



FTLC

FIELD TRIAL LIAISON COUNCIL
of the Kennel Union of
Southern Africa



P O Box 906239
Magalieskruin
0150

Cell: 083 700 6614
E-mail: wynne@icon.co.za
Web: www.kusa.co.za/fieldtrials

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2022 Annual Report

2022 continued to be a challenging year for field trialling, following a rather erratic year for the field trial community in 2021 with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The majority of disciplines were happy to again be able to hold field trials across the country and on the upside a total of 604 dogs ran in the retriever trials, which were held in 2022. 31 Dogs ran in Spaniel Trials, 74 in HPR trials, nine in Natural Ability Tests, nine in Shooting Ratings (Weimaraners) and 31 in Versatile Tests – Pointing Breeds.

A number of the retriever clubs and versatile breed clubs also managed to hold Working Tests and workshops during the season, which enabled dogs to get some extra training and trial experience.

The 2022 KUSA National Championship Field Trial was held on Baynesfield Estate in Kwazulu-Natal and was successfully hosted by the field-trialling community of the Natal Gundog Club. This prestigious event was exceptionally well run by the Club and had 12 entrants invited to run. Five dogs finished the Championship stake, with three achieving SAHRA points (above 70%). It was won by a Labrador Retriever "Sam" CH FT Copperbirch Bushmills Imp Ireland) GMHR, owned by Henry Playne, followed by a Golden Retriever in second place, "Kester" CH FT Roodehoek Orions Longbow of Lymond, owned by Terry Watson, and in third place a Golden Retriever "Rookie", Gospelash Highlander of Chardale, owned by Charles Trollope.

Despite the FTLC's best endeavours to continue its initiative to focus on improving judging skills in all disciplines and of trying to attract new judges to the sport, this continues to be hampered by a lack of new members to the sports. We, however, managed to get three new learner Retriever field trial judges into the sport, who began their journey into judging this year..

Three new Judges (all from the retriever judges panel) were added to the KUSA list of Spaniel Judges.

The HPR Discipline clubs ran both Field trials and Natural ability tests through the course of 2022, as well as the WDDC, the HVHDC and Cape Field trial also holding tests and workshops under the respective new Schedules 5(C).

Schedules 5C(1) through 5C(6) were all amended by Fedco in June 2022 to make allowance for trials to be run 'out of province' due to the need for farmland and water for these events.

A proposed field trial calendar has been set for 2023, with a total of 34 events proposed, which we hope to see rolled out as the new season breaks. We trust 2023 will be a more successful year for the field-trialling community.

For those readers interested in learning more or in participating in field trials, the FTLC website (<http://www.kusa.co.za/fieldtrials>) contains up-to-date information and links to the field trial clubs.

Dr A.P.R. Kloeck
Chairman, FTLC