

SHOOTING TIPS
FOR OLD TIMERS

WILD BILL
DERRINGER MYSTERY

RELOADING
CAST BULLETS

MAN

MAGNUM

FOR HUNTERS & SHOOTERS

Diplopoint's

DM4

SA'S OWN AR-15

FALKE
HOLOGRAPHIC
SIGHT

HUNTING

Impala
Waterbuck
Elephant
Buffalo

TESTS

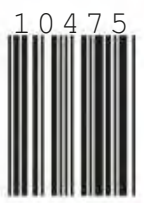
- Bushill Shooting Bag
- SSP Bifocal Glasses
- Hawke 4-16x50 FFP Scope
- Cens Hearing Protection

October 2018
Namibia N\$43,50

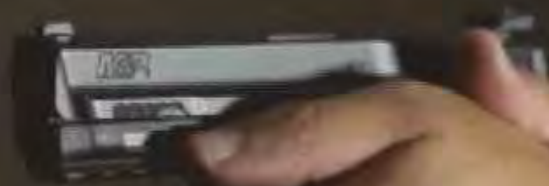
R41,40 incl VAT



9 770256 067003



10475



M&P
by Smith & Wesson®

M&P®15 SPORT™ II OPTICS READY AR RIFLE

- Gas Block with Integral Picatinny-Style Rail
- Threaded Barrel
- Armornite Finish On Barrel - Interior and Exterior
- 1 in 9 Twist
- 30 Round Pmag



M&P®9 M2.0™ COMPACT PISTOL

- Optimal 18 degree grip angle for natural point of aim
- Crisp trigger with lighter trigger pull
- Armornite durable corrosion resistant finish
- 17 Round Magazine
- 1 in 10 twist barrel



S&W SDVE™ 9 PISTOL

- Dovetailed, White Dot Sight
- Ergonomic, Texture Grip
- Front & Rear Serrations
- Striker Fire action
- 17 Round Magazine

Available at all participating dealers. Contact Inyathi to locate your nearest dealer.



CONTACT US FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER:
Tel: 012 329 4116 • sales@ecmtech.co.za

Tough **optics** for tough situations



AccuPoint®



AccuPower®



MRO®



RMR®



Night Sights®



THERMAL IMAGING | NIGHT VISION | HUNTING & TACTICAL | SELF-DEFENCE

See all Trijicon® products and more on:

www.ecmtech.co.za

Rapala
Outdoors
 Distributors Of
Sabatti s.p.a. 



Dealer Enquiries
 Contact Cuan Robinson
 0117946950
 0826522982
 cuan@rapalavmc.co.za

VOLUME 43
NUMBER 10
OCTOBER 2018

ON THE COVER:
 A locally assembled
 DM4 in .223/5.56 calibre.
 Read more on p36.
 Photo by Phillip Hayes



Features

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 12 | WHEN THINGS GO WRONG...
<i>Life and wildlife: equally unpredictable</i> | Gregor Woods |
| 16 | THE CHOREOGRAPHED HUNT
<i>Not Fokine's Dying Swan ballet, but close</i> | Wiaan Oosthuizen and Flip Cremer |
| 20 | 'SILVER SHOOTERS' AND SHOTGUNS
<i>Adapting to the inevitable effects of aging</i> | Neil Harmse |
| 24 | THE BROKEN TUSK
<i>To please a lady...</i> | Terry Irwin |
| 28 | EMERGENCY RIFLE REPAIRS
<i>Fix it in the veld!</i> | Francois van Emmenes |
| 32 | SHOOTING CAST BULLETS
<i>Cheap, challenging and fun</i> | Kobus van den Berg |
| 34 | FREE-RANGE WATERBUCK IN THE KAROO?
<i>Wildlife management, the law and its application</i> | Tim Murray |
| 36 | DIPLOPOINT DM4
<i>South Africa's own 'AR-15'</i> | Cuan Robinson |
| 41 | HICKOK'S MISSING GUN
<i>The mystery of the disappearing derringer</i> | Robin Barkes |
| 44 | LONG-RANGE SHOOTING – PART 4
<i>Picking out a precision rifle</i> | Sean l'Ons |
| 48 | MY GEWEERPAD
<i>'n Nuwe lewenswyse begin met die eerste treë</i> | Johan van Zyl |
| 54 | PATRY'S BUCK
<i>Hunt, point, retrieve, track and attack!</i> | MC Heunis |
| 64 | INTERNATIONAL HUNTING RIFLE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION
<i>Successful 2018 World Championships</i> | Phillip Hayes |

Subscribe to our Digital Edition, go to www.manmagnum.com



41



34

Departments

TRAIL TALK – 6
Lessons Learned

READERS LETTERS – 8
Article Suggestion
Titular Travails
Shotgun Slugs

CONSIDER THIS... – 10
Looking and Seeing

TEST REPORTS
Entiat Bifocal Shooting Glasses – 51
Bushill MOA Bag – 52
Hawke 4–16x50 FFP Scope – 53
Cens Proflex DX5 and Mino – 62

TECH TALK – 57
MOA, Inherent and Practical Accuracy

GOOD FOOD – 59
Chocolate Banana Smore Malva

MY DOG, MAGNUM – 60

GALLERY – 66
Auction: SA Historical Artefacts
Dragon Gun Mystery
Grandfather Guns
Magnum's Facebook Page
190 Years of Eley
Sabatti Stock

SUBSCRIPTIONS – 67

MAN MAGNUM
FOR HUNTERS & SHOOTERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BINDERS (DURBAN OFFICE)

Gina Mostert
Tel: 031-572-6551
Fax: 086-520-3711
PO Box 35204, Northway, 4065
mail@manmagnum.co.za

EDITORIAL OFFICE (PRETORIA)
Tel: 012-485-9382
Xcel Park Building c/o Rodericks
and Lynnwood Roads, Lynnwood, Pretoria

Editor Phillip Hayes
mail@manmagnum.co.za
Contributing Editor Gregor Woods
Contributing Editor Malcolm Cobb
Contributing Editor Francois van Emmenes
francois@manmagnum.co.za
Senior Subeditor Gail Osborne
gosborne@manmagnum.co.za
Design and Production Talita Meyer
talita.meyer@media24.com
Subeditor and Writer
Morgan Haselau
morgan.haselau@manmagnum.co.za

ONLINE READERS MARKET
Gina Mostert
classifieds@manmagnum.co.za

NATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES
advertising@manmagnum.co.za
Head Dirk Lamprecht 012-485-9356
dirk.lamprecht@media24.com
Account Manager Jacques Boshoff
079-528-8793
jacques.boshoff@media24.com
Account Manager Franco Jooste
072-250-0201
franco.jooste@media24.com
Western Cape Alan Walker
021-797-6449 fax 021-762-4664
fairchase@axxess.co.za

MEDIA 24 (Weekly Magazines)
Man/Magnum is published
and distributed by Media 24,
a division of Naspers
Publisher Theuns Venter
Category Manager Armand Kasselmann
Debtors' Accounts
Soraya Essop 021-408-3521
Proprietor SA Hunt Publishing (Pty) Ltd
Printed by Paarl Media Cape
Distribution In the event of
retail supply problems contact
Armand Kasselmann, 021-443-9975

Opinions expressed in advertisements or articles are not necessarily those of the Editors or Publishers. Readers should take every care with firearms and ammunition. *Magnum* has no control over readers' components or techniques and cannot entertain claims of any nature whatsoever. The Editors reserve the right to change and/or shorten articles and letters. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for the content of advertisements.

**SAFARI
OUTDOOR
HUNTING
APP**

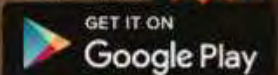
DISCREET &
PRIVATE



**UPLOAD &
SHARE**
your hunting pics
and adventures

SELECT PRIVATE OR
PUBLIC OPTION
WITH EVERY POST

FREE



SEARCH: SAFARI OUTDOOR



**SAFARI
OUTDOOR**



www.safarioutdoor.co.za

Subscribe to our Digital Edition, go to www.manmagnum.com

Lessons Learned

I LEARNED AT an early age that, although there are many things in life beyond my control, there are many I can control, most by simply changing my thoughts and actions. Of course, there were many occasions when I was simply too hesitant or too lazy to make the right decision for ensuring a better future. Fortunately, at other times, I managed to find the courage and discipline to ensure the outcome I desired.

Pretty much the same goes for my hunting experience. As a young man, after much deliberation, I finally decided to commit to becoming a professional hunter. For years I'd dreamed about doing it, but up to that point it had remained a flight of fancy – a case of dreaming but not doing. Having made the decision, I found that following through wasn't easy. Although broke, I learned that finding the money to pay for the professional hunters' course was the easy part. After that came the real hardship: I spent 18 months advertising to secure my first client. During that period, I had to set aside money from my rather meagre salary to keep the advertising campaign going. What is more, the small profit I made from my first hunt wasn't much encouragement to keep going. But I did, because that first European client, hunting on the flat Free State plains, could not stop talking about the wide open spaces, blue sky and solitude. His happiness was infectious and made me even more determined to run a successful operation.

After more than two decades of full-time hunting, I decided to "slow down", and entered the rat race of the print media by joining my favourite magazine, an opportunity I'm thankful for. Today, I'm perhaps too old and grumpy to again go through 18 months with no success, but taking my son on his first antelope hunt some weeks ago made me realize that "biting the bullet" is still the only way to go. There is no substi-

tute for hard work and perseverance to reach your goals.

My son had been preparing for this first hunt for years, mostly with his air rifle at home, and on weekends with a centre-fire rifle on the range. Through the years he has also joined me on numerous bird shoots. I suppose his biggest obstacle in getting his first hunt underway was me. I was simply too busy to take days out from my very "important" schedule to take him antelope hunting. I was using my workload and his shooting ability, fitness levels, lack of concentration and inability to keep quiet, as excuses not to go.

Recently a friend remarked that we tend to remember missed opportunities but rarely remember the reasons why. Of course, at the time of making the decision, the reasons/excuses must have been important, but after a while, in the bigger scheme of things, it becomes so unimportant that it just fades from memory. Well, his words stuck, reminding me of my own life. So, I told my boy to pack his bags and we set off on his first antelope hunt.


After spending three days on foot in the vast mountainous semi-Karoo, he is a different (soon-to-be) 13-year-old. He slogged about 10km on the first day and further on the second and third. Reward came on the second day, with about two hours of daylight left. His third day also proved successful, bagging a warthog for cabanossi at about 14:00.

The hunt was a milestone in his life, his confidence got a boost, his hours of training had paid off, his shots were true because he could picture the animals in three dimensions and shoot for the heart. He even surprised me by asking whether driving around in a vehicle and shooting animals from the back can be called hunting. Surely it must fall in a different category? Clearly, somewhere in his mind the idea that hard work delivers much sweeter rewards was growing.

I believe he'll stick with hunting for the rest of his life now. We frequently discuss rifles, stalking and hunting areas while eating "his" biltong. For him it's a new and exciting beginning, a life filled with adventure and rare moments awaits – something to be excited about and worth losing sleep over. Yes, his world at home and school still involves watching too much television, playing with his Xbox, his cell phone, and watching music videos, but I'm convinced he's realized that these activities, though pleasurable, are but an inferior substitute for the real thing – going out on adventures (hopefully hunting) and living life to the full.

For me, the lesson was simple: if I cannot recall the reasons for not being able to spend time with those I care for, well, then I've missed the plot and I need to reassess my priorities.

On another tack, in our September 2018 edition we published a photo of a hunter wearing what appears to be a SANDF military uniform. We've received several letters from readers pointing out that wearing such a uniform is against the law. The Defence Act 42 of 2002, Section 104 (5) and (6) stipulates that: "Any person who, without authority, possesses or wears prescribed uniforms, distinctive marks or crests, or performs any prohibited act while wearing such uniform or with such uniform, distinctive marks or crests, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years."

Unfortunately I did not recognize the clothing in the photograph as official military garb, and blame it on failing eyesight, old age and an overwhelming work load. We encourage readers to take note of the stipulation of the law. If you possess military gear, use it for its intended lawful purpose only, and choose commercially available attire for hunting. 



LYNX LX3 2.5-15x50 SA Hunter

ILLUMINATED SA HUNTER RETICLE

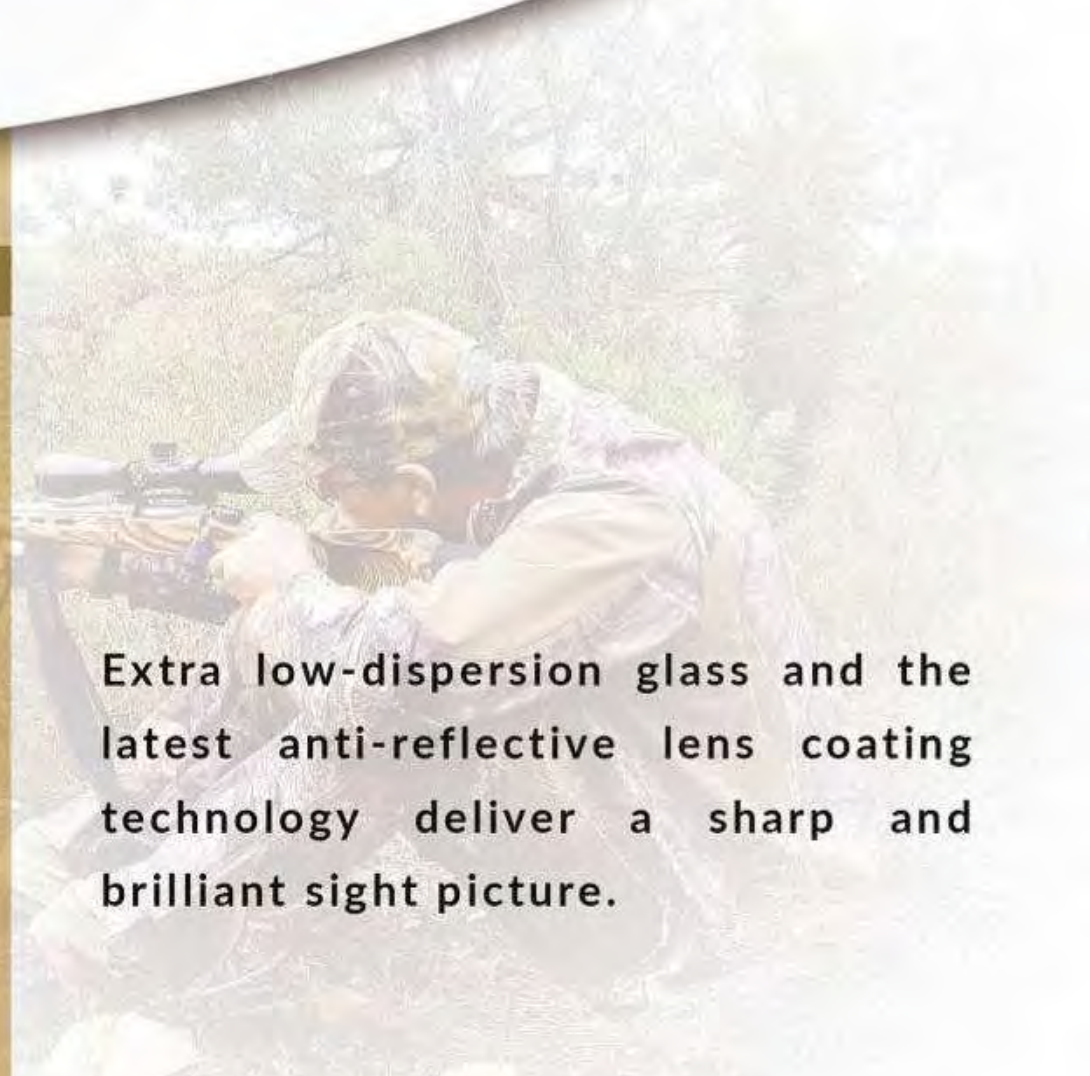
- Aiming points on the reticle make it easy to compensate for distance as well as crosswinds
- Bold reticle lines are easily visible in poor light whilst still being thin enough for accurate shot placement on small targets

SIDE-MOUNTED FOCUS AND ILLUMINATION SWITCH

- Reticle illumination switches off and on with a single click and recalls your previously-selected brightness setting

TOOLLESS ADJUSTMENT CONTROLS

- 60 MOA adjustment travel
- ¼ MOA per click



Extra low-dispersion glass and the latest anti-reflective lens coating technology deliver a sharp and brilliant sight picture.

www.lynx.co.za



011 792 6644



info@lynx.co.za

Article Suggestion

I immensely enjoy Greg Woods's articles in *Man Magnum*, especially the historical and technical ones. He doesn't mince his words or modify the truth, and he reports on things without lacing them with niceties, for example his review of 'Pondoro' Taylor.

I am collecting everything about SA ammo manufacturing. I have a collection of Somchem powder tins. I appreciate all news and snippets in *Man Magnum*, such as the S365 issue.

What about publishing articles on the histories of PMP, Somchem, Swartklip and the Kimberley ammo factory?

