



FTLC

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



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September 2020

2020 Annual Report

2020 was a relatively dismal year for the field trial community. The COVID-19 Pandemic struck the country, together with the national lockdown just prior to the start of the 2020 Field-trialling season.

This very sadly led to the cancellation of almost all field trials for the course of 2020. It further led to severe limitations on training and working tests through the course of the lockdown. (Fortunately, the Transvaal HPR Club will still get to hold a trial at season's end as the restrictions have just been lifted.)

A number of the retriever clubs have also planned "Retriever working tests" to end the year in order for dogs to get some training and trial experience.

Regrettably the impact of COVID-19 is such that it will most likely have a long-term effect on the field-trailing community with a year of relative inactivity in a sport that is struggling to grow.

The 2020 KUSA National Championship Field Trial, which was to be held in the Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth) also had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. This prestigious event will be held in 2021 (all being well), and will be hosted by the field-trialling community of the Walmer and Suburban Kennel Club.

Despite the FTLC's best endeavours to continue its initiative to focus on improving judging skills and of trying to attract new judges to the sport, this has been severely hampered by the lockdown.

On the upside, we have had a new club, in the form of the Working Deutsch Drathaar Club, affiliated to KUSA and join the FTLC and the trialling community. They have also submitted a new set of Hunting tests for working Drathaars under Schedule 5(C) KUSA regulations, which is currently under review by the FTLC.

The Cape Field Trial Club has also submitted a new set of tests for "Versatile hunting dogs" under Schedule 5(C), which is also under review by the FTLC.

A proposed field trial calendar has been set for 2021, which we hope to see rolled out as the new season breaks. We trust 2021 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**