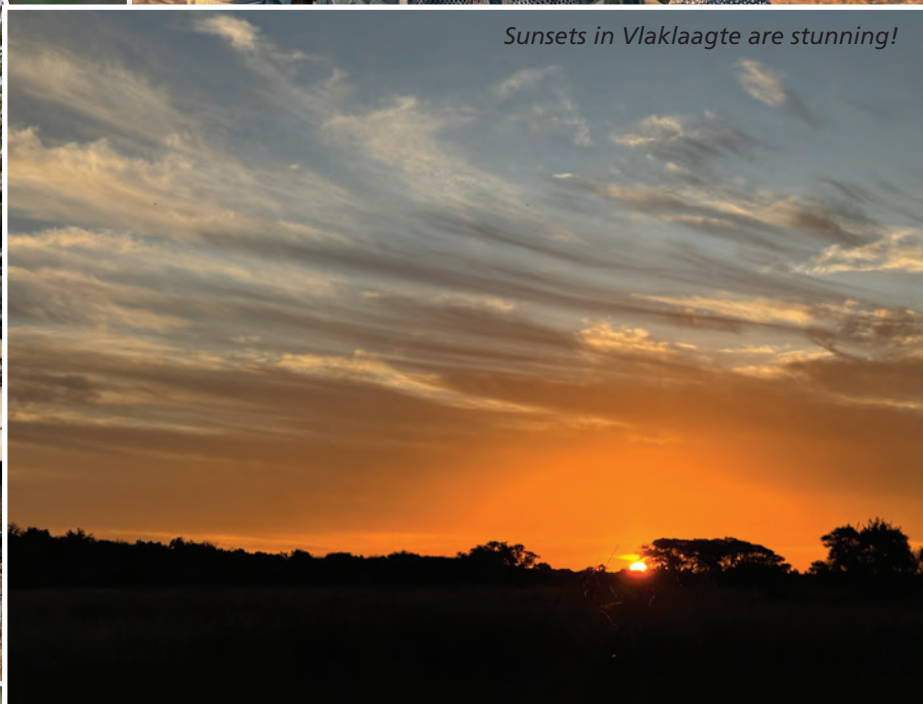
Faye,
Kaptein & Yodi



Richard Curtis



Sunsets in Vlaklaagte are stunning!



Members in the field...

Adam McLeave on a Greywing shoot with Fred Steynberg



Troy & Mark van Heerden at a GH Wingshooting shoot



Alistair McLean



Costa and Hester Halkias at the Leandra shoot

George Smith at
Rûens shoot.



Graham Smith at Singita



Mark Watt-Pringle
at Rustenburg



Kevin Reynders and
daughter Juanné &
Benji



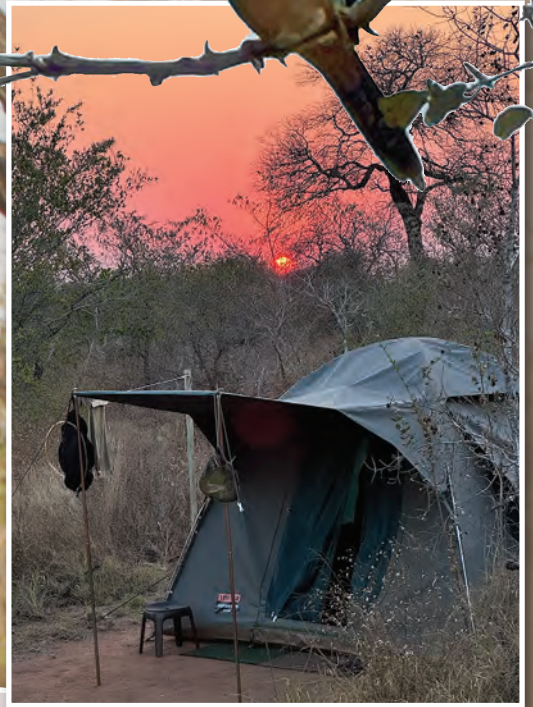
Youngster at the Rûens
shoot giving Faye some
love



Official Activities Timbavati Course Next Level

Members attended the advanced handgun shooting and animal tracking course during July, as advertised in the calendar, hosted and instructed by friend and member, and super qualified Andreas Liebenberg (above). As always, a valuable and unforgettable experience. Below: Noel Gibson getting ready for the next exercise. Below Right: Mark Schuurmans on SLR transitions.