– **Wolfi Hlasec, Namibia**

➤ *Gregor feels it's not really his field. Perhaps we can prevail upon historians Dr Ron Bester and MC Heunis to consider such a project. Any reader suggestions are welcome. ED*

Titular Travails

Was the spelling of "Dear" in the title on page 64 of the July edition deliberate? If so, does this refer to a legally huntable two-legged species? Is it classified as dangerous game? Would it involve long-range shooting, for reasons of safety? It would be most interesting to read Gregor Woods's comments regarding hunting methods appropriate to this species. Thanks for wonderful service!

– **Fraser Finlaison, East Cape Republic**

➤ *Gregor Woods replies: The dear is most certainly a huntable species for unattached sportsmen, though not easy to determine if fallow. Universally con-*

sidered a highly desirable quarry. Distribution: occurs widely throughout the southern African sub-region, but patchy and discontinuous.

Description: average height 5ft 4ins; varies widely in weight and hair colouration, which can change seasonally. They are antlerless, but forepaws carry vicious claws; single pair of pectoral mammae. Movements generally graceful – hindquarters sway perceptibly when walking.

Habitat: prefers clean, dry sheltered areas; sensitive to dust and wind.

Habits: vary according to conditions, but generally omnivorous; most drink daily, usually during the crepuscular hours. Commonly gregarious, forming small groups – even when visiting mid-dens. Extremely vocal, with vast range of calls and sounds from soft purring and mewing when relaxed to harsh shrieking when enraged – yet also capable of lengthy periods of stony silence. When in territorial groups, chatter incessantly.

Hunting tips: Ethical fair-chase methods do not work with this species. Avoid stalking altogether, it's simply too dangerous. Baiting them is the only successful method – preferably during the crepuscular hours at their drinking places. Most successful baits include seafood (preferably crustaceans), exotic puddings, and chocolate, but steak and even pizza are known to attract. They are also strangely drawn to small, glittering objects – precious metals, precious stones – most professional hunters regard diamonds as infallible. Be warned – this species is utterly unpredictable and can be extremely dangerous when wounded. Warning signals include a single raised orbital brow, a flouncing gait, and certain calls such as a loud "Fine!" or a low, menacing "Whatever!"

Shotgun Slugs

After reading "Slugs for Shotguns" (July 2018), I would like to ask some advice. Some years ago I inherited a 12g Borchers Celta shotgun with 32-inch single barrel, full choke and external hammer. As I already owned some side-by-side and single-barrelled shotguns in different gauges, I had my gunsmith fit a dovetail, red dot sight and recoil pad to this gun. I started out with Royal Brenneke slugs from RIO and sport slugs from Sellier & Bellot which worked fine. I have hunted warthog and springbuck with the Brennekes and had one-shot kills at distances from 16 to 53 metres.

Since last year I have not been able to get either the Brenneke or the sport slugs (for practice) in Windhoek so I changed to Hornady's American Whitetail and Remington's Slugger rifled slugs. Both are very accurate although I have not hunted with them yet. In the meantime, I have bought a lot of Armour Brass cases with over powder plastic wads, shot cups and felt filler wads. I would like to reload these cases with slugs for hunting and would appreciate some help in getting hold of a mould to cast rifled slugs and reloading data for slugs.

Thank you for your magazine.
– **Pieter van Zyl, Namibia**

➤ *Armour Brass cases have thick walls and therefore a lot less case capacity compared to Magtech brass cases or plastic cases.*

Armour Brass distributed a reloading guide with their cases that suggested 16 to 17.2 grains of Somchem MP200 could be used with 32 gram No 5, 7 and 9 lead. I'd suggest that you use the 16gr load as a starting point when reloading their cases with slugs

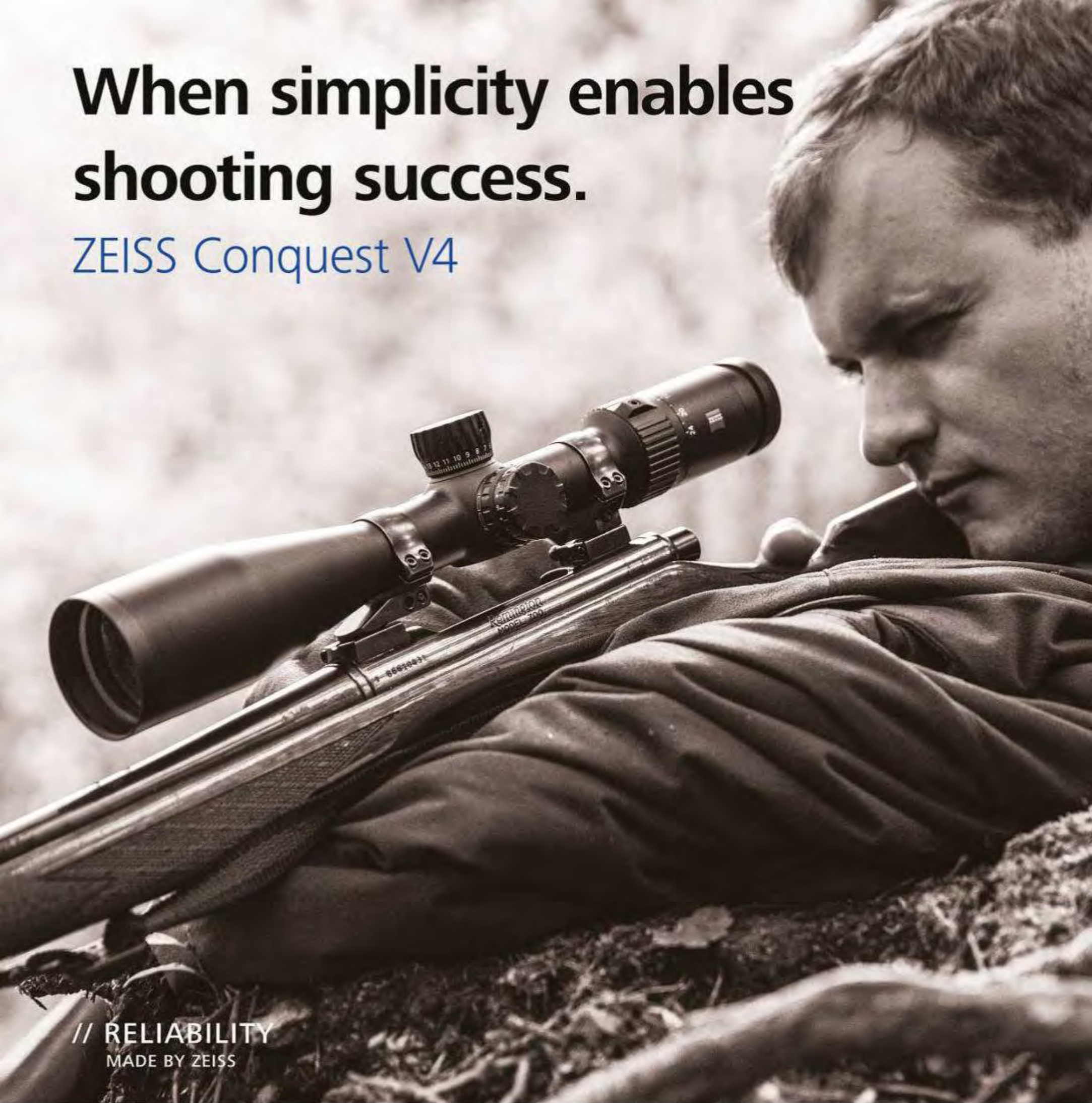
Continued on page 49 ➤



Your letters are an important part of Magnum. We (readers and editors) like to hear your problems and opinions. Unless marked 'NOT FOR PUBLICATION' all letters are considered and are edited for length and/or clarity. Pen names may be used, provided that your full name, address and daytime phone number are furnished. Please try to keep your letters short and to the point.

When simplicity enables shooting success.

ZEISS Conquest V4



// RELIABILITY
MADE BY ZEISS



ZEISS Conquest V4
**High-quality optics for even the
harshest conditions:**

No compromises in quality and robustness: the high-performance riflescopes of the Conquest V4 line unite the proven ZEISS optical concept with robust construction and functional design. These scopes set a new standard in their class with a 4x zoom range and a ballistic turret on long range models.

Tel: (011) 886 9510 · craig.smith@zeiss.com · follow us on facebook



Looking and Seeing

TAKE GOOD CARE of your eyes. Otherwise you might end up blind in one eye and unable to see out of the other, as my granddad used to say. I haven't yet reached that stage, but it's getting close and believe me, it's a major bind when you can't see as you used to. I wonder how many buck I didn't see, or saw only when it was too late? For hunters who wander around in the bush, and who may be looking but not seeing, I offer the following tips.

Look behind you. I don't mean all the time, but now and again, stop walking and have a good look at the way you have come. Under conditions similar to the one I describe, it is not as stupid as it sounds.

It takes only a second or two for a bushbuck, or any buck, to step out of

cover, where you couldn't see him, and into the open, where he will stick out like a donkey in a starting gate at the Durban July. And, if you are going along slowly – taking one step and looking twice – as all good bushbuck hunters should, you might see him before he sees you.

A client and I were hunting bushbuck one day when the strategy of "look behind" paid off. We were walking up a long, narrow valley lying between two thickly-forested hills. The valley was about 60 or 70 metres wide at the bottom with some belt-high bushes scattered around in it. This was the client's first hunt of his safari, and I could hear he was impatient with me. He gave a little sigh each time we stopped, as if to say, "Oh no, he's looking behind him again. Is he expecting me to knife him or what?"

By that stage of my career I was used to clients and their little quirks. One more sigh out of you, I thought, and you can walk in front and conduct the hunt as you see fit. It was as well that I'm a patient fellow, because one of our stops produced the goods – a big black bushbuck ram. He had come out of the forest about a hundred metres behind us and was feeding unconcernedly. A short stalk and it was all over. It took a lot of willpower for me not to sigh.


This is not an isolated example of a hunter shooting a buck just because he took the trouble to inspect his back trail.

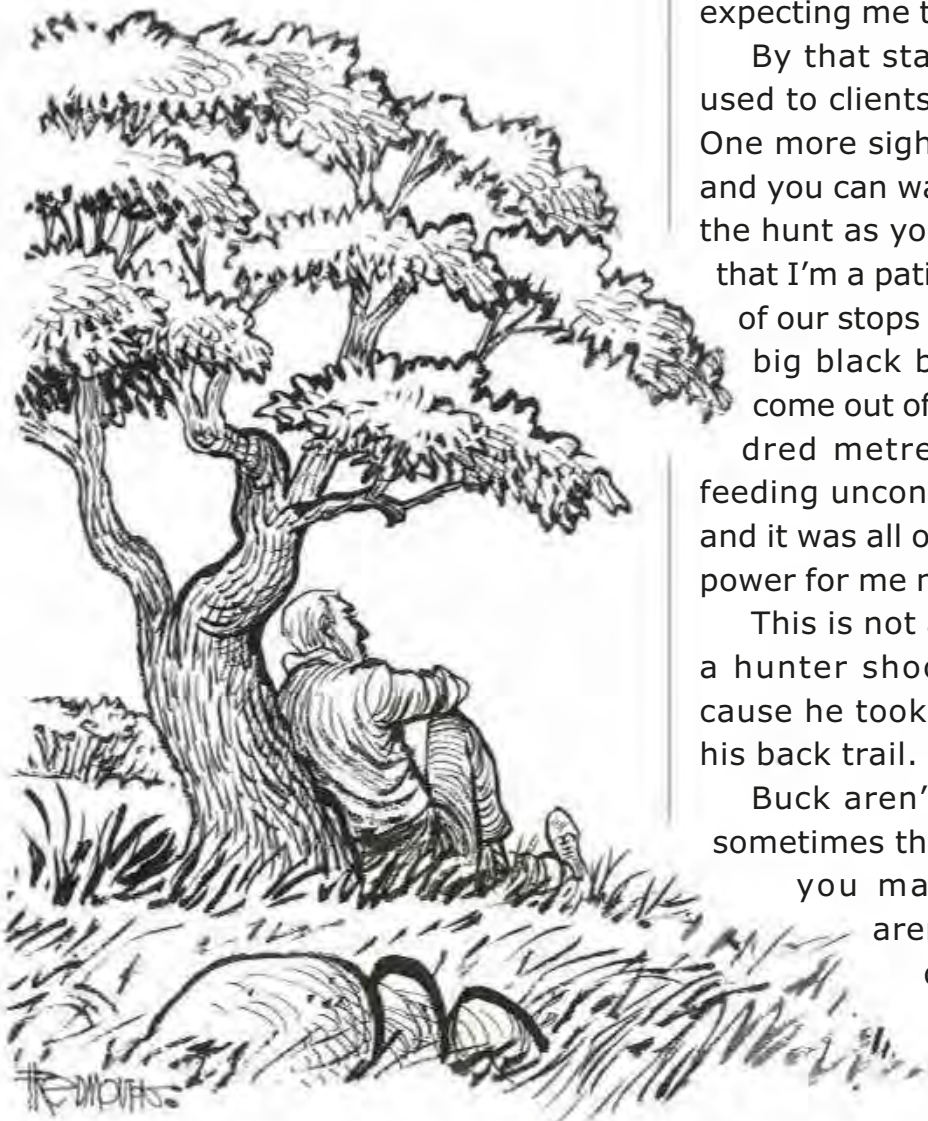
Buck aren't always standing up; sometimes they are lying down. And you may rest assured they aren't in dreamland when doing so. I know it sounds ridiculous, but hunters don't always

see buck when they are in this position, especially if there are just one or two animals and the hunter isn't expecting them to be lying down. They might be lying under a tree or bush, but they could just as easily be lying out in the open. Fallow deer are good at lying where you wouldn't expect even a hare to try to hide. So look up, look down, look all around.

In case you are wondering what a hotshot game spotter I am, read on.

Always give stockmen your ear; their sharp eyes see many things in the bush. One of these worthies once told me he had seen a good kudu bull in a certain basin in the bush while he was collecting cattle. Subsequently, a client and I paid the spot a visit. The basin where he had seen the bull lay at the top of a kloof that I knew well. About forty percent of it is covered with thorn trees, the rest is open grassland. We sat just under the opposite ridge and searched the basin, both with the naked eye and our binoculars. Directly opposite us three kudu cows were lying down, but there was no sign of the bull. So, after fifteen or twenty minutes of searching, we decided to move on and stood up to leave. That's when we saw him. He had been lying slap-bang in the middle of a clearing with not a blade of grass for cover. Needless to say, we saw him when it was too late to get a shot. He was already high-tailing it for pastures new. Granted, it was a heavily overcast day, but how two experienced hunters failed to see an animal as big as a kudu bull, lying in the open, has me scratching my head to this day. And that was when my eyes were still good.

So don't just give a place a cursory glance; always inspect it closely. 





Tigerfishing, *Mount Stephanie*

• ZAMBEZI RIVER, MOZAMBIQUE • SEP 2018 - APR 2019 •



Mt Stephanie's exclusive tiger fishing camp is set in the Mountains on the Northern bank of the Zambezi River, right in the heart of the infamous Kebrabassa Rapids. These formidable rapids forged by merciless torrents of water that have flooded these granite gorges for eons of time have humbled even the most intrepid explorers.

A tasteful rustic camp is set beneath beautiful trees, edged on the banks of the river. Mt Stephanie offers 6 bow tents, fully equipped and fully serviced with 2 exquisite spacious outdoor bathrooms overlooking a view you will never forget.

Package includes the following:

- 5 nights accommodation, 4 full days of fishing (conventional and flyfishing available, all fishing is strictly catch and release).
- Transport between Tete airport and Mt. Stephanie River Camp (±2.5 hour drive)
- Three meals per day, including field pack and delicious Cuisine in the evenings
- Species available apart from Tiger Fish: Chessa, Nkupe, Imberi, Vundu, Zambezi shark, Cornish jack, a variety of tilapia, variety of eels and Yellow fish.

R15 900 per person*

*minimum 4, maximum 6 fishermen

5 nights, 4 full days
fishing (conventional / fly)



70km of untamed waters



Full board accommodation
overlooking the beautiful Zambezi



Historic campsite of
David Livingstone

Contact us today to book this exclusive fishing package

Tel: +27 12 369 9500 • E-mail address: info@safarioutfitters.co.za • Website: www.safarioutfitters.co.za



Safari Outfitters is a wholly owned subsidiary of Outdoor Investment Holdings (Pty) Ltd, the most prominent and reputable industry participant in the hunting and shooting industry in Southern Africa. More info: www.outdoorinvestment.co.za

Only valid between 1 September 2018 and 30 April 2019. Subject to availability. Terms & conditions apply. E&OE.



The tail-end of the herd of some 1 000 buffalo we drove into on the first day, then followed up and stalked.

When Things Go Wrong...

by **GREGOR WOODS**

Some problems are avoidable; some just aren't



The buffalo cow as she fell from the head-shot then received a subsequent insurance shot through the spine into the vital area. When this photo was taken, she was not yet dead.

IN MY ARTICLE "Of Vital Importance" (July 2018 edition) I mentioned a weird experience involving a buffalo cow that I'd head-shot. My point was simply that by getting the angle of the shot wrong, I had missed the brain, and so I ended the anecdote there, saying, "... what followed is too long a story to tell here". A reader has suggested I tell the whole story. I did, in fact, relate part of it in *Magnum* many years ago, but there was a lot more to it. Moreover, the full story contains some important advice for hunters. This is a "Murphy's Law" combined with "Lessons Learned" story. However, for readers to fully appreciate how it all went wrong, I must go back to the months preceding the hunt.

