



2024 KUSA NATIONAL RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS



It is two years since the last Championship Stake was held in 2022, when it was presented as a two-part supplement in the June/July and December editions of the Wingshooters magazine. Those two articles provided a foundation for anyone wanting to understand what happens during a retriever field trial and explained the mechanics of trials and the complexity associated with any Championship Stake. They elaborated on the strict rules that govern the event and outlined the requirements for qualification for such an event.

The KUSA National Retriever Field Trial showcases the finest of the country's retrievers and reflects on the commitment and dedication of the handlers and dogs that are invited to compete in this prestigious event. The previous articles also described the expectations of dogs and handlers at championship level and touched on the extent of organising, preparation and management that a field trial at this level demands. Now two years later, we are excited to be writing about the 2024 Champs.

Held in the Free State on St Fort farm and the neighbouring Dunblane farm on the outskirts of Clarens, the setting for the trial could not have been more spectacular. Surrounded by the magnificent pink, yellow and brown cliffs and rock formations that are characteristic of the Golden Gate area, the farms provided abundant, varied and complex terrain for setting each series, which made the task of course setting simultaneously easy and also difficult, because it required that the judges choose amongst a host of suitable scenarios.



PREPARATION

Taking on the responsibility of preparing for and then staging a Retriever Field Trial Championship is a daunting task, and it was not until July 2023 that the KUSA Field Trial Liaison Council received a proposal that two Gauteng-based clubs were considering jointly hosting the event: the Gundog Club and the Working Retriever Club. It was then that the hard work began, and a small working committee led by Jenny Smith and Alan Kloeck stepped into gear and organised and produced a memorable event over the weekend of the 24 and 25 August 2024, that was themed “Shooting for the Stars”.

As with all Championship Stakes, the entry was limited to those dogs that had already reached champion status in the years leading up to the Champs, and also to those who had either won or been placed second in an Open Stake during the preceding two seasons. In 2024, 14 dogs were entered, and for the first time in the history of Championship Stakes, a flat-coated retriever from the Cape had qualified. It was then very sad, when the handler had to withdraw before the event due to ill-health, resulting in only 13 dogs running. Amongst these, there were six Golden Retrievers and seven Labradors, ranging in age from 6 to 11 years old.



DRAW DINNER

According to tradition, everyone arrives at the venue in advance of the trial, and the weekend kicked off with the magnificent Draw Dinner held at St Fort on Thursday. The hall setup celebrated the Champs theme and provided a stunning backdrop for the business of the evening – revealing the running order for all competitors and the presentation of beautiful custom-made numbers and personalised handkerchiefs.



The following day (Friday) gave all competitors an opportunity to be at the venue for a full day ahead of the trial and settle their dogs, and also enabled the judging panel and field trial managers the opportunity of familiarising themselves with the farm and setting the course. Senior Judge Estene Trollope supported by Hannes Oberholzer, Heather Hallauer and Michelle Emin and assisted by Field Trial Managers Dwayne Malcolm and Petros Bipa, set three series for the first day comprising 12 retrieves, and two series for the final day of 9 pick-ups.

DAY ONE

Set on St Fort Farm against the backdrop of the beautiful mountains, all series were spectator friendly.

The First Series

The first series was set adjacent to a small dam, with the handler and dog seated in a hide that was set up on an elevated dam wall with several goose decoys strategically placed.

Comprising four retrieves, the series was deceptively simple but required good marking from the dogs and a cool head by the handlers. The first bird up was a duck (A) to the right of the line that was thrown and landed at the far end of the dam on land, followed by a second duck (B) close by in the water amongst reeds, also to the right of the line. Once down, a gun on the left of the line walked away along the crest of a gully to shoot a saluted pigeon (C) into the gully, followed by a second shot towards a pigeon (D) that had been placed ahead of the line (and hence unseen) and just off the dam wall, serving to provide a hunt-up.

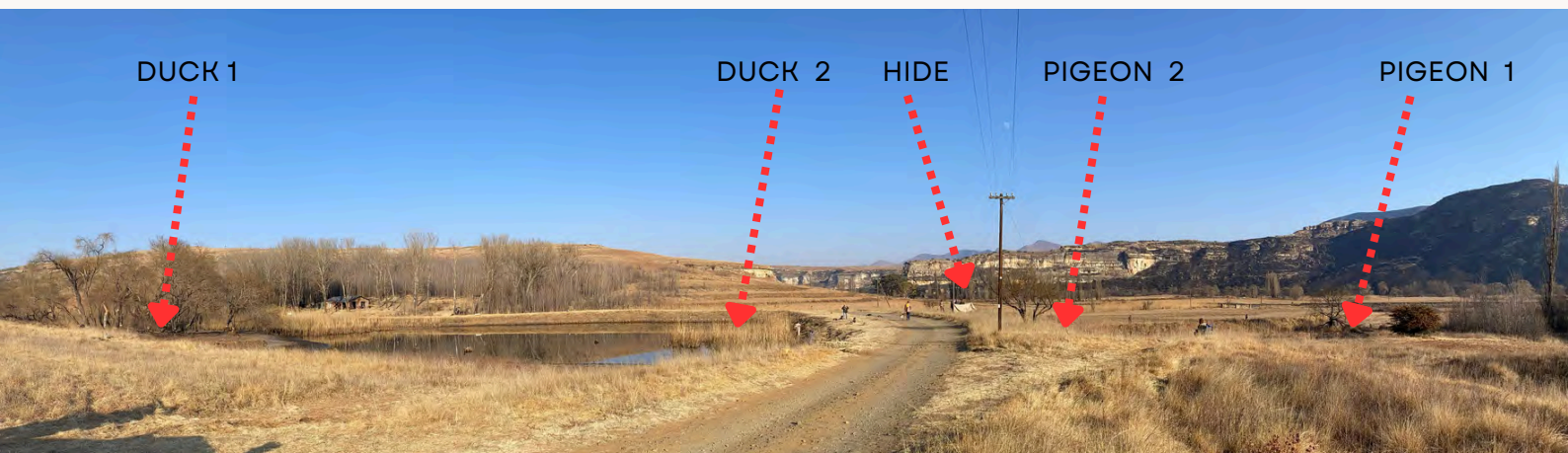
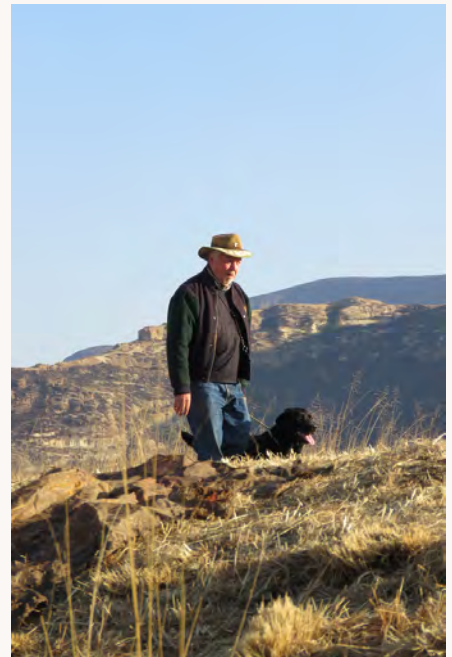
Handlers were allowed to collect the birds in any order but were required to send their dog for the first pick up from their seated position, whereafter they were allowed to stand up. Deciding on the order of pick-up was relatively easy for most handlers and they mainly elected to collect the pigeon in the gully on the left first, followed by the nearby duck on the right in the reeds, the far duck and then the second pigeon that was unseen.

The position of the hide on the dam wall meant that the dogs were elevated from the fall of all of the birds, and hence had a relatively good chance of marking them.



Above: Senior Judge, Estene Trollope

Below: Neil Tatham and his Labrador, Binks leaving the line after successfully completing the series





Above: A Golden Retriever swimming into the reeds

Below: Judge Heather Hallauer keeping score



Interestingly, the pigeon in the gully presented a challenge for many dogs, since the cover was quite thick and there was little wind to assist them in scenting the bird. Drawn by the gun and throwers, all dogs made their way to the area of fall – some hunting quite short to start with.

The duck in the reeds posed few problems, unless the dog had an aversion to water. Once the dogs had gone over the dam wall and descended into the water, they were out of sight until they were swimming, so dogs that were less keen on entering water dallied on the shoreline for some time. For most dogs however, this was deemed an easy pick-up.

For the far duck, the clever handlers gave their dogs a line that was wide of the reeds, in anticipation they would then not be tempted to return to the water and get distracted in the reeds. This wide line enabled dogs to run the bank and head out to the far duck and hunt it out in the cover. The final pigeon that was not sighted, was treated as a blind and posed few problems for most dogs.