Keep an eye out
when walking!



Jakkals Bothma, Andreas (Instructor), Mark van Heerden,
Frans van Wyk & Noel Gibson on the line



Close range technique exercise

Bird Hunting Gear Checklist: Don't Forget Essential Gear at Home

This pilot learned the hard way why every upland hunter needs a bird hunting gear checklist before leaving home

by E. Donnell Thomas Jr
projectupland.com



Photo: Gabby Zaldumbide

Some years ago, an experienced hunter I shall not name (Me? Perish the thought...) set out with his wife early on the opening day of the Montana upland season. After a 40-mile drive and a social visit with the landowner, they crossed a cattle guard, drove another mile down a rutted two-track, and parked.

The dogs — an experienced Lab and a young wirehair — knew full well what was going on and sounded as if they were trying to claw their way out of their crates in the back of the

trunk. After dropping the tailgate, he let the excited dogs out so they could burn off some of their pent-up energy. It still took him ten minutes to get their e-collars fastened.

The weather was hot as usual in September on the prairie, and they had set off early so they could get the dogs out of the field by mid-morning. After filling water bottles to carry in their vests, he walked around the truck, opened the backdoor, and experienced a sinking feeling that something was missing.

"Where's my shotgun?" he asked

his wife, Lori. (Oops — busted!) "Wherever you put it when you loaded the truck last night." "Well, it isn't here." "Looks like you forgot it then," Lori replied from the other side of the truck, with an eyeroll I could feel even though I couldn't see it.

"Dumb move, but let's not let it ruin opening day. We can hunt with mine and pass the shotgun and camera back and forth. We've done that plenty of times."

"Great idea, but your gun is with mine in the double case. Probably lying on the kitchen table." "Then

let's go get them and come back out."

"It will be too hot for the dogs by then." Accepting defeat, I whistled the dogs in. As I ordered them back in their crates, they looked at me as if they concurred with Lori that I was the dumbest hunter in the world. I couldn't disagree.

Why Every Upland Hunter Needs a Bird Hunting Gear Checklist

On many levels, upland hunting is a simple, relaxing activity, but it still requires a lot of gear. Not all of it is as essential as a shotgun, but forgetting a dog whistle, hunting license, shells, water, or another small item can become almost as frustrating.

I think every upland hunter I know has forgotten something occasionally. The consequences may not be as serious as leaving behind an important piece of survival equipment on an extended backcountry trip, but they can certainly waste time and be embarrassing, especially since they are so easy to avoid.

The best way to prevent it is with a bird hunting gear checklist. Flying planes in Alaska taught me the importance of this concept. In complex aircraft, a pre-flight checklist can involve a strict protocol and take some time. In the Super Cub I was flying, all I needed was the mnemonic CIGAR TIP (controls, instruments, gas, altimeter, run-up, trim, interior, and pattern).

That routine proved so easy and useful that I now have separate checklists for most of my outdoor activities including upland hunting as well as duck hunting, fly fishing (one for fresh water, another for salt), bowhunting, and backcountry travel. Compulsively reviewing them before heading out the door has saved me from several repeats of that opening day fiasco.

I have included my own upland checklist here purely as a starting point and an example. Some readers likely won't need certain items on this list and others will need some that aren't, depending on where and what they are hunting and personal needs and preferences.



Photo: Gabby Zaidumbe

Bird Hunting Gear Checklist:

1. Shotguns and cases
2. Dogs and dog boxes or crates
3. Shotgun shells
4. E-collar and dog whistle
5. Glasses
6. Game vests
7. Hats
8. Hunting license
9. Cameras and photo supplies
10. Dog water bottles and bowls
11. Large water bottle or jug in truck
12. Cell phone
13. Medications
14. Cold cooler with snacks, drinks, and room for birds
15. Dog treats
16. Cable cutter
17. Toilet paper
18. Gloves
19. Stuff for landowners

Some items (like a shotgun, duh!) are obvious enough to require little explanation. I'll now offer some brief commentary on others that are less obvious, identified by number.

3. Shells. It's not enough to have enough; they need to be the right

kind. After a few weeks of hunting season, mine tend to wind up in disorganized piles. No one needs goose loads on a quail hunt. When I'm hunting with a 12-gauge, I like a reminder to check my vest pockets and confirm that they don't contain any 20-gauge ammo that could lead to disaster during a quick re-load.