A most important requirement for any hunt is appropriate physical fitness. The mere ability to walk long distances is not enough; you need reserves of fitness to cope with the unexpected, and for when things go badly wrong. I had learned this the hard way while living in South West Africa, hunting some of the most remote, rugged mountains and canyons in the Namib Desert. When I went back there in 1996 to do a



three-day backpack hunt in a completely waterless 50 000ha canyon in the Gamsberg Mountains (*Magnum*, Sept '96) I trained for it by hiking up and down Cowie's Hill near my home every day for weeks, carrying a 15kg backpack, and that wasn't enough. So it's not as if I didn't know the importance of being fit when I undertook to hunt three buffalo in the Zambezi Valley in the year 2000. But there are times when setbacks occur, over which you have no control. When I hear people say, "You can make time to exercise," I just smile. Please indulge me some digression to explain why...

FIRSTLY, EVEN AT the best of times, magazine publishing is a stressful and highly pressured job. My Zimbabwe hunt was booked for mid-April, 2000. Editor Ron Anger decided to give *Magnum's* readers a bumper 164-page Special Millennium Edition for January 2000, for which I had to write three feature articles in addition to my usual workload. Sadly, Ron's wife, Di, was battling cancer, and towards the end of 1999, her condition worsened, requiring Ron's almost continuous presence at her bedside. So the task of putting together the Millennium edition fell almost entirely on me and our layout artiste, Lindsay Fulton.

Thereafter, Di Anger's condition continued to require Ron's full attention. Coincidentally, my wife underwent spinal neurosurgery on 25 February, 2000, which in those days involved six weeks recuperation flat on her back, bringing us to 6 April. During this period, I became 'chief cook and bottle-washer', house-keeper and nurse – in addition

to doing my job and most of Ron Anger's. Di Anger passed away on 30 March 2000. About a week after the funeral, I flew to Zimbabwe, exhausted and with nerves frazzled from the preceding months. Believe me: there are times when you can't make time for fitness training.

Another concern: a week before leaving, I discovered that the 450gr Barnes-X bullets I usually loaded for my .458 Lott were unavailable locally, and had to settle for 400-grainers, which I consider low on sectional density for use on buffalo. I also loaded 500gr solids and a few experimental (for me) 550gr Woodleigh soft-points.

Further advice: if you have any physical conditions that could prove a hindrance during a hard hunt, inform your PH before the hunt, so that you can mutually figure out ways to work around this. Back in 1976, I had smashed up my left knee; it took months to heal to the point where I could walk, run and climb mountains as previously. However, I was never again able to kneel on a hard surface with that knee – doing so could cripple me for weeks. Readers often ask why, in hunting photos, I always kneel on my right knee. Simple: if I knelt on my left, my hunt would end there. This also made crawling difficult for me when stalking. I could leopard-crawl if careful, but cannot crawl 'on all fours' – I have to drag one leg.

In addition, two boyhood injuries had left me with life-long neck problems: limited movement and I have to keep my neck in line with my spine, which is fine when standing or sitting erect, but painful when crawling, when I need to look ahead. When shooting from a dead-rest, I must sit erect or



LEFT: Four Barnes-X .458 bullets. L-R: (1) Recovered 400gr that penetrated the cow's head and three or four neck vertebrae; (2) Same 400gr unused; (3) 450gr preferred by author for its higher SD; (4) 500gr: its length requires compressed loads in a .458 Lott.

stand erect and lean the rifle against something at my head-level. This problem worsened with age (I was 55 in 2000; a year later I underwent surgery to fuse and cage two neck vertebrae.) I intended to tell 'Squirrel' Meredith of Swainson's Safaris all this when we started hunting, but again, Murphy intervened.

On arrival in camp, Squirrel announced that we would not be hunting the following day; we would drive around to view the concession and

leisurely "suss out" game movements. Consequently, I delayed mentioning my neck and knee problems. Moreover, to avoid dehydration when hunting, it is my habit to drink lots of water the night before and early on the morning of the hunt, but, as we'd not be hunting the next day, I neglected to do this. Mistake – always prepare for the unexpected.

DURING THE HEAT of midday, our leisurely drive took us slap into a herd of about 1 000 buffalo which stampeded off. The first buffalo I was to hunt on this safari had to be a cow needed for lion bait. The many cows in this herd persuaded Squirrel this was too good an opportunity to pass up.

Now, this just happened to be the year when extraordinary summer rains caused heavy flooding of the Zambezi (you may recall the woman in Mozambique who gave birth in a tree she'd climbed to avoid drowning – mother and infant were rescued by helicopter). Swainson's Zambezi camp was five feet under water. Come April, the grass was exceptionally long and the bush very dense. In this hilly area, the grass



Author (left) with 'Squirrel' Meredith and the big buffalo cow that wouldn't die. Note the long grass and leafy undergrowth.

concealed big rocks; the going was rough and it took us half-an-hour to catch up with the herd.

I was to shoot an elderly cow without a calf, but the long grass made it nigh impossible to see whether a calf was present. The thick bush also made it very difficult to locate an old lone cow well separated from her numerous companions, so as to avoid wounding another in the event of bullet over-penetration. We had to crawl right

in among the herd and get very close to find one that met these requirements. The worst problem was the constantly swirling wind. We'd make a stalk; the wind would eddy, the buffalo would scent us and rumble off. During the next two and a half hours, in severe heat, we repeated this process many times with the same outcome.

Squirrel carried the shooting sticks; an apprentice PH carried his rifle, while the safari crew followed at a safe distance. Unencumbered and knowing nothing about my knee problem, Squirrel crawled through the long grass at a fast pace. I struggled to keep up, crawling on one knee, dragging my left leg, and with my rifle in one hand. After two hours, I was exhausted, dehydrated, my right leg was cramping and my neck ached badly.

Finally, Squirrel located a suitable cow. Sweating and breathing hard, I now discovered the shooting sticks were too low for me. Bending over while craning my neck upward to aim was agony, but the herd had already started moving off; there was no time for adjustments. The nervous cow was standing at a slight going-away angle, requiring a shot through the ribs

Swainsons' camp on the Zambezi River. Water level was 5 feet up the building's walls in the flood of 2000.



behind the shoulder. Murphy's Law – as I squeezed, she took off to follow the others. My 400gr Barnes-X hit her back leg and failed to reach the heart-lung area.

Though much dismayed, I told myself I had followed up a wounded buffalo before and successfully faced its charge; I felt confident to do so again, especially carrying a .458 Lott and backed up by Squirrel. In my frazzled state I was all for following the spoor, which could have ended very badly, as the buffalo was waiting in ambush for us. Fortunately Squirrel remained calm and suggested we walk along a slight ridge to see if we could spot her below. This we did, and spied her hiding in some bush about 20m away. I could see only part of her black mass. I should have known she'd be facing back along her own tracks, but I wasn't thinking and just wanted to put another bullet in her before she ran off. Declining the shooting sticks, I fired off-hand, 'into the black'. She tossed her head and turned to face us, and I realised I'd shot at her wrong end! Forcing myself to calm down and breathe deeply, I raised the rifle again, aimed for her forehead and this time she dropped like a stone.

Relieved, I started towards her, glancing down while topping up my magazine. Hearing Squirrel's warning, I looked up to see a full-grown buffalo bull appear next to the fallen cow, glaring at me and angrily stamping his front hooves. I froze, realizing I had stupidly assumed my shots would have chased off all the buffalo. For several minutes, we watched the agitated bull stomping back and forth beside the fallen cow, tossing his head and showing us very definite signs of aggression. Eventually we had to fire a shot into the ground near him to chase him off.

THE COW LAY on its side but had not emitted the death-bellow. As a precaution, I approached from behind and fired into the top of its hump, between the shoulder blades and through the spine, into the heart-lung area. My frontal head-shot, a 400gr Barnes-X, had entered just below the horn base, exited the back of the skull, penetrated the first three or four neck vertebrae and stopped beneath the skin on the neck, where I cut it out. We then posed the carcass for photos with the whole crew sitting around it. Suddenly the buffalo gave a long, drawn-out bawl – not the usual mournful death bellow, but a strange monotone bawl. This dispersed the crew with some alacrity. I gave it another shot between the shoulder blades, down through the spine. Someone went for the Land Cruiser, and while we sat chatting, so help me, the buffalo bawled again – weaker this time, but still long and drawn out. I shot her a third time as before.



Author with one of the two buffalo bulls he shot uneventfully on the same hunt. Again, note long grass and dense bush.

Unfortunately, we couldn't do a post mortem as the carcass had to go immediately to another camp for use as lion bait by an American hunter, so I have no satisfactory explanation. It seems my head-shot missed the brain, but its damage to the neck vertebrae paralysed the animal. It's hard to imagine that the buffalo's final lungful of air, slowly leaking out, could produce such vocalizing. It requires a measure of muscle power to expel air with enough force to vibrate the vocal cords for two such long, unbroken bawls. For this, the

spinal cord must be functional. Yet the animal had taken three .458 bullets centrally through the spine at the neck-shoulder junction. In the days following, I killed two huge buffalo bulls without mishap – one with the same 400gr Barnes-X. So who knows? "Out of Africa, always something new". **M**



UNIVERSAL
ATM CONCEPTS CC

• T: +2711 825 7260/1/2
• F: +2786 552 3474
www.universalatm.co.za



MILD STEEL POTJIE COOKER
(Excludes pot) R500



SPIT BRAAI

- Single Burner R3 750
- Double Burner R5 750
- Triple Burner (Manufactured to order) R8 750



BUILT IN BRAAI
(MADE TO CLIENTS SPEC)



Double Burner



Double Burner

PRICES EXCLUDE VAT AND DELIVERY







MILD STEEL LOOSE STANDING BRAAI

- Large R1 100 • Small R700

Note all items available in a Stainless steel option.
For Pricing contact Universal Safes.



Wiaan (right) and Flip (left) with the two impala shot with the Musgrave .30-06.

The Choreographed Hunt

by **WIAAN OOSTHUIZEN** and **FLIP CREMER**

Teamwork makes the dream work



Precisely where
the two impala fell -
Wiaan on the left and
Flip on the right.

ON OUR ARRIVAL at the farm some 40km from Thabazimbi, we unpacked and settled down to rest in preparation for the days to come. Well... that is, everyone except Flip Cremer, my hunting partner. He unpacked as quickly as possible and went for a drive with Rigert, the farmer's son, to start the water pump. Within 10 minutes we heard a shot and Flip came back with a warthog he'd hit in the ear at 280m using a .243 loaded with 87 grain Hornady V-Max. We spent the rest of the day at camp in anxious anticipation of the morrow's start to our hunting expedition.

The next day, Flip and I rose just before sunrise and walked into the Thabazimbi veld, Flip armed with a bow and I with a .30-06. We immediately came across fresh impala spoor and followed it into rough bush that was full of blue-thorn (*Acacia erubescens*). This shrub later became our arch enemy – we even renamed it "duiwelbos", deeming this to be a much more fitting name. We walked 10km through dense blue-thorn and came within 15 metres of an impala. Flip couldn't take the shot with his bow because the duiwelbos obscured it from every angle. We went back to camp with nothing to show for our first day but sore feet.

Just before sunrise on day two, Flip and I started out, determined to shoot something. We entered the same dense bush, searching for impala and warthog. After a few hours, we saw four warthog running across a small, shaded opening in the bush. First the sow ran across, then two shoats, and finally the boar entered the clearing and stood for what would prove to be only a brief moment. In that split second, I shouldered the .30-06 and took aim. I saw what looked like its four legs and neck, but the head was behind the bushes, so I went for a neck shot. We approached and after some searching discovered that I had made a perfect shot – the bullet had struck dead centre. The only problem was that I had shot a tree branch that had been in front of the warthog. The combination of the shade and the shape of the branch had duped me. The 168gr .30-06 PMP bullet had fully penetrated and we picked it up from beside the branch. After combing the area and finding no blood or evidence of having wounded the animal, we continued our hunt. But, despite walking another 10km we saw nothing else and headed back to camp.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING we got up bright and early and promised ourselves a successful day of hunting. Once again, we set out on foot, Flip with his bow and I with the .30-06. After a couple of hours' walking without success, we came to the camp's border fence. Glancing beyond and

SAVUTI

Wapens & Ammunisie

- ☐ Tel: 011 915 0138 / Tel: 011 915 0145
- ☐ Carnival Centre, East Rand
- ☐ Cnr Rangeview and Lawrence Rd, Brakpan
- ☐ GPS: S26°15,061 E028°18,815
- ☐ info@savutiarms.co.za ☐ www.savutiarms.co.za
- ☐ Savuti Arms is on Facebook.

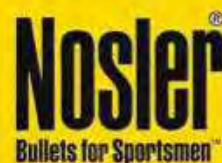


BESTELLINGS EN AFLEWERINGS LANDWYD - T's & C's Apply
POSTNET, ARAMEX, RAM & COURIER GUY

DIE PUNTEWINKEL

Hierdie winkel is vir die herlaaier.

Savage Model 112 .338 Lapua - R27 500
 Ruger M77 Hawkeye Standard - R12 500



THE BULLET SHOP

This shop is for the reloader.

Gunsmith on Site

Savuti Import

Special imports available on request.

For Stock availability and pricing contact Tyron@savutiarms.co.za

Visit our page www.savutioutdooradventuregear.co.za

or Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/savutiimports



ABOVE: The tree from which Flip and Wiaan shot their impala.

INSET: Wiaan's shot through the tree branch.

RIGHT: Bullet at the top went through the branch. Bullet at the bottom we recovered from Flip's impala.

BELOW: Wiaan with his warthog shot at 150m.



to our right, we saw a warthog running towards our side, making ready to cross beneath the fence. I immediately chambered a round and dropped to the ground in my "ballerina move" as Flip called it, ready to take the shot. Perceiving it to be a long shot, Flip also dropped prone and squirmed beneath the rifle so that I could use his back as a dead rest. The instant the rifle was steady on his back I fired, and the warthog fell dead in its tracks at 150m. I had taken the shot with the scope set on 2.5x magnification as there'd been no time to adjust it. We congratulated ourselves and had a big laugh at my ballerina move.

AFTER A CELEBRATORY brunch we returned to the veld, determined to bag an impala. We walked and stalked through the duiwelbos and finally saw a large impala ram. We silently tracked it for about half an hour, but lost the spoor in the dense bush. While walking back to the road we saw another impala ram and pursued it, but with the same result. We were on the verge of giving up for the day when we saw both rams out in the open about 300m away. We immediately began a serious stalk through the bush, but realised we needed to offload some of our kit. As we walked, we discarded the camel-pack, backpack, binoculars, the bow and everything we didn't need. Although Flip's decision to abandon his bow left us with a problem: we had only one rifle.

We eventually got to about 30m from the two impala, which were standing just ten metres apart. Flip whispered his plan to me. He would take the first shot at the impala on the right, reload as fast as possible, then duck out of the way while handing me the rifle to take a shot at the ram on the left. After a few moments of silence Flip took the first shot. It was his signature shot; in the neck just under the impala's chin. He instantly reloaded and as he stepped aside, he put the rifle in my hands, ready-levelled with the butt against my shoulder. I immediately aimed and fired just as the second ram was about to run, dropping it in its tracks. Both animals died instantly.

Without speaking we approached the rams, still in shock and disbelief at what had just taken place. Using one and the same rifle, we had each shot dead a large impala ram, the pair of which had been standing ten metres apart and only 30m away from us – in less than five seconds!

We worked very hard for those two impala; over the course of four days we walked more than 50km. Our hunt had come to an end, and we went home with very sore feet, proud of all the scratches and blisters because it had most definitely been worth it a thousand times over. This was an experience of a lifetime, and the memories will last forever, because when two hunters work as one, these stories become the stuff of legends. **M**

Neil showing it can still be done.



Sometimes old dogs need to learn new tricks

IT'S STRANGE THAT we never consider that we are getting older and that things change. To quote George Bernard Shaw: "Youth is wasted on the young".

I first noticed, after my 60th birthday, that my shooting was somewhat worse than it had been, but I thought that I just needed more practice. Then I went to renew my driver's licence and was told that I needed glasses. This came as a shock. Hell, I could still see the road signs, couldn't I? With the new glasses I realised I could see better, but my shooting was still poor. My friendly optometrist, who is also a shooter, suggested I have the bi-focal close-up lenses cut a bit lower so as not to be in line with my vision when I looked along the barrels of my shotgun. He also suggested I keep away from multi-focal lenses as they have a tendency to distort image and distance.

'Silver Shooters' and Shotguns

by **NEIL HARMSE**

I headed back to the range for some practice and coaching. At least I could now see what I was shooting at, but I found that I was still having frustrating misses when I thought I should be connecting. The problem was that my movement and swing were leaving a lot to be desired.