Sadly, two dogs were lost in this series: one when the handler stood up to send their dog (a golden retriever) for the first bird; and a second (a black labrador) when his dog broke on the second duck. The labrador was the winner of the previous Retriever Field Trial Championship, so quite unexpected.



Series Two

The second series was set in a breathtakingly steep-sided gully and required considerable courage and tactical handling. The line was on the vehicle track facing towards what seemed at first glance, a steep and unscalable slope leading up to a magnificent rocky outcrop. At its base was a little stretch of water with rock pools.

With a single dog remaining stationary on the line, a duck was shot to land in one of the rock pools to the right of the line and slightly lower down. This was followed by a saluted pigeon up the rocky slope on the left and then a second pigeon on the right slope towards the crest.

Given the terrain, at face value this appeared to be an almost impossible set of retrieves: it required exceptionally good handling; coupled with a very carefully considered strategy. Dogs were required to pick up the last bird down, followed by the second pigeon and then the nearby duck.

Since the terrain required strategic handling, competitors were not allowed to watch the working dogs, and once they had completed the series were ushered into an area beyond the line where they would be unable to communicate with upcoming handlers. This meant that each handler approached the series without foreknowledge of the possible routes up the steep slopes and had no way of evaluating the pros and cons of the various handling techniques of earlier competitors.





Because the ground on the way out was rocky and slow going, the tendency for dogs to opt to collect the nearby duck was strong, and handlers needed to be quick on the whistle and direct their dogs away from the duck, but across the stream and up the slope to the right. Once past the draw from the duck, handlers then needed to keep their dogs in sight and ensure that they did not veer left towards the second pigeon on the rocky slope to the left.

Vast smooth rocks on the way out to the pigeons meant that most handlers had to work their dogs around them on the rising slope yet ensuring that this circuitous route did not enable them to switch. Some handlers elected rather to direct their dogs straight over the rocks resulting in some tense moments as dogs scrabbled and slipped as they made their way upwards.

The series was an exciting one and certainly tested control and showed the importance of handler and dog working as a team. One dog was lost when having collected the first pigeon quickly and efficiently, he was unable to be directed into the area of the second fall, despite considerable handling.



*Field Trial Managers
Dwayne Malcolm
and Petros Bipa*



*Jenny Smith lining her
Golden Retriever, Haley in
the second series*

Due to the difficult terrain, handlers had to select specific routes for the dogs to follow when they climbed up to the saluted birds on the hill. Hence dogs were given strong lines by their handlers.



*Above: Karen Hagger and
her Golden Retriever,
Twista*



*Noleen Wilson-Taylor and
her Golden Retriever, Zeta*

Series Three



The final series on the first day was set in less arduous terrain and comprised five retrieves. There were two dogs in line, walking up along a fence line with the honouring dog walking close to the fence and the working dog on the right veering away to the right. A guineafowl (A) was shot to land about 80 metres ahead and across the fence line uphill to fall on rocky ground. Once down, both dogs walked on and a flurry of two saluted pigeons (B & C) was shot to the right: the first at about 90 metres and the second further back, about 100 metres in thick cover. With the honouring dog remaining on the line (judges permitted handlers to talk quietly to their dog), the working dog was set up to collect a blind (E. a rabbit) at about 80 metres and to the left of the flurry amongst a thicket of small trees. Once collected, the dog was sent out to the flurry, and on the way there the honouring dog was asked to proceed forwards, whereupon a live pigeon (D) was released from a trap on their left and shot to land across the fence and fairly close by. The honouring dog was then instructed to collect the pigeon and then the deep guineafowl, while the working dog continued to collect both of the pigeons in the flurry.

Most handlers struggled to get their dogs to take a straight line to the blind, mostly due to the draw from the flurry. Additionally, the second bird in the flurry proved to be quite difficult not only because dogs were instructed to go back and hunt deeper in the same area, but also since the cover was quite dense. Most dogs spent some time hunting the area before finding their second bird (usually the deeper one).

Three dogs were eliminated, two through handler error: one by not stopping to acknowledge the gunshot for the guinea; and the other for poor heeling and surging ahead to keep pace with their dog. The third dog eliminated did a beautiful blind, but then failed on the second pigeon in the flurry, despite an extensive hunt.

At the end of the first day, out of the 13 dogs that started, six were eliminated leaving seven to face the second day of the Championship Stake.

DAY TWO

The second day of the trial was once again glorious - and run on the neighbouring farm where the terrain was quite different.

Based around water the two final series (four and five) were designed to test all aspects of the dogs' natural ability, learned abilities and handler's control. As on day one, all series were set to enable spectators to see as much of the work as possible.



Series Four

Series four comprised five retrieves, with two dogs in line walking up along a ridge adjacent to a meandering gully.

With the honouring dog on the right, a live guinea (A) was shot to land to the right of the line in a shallow part of the gully, followed by a saluted guinea (B) across the gully on the opposite hill. As soon as that bird was down a second saluted guinea (C) was shot to land to the far right of the line in a deep gully.

The working dog on the left was sent for the live guinea (hence crossing over the honouring dog) whereafter the honouring dog was allowed to break the line.

The second pick up was the saluted guinea in the deep gully to the right, and on the return a duck (D) was shot ahead to land left of the line in reedy water and likely not seen by the returning dog, followed shortly by a saluted pigeon (E) on the right bank of the gully opposite the duck. This latter bird serves as a poison bird since, once the guinea had been delivered, the handler was instructed to send their dog for a blind (F. duck) that was positioned deep between the duck in the water and poison bird on the right bank.



The Test Dog (Golden Retriever, AB) handled by Paula Jordi did an amazing job throughout the weekend, demonstrating elements of each retrieve . The Test Dog is a dog that is up to the standard of the Championship Stake, but not yet qualified to enter.

During this series, handlers were given some latitude to move around on the ridge while handling their dogs, and most dogs worked well with one or two needing considerable handling.

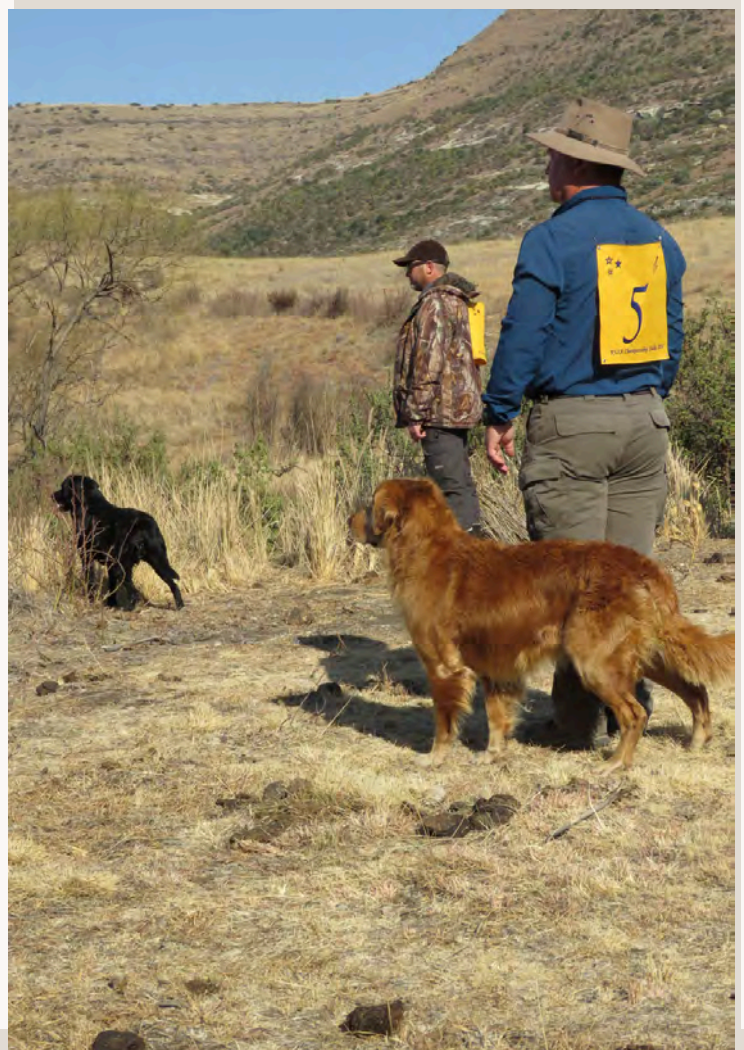
While none were eliminated, the judges noted that the dogs tended to surge ahead during the exciting walk-up. Also, because the wind was in their favour blowing from the location of the blind and up the gully to the handler, most handlers were able to keep their dogs away from the poison bird without too much difficulty - and several demonstrated their remarkable noses.