4. E-collars and whistles. For some reason, dog whistles seem especially easy to leave behind. During hunting season, I usually keep several stashed around the truck, but I always like to confirm it.

5. Glasses. I need this reminder more than most hunters because of esophoria, an imbalance of the eye muscles that causes intermittent double vision. Corrective lenses really help my shooting, but since I don't wear them all the time, they're easy to forget. It's hard enough to concentrate on picking one target from a Hun covey rise without seeing two birds for every one that is actually there. Many hunters without such specialized eye problems routinely wear shooting glasses in the field as more of us should, just for eye protection. Sunglasses can always be



Photo: Gabby Zaldumbide

helpful on bright days. No matter why you want glasses in the field, they won't do you any good if you leave them at home.

7. Hats. For reasons of safety, I routinely wear a blaze-orange hat on upland hunts and like hunting partners to do the same. When hunting late season pheasants in sub-zero weather, a stocking cap that comes down over my ears can mean the difference between a limit of roosters and an early departure from the field – as long as I've remembered to bring one.

8. Hunting license. The little things are the easiest to forget, and game wardens have a limited tolerance for "I must have left it at home" stories. Say no more.

9. Camera and photo supplies. This is more important – and complicated – for us than most hunters, but the best camera in the world is the one you have with you. Today's cell phones will get the job done fine for most hunters in most situations, as long as you've remembered to bring it.

10. and 11. Dog Water. In cool weather or when hunting a location with known surface water this may not be important, but during early season on the prairie or when hunting quail in the desert it can be critical. My rule is to bring twice as much as I think the dogs could possibly need, which is why I always carry a full 5-gallon water container in the back of the truck during early upland season. The checklist reminds me to be sure it is full or nearly so and, dur-

ing the late season, that it hasn't frozen. In hot weather, Lori and I each carry a full water bottle in our vest. A lightweight collapsible rubber bowl is easy to carry and an efficient way to deliver water to the dogs in the field. All are also easy to leave behind.

12. Cell phones. Frankly, I hate cell phones and the way they have intruded relentlessly upon our lives. However, digital map functions can be very useful when hunting near private land with poorly marked boundaries, and a cell phone can be lifesaving in a true emergency. Otherwise, they can stay turned off.

13. Medications. Hunters who need to take certain medications several times a day (as I now do) shouldn't leave home without an adequate supply in a small container that can be carried easily and securely.

16. Cable cutter. This is a relatively recent addition to my checklist and one I hope I never need to use. Trappers operate legally on both public and private land, and in most places there is no requirement to notify others that traps are present. A dog caught in a leg-hold trap should survive, at the cost of some misery and lost time in the field for the dog, stress for its owner, and perhaps a bill from the vet. But a dog caught in a snare may soon be dead without prompt intervention. Friends more familiar with snares than I am say the best way to cut through one quickly is with an aircraft cable cutter. They are light, easy to carry, inexpensive, and readily available online. I always keep one in my hunting vest now.

17. Toilet paper. Too obvious to require explanation, but easy to forget. Unnecessary until it isn't.

18. Gloves. I don't like shooting with gloves on because they make it hard to feel the trigger and safety. However, they may be mandatory during cold late season weather. In those conditions I usually wear a standard winter glove on my left hand and a fingerless wool glove on my right (trigger finger) hand. If the temperature is too cold for that to keep my fingers functional, it's probably time to leave the field.

19. Stuff for landowners. A lot of the farms and ranches we hunt are owned by old friends who live a long way from town. If we can save them an 80-mile round trip by bringing out prescription medications from the pharmacy or a tractor part from the implement dealer, the gesture is an easy way to show our appreciation of their hospitality. I like to call several days ahead to ask, and the checklist helps remind me to do so.

Make Your Bird Hunting Gear List Your Own

Just like the items mentioned above, a bird hunting gear checklist doesn't do any good if you can't find it or forget to consult it. I've never been able to come up with a simple mnemonic like CIGAR TIP, but perhaps some reader with spare time and a large vocabulary can. I just tape a hard copy inside our back door so it hits me in the face before departure.

As noted throughout, this bird hunting gear list is designed for the kind of hunting I do. Other hunters will have different needs depending on their dogs, quarry, terrain, weather, and hunting style. In this piece, I'm recommending the idea of a checklist more than its individual components.