If we think of it, as we age, instead of maturing like fine

wine, our advancing years bring about their own set of problems, such as stiff and aching joints which reduce our mobility. This can also be exacerbated by injuries from our youth and also possibly surgical procedures. My particular problem stemmed from a pinched nerve which resulted in a surgical procedure on my neck, and my loss of mobility to swing or turn to my left. I also occasionally have sore shoulders and loss of dexterity in my arms. Another issue that comes with age is that our body shape can, and does, change over time, sometimes monthly, never mind over years. And of course my shooting had gone south! So, without giving up my sport, which I am passionate about, I had to find solutions.



'Silver Shooters' Neil (left) and Terry.

MY FIRST THOUGHT was that this was a good excuse to buy a new shotgun! Perhaps a light 20 gauge would help with faster handling and swing? So after a bit of searching I found a 20 gauge that suited my pocket and my idea of handling, but soon found that the gun had completely different handling characteristics to the 12 gauges that I was used to. With reduced weight and slim lines I was swinging wildly and of course off-target.

Back to the range and the coach. I was soon handling the lighter gun better, with more controlled swing and connecting targets more consistently. I did not find that the 20 gauge was any less effective than my 12 gauge guns. There was a marked improvement in my shooting and I was confident that I was on the right path.

I missed using my old 12s that had become a part of me over many shooting seasons, and I considered how to use them and become proficient with those same old guns.

My ongoing movement and stiffness problems were restricting my gun mounting. I found that when I mounted the gun for a fast shot, it was catching under my arm. I wasn't getting my arms to lift and move the gun sufficiently,



28 gram loads have less recoil.

to clear my arm pit. A simple solution was to get my friend Hennie Mulder, an experienced stock maker and gunsmith, to shorten the stock and reduce the length of pull by about 1/2 inch (12.7mm). Fortunately this worked for me, and my gun mount improved considerably. Others may have to look at further alterations to get the gun and barrels in line. This could also include raising the comb height to bring the eyes level with the rib and barrels, and, if necessary, a change in the cast-off of the stock could be considered.

essary, a change in the cast-off of the stock could be considered.

If vision in a master eye is weakened, a cross-eye stock may have to be considered. This may be better than learning to shoot off the left shoulder after decades of right handed shooting (or vice versa). A difficult choice.

Your comfortable old gun could be further lightened by


Reg No. CK 94/04204/23

GUNS & BOWS


PO Box 463, Sanlamhof 7532, SOUTH AFRICA
Cnr Ford & Strand Streets, BELLVILLE 7530, CAPE TOWN

TACTICAL SYNTHETIC RIFLE STOCKS


ATI
Advanced Technology




AK-47




MAUSER



ENFIELD



RUGER
Mini-14/Mini-Thirty



MOSSBERG

Tel: 021 949 2891
E-mail: sales@gunsbows.co.za | mark@gunsbows.co.za
Facebook: Guns & Bows

shortening the barrels and fitting multi-chokes, and perhaps reducing weight in the butt-stock by having a stock maker remove the recoil pad/buttplate and drill a tunnel or tunnels into the butt-stock from the rear. (Please don't do this to your Holland Royal, Purdey or Boss!) Speaking of recoil, do not consider fitting a mercury or spring/inertia recoil reducer. These tend to add weight where it shouldn't be and will affect the balance of your favourite gun. A decent recoil pad will make recoil acceptable and help with gun handling. Avoid the cheap hard rubber pads at all costs.


You might be lucky enough to find a lightweight 12 gauge with stock dimensions and barrel length to suit your requirements. And, by using lighter loads you may find your shooting improves considerably. I find that 26 gram and 28 gram loads have much less recoil and are adequate for all the shooting I do.

MY SHOOTING STYLE has also had to change to cope with my loss of mobility. In the past I found I could raise my gun and swing with the bird, get my lead ahead and fire. Now because my body is not as flexible as it used to be, I find that



I hold my gun at hip or waist height, barrels up, and follow the bird by moving my hips, with the barrels to a point where I want to shoot, then flick the gun up slightly ahead of the bird and fire. This seems to be a "modified" Churchill method which works for me.

Whatever problems you encounter with your shotgun shooting, it always helps to get onto the range under the eye of a good coach and seek help and advice. It could save hours of frustration and a lot of burned powder and wasted shot. Also remember that using the best ammunition you can get will always aid performance.

So for all you silver-haired shooters out there, don't decide to give up your favourite sport just because the old body "ain't what it used to be". There are solutions to keep you burning powder. Keep Shooting! 

Read our Test Report on Entiat bifocal shooting glasses for 'silver shooters' on page 51

MAGNUM'S CHOICE MAGNUM'S CHOICE MAGNUM'S CHOICE



1

Magnum regularly tests products to find quality and good value worth sharing with our readers. If it meets the mark, then the product gets a 'thumbs up' with the 'Magnum Choice' seal. When you see an item in-store with the special sticker or badge you'll know that its been chosen by the *Magnum* team. Below is a short list of our current selection. So look out for the seal of approval and ask for the products by name.

SHOOTING MAT

RRP R649.00

For more info: www.bushill.co.za

Fold-up, with hand straps for easy carrying. Olive green diamond cordura material with non-slip rubber for elbows. Special high density foam. Size: 180cm x 74cm

**BUSHILL REAR BAG
NEW GENERATION**

RRP R399.00

For more info:

www.bushill.co.za

Made from suede leather and diamond cordura.

Wooden base with non-skid rubber underside.

Filled with plastic pellets.

Weighs 1kg.



3



2



**BUSHILL SOFT
CASE HUNTER RIFLE
BAG 48" or 54"**

RRP R795.00

Learn more at www.bushill.co.za

Made from olive green diamond cordura, padded with 25mm hi-density foam. Padded inner pocket for protection of telescope. Ends have 50mm high-density foam to protect rifle crown. YKK zips.

BRAND NEW

THE ALL NEW
RX-2800 TBR/W

RANGES FARTHER, FASTER



Ergonomic armor design

Fold-down eyecup for eyeglass wearers

High contrast red OLED display

Fully multi-coated lenses

High performance laser engine with TBR/W software

Lightweight, aluminum chassis



THE LEUPOLD® RX-2800 TBR/W

The new RX-2800 TBR/W rangefinder breaks untouched ground. With a new engine and optical design, the rangefinder lets you make the best of any situation.

COMES STANDARD WITH A SELECTION OF 3 RETICLES



PLUS POINT



DUPLEX



DUPLEX WITH PLUS POINT



SPECIAL FEATURES

- 7x magnification
- +/- 1/2 yard accuracy
- Scan Mode
- Lightning fast and accurate readings
- Brand new ALPHA IQ operating system
- True Ballistic Range with Wind (TBR/W)

Available at all Premium Dealers countrywide.



www.formalito.co.za | tel: +27 (12) 664 7793/4

The Broken Tusk

by **TERRY IRWIN** illustration **ALAN WALKER**

SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING the Game Department, I began receiving requests from Spanish hunters wanting to hunt in Tanzania. One of these, who became a regular client, was Fausto Blasco. During his first safari in the Selous Game Reserve he informed me that his wife Francesca, who was accompanying him, might also be hunting. Since a quota of animals, which in this case included two elephant, was allocated to each safari, it did not matter who shot any specific animal.

On arrival, Fausto said only he would be hunting for the time being, and we started by hunting a few antelope, one of which was a fine kudu bull. We then tried for buffalo and after much stalking I got him close enough for a broadside shot. The bull went down to a Kynoch .375H&H solid through the heart. It was a fair-sized dagha boy with a massive boss.

We then baited for lion but, for a few days, had no takers. One morning, while checking the lion baits, we spotted a fair-sized elephant and decided to follow. There were three bulls feeding in open *Miombo* woodland; I estimated the largest one's tusks to be about 70lbs a side. We left the vehicle and began the approach. After a few paces, I looked back at Fausto; he'd stopped and was standing looking at the elephant which were feeding away from us.

I went back to him and told him to get moving as the elephant were widening the distance between us. Fausto was large and overweight, and I doubted his ability to follow elephant for a long distance. Still staring at the elephant, he seemed to steel himself,

and with a, "Now you gonna see!" followed me.

The wind was in our favour and the approach easy, as the elephant were feeding peacefully, unaware of our presence. Finally, when we were within 25 yards, Fausto indicated that he wanted to shoot. I told him to get closer, using a bush about 15 yards from the closest elephant to screen us. I pointed out that the largest bull was closest to us. He stood staring at the elephant for a while and then turned to me. Shaking his finger he said, "No, this is a good elephant for Francesca." With that he turned and walked away. At first I thought that the ivory was not up to expectations, but then realized that he was frightened. On the way back to camp he explained that Francesca was the hunter in the family



and she would be very happy to shoot the two elephant.

That evening I questioned her about hunting elephant. I used a picture of an elephant to point out the shot-placement points for the vital organs, and she assured me there'd be no problem and she was very used to the .375. She explained that she did a lot of deer hunting and bird shooting back home, and always took the first stag of the season on the hunting area they owned.



Francesca with the author and her 100-pounder.

ON THE FIRST day, we found no suitable elephant, but when we came across a big-tusked warthog, Francesca got quite excited and Fausto said she should shoot. I wanted to see how she handled the .375H&H, and when I told her to use it on the warthog, she did not bat an eyelid. We drove on until a

safe distance away and then stopped. Francesca got out the Land Rover, and indicated to Kisengi, my tracker, that he should hand her the .375. Then she turned to me and said she wished to hunt the "boar" on her own, and took off down the road after it. I told Kisengi to go with her. Shortly afterwards, we heard a shot and Kisengi ran back,

"Awu! The *mensaab* shoots like a man," he exclaimed. She had shot the warthog through the heart.

One morning Fausto decided that he would stay in camp and that Francesca and I should hunt elephant. We did the usual rounds of the waterholes and hillside seepages where bulls were drinking. At one of these we found the tracks of three elephant and followed, but after two hours, realised the elephant were too far ahead

of us. We had stopped for a rest before turning back when we heard a tree branch being broken ahead of us. "The elephant are coming back to the water," said Kisengi. On following the tracks a bit further we came upon the elephants which were heading back along the path they had followed earlier. Clearly they were heading for the



KNOX
SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES

Travelling? Need somewhere to store your firearms?

Knox Safe Deposit & Safe Custody offers offsite storage solutions for all size firearms.

Contact Knox today

011 646 1919

WWW.KNOXVAULT.CO.ZA

water to drink during the heat of midday.

Soon we spotted two young bulls accompanying an old tusker. The old bull had a good pair of tusks; I judged the one nearest me to be at least 70 pounds. The wind was in our favour and we made an easy approach to within 20 yards of him. I placed the .375 across a horizontal branch of the tree which had shielded our approach and told her to shoot. I expected her to shoot for the heart, but the elephant's hind legs collapsed first, indicating a brain shot. The two young bulls stood around guarding their fallen companion and we had to fire another shot above them before they took off.

ON APPROACHING THE fallen bull I saw that it was indeed a 70 pounder but the tip of the far tusk was worn down, this being its working tusk. It was only a few inches shorter than the other and still a good 60 or 70 pounds. I pointed this out to Francesca and she immediately took offence. "The trophy is no good. Why did you not see that it had a broken tusk?" she complained. I explained that most elephant had their working tusk worn down and that it was still a very good trophy. She did not accept this and sulked the whole way back to camp. On arrival she ran straight to Fausto and complained that I had caused her to shoot a bad trophy.

Fausto calmed her down and he too explained that the working tusk was usually slightly shorter than the other. She was still not happy but cheered up a bit the next day when we recovered the tusks and found that they weighed 74 and 69 pounds respectively. The worn tusk was only four inches shorter.

A few days later, we decided to visit



We couldn't get a vehicle close enough and had to remove the tusks on the spot and carry them out.

the waterholes during the heat of the day. On arrival at one of these we saw some elephants disappearing into the *Miombo* forest. Kisengi, spotting from the back of the vehicle, said there were two bulls, one with very long tusks. As we prepared to follow, Francesca urged me to make sure that it did not have a "broken" tusk. I was getting a bit fed up with this nonsense, but said nothing.

The elephant were moving away from the water at a rapid pace and it was about an hour before we caught up with them. The larger of the two bulls was in front. Finally, they stopped to feed and

we were able to work our way around the smaller animal to within 25 yards of the big bull. He was small bodied with very long tusks that reached to the ground. The tusks were perfectly matched.

I told Francesca it was a perfect trophy with no "broken" tusk. She looked at me sceptically but agreed to

shoot. The elephant had moved on a bit and the bull was broadside at about 30 yards when we caught up with them again. I found a suitable rest on a tree (we did not carry shooting sticks in those days) and she took a heart shot. The elephant immediately ran off, only to crash down a little way ahead.

On closer inspection Francesca declared that it was a proper trophy. I told her that I judged the tusks to be 100lbs each, but she clearly did not understand the importance of this, being impressed only with the length.


I sent Kisengi back to fetch the porters and bring the tools required to cut out the tusks. It was impossible to get the Land Rover up to the elephant so we would have to carry the tusks out. Usually, if an elephant fell on its side, we would remove the top tusk and then have to hack the bone away until it was possible to

remove the one it was lying on. However, Kisengi pointed out that as the elephant had such a small head they could cut the tusks away from the skull and then split them. Afterwards they carefully chipped all the bone off without cutting the tusk.

WHEN REMOVING THE nerves from the tusks Kisengi ordered the young porter with us to look away. He had explained to me on a previous occasion that they believed that if a young man watched the nerve being withdrawn he could have problems getting an erection in later life!

The nerves were short, extending only into the portion of the tusks within the skull. This meant that the tusks beyond the lip were solid ivory, without any cavity. The teeth also confirmed that it was an old bull – well into its sixth set of molars.

The tusks were the best matched pair I had ever seen in an old bull. We weighed them on a spring balance I carried in the Land Rover; it showed them to be 104lbs and 102lbs.

Back at camp, it became clear that Fausto, too, did not understand the importance of shooting a 100 pounder. As far as I know, none of their trophies was ever entered in a record book. Later, when we said our goodbyes, Francesca handed me her new pair of Leitz binoculars. "Use these so you will be able to see the broken tusk," she said with a wry smile. 

Francesca urged me to make sure that it did not have a "broken" tusk. I was getting a bit fed up with this nonsense, but said nothing

BOWMAN

SPECIALISTS IN CLAY PIGEON TRAPS



Main Supermatch 6



Acoustic radio release



Oscillating base



Main Supertrap Junior



National Cartridge CO.(PTY)LTD T/A

SUBURBAN GUNS

HOWARD LEIGHT



by Honeywell



National Cartridge CO.(PTY)LTD T/A

SUBURBAN GUNS

www.suburbanguns.co.za



Double full cocking manual trap



Foot control



Full range of auto-traps

CCI



Complete range of Sporting Targets

Wide Range of Shotguns Available



A NAME TO BE BOICOTTED WITH

Benelli
Performance Worth the Price



Sabatti

uzkon
INTERNATIONAL
ARMS & TRAPSHOTS COMPANY



Contact us

Cape Town

Telephone: 021 797 8787

Toll-Free No.: 0800210155

Fax: (021)797 9102

Info@suburbanguns.co.za

Port Elizabeth

Eugene: 082 604 4006

Email: Eugene@suburbanguns.co.za

Pretoria

conrad@suburbanguns.co.za

Telephone: 082 670 4383

Dealers Welcome

Tips and tools to solve setbacks in the field



A few essential items in your backpack or in camp will better prepare you for emergencies.

Emergency Rifle Repairs

by FRANCOIS VAN EMMENES

IN THE MILLISECONDS it takes for a bullet to be propelled through a rifled bore by the expanding gasses created by powder combustion, your rifle's barrel flexes/vibrates in a certain pattern. This is due to the specific combination of propellant type and charge, primer, bullet, brass, barrel length, rigidity, temperature, etc. As reloaders know, consistency is the key to accuracy – we endeavour to assemble identical loads to produce closely similar results, thus ensuring tight groups. Such groups are achieved when bullets exit the muzzle at exactly the same speed and "sweet spot" (minimal vibrating/flexing of the barrel).

Any influence on barrel vibrations, influences group size and accuracy. The degree of barrel flexing can range from negligible (due to, say, a variance of 0.1gr of propellant

charge) to major, where some of the barrel's surface area can make contact with the stock within the barrel channel. Such pressure on the barrel can so upset its vibration pattern as to cause unacceptable loss of accuracy.

The wooden stock of a rifle taken from a dry environment such as the Karoo, to humid areas of KwaZulu-Natal, will absorb moisture and swell, possibly exerting pressure on the barrel where it previously did not. Taken from KwaZulu-Natal to the Karoo or Namibia, a wooden rifle stock will dry out and quite possibly warp slightly, with similar results. The contact area usually shows up as a dark or shiny patch on the wood. Most target shooters agree that a rifle's barrel should be free-floated (i.e. the stock's barrel channel enlarged) to obviate any barrel/stock contact ahead of the Nock's form (aka 'Knox



LEFT: A properly free-floated barrel with a business card in the gap between the barrel and the stock. CENTRE: After removing nitro fouling, you need to remove copper fouling – manifested here as a green deposit on the cleaning patch. RIGHT: Pushed through from the chamber end, this cleaning patch shows copper particles from my .375H&H barrel after firing Barnes-X bullets.

form’ – broadly described as the section of barrel directly in front of the chamber where it tapers sharply).