Essentially the dog had to work on a straight line between the duck on the left and the poison bird on the right. The temptation to veer towards the poison bird was strong, and handlers worked hard to keep their dogs on a straight line.

Following delivery of the blind, the dog was sent for the duck in the water to the left, and then the long memory guinea on the opposite hill.

With two dogs in line on a walk-up, handlers are unable to talk to their dogs, and when a dog moves forward, as this black Labrador did, the handler has to remain silent and trust that their dog will not break.

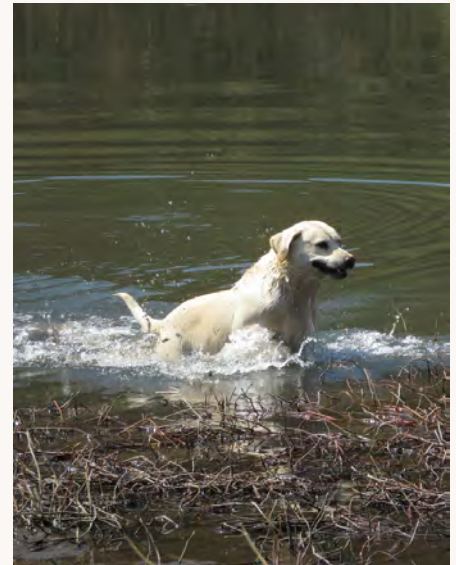
Here we have Andre Thuynsma and his Labrador, Moxie as the honoring dog on the right and closest to the gully, and Charles Trollope and his Golden Retriever, Rookie as the working dog.



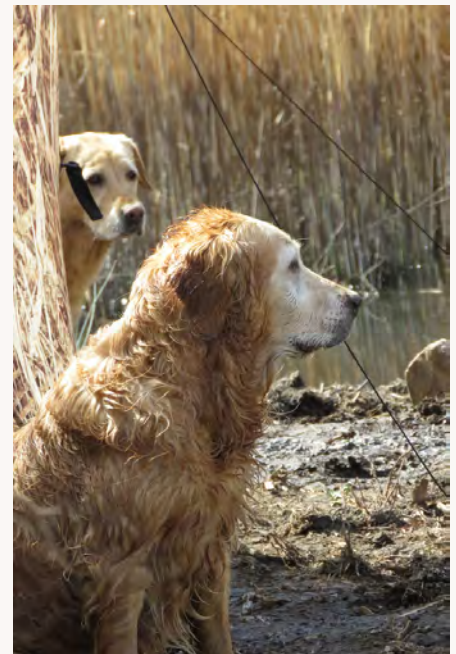
Fifth and Final Series



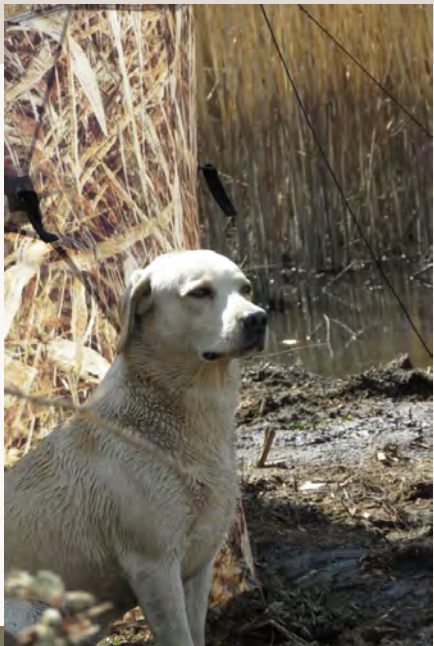
The fifth series with four pick-ups, was a walk up towards a stream with a single dog in line and a gun walking ahead. A saluted duck (A) was shot to land to the left in the water beside a collection of trees and shrubs growing in the middle of the stream. The working dog was instructed to walk on along the stream bank to the right and towards a hide that had been set up and in which an honouring dog was already positioned and awaiting their shooting companion. In the water ahead of the hide a collection of decoy ducks were strategically placed to add some diversion for unsuspecting dogs.



Once at the hide (dogs positioned outside the hide), a second duck (B) was saluted to land in the water to the left of the hide and approximately halfway to the first duck. The working dog was sent for this last bird down, and as picking up, a saluted duck (C) was thrown to land amongst a floating weed bed to the right and ahead of the hide. Once the dog had retrieved the duck and was returning along the stream bank to the hide, a duck (D) was shot to land to the far right of the hide amongst reeds at the water's edge. On delivering the duck, the working dog was then sent for a blind (E. duck) that was placed across the water on the opposite bank and to the right of the line - about an 80-metre swim. The honouring dog meantime, was sent to collect the duck (D) in the reeds on the far right, followed by the duck (C) in the floating weed bed ahead of the hide.



Because most dogs struggled to get their dogs to enter the water and head out diagonally to the right, it meant in most cases, that two dogs were working in the water at the same time and crossing paths in the vicinity of the weed bed. Finally, the working dog was required to collect the first duck (A) that had been saluted in the stream at the start of the walk-up.



Outside the hide



The walk up



The swim - two dogs working together



The fabulous throwing team led by Petros Bipa without whom no trial could be held



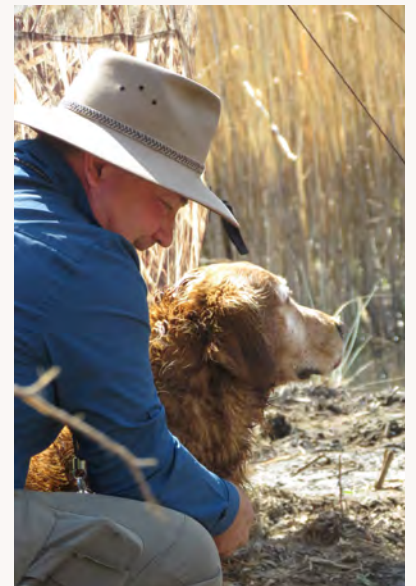
In this final series dogs were required to not only be steady and comfortable with the use of a hide, but also to be familiar with decoys and respond promptly to the whistle, especially in water where another dog was also working. In many cases the working dog heading out across the water for the blind crossed paths with the honouring dog that was heading for the duck in the floating weeds. This required precision handling, to prevent switching.

The blind (E) on the opposite bank across the water (solid red line) required precision handling to avoid switching to the duck (C) on the floating weed bed (red circle)

For most dogs the blind proved quite difficult, and they tended to cross directly over the stream and then clamber up the opposite bank where they then needed to be handled to the right, towards the blind. This was a risky route, since the cover on the bank was thick and the dogs were not visible once they exited the water. This part of the series provoked considerable anxiety for many handlers - but some stress relief was offered when two of the dogs, on entry to the water in front of the hide, managed to get caught up amongst the decoys, and then towed them right across the stream.

Honouring dog being set up outside the hide

Sadly one dog was lost in this final series, when he was ruled 'out of control' on the blind. Despite managing to be directed across the stream, he did not respond to repeated instructions to work along the bank to the blind.



The day ended with six dogs completing the stake – and out of 13 starters this represented an excellent outcome.

Prizegiving



Estene Trollope and her support judges, Heather, Hannes and Michelle

Senior Judge Estene Trollope thanked her support judges, all of whom had provided her with superb technical and moral support throughout the trial. Commenting on the dogs' work and on handler technique, she indicated that the top three dogs had been separated by a very slim margin, and yet all judges were in agreement on the placings. Interestingly it was the more mature dogs that had finished the trial varying in age from 7 years to 11 years old.



Support Judge, Hannes Oberholzer presenting the winners

As always, the Championship Stake concluded with a prizegiving lunch and celebration. In his speech, the Vice-Chairman of the Championship Stake committee (Alan Kloeck) remarked on the extraordinary support from everyone who had contributed to the success of the event and expressed gratitude to all of the officials and helpers that had worked tirelessly in the lead up to the champs and during the weekend.

In particular, he commented on the daunting task of the four judges, who in a champ stake are expected to not only set a remarkable course, make justifiable split-second judgements in line with retriever trial regulations, and in many instances make heart-wrenching decisions, but also remain calm and clear-headed throughout. The team's collective experience was commended.



