



FTLC

**FIELD TRIAL LIAISON COUNCIL
of the Kennel Union of
Southern Africa**



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2016 Annual Report

2016 was both an interesting and challenging year for the field trial community. Economic pressures remained at the forefront, with costs of travelling to the four corners of South Africa remaining a challenge for triallers supporting the out-of-province trials. Despite the ongoing pressure on expendable income we had a slight increase in numbers of entries this year.

The FTLC proposed amendments and updates to the Constitution. These changes were accepted and approved by FEDCO and have duly been implemented.

The FTLC has pleasure in reporting that all Retriever Clubs held national field trials through the course of 2016.

The Weimaraner Club held shooting ratings as always and two clubs held HPR trials. The Working Spaniel Association changed their trial from May to 15th October 2016.

Entry numbers in retriever trials appear to have increased slightly this year with a total of 794 dogs participating in 2016 versus 784 dogs in 2015, 759 dogs in 2014, 766 in 2013 and 824 in 2012. Five new dogs qualified to run in the next Retriever National Championship in 2016.

The KUSA National Retriever Championship Stake, hosted in combination by the LRKC and the GRC, was held on the 21st August 2016 at a venue in Hekpoort, Gauteng. 13 dogs competed in the stake which was held over two days with 21 pick-ups. 9 dogs finished the stake and there were 4 placings and 4 Certificates of Merit awarded. The trial went off extremely well and the standard of the dogs work was extremely high.

One dog was awarded the title GMHR in 2016 and three dogs were made up as Field Trial Champions.

The FTLC has continued on its initiative to focus on improving judging skills and of attracting new judges to the sport. To this extent, we are pleased to report that one new judge met the requirements of appointment to the A-Panel of Retriever Field Trial Judges..

The FTLC hosted a "Tough Judging Calls" Symposium in October 2015 for judges, trial managers and competitors, to address tough judging experiences and scenarios from both a "post mortem" and future judging decision perspective. This event, which covered all aspects of judging, course setting and field trial management, was very successful.

There were 6 new Learner judges who passed their "open-book exam" and have attend course setting for the stakes they judged during the year. Hopefully they will all become "B" judges in the near future.

The FTLC plans to continue its initiative on improving the standard of judging and will be holding further events to this end. Provision has been made in the budget for this.

The FTLC also embarked on a program in 2014 called the "Retrieverite" training sessions. This program is designed to introduce new retrievers to the advantages of having a trained dog in obedience and retrieving. These sessions have been very successful and a further 5 "Retrieverite" days were held during 2016. Further dates have been planned for the coming year.

The FTLC strives to maintain the standards of Field Trials in accordance with the relevant Schedule 5(C) and thereby ensure quality in the working ability of South African Gundogs.

The Field Trial calendar for the season was administered without any hitches, and all affiliated clubs complied with the FTLC governance requirements concerning schedules, levies and post-trial reporting.

For those readers interested in learning more or in participating in Field Trials, the FTLC website, [http://www.kusa.co.za/field trials](http://www.kusa.co.za/field%20trials) contains up-to-date information and links to the Field Trial clubs.

Dr Alan Kloeck
Chairman, FTLC