During a 2017 hunting trip, my friend Lodewyk’s rifle suddenly produced unacceptable group sizes. His barrel was touching the stock; fortunately we were able to free-float it there on the farm using a wooden dowel and sandpaper of varying grit. Free-floating a barrel is quite simple. Remove the barrelled action from the stock and secure the stock in your “X-Bag” or padded vice. Wrap the sandpaper around a dowel of appropriate size, place this into the stock’s barrel channel and gradually and evenly sand away a thin layer of wood to uniformly enlarge the barrel channel. Do not overdo it – the gap between barrel and wood should be roughly the thickness of a business card or two layers of copy paper. Check your progress often – re-assemble the rifle, wrap a business card or two sheets of paper around the barrel ahead of the fore-end and slide this down between barrel and wood. If it slides freely all the way to the Nock’s form, you’re done. If you encounter resistance, more wood needs relieving. Do not use coarse paper as most stock wood is not that hard. Remember: you can’t put wood back, so work slowly and evenly; the visible gap between wood and metal should be the same on both sides and throughout.

SLING-SWIVEL ATTACHMENTS, when not correctly fitted, can also cause barrel interference. To add to Lodewyk’s problem, when he had last taken his rifle to a gunsmith, its sling swivels had been swapped around. These had screws of different lengths; the longer screw, intended for the butt-stock, was now in the fore-end, protruding into the barrel channel to apply pressure to the barrel, causing a shiny patch. We simply swapped them around again. These two in-camp jobs restored the rifle’s accuracy.

Over time, sling-swivel mounts can work loose and the thread eventually strips. My own rifle’s barrel hit the rocks behind me in the Eastern Cape mountains when the fore-

end’s swivel-screw stripped – fortunately I had my thumb through the large hole in the sling, so the damage was minimal. A stripped thread can be reset with the careful application of a bonding agent like Pratley Putty, permitting continued use on the hunt. Another quick fix is to wrap a shred of steel wool around the length of the screw-thread – this fills the gaps so the screw can grip.

Accuracy Made Easy



DP4

EVERY RELOADER SHOULD HAVE ONE!

POWDER DISPENSING PLATFORM

Looking to improve your accuracy and consolidate your reloading equipment into a neat and efficient work station? DP4 will not only assist you, it will also free up valuable space on your work table and raise your mechanical scale to the correct eye level!

CONTACT US TODAY!

Email: sales@dp4.co.za Call: +27 11 827 7830

or visit our website for more information at www.dp4.co.za

Copper deposits (fouling) in the bore adversely affect accuracy. Not all barrels are affected equally; some manifest a decline in accuracy only after many shots, others sooner. My old .375H&H's bore is slightly pitted; the heightened bullet/bore friction leaves copper deposits which subsequent shots 'iron' onto the bore surface and these build up. I clean the bore with a good copper solvent after every range session or hunt, and the evidence of fouling is obvious. Use a nylon brush for this (brass brushes can be corroded by some copper solvents). Never leave copper solvents, especially ammonia-based ones, in a barrel too long as this can damage the bore. I use a local product by Bushill RSA. Even after cleaning the bore with other copper solvents, treating it with the Bushill product always reveals more dissolved copper on the patches.

A small, new toothbrush is a crucial item in my backpack and shooting box for removing sand and dirt from the receiver, chamber, turrets and elsewhere. Likewise a few patches pre-soaked with RAM's Nitro-Solvent, and also earbuds are handy for removing sand or mud from crevices otherwise impossible to reach. And I always carry a "rope" type pull-through for clearing mud or sand out of a barrel – it is small, weighs almost nothing and could save you a trip back to camp for a ramrod.

ON MORE THAN one occasion I have struggled to remove a cartridge case stuck in a chamber. This can result from an overly hot load, a dirty chamber or ammunition, or an extractor claw that failed to properly grip the case rim. A friend once asked my father-in-law for help with a .243 Win that reportedly would not feed or extract ammunition. The rifle travelled daily in his farm bakkie and had accumulated so much dirt and sand in the chamber that eventually a fired case stuck fast, binding itself to the chamber walls. We spent the better part of an hour removing it.

'Push-feeding' a cartridge into the chamber without the bolt's extractor over the case rim, can lodge the cartridge tightly enough to where it won't fall out when the




A live round stuck in the chamber due to the extractor claw not engaging the rim, can sometimes be removed by applying pressure to the middle of the extractor while closing the bolt (red arrow), forcing the extractor claw in the opposite direction, hopefully to re-engage the rim (blue arrow) on release of the pressure. Obviously, this works only on long Mauser-type non-rotating extractors. Caution: too much pressure can break the extractor. Keep in mind that you are closing the bolt on a live round – use your head. It's safer to remove the bolt entirely and use an appropriately tipped cleaning rod to gently push the cartridge out. As a precaution, point the barrel in a safe direction and do not cup your hand over the end of the rod handle.

barrel is pointed upwards. A light tap of the butt on your boot may dislodge the cartridge, otherwise a rod of some sort must be used. A Land Cruiser's two-way radio aerial works well, as does a length of fence wire (be careful not to scratch the bore with the burr created by cutting or repeated bending of the wire to break it). Some accuracy buffs are probably cringing at the mere thought of inserting a length of wire down a bore.

Repeated full-length resizing of cartridge cases causes metal fatigue, usually manifested as a bright, uneven ring immediately ahead of the 'web' of the case-head where the walls have thinned. If not spotted and the case discarded, the brass walls will part at this point, resulting in case-head separation. In most instances, when you open the bolt, only the case head is extracted, leaving the case body stuck to the chamber walls. Remove the bolt, wrap an oversized cleaning patch around a brush or jag on a ramrod and, working from the receiver end, twist this into the case body. It should expand to grip the inner case walls sufficiently to draw out the hull. Should this fail, the inside of the case needs to be tapped – a job best left to a competent gunsmith with the correct tools.

Most hunters wear some sort of backpack containing a water bottle, camera and an orange or two. Without overdoing it, a few more essential items will better prepare you. Blood, either yours or your quarry's, on gun metal will rust it within a few hours if left unattended. Again, a patch pre-soaked with cleaning solvent works better than your sweaty

hanky; likewise the nifty little cleaning cloths for the delicate lenses of binoculars, scopes and rangefinders. A lens pen or optical blow-brush is also crucial for removing dust or sand from a lens before you apply the wipe. These items weigh next to nothing and take up little space in a side-pocket of your backpack. In my ammo box I also carry spare batteries, from AAA size for a small torch to the small disc types for cameras, range finders, etc.

Lastly, I always ensure my backpack contains a decent sized leather needle and waxed twine for quick repairs to belts, ammo pouches, rifle slings and even shoe soles. You won't miss it till you need it! 



Stuck .243 and .308 cases removed from their respective chambers after suffering case-head separation. The one on the left had to be tapped to be removed.



**INTERNATIONAL
TRAINING ACADEMY**

SOUTH AFRICA'S MARKET LEADER IN FIREARM TRAINING



ACCREDITED TRAINING MATERIAL

We supply the highest quality, user-friendly training material at the best prices. Free delivery to accredited training centres anywhere in South Africa.

Do you need Accreditation Assistance?
We have successfully done over **260 accreditations** of training providers at both SASSETA & PFTC.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

From Basic to Instructor level, if you're serious about firearm training, make the professional choice, make sure it's an ITA training provider.

**Instructor Training • Tactical Training
Range Officer Training • Assessor Training**

TRAINING & TESTING FOR COMPETENCY & FIREARM LICENSE RENEWAL

A Proudly South African Product
Internationally Recognised
NRA Affiliated

Used in 7 Different Countries by Military, Law Enforcement and Civilians
Nationally Accredited 4-Gun Sports Shooting Club offering both Occasional Sports Shooting and Dedicated Status

ACCREDITED TRAINING MATERIAL FOR ALL FIREARM TRAINING UNIT STANDARDS



ITA Head Office: 31 Voortrekker Road, Mindalore, Krugersdorp

Tel: 011 955 6775 • Email: support@itafirearmtraining.com • www.itafirearmtraining.com

ITA has a network of over **260 accredited** training centres countrywide offering ITA courses.
Visit our website to find your nearest Training Centre: www.itafirearmtraining.com



L-R: Cast bullet loads and the bullet used: .375 with 246gr gas-checked bullet from Lyman mould; 8mm Mauser with 175gr bullet from Lee mould; .30-06 200gr bullet from Lee mould; .303 with 185gr bullet from Lee mould; .303 with 88gr bullet from RCBS mould.

Shooting Cast Bullets

by **KOBUS VAN DEN BERG**

Cheap practice and lots of fun



Close-up of rifles with normal loads and bullets compared with lead bullets.

I CAN'T REMEMBER an occasion during the past few years, when shooters were gathered, that someone did not complain about the cost of centre-fire ammo. Those shooting the larger calibres are normally the most vocal, and I can't blame them, considering that the cost of a reloaded .416 Rigby round is enough to buy a decent meal in a restaurant.

When assuring them that the cost of ammo need not be such a burden, I'm often met with outright skepticism and disbelief. Many will agree that, with careful shopping, the run-of-the-mill calibres – particularly the smaller ones – can be reloaded at a reasonable price. However, most consider the number of shots required to master a new dangerous game rifle in preparation for a hunt, to be enough to bankrupt them.

On just such a day at the range, with shooters bemoaning the price of big-bore ammo, my friend Justin produced several large green ammo boxes filled with .375H&H cartridges loaded with cast lead bullets. He calculated the cost per round to be in the region of five Rand. Full-power reloads he calculated to cost R15 per pop – it all came down to choice of powder, bullets and primers. This is a substantial saving, considering that the cheapest factory ammo costs about R35 per round.

Using a gas-checked 246gr cast bullet from a Lyman mould, .375H&H recoil is similar to that of a .30-06 with a 150gr bullet. Justin uses this same ammo in big-bore competitions. These loads mostly shoot sub-30mm groups at 100m, with a trajectory flat enough to be usable for hunting blesbuck and impala up to 200m. Loaded with Somchem S335 powder and standard CCI primers, they clock 1 720fps on the chronograph.

If the bullets are cast in fairly hard lead and used with a gas-check, normal bore-cleaning is all that's needed. Just don't use copper bullets directly after firing cast lead without first cleaning the barrel. If you keep the velocities below 1 800fps and the bullets are lubricated properly, it's not really necessary to use gas checks, but we do so anyway, in addition to using fairly hard lead.

I started casting bullets as a young man, after discovering the high price of imported .32 Special revolver cartridges. My wife and I really enjoyed shooting our little Ruby revolver, and I had to do something to keep the cost of the ammo down to affordable levels. I bought a bullet mould and a Lee Loader kit. We shot hundreds of rounds we'd loaded with cast 95gr round-nose bullets.

Initially, we used a .22 rimfire rifle for training our children to shoot. When they outgrew this, we tried them on my .303, but it was too much for them. We tried the centre-fire .22s and the .243, the recoil of which was considerably lower, but we still balked at the cost of ammo.

During this time, I was an avid reader of gun magazines. *Magnum* wasn't yet on the scene, but most book shops sold *Guns & Ammo* and *Shooting Times*. These revealed that Americans were also finding ammunition expensive, and consequently, articles appeared promoting the reloading of cast bullets for the popular .30-30. These were used not only for training and plinking, but also for hunting whitetail deer. Bear

in mind that much of this hunting takes place in forests, at ranges between 50 and 100 yards.

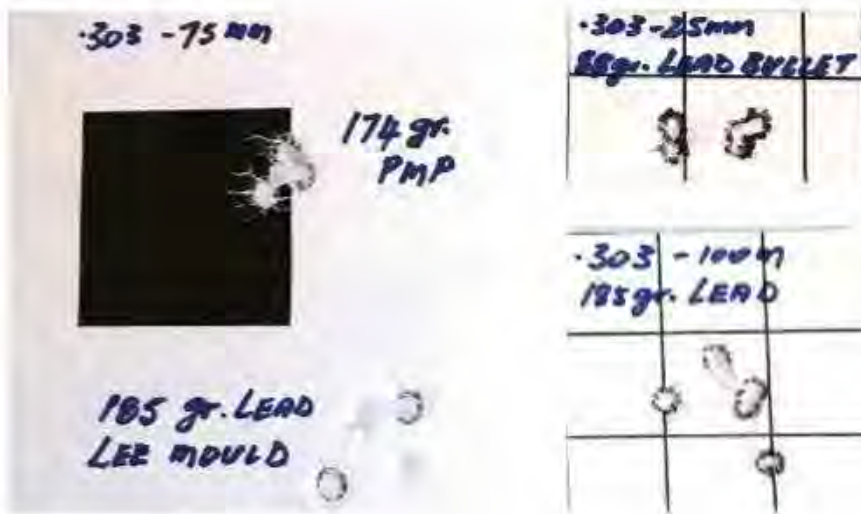
With two young sons who thought nothing of using three boxes of very expensive Sako .243 ammo when dad wasn't looking, I opted to try reloading cast bullets for this cartridge. I bought an improved Target Model Lee Loader and started with jacketed .243 bullets, which proved a great success for culling springbuck and blesbuck. When I tried cast bullets, however, these were an abysmal failure. The South African powders then available were just not suitable for cast bullets in this cartridge. Even today, it's a challenge to get a cast bullet to perform well in a .243.

I ordered a Lee Loader in .303 and a mould for a 185gr bullet in this calibre. I started experimenting and soon found the right recipe for my .303. I also used these loads for short-range target practice in one of my target rifles; their almost non-existent recoil made concentrating on the sight picture and breathing very easy.

Over the years I have used cast bullets in many different rifles, and assisted in developing good loads for the .303, .308, .30-06, 8mm Mauser, .450 Martini-Henry and .375H&H. Generally, cartridges with large bullet diameters relative to powder capacity are the most suitable for cast bullet loads. Cast bullets are an excellent means of giving old .303s, 8x57s or Martini-Henrys a new lease of life instead of allowing them to collect dust in a safe.

IN RECENT YEARS, my use of cast bullets has been restricted to my .375. However, my grandson recently reached the age when an air rifle and .22 no longer satisfy his shooting appetite. I still had the old 185gr .303 mould, and also found a mould that casts an 88gr .32 revolver bullet (.312 diameter) which I tried in the .303. With a bit of research we soon had a few loads for testing and found that the old 185gr Lee bullet shot just as well with S335 as before, printing a 25mm group at 75m, and the 88gr bullet ahead of a pinch of MP200 clustered into 20mm at 25m. These required a minimum of load development, and were accurate enough to provide good training.

Lee makes excellent moulds as well as lubricating and sizing kits. Some dealers may have a few in stock, but if not, these can be imported from Lee, Lyman and RCBS in the USA. If you ask around, there are a few local commercial bullet makers who regularly cast rifle bullets, and you may be able to source what you want without the hassle of obtaining moulds. However, I think casting the bullets is part of the fun and a very relaxing pastime. It is immensely satisfying to shoot a good group with



Groups shot with cast bullets from two different rifles at different ranges as indicated.

a bullet and load combination that you have made and developed yourself.

Information about loads and load development is easily available on the Internet, but I get most of my info from the reloading manuals. Lyman and Lee provide a host of information, and Lyman publishes a cast bullet manual.

So, stop complaining about the costs and start using cast bullets. We all need more practice and this is an

affordable way to shoot more and become better hunters and marksmen. **M**

➤ *Through the years several articles on this topic have appeared in Magnum: Cast bullets in the .375H&H, September 2004, p24; Cast bullets for rifles, July 1980, p68; Cast bullets for the .404, November 2008, p84; Cast bullets for handgun hunting, August 1996, p98. Back issues are available for purchase from our office at mail@manmagnum.co.za.*



TOT 20%-AFSLAG OP GESELEKTEERDE



Designed to Disappear®




RAMON STRYDOM
Diesel Electric premises
Welkom
Tel: 057 355 3304
Cell: 082 907 2231
Fax: 057 396 3142
Email: ramon@rssiports.co.za

CZ:	• 550 Delux, .243 Win	Now: R12 999	Was: R13 999
	• 455 Ultra Match 22LR		R7 650
	• 455 Lam Varmint .22LR		R8 900
	• 455 Varmint		R8 300
	• 557 .308 Win Night Sky with Leupold VX-Freedom scope		R17 999
	• Scorpion Evo 3		R24 150
	• 75 P-07, 9mmP Duty		R8 300
	• 75 P-09, 9mmP full-size, 19+1		R9 250
	• P-10 C		R8 999
HOWA:	• 1500 Laminated Varmint Cal .223 Rem, .22-250 Rem, .243 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win		R13 999
	• 1500 Walnut Hunter Ass Calibers		R11 500
	• 1500 .223 Rem Hunter Laminated Stock		R11 500
	• 1500 Hunter Ass Calibers		R8 800
KRAL ARMS:	• A12 Semi-auto, 28", 12GA		R8 900
MARLIN:	• X7 Varminter, 26", cal. .223 Rem	Now: R8 799	
	and .308 Win	Was: R9 900	
MOSSBERG:	• ATR .243 Win		R6 900
SAKO:	• A7 Roughtec Pro .308 Win		R19 500
	• 85 XS .223 Rem 1-8"		R24 500
WEATHERBY:	• Vanguard SS Sin, cal .308 Win	Now: R11 100	Was: R12 500
BERETTA:	• 686 SP1 12GA 30" Sporting		R35 999
	• ARX160 .22LR Semi-auto		R9 400
GLOCK:	• 42 .380 Auto Slimline		R7 500
	• 43 9mmP Slimline		R8 750
	• Gen 4, 19 & 17 mm		R8 999
	• Gen 4, 23 & 22, 40 S&W		R9 500
	• Gen 5, 19/17		R10 500
	• Gen 4, 26		R9 500
	• Gen 3, 19 & 17		R7 500
	• 19X 9x19mm		R11 800
RUGER:	• LC380 .380 Aut 7+1 Rnd		R7 999
	• Precision 6.5cm & 6cm		R25 999
BUSHMASTER:	• Bushmaster XM15 .223/5.56mm Semi-auto		R16 999
REMINGTON:	• 700 Magpul 22" .260 Rem		R25 999
	• 700 ADL Varmint 6.5cm		R10 999
	• 700 VLS 26" .204 Ruger		R20 500
SIG SAUER:	• P320C SigLite Sights BLK 9x19mm		R12 500
	• P365 Compact 10md 9x19mm		R12 800
	• SP2022 FDE SigLite		R12 700
	• M400 Elite .223 Rem		R24 900
SAUER:	• 100 6.5cm		R19 500
	• 100 .300 WM		R16 400
	• 100 .308 Win		R18 500
DERYA:	• Lion Semi-auto 12# 20" & 28"		R7 500
WINCHESTER:	• Select 12GA 30" Sporting		R24 500



A waterbuck bull.