Crack team of guns led by Tony Wynne



The hard working throwers



COM to Jenny Smith & Haley



COM to Andre Thuynsma & Moxie



COM to Fred Kingsley & Hunter

Certificates of Merit were awarded to:

- Jenny Smith and her Golden Retriever, Ch. FT Zaniri UP and Away to Pareora (Imp Can) GMHR (Haley);
- Andre Thuynsma and his black Labrador, Snowpine Moxie of Kinndell FTA MHR (Moxie); and
- Fred Kingsley and his yellow Labrador, Tushielaw Stealth FTA, GMHR (Hunter).

The top three dogs were all Golden Retrievers:

- In **First Place** was Charles Trollope and Rookie - Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR;
- Noleen Wilson-Taylor and Zeta - Roodehek Orians Star FTA GMHR was in **Second Place**; and
- **Third Place** went to Karen Hagger and Twista - Ch. FT Chardale Jalapeno Twist MHR.

Guns Choice was awarded to Rookie.

Several other Championship Stake Trophies were also awarded:

- Best Labrador: Hunter*
- Best Golden Retriever: Rookie*
- Best Water Series: Rookie*
- Best Multiple Retrieves: Neil Tatham and Binks, Ch. FT Conkasha Murdoch of Skye MHR*
- Best dog between the two Championships: Terry Watson and Kester, Ch. FT Roodehek Orians Longbow of Lymond GMHR*



Winner Charles Trollope & Rookie



Second Place Noleen Wilson-Taylor & Zeta



Third Place Karen Hagger & Twista

KUSA Championship Stake 2024 Officials and Entrants

JUDGES

Estene Trollope (Senior), Heather Hallauer, Michelle Emin, Hannes Oberholzer

FIELD TRIAL MANAGERS
Dwayne Malcolm, Petros Bipa

GUNS

Tony Wynne (Senior), Alan Kloeck, Amanda Barret, Andrew Sayers, Cameron Trollope, Carl Bosman, John Smillie

TEST AND PICK-UP-DOG
AB handled by Paula Jordi

ENTRANTS

1	Ch.FT Conkasha Murdoch of Skye MHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Sire: Chilliwack Alfred (Imp UK) NHR Dam: Bardale Db Skylark of Conkasha NHR Breeders: Miss SI Brown Reg Owner: Mr N Tatham Handler: Neil Tatham	Binks ZA013289B18 933071000023395 DOB: 26-Jun-2018
2	Ch.FT Roodehek Orions Longbow of Lymond GMHR Breed: Golden Retriever Dog Sire: Dairycott Helianthus (Imp UK) FTA GMHR Dam: Ch.FT Tinvane Lowly Flyte of Roodehek GMHR Breeders: Mr TPG Teale Reg Owner: Mr T Watson Handler: Terry Watson	Kester ZA011635B15 945000001558115 DOB: 09-Mar-2015
3	Ch.FT Wildwings Diana of Tamboersknal GMHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Sire: Copperbirch Spear of Wildwings (Imp Ire) NHR Dam: Wildspirit Sure Shot Aya of Wildwings NHR B1-B2 ED00 Breeders: Dr APR Kloeck Reg Owner: Mr JG le Roux Handler: Kobus le Roux	Deehana ZA010873B17 945000001822925 DOB: 09-Jun-2017
4	Snowpine Moxie of Kinnell FTA MHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Sire: Ch.FT Bardale DB's BestFriend GMHR Dam: Ch.FT Ravenside MadamFranki of Snowpine GMHR Breeders: Mr HJ Emin Reg Owner: Mr A Thuynsma Handler: André Thuynsma	Moxie ZA004025B15 945000001604325 DOB: 18-Oct-2014
5	Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR Breed: Golden Retriever Dog Sire: Joyful Hugo of Philchris Dam: Nordenlights Cheyanne of Gospelash Breeders: Mr NJ Coates Reg Owner: Mr CE Trollope Handler: Charles Trollope	Rookie ZA001070C16 953010000952029 DOB: 09-Oct-2015
6	Ch Casblaidd Chip (Imp UK) FTA WHR FQ Breed: Flat Coated Retriever Dog Sire: Tunnelwood Phantom Dam: Casblaidd Tea Leaf Breeders: Mr JH Hewison Reg Owner: Mrs CG Naudé Handler: Cornelia Naudé	Rogan ZA001155C19 956000010505392 DOB: 23-Apr-2019
7	Ch.FT Zaniri Up and Away to Pareora (Imp Can) GMHR Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch Sire: Choctaw's Yukon Copper Penny Dam: Can Ch GMH Zaniri's Cheeky Monkey Breeders: Ms L Kinney & Ms JT Kinney Reg Owner: Ms JL Smith Handler: Jenny Smith	Haley ZA001266C13 956000003105100 DOB: 20-Jan-2013
8	Sugarville Gunner of Tashinga FTA WHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Sire: Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR Dam: Menneheim Barbet of Sugarville Breeders: Miss TD Ellender Reg Owner: Mr DW Padbury Handler: David Padbury	Gunner ZA052666B14 953010000433653 DOB: 16-Oct-2014
9	Ch.FT Chardale Jalapeno Twist MHR Breed: Golden Retriever Dog Sire: Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR Dam: Siatham Poppadom of Chardale (Imp UK) MHR Breeders: Mrs E Trollope Reg Owner: Mrs K Hagger Handler: Karen Hagger	Twista ZA010653B17 900250000480670 DOB: 08-Jun-2017
10	Tushielaw Stealth FTA GMHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Sire: Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR Dam: Ch Longformacus Leading Lady of Tushielaw NHR FQ Breeders: Mrs RE Hansen Reg Owner: Mrs RE Hansen Handler: Fred Kingsley	Hunter ZA012701B17 985113000051801 DOB: 18-Aug-2017
11	Lymond Kirriemore FTA WHR Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch Sire: Ch Ghlenairh Raleigh of Laird APT CDEX NHR FQ B1-A2 ED00 Dam: Lymond Dunrobin NHR FQ C1-C2 ED00 Breeders: Mrs V Watson Reg Owner: Mrs V Watson Handler: Terry Watson	Kirrie ZA004998B15 953010000509734 DOB: 27-Dec-2014
12	Roodehek Orions Star FTA GMHR Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch Sire: Dairycott Helianthus (Imp UK) FTA GMHR Dam: Ch.FT Tinvane Lowly Flyte of Roodehek GMHR Breeders: Mr TPG Teale Reg Owner: Ms N Wilson-Taylor Handler: Noleen Wilson-Taylor	Zeta ZA011638B15 945000001563597 DOB: 09-Mar-2015
13	Ch.FT Copperbirch Bushmills (Imp Ire) GMHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog Sire: Copperbirch Lancelot Dam: Copperbirch Clough Fern Breeders: Mr K Mathews Reg Owner: Mr HS Playne Handler: Henry Playne	Sam ZA001071C18 900079000289370 DOB: 22-Aug-2017
14	Rykind's Sally (Imp Den) FTA MHR Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch Sire: Foxon Jodii Dam: Kado Black Magic Breeders: Mev H Koldkjær Reg Owner: Mev J Skjodt Handler: Jane Skjodt	Sally ZA001123C19 208250000025456 DOB: 07-May-2013

KUSA CHAMPIONSHIP STAKE 2024

Hosted by the Gundog Club and the Working Retriever Club of Gauteng on 24th August 2024
At the St Fort Farm, Clarens

ENTRANTS

Place Guns Absent

1 Ch.FT Conkasha Murdoch of Skye MHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog **Binks**
Sire: Chilliwack Alfred (Imp UK) NHR
Dam: Bardale Db Skylark of Conkasha NHR ZA013289B18
Breeders: Miss SI Brown 933071000023395
Reg Owner: Mr N Tatham Dob 26-Jun-2018
Handler: Neil Tatham

2 Ch.FT Roodehek Orions Longbow of Lymond GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Dog **Kester**
Sire: Dairycott Helianthus (Imp UK) FTA GMHR
Dam: Ch.FT Tinvane Lowly Flyte of Roodehek GMHR ZA011635B15
Breeders: Mr TPG Teale 945000001558115
Reg Owner: Mr T Watson Dob 09-Mar-2015
Handler: Terry Watson

3 Ch.FT Wildwings Diana of Tamboersknal GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch **Deehana**
Sire: Copperbirch Spear of Wildwings (Imp Ire) NHR
Dam: Wildspirit Sure Shot Aya of Wildwings NHR B1-B2 ED00 ZA010873B17
Breeders: Dr APR Kloeck 945000001822925
Reg Owner: Mr JG le Roux Dob 09-Jun-2017
Handler: Kobus le Roux