But think about that cable cutter. If it saves one dog's life, writing this article will have been worth the effort.

– https://projectupland.com/bird-hunting-gear/bird-hunting-gear-checklist/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=fUSZQJgzqvSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTvdmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu.XSVPIXG

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Just Because You Can Make the Shot, Should You Take It?

by André van der Westhuizen

Long-range hunting is about more than accuracy and ballistics. It's about knowing your limits, making the first shot count, and understanding when not to pull the trigger...



I believe the overwhelming consideration should be whether you'll be able to cleanly kill the animal with the first round, taking into consideration your personal shooting ability and skill, equipment, wind, environmental conditions and, importantly, the calibre and ballistics as part of your decision to take the shot.

Let's assume the hunter is a top shot with many years of experience in shooting and competition shooting, locally and internationally – you get my drift.

Let's assume the wind is zero.

Any competitive shooter (and most other shooters and hunters, for that matter) will agree that shooting at a 200 mm diameter gong at 800 m, compared to the same size target at 300 m, is a tad different. Almost all of the top shooters I know will put money on it that they will successfully hit the 200 mm gong at 300 m with every shot, five consecutive shots in succession. You can almost bet your life on it, right?

Now the same shooter has to do the same, on the same size gong,

but at 800 m – five shots in a row. How much greater is the probability of missing – or worse, wounding an animal – at 800 m compared to 300 m? This should be the main consideration.

Let's take a gemsbok as an example. Wind is still zero km/h.

You want to make sure of your shot in the best way possible and take a shoulder shot. The animal is standing at 800 m, broadside. You are using a .308 Win calibre rifle with a 175 gr bullet. At 800 m, the remaining energy of a 175 gr bullet,

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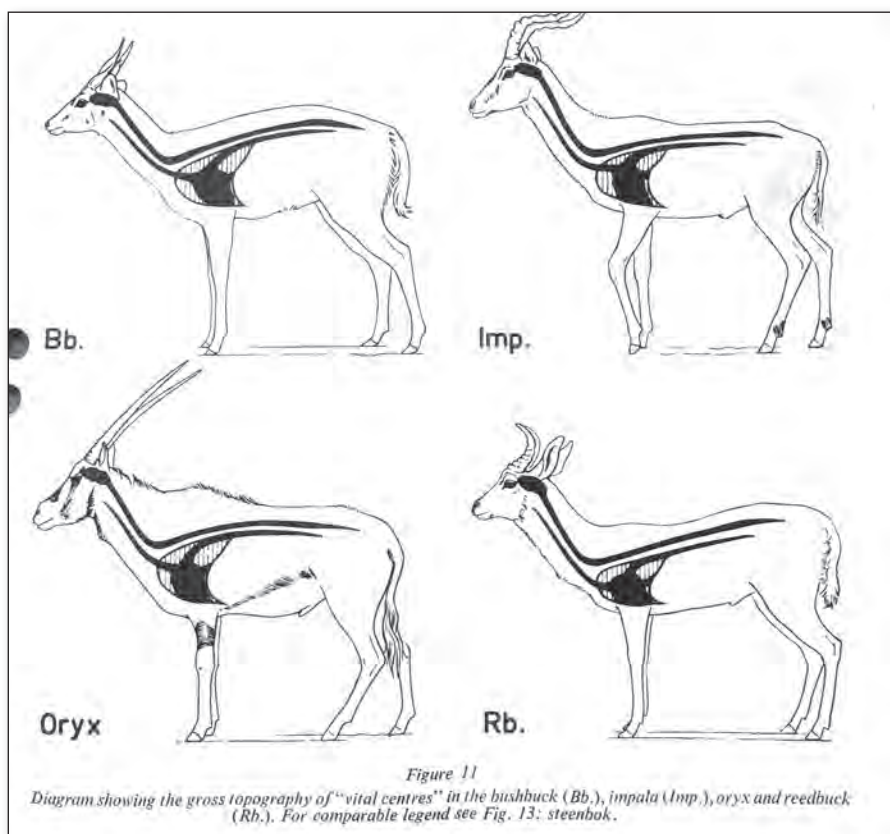
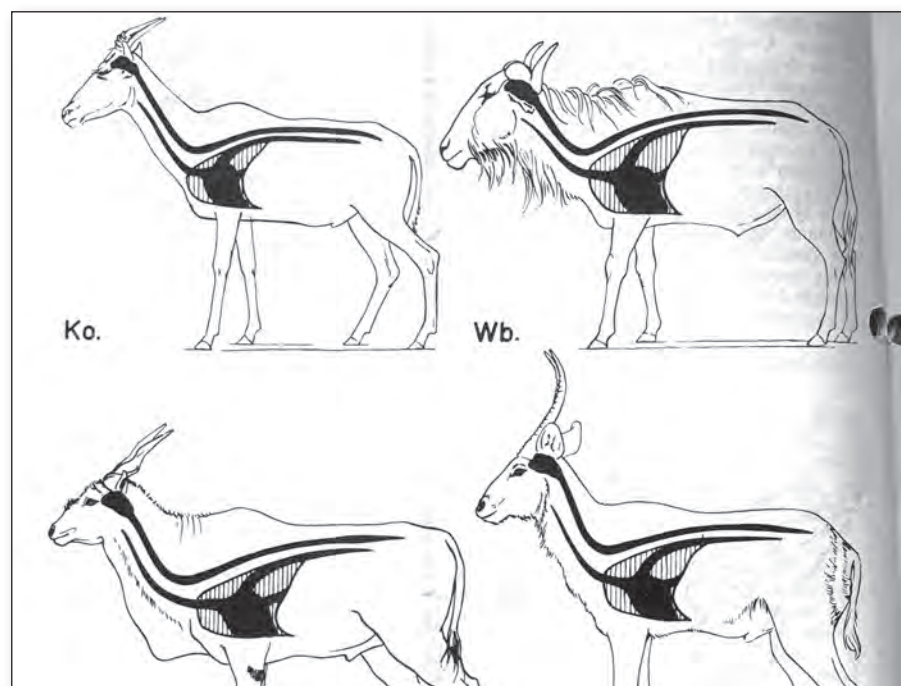
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which left the barrel at 2,800 ft/s, is around 800 ft-lb. This is not ideal, as the energy should be around 1,200 to 1,500 ft-lb to humanely kill a gemsbok.