Picture by Philip Huebsch.

What to Do About Waterbuck?

by **TIM MURRAY**

Adapting to the times in the “new Karoo”

TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO, when I began farming in Graaff Reinet in the Great Karoo, things were quite different. Most of our neighbours were small-stock farmers, predominantly raising merino sheep and angora goats. The wool, mohair and meat trade had shaped our farming industry since the *trekboere* arrived here in the late 1700s. There have been other product ‘booms’ such as ostrich feathers in the 1890s, and ostrich leather in the 1990s, but mostly our farming involved small-stock.

On the whole, there has been enough game to ensure regular ‘family’ hunts, mostly for springbuck, kudu and mountain reedbuck. These hunts were a valuable bonding activity in the district, with many a friendship cemented in the veld. In the 1970s and 1980s, as game numbers slowly increased, game farming for meat and trophy hunting began. New species were introduced to many farms in the Karoo, but game remained secondary to the main activity of small-stock farming.

Now, in 2018, only two of my seven neighbours farm with small-stock. Neighbouring properties include an unfenced National Park and two game farms/game reserves. These days ‘extra limital’ and exotic animals are the norm, with everything from blue duiker to giraffe and even Cape buffalo on these properties. Two of the remaining neighbours switched from small-stock to cattle farming, running small-bodied light Nguni cows.

This departure from small-stock farming is largely due to the exploding black-backed jackal population, spiralling stock-theft and, to a lesser extent, recurring slumps in the wool and mohair markets. By 1930, the black-backed jackal had been eradicated in our area, but it returned in the mid-1990s, and stock theft has similarly escalated, with policing being no deterrent. These changes coincided with the upsurge in game farming, resulting in many stock-farmers selling out or switching to game farming and hunting operations.

Game farming is also altering the face of our district. Some believe the veld is being left to restore itself to a natural state, with game animals being part of the natural process. Others fiercely oppose this, citing lack of selective grazing and pasture 'resting', among other reasons, as being a recipe for long-term damage to the fragile Karoo veld.

Of immediate concern is what to do about 'escapees', and in particular the waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)?

The law governing domestic livestock is clear: if you can prove ownership either by tattoo or brand, the stock is yours, and this includes the risks associated with ownership thereof. The law for game is similar and involves proof of purchase/ownership and adequate enclosure. However, the practical application of these laws is problematic. If, for instance, one of your buffalo escapes, there would be good cause for the authorities to withdraw your "Certificate of Adequate Enclosure". This could have expensive implications, as not only would you be held liable for any damage caused, but you would have to upgrade your fencing, and you'd also be held liable for re-capture costs. Consequently, what usually happens is that no-one claims the animal and it becomes the state vet's problem.

OUR FARM IS now host to more game and in different species than ever before: nyala, bushbuck, mountain zebra, eland and hartebeest. Many are 'extra limital' and some only appear from time to time.

About eight years ago, we noticed a few shy waterbuck bulls coming and going. Once in a while, we'd also see some females, and then they started breeding, though seldom showed themselves, and sometimes seemed to disappear for a while. Now we have a fair-sized herd.

The hunting proclamation for our area states the following about waterbuck:

"IMPORTANT NOTICE: it is DEDEAT's intention to remove these species from



this proclamation in future since they may only occur on property which is covered in terms of DEDEAT's Certificate of Adequate Enclosure (CAE) and are thus not permitted on non-CAE properties."

For such animals, the hunting season is 365 days a year with no bag limits. We are however, in a conservancy, so I asked for a "quota" of two waterbuck and received permission to hunt one waterbuck bull.

In early spring, I set out to fill my quota. I found a nice herd of kudu that had started their late afternoon browse and skirted them to avoid spooking the waterbuck, which I felt sure were somewhere in the vicinity. Waterbuck spoor is unmistakable and there was plenty of it. Their dung is also fairly easy to identify, and I knew I was getting close. Thinking I may have walked past the waterbuck, I turned around and slowly made my way back to check out a group of kudu I'd seen earlier.


I like to know what the kudu herds are up to – whether the bulls are with the cows, how big last year's calves are, and so on. I found them browsing in an open area we'd been clearing of thorn trees. It was getting late and the setting sun was in my favour, so I boldly positioned myself to watch the kudu. A nine-month-old calf saw me and stood staring, unsure of what to do. As I looked at it through my binoculars, I

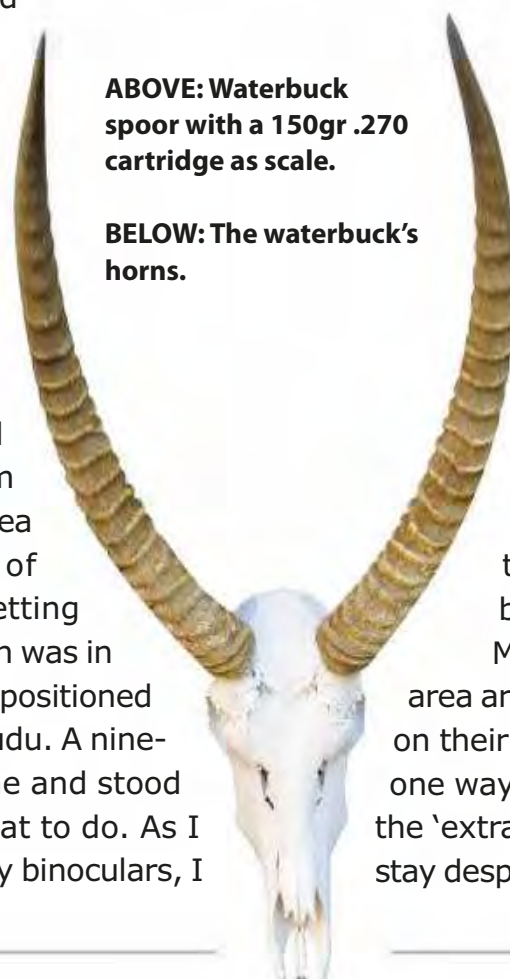
noticed a white-ringed backside right behind it. The waterbuck was grazing away from the kudu, and the calf was still trying to decide what to do. I decided to hold its attention and walk straight toward it, hoping that its curiosity and inexperience may work in my favour. An agonizing 80m later, I set up my sticks and readied my .270.

The kudu calf finally spooked, but the waterbuck bull was too slow to get moving. As he turned to see what had alarmed the calf, my 150gr .270 bullet hit him in the middle of his chest. A brief 20m run to the right, 10m to the left and he went down. A magnificent free-roaming waterbuck bull, on my own farm in the Karoo, was added to my trophy list.

Aware that waterbuck meat is tricky to deal with, I phoned around for some input. The advice of the local culling team, who take numerous waterbuck each year, was not to allow any oiliness from the hair-coat to get on the meat. They suggested I have sufficient people assisting me with the skinning and quartering to have some handle the coat exclusively, while others handle only the meat.

The waterbuck's smell was strangely different from that of the kudu and springbuck I'm familiar with – though not strong or repulsive. I got close to 95kg of usable meat which, in final processed form, comprised 22kg of mince, 25kg of biltong, 8kg of smoked meat, 3kg of corned meat and 35kg of boerewors. Our family of five consumed most of it in less than four months (biltong first, of course) and the general opinion was that it tastes, "Um... like waterbuck!"

Most stock-farmers in our area are happy to have some game on their farms and enjoy hunting in one way or another, so it looks as if the 'extra limital' species are here to stay despite the DEDEAT's wishes. 



ABOVE: Waterbuck spoor with a 150gr .270 cartridge as scale.

BELOW: The waterbuck's horns.

Rifle

DIPLOPOINT

DIM4

South Africa's own AR-15

... 20 000 shots fired & still going strong

by **CUAN ROBINSON**





A DM4 in .223/ 5.56 fresh from the assembly line.

THE AR-15 RIFLE PLATFORM REQUIRES LITTLE INTRODUCTION. DESIGNED AND BUILT BY ARMALITE (AR) IN 1956, THE PATENT WAS SOLD TO COLT IN 1959.

In 1963, the US Military, looking to replace their standard issue US Garand M1 with a more modern design, selected Colt's lighter, more compact, selective-fire carbine designated the M16, the emphasis being on higher fire-power, reliability, ergonomics and ease of use. Shortly thereafter, the M16

became the US Military's standard issue rifle, firing the 5.56 NATO Ball Round, typically from an all-steel 20-round magazine. It served in the Vietnam War and almost every conflict since.

As the Springfield M1903, Enfield M1917 bolt-action rifles and later the M1 Garand semi-auto paved the way and solidified the popularity of the .30-06 Springfield cartridge as a sporting round, the success of the M16 led to the AR-15's popularity in the civilian market.

Eugene Stoner's patent on the AR-15 gas operating system expired in 1977, and manufacturers the world over began capitalizing on the AR platform, either in its entirety or by manufacturing parts and accessories (OEM), catapulting the AR pattern to iconic status.

In South Africa it was no different: Diplopoint Manufacturing introduced the locally assembled DM4. The brain-child of Gareth de Nysschen, Managing Director of Dave Sheer Guns and



.223Rem



The 9mm lower has a dedicated mag-well for Glock mags.



9mmP

Diplopoint, the first DM series was launched in September 2015.

Assembled in Gauteng, the lowers are imported from two manufacturers in the US and one in Taiwan. The uppers are imported from Taiwan. Both uppers and lowers are machined from 75-70 billets. The CNC machining I witnessed on several new uppers was first class.

MUSGRAVE IN ERMELO supplies the barrels, made to Diplopoint's specifications. Barrels are machined from EN19T bar steel and button-rifled. The 5.56mm barrels have a sensible 1 in 9 inch twist rate, which should stabilize bullets from 55 grains to the longer 70 grainers for shooters wanting further downrange stability. Incidentally, this is the same versatile twist rate I selected for my own .223 Rem sporting rifle. Chambers are verified with go and no-go gauges and all rifles are test-



Upper and lower "blanks" awaiting parts and assembly.

fired for functioning before given the green light.

Uppers, lowers and barrels are anodised black and there are factory cerakote options available, more about that later.

Magnum received two such rifles for evaluation, one a 14.5-inch carbine variant with an A-Post front sight and 6 position telescopic stock, the other with a floated 16-inch barrel, round Key Mod fore-end and fixed skeletonised stock.

DM4 rifles use Stoner's original gas operation direct impingement system (there's a long-stroke piston-driven model available too) and the test models are chambered to accept both the .223 Rem and 5.56mm NATO rounds.

Magnum usually receives new products for testing; however, these test rifles are from the original batch launched in 2015, each rifle having fired in excess of 20 000 rounds with the same barrel! Routine servicing and subsequent parts replacements – mostly springs and other small moving parts – have taken place during the course of their service life, as is normal with all self-loading rifles. Diplopoint tells me that one of these rifles had endured a torture test of 1 000 rounds continuous fire without a single failure.

First impressions were very favourable; the weapons look and feel as AR battle rifles should, and considering

First impressions were very favourable; the weapons look and feel as AR battle rifles should, and considering



• Ejection port and dust cover

• Optics-ready picatinny rail

• Flared mag-well

• Ambidextrous safety as option



Adjustable flip-up iron sights.

• Various pistol-grip options available

• Magazine release

• Steel 30-round magazine

their history and shot-count, I was impressed by how well the finish had resisted wear. The all-steel 30-round magazines – considered a consumable part – looked good apart from showing wear on the edges and base plate, and functioned flawlessly.

AFTER FIRING OFF a few mags with each rifle, I developed a preference for the 16" barrelled variant as I'm

rather tall and this rifle's longer fore-end and fixed stock fitted my frame better. Using a 1-6x24 scope, I engaged a target at 100m. As these are not precision-accuracy rifles, I declined to shoot from a bench, choosing rather to fire from the sitting field position in keeping with the weapon's application, using my arms and knees for support. I did the same with the 14.5" barrelled carbine at

50m, using the supplied, fully adjustable flip up sights.

Shooting from a standing, offhand position, and engaging steel plates and some empty Somchem powder tins at 30 to 100m, I was rewarded with one hit after the other.

Both triggers broke very cleanly at just over 6lbs, exhibiting short, crisp and tangible re-sets, perfectly acceptable for a fast-shooting combat rifle,

Visit us at the
new world-class shop
in Pretoria.

1032 Silvergrass Street,
Montana Park, Pretoria, 0159
Call: 010 300 1222
Email: jc@davesheer.com
f Visit us on Dave Sheer Guns - Pretoria

www.davesheer.com

DM4 STANDARD

- 14.5" EN19 Standard Barrel • Twist 1:9
- Standard Quad Rail • Fixed A Post Front Sight
- Rear Carry Handle Sight • 2x 30rd Magazine
- Standard Stock • Standard Grip
- Standard AR15 Muzzle Break



Target on the left engaged at 100m with scoped 16 inch carbine.
Target on the right engaged at 50m with iron sights, 14.5 inch carbine.

but not suited to precision shooting. (A multitude of aftermarket "drop-in" triggers adorn dealers' shelves, should you require such an option.)

During the course of firing 500 rounds, everything worked as it should, magazines were easy to load, dropping free at the push of the mag release button, and I experienced no malfunctions whatsoever. I particularly liked the ambidextrous safety on the longer rifle – an option on all models.

Shooters who roll their own ammunition will delight in the manner the DM4 ejects fired cases without a ding or a bruise.

For lack of a better description, the range session was an absolute blast! Everyone who tried his hand at shooting these rifles was impressed and, more importantly, had loads of fun. My only complaint is that the bottom right-hand edge of the trigger guard bit into my middle finger. The more I shot, the more unpleasant this became. People with smaller hands did not share this problem. This may easily be remedied by fitting a different aftermarket pistol grip.

There is a plethora of aftermarket parts available to modify your AR to your liking; some are truly beneficial,

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Calibre	Barrel Length	Twist Rate	Availability	Floated Option	A-post Option
.22 LR	7/10/12/14.5/16/ 18/20	1:14	Yes	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"
9x19	9/16	1:9	Yes	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"
5.56 NATO	7/10/12/14.5/16/ 18/20	1:9	Yes	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"
7.62x39	14.5	1:10	Yes	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"
.300 BLACKOUT	18/20	1:10	Yes	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"
7.62x51	18/20	1:10	2019	All Barrels	All Barrels Except 7"


depending on the intended application, while some simply enhance the rifle's aesthetics. The options offered in the DM4 AR15 Catalogue are too numerous to list here but, from the Magpul furniture to the various colours of cerakoting, even the most demanding shooters should find what they want. The Bird Cage muzzle-brake uses the universal 1/2-inch 28 thread and most aftermarket brakes will simply screw on, or if required, can be replaced by a suppressor. The recoil buffer tube is of the thicker civilian variety and not the thinner Mil-Spec version.



Well used 30-round steel mags.

DM4 rifles are supplied with two steel 30-round magazines and a very detailed, well-written and diagram-illustrated instruction manual covering every aspect. All DM4 rifles come with a lifetime limited warranty. The advantages of local backup service cannot be over-emphasised.

A BASIC DM4 with two magazines retails in the region of R17 000. Additional magazines cost less than R400. For the sport-shooting enthusiast wishing to participate in Pin shooting, 3-Gun or DMG, or for security companies looking to upgrade, consider the DM4. I strongly recommend you get a catalogue, as the options are staggering. For available calibres, barrel lengths and twist rates, refer to the accompanying chart.

For more information contact Dave Sheer Guns on 011-440-0345 (Jhb) or 010-300-1222 (Pta). 