4 Snowpine Moxie of Kinndell FTA MHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch **Moxie**
Sire: Ch.FT Bardale DB's Best Friend GMHR
Dam: Ch.FT Ravenside Madam Franki of Snowpine GMHR ZA004025B15
Breeders: Mr HJ Emin 945000001604325
Reg Owner: Mr A Thuynsma Dob 18-Oct-2014
Handler: André Thuynsma

5 Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Dog **Rookie**
Sire: Joyful Hugo of Philchris
Dam: Nordenlights Cheyanne of Gospelash ZA001070C16
Breeders: Mr NJ Coates 953010000952029
Reg Owner: Mr CE Trollope Dob 09-Oct-2015
Handler: Charles Trollope

6 Ch Casblaidd Chip (Imp UK) FTA WHR FQ

Breed: Flat Coated Retriever Dog **Rogan**
Sire: Tunnelwood Phantom
Dam: Casblaidd Tea Leaf ZA001155C19
Breeders: Mr JH Hewison 956000010505392
Reg Owner: Mrs CG Naudé Dob 23-Apr-2019
Handler: Cornelia Naudé

7 Ch.FT Zaniri Up and Away to Pareora (Imp Can) GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch **Haley**
Sire: Choctaw's Yukon Copper Penny
Dam: Can Ch GMH Zaniri's Cheeky Monkey ZA001266C13
Breeders: Ms L Kinney & Ms JT Kinney 956000003105100
Reg Owner: Ms JL Smith Dob 20-Jan-2013
Handler: Jenny Smith

COM

1st Place
Guns Choice

Absent

COM

8 Sugarville Gunner of Tashinga FTA WHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog
 Sire: Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR
 Dam: Menneheim Barbet of Sugarville
 Breeders: Miss TD Ellender
 Reg Owner: Mr DW Padbury
 Handler: David Padbury

Gunner

ZA052666B14
 953010000433653
 Dob 16-Oct-2014

9 Ch.FT Chardale Jalapeno Twist MHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Dog
 Sire: Ch.FT Gospelash Highlander of Chardale (Imp UK) GMHR
 Dam: Siatham Poppadom of Chardale (Imp UK) MHR
 Breeders: Mrs E Trollope
 Reg Owner: Mrs K Hagger
 Handler: Karen Hagger

Twista

ZA010653B17
 900250000480670
 Dob 08-Jun-2017

3rd Place

10 Tushielaw Stealth FTA GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog
 Sire: Walkabout Intrepid of Tashinga FTA GMHR
 Dam: Ch Longformacus Leading Lady of Tushielaw NHR FQ
 Breeders: Mrs RE Hansen
 Reg Owner: Mrs RE Hansen
 Handler: Fred Kingsley

Hunter

ZA012701B17
 985113000051801
 Dob 18-Aug-2017

COM

11 Lymond Kirriemore FTA WHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch
 Sire: Ch Ghlenairh Raleigh of Laird APT CDEX NHR FQ B1-A2
 Dam: Lymond Dunrobin NHR FQ C1-C2 ED00
 Breeders: Mrs V Watson
 Reg Owner: Mrs V Watson
 Handler: Terry Watson

Kirrie

ZA004998B15
 953010000509734
 Dob 27-Dec-2014

12 Roodehek Orions Star FTA GMHR

Breed: Golden Retriever Bitch
 Sire: Dairycott Helianthus (Imp UK) FTA GMHR
 Dam: Ch.FT Tinvane Lowly Flyte of Roodehek GMHR
 Breeders: Mr TPG Teale
 Reg Owner: Ms N Wilson-Taylor
 Handler: Noleen Wilson-Taylor

Zeta

ZA011638B15
 945000001563597
 Dob 09-Mar-2015

2nd Place

13 Ch.FT Copperbirch Bushmills (Imp Ire) GMHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Dog
 Sire: Copperbirch Lancelot
 Dam: Copperbirch Clough Fern
 Breeders: Mr K Mathews
 Reg Owner: Mr HS Playne
 Handler: Henry Playne

Sam

ZA001071C18
 900079000289370
 Dob 22-Aug-2017

14 Rykind's Sally (Imp Den) FTA MHR

Breed: Labrador Retriever Bitch
 Sire: Foxon Jodii
 Dam: Kado Black Magic
 Breeders: Mev H Koldkjær
 Reg Owner: Mev J Skjodt
 Handler: Jane Skjodt

Sally

ZA001123C19
 208250000025456
 Dob 07-May-2013

KUSA Championship Stake



2024



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KUSA National Retriever Championship Stake 2024

*Hosted by The Working Retriever Club of Gauteng and
The Gundog Club*

*(Open to all Retrievers who have qualified according to
Schedule 5C(1) - Retrievers)*

Held at Peter and Lizl Gernetzky's St Fort Farm in Clarens

DATES AND TIMES:

Roll call on Saturday and Sunday at 6h45

JUDGES:

Senior	Estene Trollope
Supporting	Hannes Oberholzer
	Heather Hallauer
	Michelle Emin

FIELD TRIAL MANAGERS:

Dwayne Malcolm
Petros Bipa

GUNS:

Senior	Tony Wynne
Other	Alan Kloeck
	Amanda Barret
	Andrew Sayers
	Cameron Trollope
	Carl Bosman
	John Smillie

TEST AND PICKUP DOG:

AB handled by Paula Jordi



Our Sincere Thanks

Our deepest gratitude to Peter and Lizl for the use of their beautiful farm, St Fort and Mr MV Roos for the use of Dunblane

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Working Retriever Club of Gauteng

Michelle Emin

Paula Jordi

Mandy Barret

Henry Playne

All members of the Champs Organising Committee

All our Judges, Guns, Field Trial Managers and Throwers and anyone else who helped to make this trial a success

Welcome

The Gundog Club and the Working Retriever Club of Gauteng are hosting this prestigious event jointly in 2024. It therefore gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this year's event on behalf of the 2024 Champs Management Committee.

The 2024 Championship event is being held at St Fort and Dunblane farms just outside of Clarens. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Peter and Lizl Gernetzky, as well as Mr MV Roos for the use of these wonderful and challenging venues. We trust that we will leave the venues in the same pristine condition as we found them on our arrival.

I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the dedicated Judges, Guns, Field Trial Managers and Throwers, without whom the event would not be possible. Thank you all for giving up your time to enable us to run this year's esteemed event.

To our sponsors, thank you one and all for making this event possible in order that we can all enjoy our time with our beloved dogs at the pinnacle of our sport. A special word of thanks must however go to MSD Animal Health and Lionel's Choice in particular for their contribution to both this event as well as our sport in general. All of our Sponsors are acknowledged in this magazine and we trust you will support them whenever you can in appreciation for their ongoing support.

A huge thank you has to go to the hard working committee, that includes Alan Kloeck, Karen Hagger, Brenda Meyer, Dwayne Malcolm, Fred Kingsley, Marie Wynne and Tony Wynne for all their hard work. I salute you all.

Lastly, the best of luck to all competitors and may the best team win.

Jenny Smith

Committee Chair

KUSA Championship Stake Committee 2024

Jenny Smith; Alan Kloeck; Marie and Tony Wynne;
Karen Hagger; Fred Kingsley; Brenda Mayer; Dwayne Malcolm

VET ON THE VENUE

Dr Alan Kloeck

List of Trophies

FT CH Markens Black Prince of the Brigade Trophy	-	First place
Rhiannon Trophy	-	Second place
FT CH Sokatumi Trophy	-	Guns choice
Breckondale Kings Shilling Trophy	-	The best water series
WRC Trophy for the Best Labrador	-	The best labrador
Pareora Goldilocks Trophy	-	The best golden retriever
Joe Vieira Memorial Trophy	-	The best multiple retrieve
Mike Adamson Memorial Trophy	-	Field Trial Managers Award
WGCC Championship Tray	-	The most consistent dog between championship trials, including the previous Championship Trial

Competitors take note!

All competitors are expected to collect their numbers 15 minutes before roll call and report their attendance at roll call.

At the start of each stake, the Senior Judge or Field Trial Manager shall call all competitors, whereupon a roll call will be held. A dog which is not present within 15 minutes when required by a Judge on the first retrieve may be disqualified by the Judges. Judges are empowered to eliminate a dog for repeated offences of unpunctuality during a stake.

It will be the practice at these Trials, to summon competitors at the beginning of each retrieve to describe the nature of the work to be done. Handlers must ensure that they are present at these briefings.

These trials are held under Schedule 5C(1) Rules and Regulations of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa.

Training of dogs on the venue is not permitted, except where designated by the Field Trial Manager.