Take the same scenario and technical specifications, but now let's use a .300 Win Mag, with a 220 gr bullet leaving the barrel at around the same velocity. The retained energy at 800 m is around 1,800 ft-lb. More than double that of the .308! Another main consideration.

The heart/lung vital area (shoulder shot) on a gemsbok is obviously the largest area to aim for. This is roughly 200 mm (perhaps 300 mm, but that's pushing it) in size when the animal is standing perfectly square/broadside. A fairly difficult and precise shot is required at 800 m indeed.

Now add wind, any shooting position other than prone, and any other influences possibly affecting stability, and you have introduced more variables to help you execute a



terrible shot. The fact of the matter is, yes, you might shoot a perfect shot and poleaxe the gemsbok with the first shot, but you won't reliably do it five out of five shots on five gemsbok at the same distance in anything less than perfect conditions.

But you'll do it at 300 m, 10 out of 10 times — almost guaranteed. Now, slightly change the angle the animal is facing... see how things go

pear-shaped! Hence the reason we try to stalk as close as possible, as we are shooting at a live animal. So, make sure of your shot!

While we are on the hunting topic... on African game, make sure to shoot lower and more forward on the shoulder than you think. Our game is not European or North American game, and their ruminant stomachs are often larger than those

of the northern species, such as Roe deer vs. Springbok.

Our game need to survive in dry winters, often in semi-desert conditions, when biomass has minimal nutrients and therefore often have larger ruminant stomachs. Our antelope need to take in more bulk for sustainability and survival.

A "behind the shoulder" shot is a poor option, as you might move on the shot, flinch, or get the wind slightly wrong, and your shot drifts a few inches, resulting in a gut shot. The quintessential "pensskoot", with its signature impact thud... making trackers work extra hard for their tip.

Lastly, use enough gun! Doing so will increase your success rate and should reduce wounding, as it's more effective to use a .300 Win Mag, .338 Lapua Mag, .300 Norma Mag or .378 Weatherby on that gemsbok than a .308 at longer distances.

See images of the vital zones of various species. Note the anterior positioning of the heart (and lungs, for that matter), especially in Impala, Reedbuck and Oryx.

Note: Images: Applied Topographic-Anatomical Studies of East African Game Ruminants (1968) — By Prof. R.R. Hofmann & Prof. P. Scholz.

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Discover more performance

Images from our 2026 *LRSC events*



Right: Training day at our Western Cape range.