THAT AFTERNOON IN the saloon on a dusty street in Deadwood City, things were quiet. Apart from a few drinkers at the bar, a group of men sat playing poker. No one took any notice when Jack McCall shuffled into the smoky room. A whiskey-soaked saddle tramp, he paused, glanced around, and then walked up to the gaming table. As he drew up behind a long-haired gambler sitting with his back to the door, McCall produced a revolver and shot the man in the back of the head. Before his victim hit the floor, the assassin had fled the scene. The dead man's name was James Butler Hickok, known as Wild Bill. In life he had been a legend and in death he was immortalised as one of the most famous men in the history of the West.

But this is not the story of Wild Bill Hickok, this is about the mystery surrounding the little backup-gun he carried that fateful day of August 2nd, 1876. You see, when the coroner laid Bill out, it was recorded that his personal effects included what was described simply as – “a derringer”. Back then people saw no reason to state a gunmaker's name and any small handgun was called a derringer, so named after the very popular little muzzle-loader produced by Henry Deringer and made famous after John Wilkes Booth used one to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Even today you'll find DERRINGER in the dictionary as a word used to describe a small handgun.

When they buried Wild Bill, his friends decided to send him



Wild Bill Hickok in his heyday as a feared gunfighter.

off with his derringer in his pocket. So the casket was lowered and the grave filled in with a marker to indicate the last resting place of the famous Civil

The authors of these books relied on old newspaper reports, legal documents and eye witness accounts and, as always, no two versions are the same.

War sharpshooter, scout, lawyer and feared gunfighter. But, three years later it was decided to dig up Wild Bill and rebury him in the Mount Morian Cemetery, and while they were at it, someone opened the coffin and removed his derringer – or one of them if he had a pair. Why I think there were two guns, is because it was recorded that Bill used a pair of derringers to kill Phil Coe during an altercation in front of the Alamo Saloon when he was town Marshall of Abilene. There were many witnesses and all said he used a pair of derringers but, as usual, not one person mentioned what kind, calibre or make of guns they were. So, I think it's quite possible he carried the same pair the day he was killed and the mystery guns went with him into the grave – and one of them, maybe, lies there still.

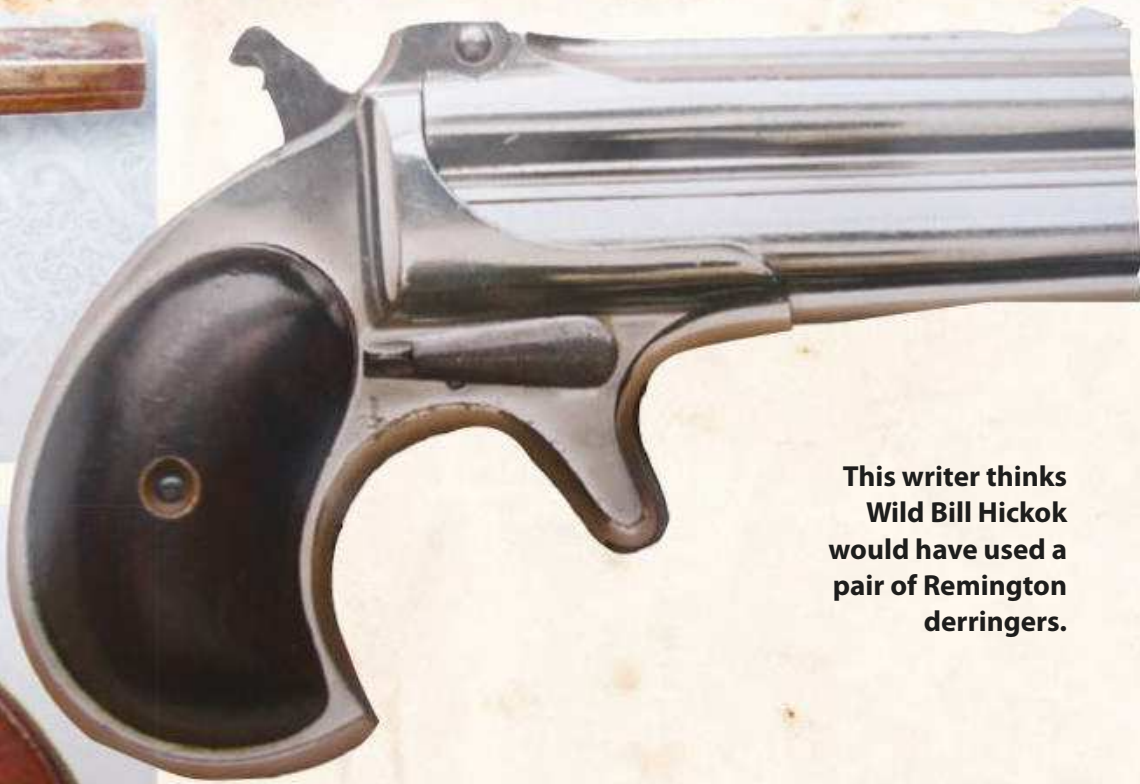
IN AN ATTEMPT to figure out exactly what Bill's back-up gun was, I have consulted numerous books written about him.

It appears that folks could not resist adding their own little bit which sometimes made no sense. For example, when an eyewitness named George Shingle gave evidence at Jack McCall's trial, he said the killer's gun was a “Sharps improved revolver 18 inches long”. No gun like that ever existed but the reporters took it to be the truth. Plus if reports were skimpy, the newspaper editors simply made up

Derringer: The Mystery of Hickok's Gun

by **ROBIN BARKES**

What happened to Wild Bill's gun?



This writer thinks Wild Bill Hickok would have used a pair of Remington derringers.

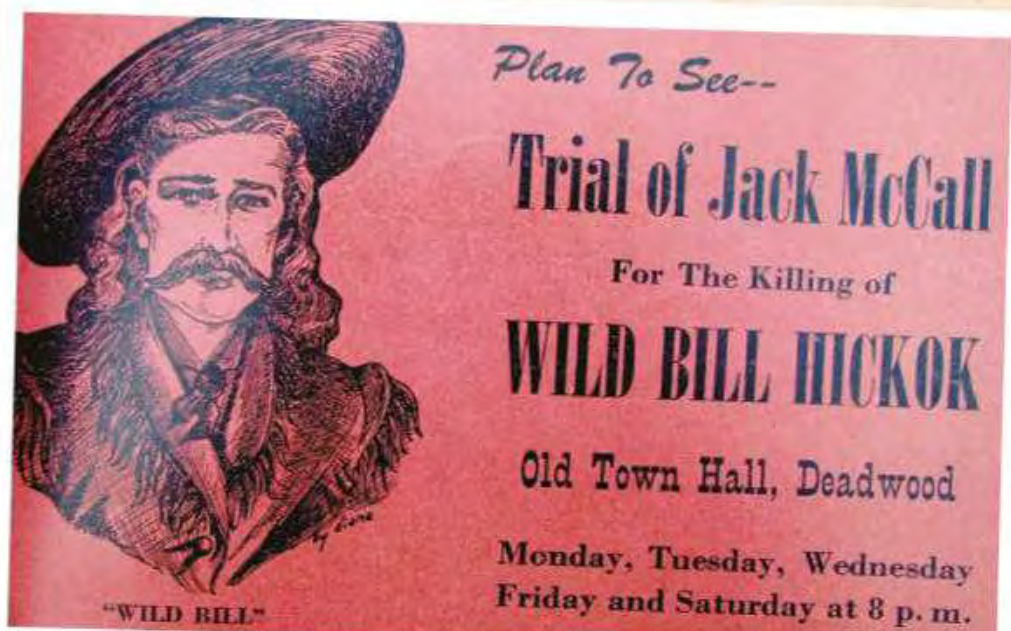
their own versions. The result was that the actual facts were sometimes so distorted, that the truth was lost along the way.

Although Hickok grew up with muzzle-loaders, I don't think he would still have been using Henry Deringer's outdated pistol as late as 1876, because by 1870 breech-loading cartridge guns were taking over. While Wild Bill was known to favour the .36 calibre Navy Colt, some say he used a .44 Colt Dragoon to pull off the fantastic 75-yard shot that killed Dave Tutt in a gunfight. I have always found it interesting that Henry Deringer's original pistols were .41 calibre and this odd size was continued in the rim-fire cartridge used in so many later breech-loading derringers.

SO WHAT DERRINGER did Wild Bill Hickok carry? The first possibility is the strange looking little gun made by Moore's Patent Arms Company from 1860 to 1865. Produced only in .41 calibre the gun has an interesting history. After a production run of 5 000, the firm was sold to the National Arms Company who produced a further 5 000 before it was bought by Colt. Manufacture was continued for a while as the Colt No 1 derringer before there was a design change and it became the 2nd Model derringer. In 1870 the design was changed again and called the 3rd model. Thereafter it remained more or less the same until production ceased in 1910. The little Colt had a long and interesting history and must have been one of the most popular derringers of the times. It's quite possible that Wild Bill carried one or two on the day he was killed, but whether they were the earlier Moore-designed weapon or the later Colt version adds to the mystery.

The next possibility was the Williamson .41 calibre derringer produced by the National Arms Company. Only 3 000 of these little guns were made between 1866 and 1870. The Williamson was interesting because it was loaded by sliding the barrel forward on its frame and it came with a separate percussion chamber so it could be converted to a muzzle-loader (just in case a fellow ran out of cartridges). I imagine the

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: The Hammond Bulldog – possibly Hickok's mystery gun.
The Williamson derringer was a gimmicky gun that could be converted to a muzzle-loader.
A .41 calibre Moore derringer - some reports claim Hickok used a pair in a gunfight.
The popular Colt derringer was produced until 1910 and Wild Bill may have carried a pair.



ABOVE: An invitation to the trial. The flamboyant Hickok would have liked that.

RIGHT: Was Calamity Jane the person who swiped Wild Bill's derringer from his coffin?



chamber was a cartridge-size breech plug with a nipple on the end to take a cap. I don't recall where I read that Bill carried one of these guns but I cannot see him using a gun like this.


Some historians claim Wild Bill carried a Hammond derringer. Also known as the Bulldog, this little beast came in the larger .44 rim-fire and a few were even made in the rare .50 rim-fire – quite a handful for a short-barrelled hideout handgun. The Bulldog was made between 1866 and 1868 and the quantity produced is unknown but probably not many. So, did Wild Bill really carry a Bulldog? Maybe he did prefer the larger calibre, after all he dropped Phil Coe in his tracks with one slug each from two derringers – guns that were never positively identified.

The last possibility is the Sharps four-barrelled derringer. Many thousands of these little guns were produced between 1859 and 1874 in .22, .30 and .32 rim-fire. While I cannot believe that Wild Bill would rely on such small calibre guns, it's said his primary gunfighting weapons were a pair of ivory handled Navy Colts converted to take a .38 calibre cartridge. Apparently he never owned a .44 or .45 Colt Peacemaker.

At that time many other cheap pocket pistols were also available but most of them were .22 calibre and regarded as women's weapons. At the trial they asked McCall why he had shot Bill from behind instead of facing him like a man. He was quick to snap back, "Do you think I wanted to commit suicide?"

It appears the gun carried by Wild Bill and described as a derringer was always assumed to be a single-shot weapon. Also available at that time was the very popular over-and-under two-shot .41 rim-fire derringer brought out by Remington in 1866. In my opinion, Hickok would have carried a pair of these hard-hitting guns as his backup weapons. After all why carry two single-shot pistols when you can carry one that gives you two quick shots; or two that gives you four

shots. Those little Remingtons, called double derringers, had a continuous production run of 150 000 right up to 1935, and copies are still being made in various calibres.

What is known for sure is that the mystery gun ended up being buried with Wild Bill and it was later removed when he was exhumed. Who actually swiped the gun is part of the mystery. The guilty person may have been Calamity Jane Cannery who was a good friend and she could have taken it as a keepsake. When Calamity died in 1903 – the exact date Hickok had been killed 28 years before – her last words were "Bury me next to Wild Bill." They did, and I wonder if the famous gunfighter's favourite derringer now lies among her bones? 





PART 4

The rifle – called the “platform” in the jargon

ABOVE: An off-the-shelf HOWA 1500 Heavy Barrel is a suitable starter package, and in .243 Win, with suitable bullets and optics, can be used to connect on steel out to 1000m in calm conditions. High BC bullets to go further and manage the wind better will not be adequately stabilised by this platform.

Long-Range Shooting

by **SEAN I'ONS**

	Barrel time [ms]
Node 1	0.948
Node 2	1.037
Node 3	1.189
Node 4	1.279
Node 5	1.431
Node 6	1.522
Node 7	1.672
Node 8	1.764

Calculated OBT Nodes 1 to 8 for a 28" barrel.

LAST MONTH WE discussed cartridges suitable for long-range shooting. Now it's time to choose a rifle. You can, of course, use any off-the-shelf rifle, but in serious competition you will be handicapped if the bore's twist rate is not suited to the high-BC bullets designed for long-range application, and you may encounter other limiting factors.

Long-range rifle options differ widely according to personal preference, budget and application, but the one common requirement is a high level of consistently repeatable accu-

racy throughout a wide spectrum of conditions. To achieve this, several factors must come together in harmony – some platform-related, others cartridge-related. Rigidity and stability in the barrel, receiver and stock/chassis are imperative. The stock must be designed to provide rigid and stable support to the receiver and barrel in all conditions. Secondary to this, ancillary equipment is sometimes attached to the stock, and a dedicated L-R chassis facilitates this far better than other stock types.

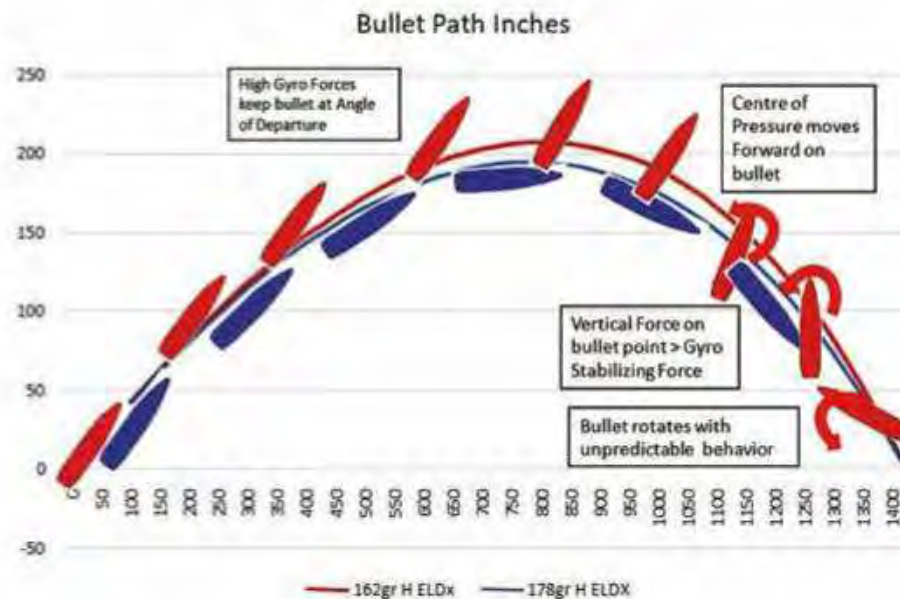
Barrel Selection

L-R barrel profile specs vary, but the primary categories are Match (Straight Tapers), Varmint or Palma (Compound Tapers) – all on the heavy side. The longer the barrel you choose, the heavier (thicker) it needs to be to dampen and control vibrations and oscillations (there it is again – rigidity) caused by the bullet's passage through the bore. The bullet's flight path is influenced by the oscillations of the muzzle at the instant of the projectile's exit.

A bullet accelerates from stationary to 3 000fps in a 24" barrel in 1.1 milliseconds. Where the accurate life of a barrel lasts for about 3 000 shots, this adds up to an actual working lifespan of only 3.3 seconds.

Some insight as to what takes place during the firing of a cartridge and a bullet's accelerated passage through the bore is provided by a study carried out by Chris Long, who calculated the frequency of the shock waves travelling the length of the barrel and being reflected back on reaching the muzzle. The reflected shock waves superimpose on each other, providing a series of expansions and contractions running up and down the barrel, much like a snake swallowing an egg which then moves back and forth within the length of the snake. To ensure repeatable flight paths, every bullet should exit the muzzle during a window of consistency.