All dogs not participating in a particular retrieve, shall be kept on a lead whilst retrieves are in progress. Any dog which is not in the line and which disturbs the work of the dog under Judges' orders, is liable for disqualification.

Anyone openly impugning the decision of a Judge or Judges shall render himself/herself liable to be reported to KUSA under the provisions of KUSA Sch.1, unless he/she is availing himself/herself of Section A.10.3 of Schedule 5C(1).

If an advertised Judge is prevented from fulfilling his/her engagement, the Field Trial Committee shall appoint another qualified person to judge or shall make any other arrangement within the Rules that is desirable to them.

The Judges' decision is final.

UNDER THE KUSA PUBLIC LIABILITY POLICY IT IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL DOGS TO BE ON A LEAD AT ALL TIMES UNLESS UNDER JUDGES ORDERS



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Rules for the Trials

These trials will be conducted under the Rules and Regulations of Schedule 5C(1) of the KUSA Constitution. A copy of these rules will be available at the trials.


Please note:

- (a) Bitches in season are forbidden within the precincts of the Field Trials
- (b) Castrated dogs and spayed bitches are eligible for entry.
- (c) Conditions attracting immediate disqualification are set out in Reg. 31 of Sch. 3 Kennel Union Regulations for Championship Shows (Breed), subject to (a) and (b) above.
- (d) The system of judging will be entirely at the discretion of the Judges in accordance with KUSA Rules and the Field Trial Regulations.

Limitation of Liability!

Due to the nature of this sport, competitors and officials are invited to enter the venue at their own risk and, in so doing, absolve the Kennel Union of Southern Africa, the Working Retriever Club of Gauteng, Gundog Club and landowners from any claim whatsoever, arising from injury, loss or damage to any person, animal or property.

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HOW WELL ACCORDING TO THE ASTRONOMICAL
CHARTS ARE YOU AND YOUR DOG SUITED??

By Michelle Emin

Many people have a strong belief in the star signs, to the extent that they truly believe that their lives are controlled by the astronomical charts, some even going as far as ensuring that they choose a partner whose star sign aligns with theirs.

But..... how many of you ever considered matching your star sign with the dog you choose – i bet none of you !!!!! Well, you should have thought of that before you bought that 'next trialling dog'.

Let's look at our dogs and handlers entered in the 2024 championships:

AQUARIAN DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

HALEY (JENNY SMITH)

Jenny is a Cancerian and the stars say they are not good at communicating what is in their hearts. They also say that Aquarian dogs can often appear cold to those that don't know them well, so both signs need to really get to know you before they totally commit which is obviously what has happened with Jenny and Haley – and once that happened, they were totally committed to one another.

PISCES DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

KESTER (TERRY WATSON)

ZETA (NOLEEN WILSON-TAYLOR)

Terry is a Leo, so sadly, according to the stars they are not a good match. I think their saving grace is thanks to Kester, as Pisces dogs are said to be loving and sensitive, which makes Kester able to put up with his Leo partner's innate conviction that he is always right and love him even when he knows Terry is wrong!!!

Noleen is a Capricorn and according to the stars, Pisces is the perfect match for a Capricorn. Pisces dogs are said to be dreamers, deeply sensitive but highly intuitive and whilst a human Capricorn is said to be hardworking and overly ambitious, they probably work well together as the Pisces dog being intuitive will know when to just knuckle down and do as they are told in order to avoid conflict with their overly ambitious and often narrow-minded Capricorn partner and in that way keep the peace.

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HOW WELL ACCORDING TO THE ASTRONOMICAL CHARTS ARE YOU AND YOUR DOG SUITED??

ARIES DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

SALLY (JANE SKJODT)

ROGAN (CORNELIA NAUDE)

Jane is also a Taurus and according to the stars they are not compatible. What seems to make it work for these two is that Taureans are said to be loyal to a fault and the best person to have in your corner when the chips are down, so because they both have this trait, they are able to believe and trust in one another- great attributes to have between dog and handler!

Cornelia is a Sagittarian who are said to be philosophical and honest and Taurus dogs are said to be affectionate and dependable so i can only assume that Cornelia's honest nature appeals to Rogan's affectionate and dependable side, even though the star signs say they are not compatible.

GEMINI DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

DEEHANA (KOBUS LE ROUX)

TWISTA (KAREN HAGGER)

Let's start with Kobus and Deehana: Kobus is a Leo – again not compatible! Kobus, I would agree, is a typical Leo. Deehana on the other hand as a Gemini is said to be a bit of a mischievous, charming, social butterfly so despite Kobus' Leo nature to always be right, she manages to keep him on his toes with her antics. In addition, Kobus can also be a mischievous, charming, social butterfly so Deehana probably enjoys that side of him.

Now to Twista and Karen

Karen is a Libra – the stars say that Libras are empathetic but indecisive so Twista's mischievous, charming, social butterfly nature forces Karen to keep those natural human Libra traits hidden and present Twista with her own internal mischievous, social butterfly side.

HOW WELL ACCORDING TO THE ASTRONOMICAL CHARTS ARE YOU AND YOUR DOG SUITED??

CANCERIAN DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

BINKS (NEIL TATHAM)

Neil is a Pisces who according to the stars are whimsical and over-sensitive. Cancerian dogs on the other hand are said to be nurturing and intuitive and i think they work together because Binks uses his intuition to read and try his best to understand Neil's whimsical nature – not so sure about the over-sensitive bit!!

LEO DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

HUNTER (FRED KINGSLEY)

SAM (HENRY PLANE)

Here we go – Hunter and Fred – now this could be interesting!!!!

Fred is a Capricorn – according to the stars “unforgiving, and doesn't appreciate nuance” – Fred, I suggest you check your birth date because that is certainly not you!

Hunter on the other hand is a typical Leo dog – exudes vitality (definitely) and power (horny) – so the only possible way this can be working for these two is because Fred's birth date is in question if you go by his star sign. (Fred, i think you need to speak to your parents!).

Henry is an Aquarian – according to the stars Leo's and Aquarian's are the perfect match. As far as i know Henry has read every book ever written on retriever training so I wouldn't be in the least bit surprised if Henry went as far as to check their astronomical comparability as well, before deciding on Sam as his next field trial dog – and if he did it certainly worked!!!!

LIBRA DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

GUNNER (DAVID PADBURY)

MOXIE (ANDRE THUYN SMA)

ROOKIE (CHARLES TROLLOPE)

HOW WELL ACCORDING TO THE ASTRONOMICAL CHARTS ARE YOU AND YOUR DOG SUITED??

Amazing we have three Libra dogs:

David is a Pisces who are said to be compassionate, sensitive and can be taken advantage of if not careful. On the other hand, Gunner as a Libra is said to have an harmonious soul giving off a calming presence, so it's not surprising they work well together even though according to the stars they are not considered compatible.

On the other hand – Moxie and Andre

Andre is yet another Leo – lucky for Andre, Libra is considered the perfect fit for a Leo.

Why is this – Leo's are strong (and always right!) And the Libra dog on the other hand prefers peace and harmony so will accept the Leo's strong personality just to keep the peace at all costs – seems the perfect combination.

And then there is Rookie and Charles

Surprise, surprise – Charles is a Leo (who would have guessed!).

Once again, these two are considered by the stars as a perfect match. Why? – well, the stars say that Leos (Charles) can be vain and a little bossy, whilst the Libra sign (Rookie) only wants to create harmony and tranquillity – so keep the peace and do as you're told is probably Rookie's mantra – although Charles might not always agree that this is the case.

CAPRICORN DOGS ENTERED IN CHAMPS

KIRRIE (RONNIE WATSON AND SOMETIMES TERRY WATSON)

You have to feel sorry for Kirrie – both her handlers are Leo's but fortunately a Capricorn dog is said to like following orders and complete their tasks, which is just as well, with two Leo's as handlers, or there could be serious discord in the family.

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Binks and Neil

Many field-trialers except for the guns of course will be wondering who the dog is in this pic. For those of you who haven't guessed – it's Binks. In one of those rare moments handler and dog came together for just an instance to record for posterity that the super impossible can happen. It normally occurs at a trial just before breakfast, which for an egg and bacon roll now costs me on average R700,



this excludes petrol, accommodation and beer – lots of beer! Trialing has become a very expensive way to dine alfresco. I compensate myself with the knowledge that he was given to me for nothing. A kind but very expensive gift from Sharron Brown. As presents go, this was the best – but in hindsight I often wonder if I'd kept the lead he came with and given back the dog would I be better off? Financially, without a doubt. But happiness comes at a premium price – and owning a Ferrari – the expense is worth the thrill of watching him catch the bird before it hits the ground. When I see other dogs plod along, I secretly laugh inside, then I wonder what they have found in their dog that still alludes me. Of course, I'm referring to the off-button – I have always assumed that Binks has one - I just haven't found it yet.