Below: The beautiful Western Cape LRSC range.

Middle right: Emile Tredoux & Daniel Badenhorst from EuroOptics Africa.

Bottom: Greg Tearnan taking part in the F-SL .223 Calibre Division competition. We have specific calibre divisions, however, we host an Open Minor division and an Open Major division, and you are welcome to compete with any calibre – bolt action and/or SLR rifles. We also offer TPS Multi-gun, consisting of 4-gun, 3-gun and 2-gun matches.





Left: Mark Schuurmans (right) & Bryn Collier at the Western Cape shoot.

Below left: Tony Ernst in the TPS Handgun stage of the multi-gun match.

Below: Jimmy Zahos getting ready for his TPS run.

Inset floater: Members enjoying a braai after the match.

Bottom: Members at the range before the start of the TPS Multi-gun match.



Members hunting & shooting 2026

Top left: Herman Kirstein
Below: Hennie Dreyer hunting in Scotland



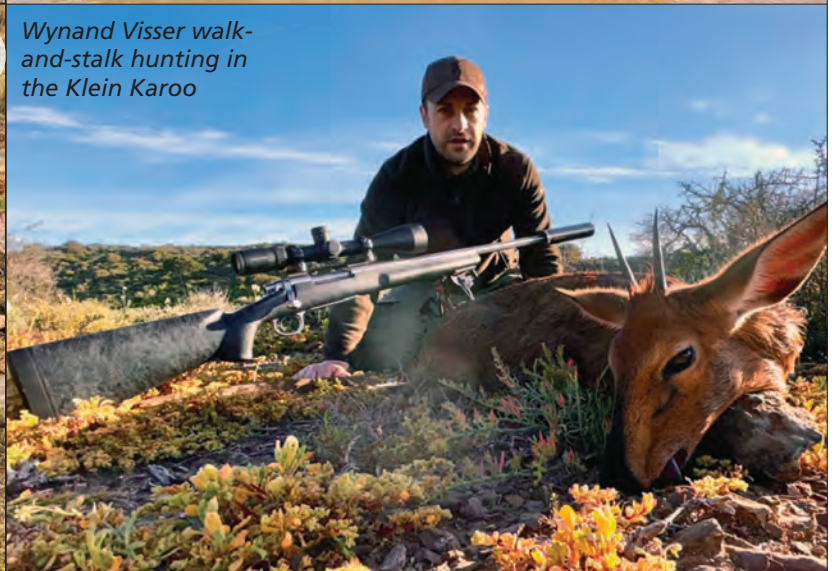
Henk Moen – Springbok time!



Casper van Wyk with a nice
Buffalo bull, Tanzania



Roux Struweg out
hunting Blesbuck



Wynand Visser walk-
and-stalk hunting in
the Klein Karoo

worldwide...

Philipp Schulz with a fine bull hunted in Zimbabwe



Marius Gericke on a hunt near Luckhoff



Andreas Botha on their family farm in Eastern Cape



Neil Swart bowhunting Fallow deer in Eastern cape

Luke Steyn, Marius de Wet & André on the plains of Florida, Free State



One association

We do it all

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target

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

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

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

Multi-gun (4-gun, 3-gun & 2-gun) sport shooting – we offer multi gun events, where self-loading rifles, handguns and bolt action rifles are used, at our LRSC range and elsewhere