43 trophies to date and half the time we sit on the sideline. That's another expense, engraving the cups. But let me look on the bright side, he's won his weight in dog food many times over; a guy in a restaurant once asked if he could give my dog his leftover T-Bone steak – I said yes - Binks ate the bone and I had beef sandwiches for two days; then there is the question of hygiene – Binks has never had a bath in his life – whenever he gets a bit smelly I know it's time for water retrieves. Imagine having a partner like that!

I would like to wish all the competitors a great weekend. I am looking forward to eating breakfast twice – it's in the cover charge. And finally, I would like to thank my daughter for taking this pic. Things were going great until she said, 'watch the birdie'. Not the cleverest of cues and just like that I was standing on my own. A familiar scene.

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Deehana and Kobus

When I first saw an Irish x Aya litter working at a Field Trial, I knew I had to somehow get one from a repeat breeding.



In 2017, this dream became a reality when my dear friends, Heather, Carina & Estene helped me to convince Alan that I should get one of only two pups whelped from Irish (Copperbirch Spear of Wildwings) x Aya (Wildspirit Sure Shot Aya of Wildwings). Deehana - her name is the Afrikaans translation of Diana, which in Roman mythology is the Goddess of the Hunt... "Nomen Est Omen" (One Name, One Destiny), and Deehana definitely lives up to it.

With her excellent temperament, trainability and versatility, Deehana ooze's natural ability. She is an absolute delight, both at home and in the field.

Deehana has all the qualities that make her the perfect Gentleman's

Gundog - sometimes, the only thing missing is the Gentleman!

Because of Field Trials, I have seen the most beautiful places in our country, met the most wonderful like-minded people and seen magnificent dogs at work and play, doing exactly what they were bred to do... and loving every second of it.

It is such a privilege to participate in Champs 2024 alongside the best handlers and dogs in the country.

A huge Thank You to the organising committee for this amazing opportunity!





Hunter and Fred

Fred and Belinda started their journey with gundogs in the sunny KZN south coast. They started with their two headstrong chocolates, Hudson and Luna.



Fred became an active member of the Natal Gundog Club and joined Dave Padbury's T'shinga training group. Sometimes he brought the dogs but he never forgot the cooler box of Hansa's every Saturday and great fun was had by all.

Hunter was born as a result of an attempt to produce dual purpose Labradors. The goal was a Labrador that looked like a Labrador and could also work. His sire "Major" is owned by Dave Padbury and is from pure working lines. Major is now retired but was outstanding in the field achieving GMHR status. His mother "Indy" was owned and shown by Rho Hansen and easily achieved show champion status but was deemed untrainable at the age of a year old. Dave Padbury took on the challenge of proving

that Indy had the natural instincts needed to work and took great delight in proving everyone wrong when Indy gained her NHR status.

To this day, when Hunter does anything wrong in the field, it is always attributed to Indy!

Fred is always on the move, chatting to one and all, but wherever he goes, Hunter is his faithful yellow shadow.

Gunner and David

Hi, my name is Gunner, and I was born on the 16th of October 2014 at Sugar Bay in Zinkwazi, Natal, and I am a Yellow Labrador Retriever...really, I am white in colour but they can't seem to call it that!



My really posh name is Sugarville Gunner of Tashinga... and when my new Dad collected me from Sugar Bay I moved to Assagay outside Hillcrest.

I have been very fortunate to have been brought into an adventurous family, and have done a lot of travelling with my Dad David and Mom Jean, done a lot of fun training, plenty of what they call "Field Trials" across South Africa, as well as quite a bit of shooting with my Dad. In human terms I have won a Field Trial, been placed in many, and had just plain fun in others! My Mom's favourite thing was to see me win what is called "Guns Choice" ... that made her very happy {and then Dad was allowed to have a few beers!}

My Dad is David Padbury, and it has been fun to work with him, along with my five friends...Major, Indy, Gambit {a bit of a hanky pranky}, Ali {who is my softy sister} and Jenna {a dog with brown spots they call a GSP...she is naughty sometimes, not like me}.

It was a sad period when my Mom Jean was sick and was taken home to heaven. Dad was very sad too, and our fun days were very few and far apart for a while.

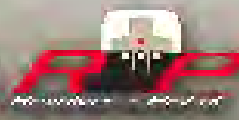
But...things are changing as we are getting back to those fun days again. It has taken a while to get back into the swing of things, but Dad and I have made

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Haley and Jenny

Haley is over eleven and this will be her third Championship Stake. When I think



back of our lives together, from the time this dark little pup came all the way from Vancouver in Canada in freezing cold weather, arrived at midnight, jumped out the crate, ran around and, if she could speak would have said “So this is Africa!!” From that moment on, she crept into my heart and also the hearts of many others!

Such a happy soul, she doesn’t just wag her tail, she wags her whole body, especially if she carries something! This earned her the name of the “Tango queen”! At a training session one day, I

got so tired of her bringing sticks, leaves, grass, anything she could find, that I gave her her green lead to carry, and she has carried it ever since!

Her progeny, from Dixie to all Dixie’s puppies, all wag their bodies in the same way! Not only has she passed on that lovable trait, but also her friendly nature and her absolute desire to retrieve.

With this happy demeanour came an amazing desire to work. From the age of 6 months, if she saw it, she fetched it, over dongas, ditches, water, thick grass, whatever. She is a fast learner so lines and control work came quickly. She also, has an uncanny ability to work things out for herself.

Sadly Covid arrived at the very height of her working life, so that cost her nearly 2 years of trialling. She has still become a Field Trial Champion and a Grand Master Hunter Retriever.

At this age, she still loves retrieving and performs well. This Championship will be her last but we will try our best as a team. Whatever the outcome, I am so very proud of her and love her to bits!



Cape Field Trial Club

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Visit our website for a lot of information about Labradors, as well as contact details of committee members, club members, breeders and trainers.



Kester and Terry

Kester was born in 2015. He was bred by the late Mr. Tim Teale.



Nine years later we have created wonderful memories of companionship both in field trials and on natural shoots. He has excelled in both disciplines. From the junior stake he has won and placed a fair number of times up to the open standard. Once in the open stake he improved tremendously, then in the short span of one year he became a MHR and a GMHR as well as a field trial champion. Last year he was awarded the KUSA Top Dog of the year award.

In the field he is incredible; very rarely needing help to find his bird. He has a wonderful temperament and enjoys the company of other dogs but most of all he is my friend and companion.

Kirrie and Ronee

Kirriemore was born in 2014, one of only two dogs in her litter. She has performed well in field trials, despite changing handlers a few times over the years, qualifying for the 2024 championship stake in September 2022.



A sweet little girl with a quiet temperament who has only gotten braver and bolder through the years but this quiet demeanour hides a very bold and determined character. It is this determination which has allowed her to grow from strength to strength through a

number of handler changes and has allowed her to form a very close bond with both myself and Terry.

Moxie and Andre

I started Field Trials back in 2002, as I loved being outdoors and the love of a black Labrador called Zsa-Zsa.....and her ability to retrieve pretty much anything.

What a journey this has been. When I heard about the Cougar//Frankie litter, I immediately phoned Chris and Michele Emin to have my name on the list. I was pretty much hounding them to have one, any colour, male or female, I only had one request, that whatever I get, it needs to have the drive to retrieve. Moxie



arrived, and that is what she did, she wanted to retrieve, happy, friendly, an amazing companion and my best friend. Our journey had plenty of ups and downs, almost losing her life when she jumped off a ledge into a burned Fern plant and got impaled and her skin torn loose, to being the best rough shoot doggo and sleeping partner when we both are dead on our feet. She has the heart of a Lion, will listen to any command, and will always try her very best to please me. Never asking much in return, just to be by my side.

Moxie has won the coveted "Best Multiple Series" and "Best Water Series" at the 2022 Champs; she has also won multiple second and third placings in Open stakes with SAHR

points during the last two seasons.

I thank my wife Estee and daughter Dane; you are amazing and Thank You Moxie for allowing me to take you on this adventure. We have made it my girl, and I promise to keep my hands in my pockets this time.

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Rogan and Cornelia

I started with Field Trials in 2011. I worked Flat-coated Retrievers, but I couldn't get further than a Novice Stake, as none of them were bred from working lines. I realized then that I needed a dog from working lines, maybe even from another breed!



But, in the end, I knew that Flat-coated Retrievers were my breed of choice. It was then that I decided to import a puppy. I made contact with the English breeder, Jo Hewison of Cashblaidd Kennels, who was willing to send me a liver male from her litter born on 23 April 2019.

Rogan is a very special little guy; the most lovable and loyal companion and always busy winning new friends with his lovely "smile". As a puppy, he wasn't that keen to retrieve and I thought that I may have landed a non-retriever. At that stage, this wasn't too big of a problem - Rogan being so special! I thought that I would just keep him as a (very expensive) pet. Fortunately, as he got a little older,

he turned out to be a very enthusiastic and stylish worker.

Unfortunately, Covid was the reason that Rogan could only start competing at the age of 2. He was very successful and breezed through the lower stakes. In Sept 2022 he was awarded a 3rd place in the CFTC Open Stake at Botrivierplaas, which officially made him an Open dog!

A year later, also at Botrivierplaas, Rogan qualified for Champs by winning the Open Stake.

Although both Rogan and myself are still very inexperienced, we are most grateful for the opportunity to compete in the 2024 Championship Stake and we will try our best!

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Rookie and Charles

2024 will be the third time Rookie has the honour of competing in the KUSA National Retriever Field Trial Championship Stake.

Rookie the Wookie as he is fondly known was imported from Nic Coates in the United Kingdom. From the day he arrived we knew he was going to be



an exceptional hunting dog, and companion. Not withstanding his working ethic he also gives the most loving cuddles. He has certainly given us a lot of joy in the field not just as a retriever but has learnt the art of quartering from his spaniel hunting buddy.

He has also bestowed on Estene and I the privilege and honour of being our first field trial champion dog when he won the KUSA national championship trial in Port Elizabeth in 2021, 2024 will in fact be his 3rd Championship stake in which he will compete.

He truly is a dog with many talents who when he is not out hunting has appeared in numerous advertisements for television and social media.

We will forever be grateful to Nic for entrusting us with Rookie and to Sarah Winter who has always supported us.

We are also immensely proud of his progeny which have also shown promise in the field and in fact Rookie gets to compete in the 2024 Championship stake alongside his son Twista.

Rookie is a once in a lifetime hunting dog and loving companion, and we are grateful to share these wonderful moments with him.

Sally and Jane

Sally has been my dear companion for more than 11 years. We share an abundance of happy moments and experiences together with so many of them having taken place here in South Africa. Sally is in fact more South African now than Danish having lived most of her life here. Who would have thought we would go on such an adventure together?

Arriving in Cape Town 6 years ago, Sally came out of the plane ready to take on her new life in her new country. Unfazed by a long journey to a new continent, she was her happy, curious self and settled into her new home nicely and quickly.



As a family we started to explore Cape Town and the wonderful nature around the city. Sally and her “sister” Freja joined us on most of these excursions. Together we visited vineyards, went to restaurants with beautiful views, walked on the beaches and hiked in the mountains.

Sally's favorite place was definitely Noordhoek beach. We have spent countless Sundays with her running, rolling and digging in the sand and jumping the waves to catch big pieces of seaweed. The beach visits would often be followed by a lunch at a nearby restaurant while both dogs were happily relaxing under the table.

Sally also enjoys hikes in the mountains. Together we have conquered quite a few peaks around Cape Town. Denmark is a very flat country, the highest point being just over 170 meters. So, the South African landscape was very new to her. She took it on at full speed having fun climbing and jumping up and down the rocky paths.

Once on a descent from Noordhoek Peak we encountered a 3 meter steep section where a ladder was installed for hikers. But the dogs had to scramble their way down on the rocks. She was initially very hesitant, but she looked into my eyes, built up her courage and managed to skillfully get down. She was so chuffed with herself after that.

Sally has always been an amazing companion and field trial partner. Every morning she wakes up happy, celebrating and ready to seize the day. Her joy is so contagious and appreciated by us all.

To finish off I would just like to thank everyone for welcoming Sally and me into the field trial community. She is becoming an older girl now, and I feel so fortunate that the two of us will share this championship experience.

Sam and Henry

Sam was bred by Keith Mathews' Copperbirch Kennels in Northern Ireland, born on the 22nd August 2017 and flown to South Africa 11 weeks later. So he will have just turned 7 years old the day before the weekend of the Championship!

He has a biddable nature that has made him a pleasure to train and while there



have been plenty of speed bumps along the way we have had some measure of success. In the field, his drive, determination, and courage make him an outstanding and devoted shooting companion, always alert to what is unfolding in front of him. In field trialing his fantastic natural ability and energy make him a fast (often too fast!) and stylish competitor that has allowed him to compete and win at the highest-level.

He had a mixed year in 2023 and we continue to work on various issues, but this year he has settled into his work nicely as a mature, seasoned field trial and working gundog qualifying for the National Championship in two of the three trials he has entered.

We look forward to competing in the 2024 National Championship and wish all this year's qualifiers the very best of luck and a challenging and exciting weekend of field trialing.

Twista and Karen

Twista, a Golden Retriever bred by Charles and Esteen, caught my eye from the moment I laid eyes on him. Fate was on my side when I managed to bring him into my life. As the years passed, Twista transformed into a field trial champion through relentless hard work and training.

Twista's success and happiness would not be complete without acknowledging the incredible training group behind him. Jenny Smith, Fred Kingsley and

John Smilie have been instrumental in Twista's development. His enthusiasm for training sessions with my friends became a source of joy for all of us. Jenny, in particular, played a crucial role in shaping Twista's skills.



One of Twista's greatest pleasures is spending hours swimming in the pool with my grandchildren who endlessly throw him retrieves to pick up. The sound of splashing water echoes the joy that radiates from him, making every moment shared with him a cherished memory.

During the day Twista is looked after by my daughter Nicole whose care and attention ensures he remains healthy

and happy along with her tribe of dogs. Her dedication to Twista's well-being highlights the strong support system around him, further emphasizing the love and care he receives daily.

In summary, Twista is a remarkable Golden Retriever whose story is filled with love, dedication, and excellence. From his breeding and training to the joy he brings to his family, Twista embodies the very best of his breed. His journey is a heartwarming reminder of the special bond between humans and their canine companions, and the extraordinary achievements that can be reached with the right support and care.

Twista, shooting for the stars.

Zeta and Noleen

My first dog Parker, qualified to run in Champs 2010, but, very sadly, he went to the rainbow bridge at the beginning of the year as a 5 year old, and never got to run in Champs.



Tim and Guy bred Zeta and I was honoured to be able to purchase her, even though I had to sell my piano to do so! In honour of Ches Greenwood the litter was called Orion. Little did most of us know that Orion was Ches's real name.

As one of the stars on Orion's belt was known as Zeta, my little bundle of fluff was called Zeta.

She qualified to run in Champs in 2022, but unfortunately I was not well enough to travel the 19 hours required to get to the Natal venue.

She has again qualified to run in Champs 2024 by attaining the title of GMHR as a 9 year old.

I am very proud of her - "thank you my star bright angel!"

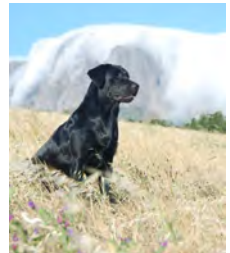
Competitors Names

Hagger, Mrs K
Hansen, Mrs RE
Kingsley, Mr KC
le Roux, Mr JG
Naudé, Mrs CG
Padbury, Mr DW
Playne, Mr HS
Skjodt, Mev J
Smith, Ms JL
Tatham, Mr N
Thuynsma, Mr A
Trollope, Mr CE
Watson, Mr T
Watson, Mrs V
Wilson-Taylor, Ms N



Goodbye my Sweetest Artemis

Some day I'll join her right there, but now she's gone with her shaggy coat, her beautiful manners and her warm nose, and I, the realist, who never believed in any promised heaven in the sky for any human being, I believe in a heaven I'll never enter. Yes, I believe in a heaven for all dogdom where my dog waits for my arrival waving her fan-like tail in friendship." (adapted from "A Dog Has Died" by Pablo Neruda)





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Competitors in the CHAMP 2024 trial

Name

Hagger, Mrs K

Hansen, Mrs RE

Kingsley, Mr KC

le Roux, Mr JG

Naudé, Mrs CG

Padbury, Mr DW

Playne, Mr HS

Skjodt, Mev J

Smith, Ms JL

Tatham, Mr N

Thuynsma, Mr A

Trollope, Mr CE

Watson, Mr T

Watson, Mrs V

Wilson-Taylor, Ms N