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

- The LRSC (Long range shoot-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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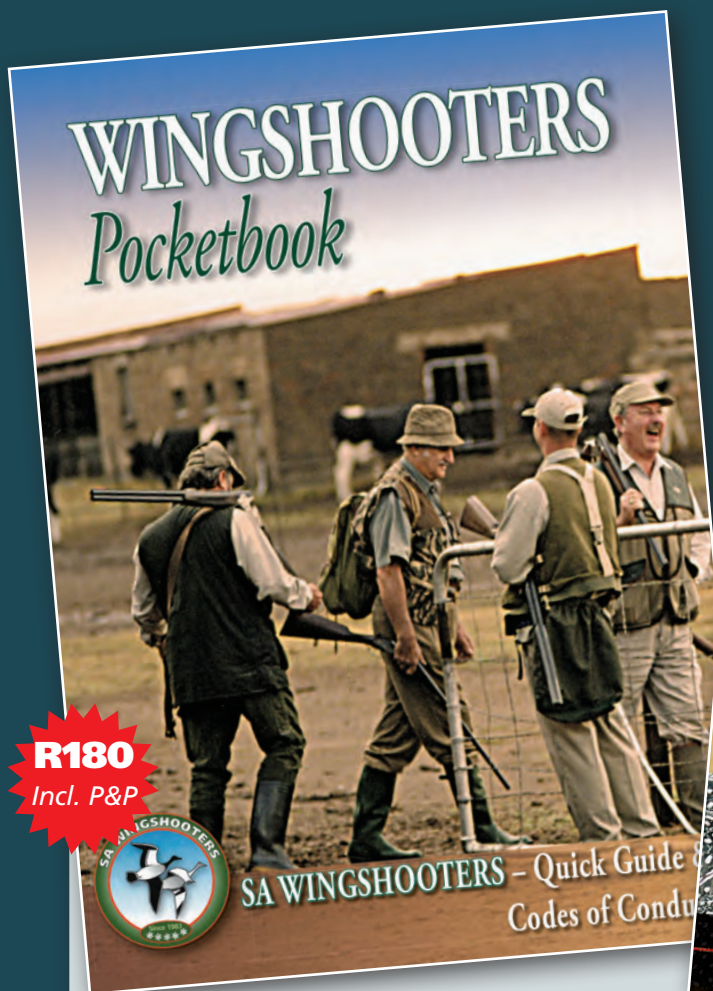
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This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters*, and contains:

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- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
- 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 Klocek

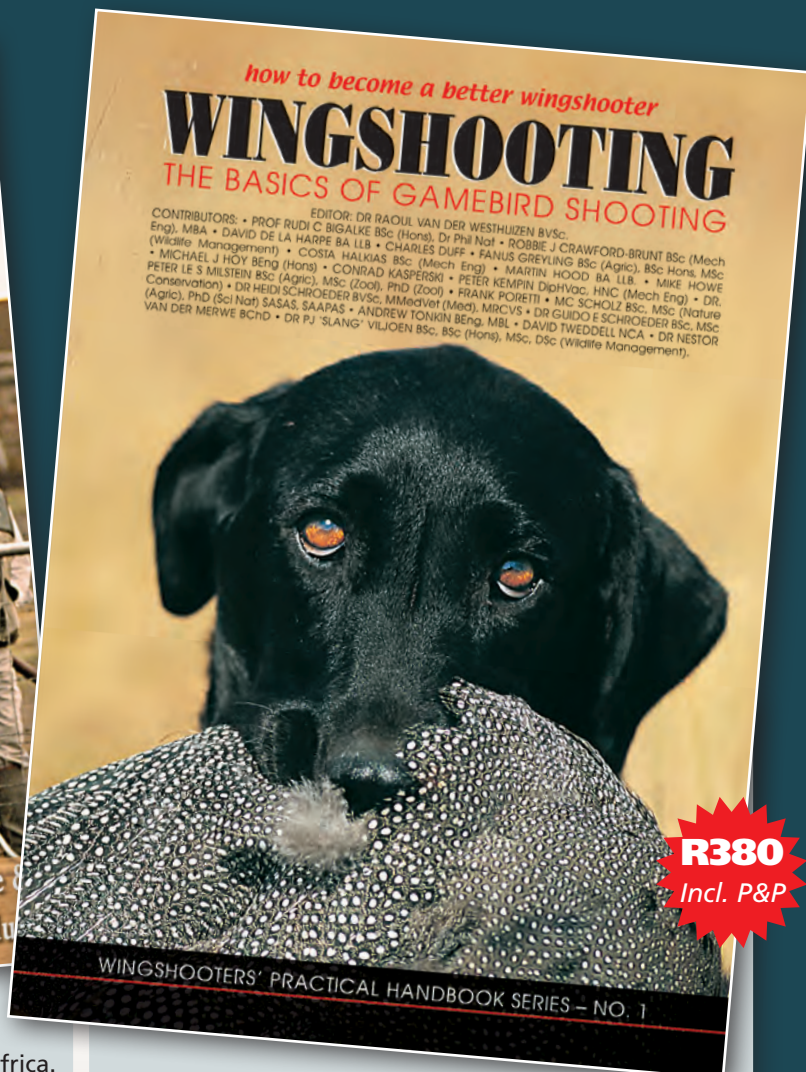
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'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

'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



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

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

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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.



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2026



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