The speed of these shock waves was found to vary according to the length of the barrel from bolt-face to muzzle-crown (excluding the suppressor/brake if fitted). The results indicate an optimal barrel time (OBT) and series of nodes which are consistent with the calculated consistency windows. (In this context, a node is a point of minimum disturbance in a standing wave system.) The theory is that if you tailor the load to have a barrel time (BT) consistent with the node, it will result in best accuracy from a given platform. This has been tested and shows an extremely high correlation in prac-

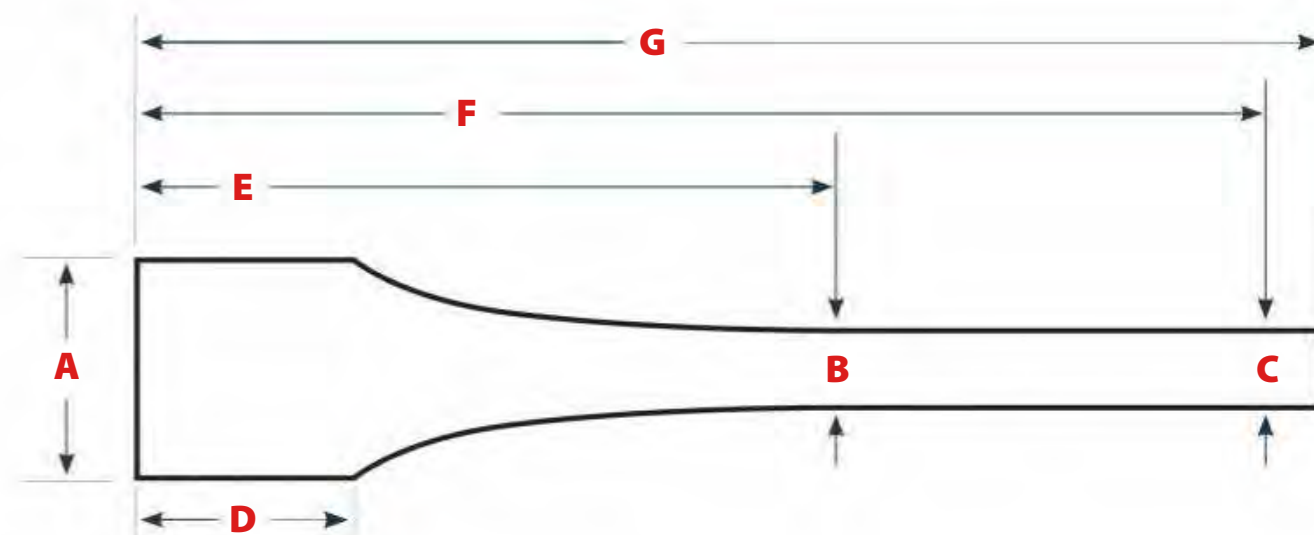


Graphic representation of two .284" calibre bullets both fired in a 1 in 7.5" twist barrel. The likelihood of the 162gr hitting the target at 1 300yds and beyond is low due to over stabilisation.

tical applications and is widely used by reloaders to develop and refine loads for their rifles.

The above sounds more like a lesson in reloading, but is a consideration when matching barrel length to a cartridge/bullet BC combination. Not all available powders will permit barrel times in the desired node, which can result in optimum accuracy being achieved at lower velocities than anticipated, adversely affecting flight paths. Some planning (and expert advice) is necessary to determine a barrel length to suit the required node.

Barrel time being the determining criterion, to arrive at this without the use of extremely expensive measuring equipment you need an available software application called QuickLoad (QL) developed by H Broemel of Germany, which provides an estimate of the load performance based on a number of user-entered and selected parameters. Garbage in = garbage out; some familiarity with the software is required. The instructions are clear, and if you take the time to study them carefully you should obtain useable data in quick time. The calculated muzzle velocity has to be compared to the actual (chronographed) velocity and the powder characteristics adjusted to match. Several variables enter here, such as the temperature of the powder during



Barrel profile specs vary and will determine the suitability and effectiveness for use in long-range shooting. The diagram illustrates the various dimensions to keep in mind when selecting a barrel suited to your specific purpose.



Modified Rem 700 Short Action in stainless steel used for building a 6.5mm Creedmoor.

the test, calibration of the chronograph, calibration of the powder scale, accuracy of the case volume used for the calculation, determination of the actual muzzle velocity, correct measurement of cartridge overall length (COL) etc. Old hands, skilled in using these methods, can obtain surprisingly relevant data.

For example, let's say we wish to build a .300 Win Mag and intend loading a 210gr Berger VLD bullet for a target MV of around 2 900fps using local S385 propellant. QL indicates a barrel time of 1.374m/s with a near Max load and a MV of 2 980fps at 21°C with a 28" barrel for the above specs. This 1.374m/s is between node 4 and node 5 and unlikely to result in optimal accuracy due to the frequency of the shock waves causing variable conditions at the muzzle. Attaining a BT of 1.279m/s is possible only with a load of S385 which is 12 100psi above the SAAMI maximum and will most surely result in an undesirable outcome. Loading for node 5 will result in a MV of 2 817fps, not a slow load, but a compromise. If an alternative powder is available, it might, in some instances, be possible to get within 5% of the OBT and in so doing optimise a load for the specified bullet.

stability problems at long ranges. If you choose a slow twist, it won't stabilize the long, heavy-for-calibre bullets at any range. The websites of several bullet manufacturers have bullet stability calculators – you need to follow their recommendations to determine what twist rate will adequately stabilize any given bullet.

Over-stabilization: spinning a short, light bullet at an excessive rate generates extreme rotational forces and can result in jacket-core separation and even complete disintegration of the bullet in flight (cup and core type). A less obvious effect of over-stabilization is that the bullet's axis does not follow the arc of the trajectory; the gyroscopic forces keep the bullet pointing in the same direction as when it exited the muzzle, preventing it from nosing down to follow the trajectory at long ranges. The flight path will not get the full benefit of the bullet's ballistic coefficient factor as the projectile's 'nose-up' attitude exposes additional surface area to frontal air resistance, hence suffers increased 'drag' as distance increases. Note that horizontal velocity decline due to drag is far more rapid than rotational velocity decline, so the bullet's gyroscopic stability

Consider this when setting parameters for barrel selection.

In Part 2 we discussed matching the barrel's rifling twist rate to a specific range of bullet lengths. As in most things, we must settle for something of a compromise. If your barrel has a fast twist rate and you shoot short, lightweight bullets, you are likely to encounter bullet



A 6x47mm built on a MOJET action for competitive sport shooting but with the correct twist barrel and suitable high BC bullets, is quite capable of connecting on steel out to 1 250m.

actually increases over distance. As this over-stabilized bullet starts to fall to the ground, there is an increasing upward force on its nose due to the steeper fall towards the end of the parabola. With the bullet's centre of gravity being fairly far back, at some stage the upward force applied to its forward section overcomes the gyroscopic force, thus preventing its spinning on its axis, and the bullet tumbles.

Don't spin bullets faster than is required. If you shoot the shorter bullets, limit your ranges to within 600 – 800m to lessen this effect.

Bolt-Action Selection

With enough effort and time (and money) spent on modifications, just about any modern action can be used as a basis for a long-range rifle. However, several have desirable features which make them better suited for this purpose. There is no ultimate design, and again, certain compromises must be accepted. I rank these features as follows:

- **Rigidity** (receiver porting and barrel tenon/thread)
- **Bolt design** (front/rear locking lugs, extractor, ejector)
- **Availability** (cost)
- **Lock time** (factory design of ignition system)
- **Scope mounting system** (integral picatinny rail or bolt-on)
- **Trigger** (adjustability in factory form)
- **Bedding features** (recoil lugs, flat areas)

Several proprietary actions (Stiller, Surgeon, Nesika, Kelby, BAT, Barnard, Mojet, Borden, Holland, APEX, Pierce, Viper, Defiance, etc.) are based on commercial designs such as the Remington M700 but with improvements designed in as standard features. These actions are available in limited numbers and at premium prices, but eliminate the shortcomings of the M700, the design and high-volume production of which was subject to budget restraints. They are mostly very good designs on which to build long-range rifles.

More metal in the right places adds rigidity, and some key features are flat-bottomed actions, integral Picatinny rails, small loading/ejection ports and single-shot solid bottom designs.

Since the late 1980s, actions such as the Remington 700 have been adopted for military use as the M24 Sniper Weapon and consequently have enjoyed the benefits of familiarity and high production numbers over a long period.

Model	Rigidity	Bolt Design	Availability	Lock Time	Scope Mounting	Trigger	Bedding Features	Total *
Rem 700 SA / LA	9	8	9	9	8	9	9	61
Howa M1500	10	9	9	8	8	9	9	62
SAKO A7	9	9	6	8	8	9	8	57
Win M70 Pre 64	9	8	6	7	8	8	9	55
Savage M12	10	8	8	9	8	9	8	60
Tikka T3	10	9	8	10	9	9	8	63
Voere LBW	8	8	6	9	8	9	8	56
Mauser K98	8	8	10	6	8	6	8	54
Lee Enfield	5	4	10	5	3	6	6	39

*scores applied above are my estimation and subject to differ according to opinions. If you add a column for "Race Parts" the Rem 700 wins hands down.

This has made them and their derivatives very popular for long-range applications. Although not the ultimate LR action, they benefit by the widest range of bolt-on "race" parts available for improving all aspects of their performance. Items such as M16 style extractors, rails, triggers, speed locks and detachable box magazine kits are available off the shelf or via the Internet, making upgrades of this action very easy, often requiring no gunsmithing.

Next month we'll look at stocks and other platform-related equipment for long-range shooting. 📌

Skietwinkel

Vir meer inligting:
www.skietwinkel.com

NHSA-lede welkom

25m & 100m & 200m
GEWERTONNELS
OP PERSEEL

Tel: 051 444 3590/91 / Sel: 082 557 5169 • Posbus 17772, Bainsvlei, 9338
H/v Dealesville en Abrahamskraalpad

RIFLES	
Tikka T3 Super Varminter 30-06	SPECIAL R14 900
Tikka T3 Varminter 30-06	SPECIAL R11 900
Tikka T3 Hunter 30-06 with sight	R14 999
Tikka T3X Var./Super Var. 223, 308, 243, 260, 270, 300 Win Short Magnum, 22-250	R17 500-R23 300
SAKO Lam. S/S 222	SPECIAL R21 000
SAKO MOD 85 Hunter 222	SPECIAL R19 900
SAKO Long-Range 338 Lapua	SPECIAL R37 900
SAKO Long-Range 300 WM	SPECIAL R37 900
SAKO MOD 85 270, 308, 30-06, 300, 243, 375, 338 9,3x66, 300 WSM, 260, 7mm RM	From R24 999
SAKO 85 Lam. Stock 243, 308, 30-06, 375 R23 500	
SAKO MOD 85 S/S Lam. 243, 30-06, 308	R27 500
SAKO MOD 85 Var. Hout 243, 223, 22-250	From R27 000
SAKO MOD 85 Var. Lam. Fluted S/S 308, 243, 260, 22-250	From R31 000
SAKO MOD 85 Hunter 9,3x66, 8x57JS, 270	R24 500
SAKO MOD 85 Hunter LH 30-06	R28 500
SAKO MOD 75 Deluxe 375 H&H	R30 000
SAKO Brown Bear 338 Win Mag	R29 000
SAKO A7 Roughtech Var. 25-06, 308	From R22 500
CZ 550 Lux Various calibres incl. 7x57	From R13 400
CZ 550 Lux 375 H&H, 416 Rigby	From R24 500
CZ 455 Lux Lam. Thumbhole Fluted .22lr	R 9 700
Remington MOD 700 SPS Var. Various cal.	R17 999
Remington Long-Range 30-06, 7mm Rem Mag, 25-06	R19 999
Remington 700 ADL Tactical 6,5 Creedmoor, 24" Bull Barrel	R11 500
Howa 223, 243, 22-250, 308 Varminter	From R 9 300
Howa 1500 6.5 Creedmoor 26" Var.	From R10 900
Howa 1500 308 Varminter Lam. Stock 26"	R14 999
Howa 1500 6.5 Grendel	R10 900
Ruger All American 243, 30-06, 270, 308	R 8 500
Ruger M77 Predator 6.5 Creedmoor	R19 999
Merkel 470 NE Double Rifle Mod140AE	R130 000
Voere Standard 243, 270, 30-06, 300WM	R19 900
Browning A-Bolt II 223, 243, 308, 30-06, 375	R11 400
Armscor .22 Long Rifle	R 2 500
Winchester Safari 375 H&H, 416 Rem	R28 000

Winchester Pre-'64 Model 70 Supergrade 270, 30-06, 300 Win Mag, 338, 7mm RM, 300 WSM	From R23 500
Winchester Pre-'64 Model 70 Sporter 25-06, 270, 300 Win Mag, 338, 300 WSM	From R16 500
Winchester Mod 70 Pre-'64 Featherweight 22-250, 270, 308, 30-06	R12 700
Winchester Mod 70 Pre-'64 Ultimate Shadow 243, 308, 270, 30-06	R10 400
Ruger 5.56 AR	R17 600
Ruger Precision Rifle 308, 6.5 Creedmoor	R26 900
Bushmaster 223 AR	R17 500
Sig Sauer 223 AR	R24 000
Sig Sauer 223 M400	R24 000

SHOTGUNS

Beretta A400 Novator	R25 900
Beretta A400 Xplor Unico	R33 500
Beretta A400 Lite	R26 900
Mossberg Pump-action 5 90 A1	R17 800
Winchester 12ga. SXP Pump-action HP	R 8 999
Winchester 12ga. Select Sporting Lam.	R26 000
Miroku MK70 Game 30"	R23 500

PAC-NOR Super Match Barrels:
Cal. 22 up to .416 **IN STOCK** From R 8 900
Silencers - All calibres from (supplied & fitted) R 1 900

KRIEGER BARRELS IN STOCK - From R10 900

PISTOLS:

- Glock 19 Gen 5 R10 900
- Beretta PX Storm R10 500 • CZ P07, P09, P10
- Beretta P4 Carbine R12 500 from R8 400

BULLETS & BRASS • Winchester • Sierra • Sako • Remington • Nosler • Hornady • Lapua • Norma • Berger Bullets - NEW SHIPMENT AVAILABLE

RELOADING

- RCBS • Redding • Lee • Lyman • Hornady

FOXPRO INFERNO MET SA klanke R4 999

Life-size full-colour TARGETS: R20-R59

Springbok, Rooibok, Blesbok, Viakvark, Jakkals

ACCREDITED FIREARMS TRAINING & RELOADING COURSES DONE ON OUR PREMISES. Call for dates & bookings.

ELKE JONGMENS SE "geweerpad" begin met 'n eerste eie skietding. As die gogga sy vat gekry het en dit bly byt, verskuif die aandag mettertyd na ander skietgoed. Die groeiende geesdrif kry uiteindelik verdere gestalte in jag, teikenskiet of versamel.

Wat my geweerpad betref, my pa en ooms was nie in 'n posisie om my te beïnvloed nie. My geduldige pa, 'n onderwyser, was seker verwonderd dat sy stadsjapie-seun gewere eet en slaap. Hy was beslis geen entoesias as dit by skietgoed kom nie. Hy het 'n "Baby" Browning-pistooltjie in 6.35mm besit, en dié het in 'n laai gelê. Toe ek as laerskoolkind aan hom torring dat hy tog die pistool 'n slag vir my moet uithaal en wys, het hy my na 'n verlate strand geneem en haastig drie skote die see in gejaag. Daarmee moes ek tevrede wees. Onthou, dit was in die vroeë ses-tigerjare en ek het net een boek oor gewere besit, wat my ouers vir my as geskenk gegee het, en dié het ek stuk-kend gelees. Ek was pas op hoërskool in die Kaap en het moeg (en te oud) begin raak vir speelgoedrewolwers, en om my eie gewere en handwapens uit hout te maak. Ek was ook nie meer tevrede om net te lees van Winchester-gewere en Colt-rewolwers nie. Ek moes eenvoudig 'n regte skietding bekom.

Met my pa se bemiddeling het 'n gesiene melkboer van die kontrei een dag gebel om te sê van 'n ou "olifant-geweer" wat daar by hom op die plaas op die solder lê. Hy sou dit vir my bring. Vir my jeugdige ongeduld was die twee weke soos duisend dae, maar die dag het uiteindelik aangebreek toe die enkelloopgeweer by die voordeur afgegee word. Op my baie vrae het my pa net geantwoord dat die boer niks van die geweer af weet nie en ek sou self meer moet uitvind.

In my onkunde het ek lank bly glo dat dit wel 'n olifantgeweer was. Die massiewe kaliber het dit beaam! Die Internet het nog nie bestaan nie en goeie geweerboeke duur en skaars. My Famous Guns kon ook nie help om die geweer uit te ken nie. In ons omgewing

My Kentucky-reproduksie.



Eerste Treë op my Geweerpad

deur **JOHAN VAN ZYL**

Waar dit alles begin



Koerantfoto van my Kentucky in aksie tydens 'n voorlaaiër-demonstrasie.

was daar ook nie geweerkenners by wie ek raad kon vra nie. As ek maar net geweet het Barry Berkovitch en die Historiese Vuurwapenvereniging was net 'n telefoonoproep ver!

Ek het egter vrye toegang tot my pa se werksplek gehad. Daar het ek ure saam met my geweer deurgebring: fyntjies die ligte roes probeer afskuur

en met penetreerolie die steeks skroewe eers geweek voor ek hulle probeer losdraai het. Dit het nie altyd klop-disselboom gegaan nie; ek het van die skroewe heeltemal verniel.

My eerste prioriteit was om die agterlaaiër aan die skiet te kry. Ek het 'n kerswasgietsel van die ontbrandingskamer gemaak om te sien hoe die

patroondop moet lyk. Dié sou ek tuis moes vervaardig. Ek het ook genoeg geweet om my eie swartkruit tuis te maak — die resep daarvoor is en was nog nooit 'n staatsgeheim nie. Vir die dop sou ek 'n gewone waterpyp van geelkoper gebruik. Die "agterkant" het my pa vir my geheg met silwersoldeer-sel. My werk was baie vergemaklik omdat die afgietsel gewys het die dop se sye loop parallel.

TOE VIR DIE slagdoppie. In my beskeie militariaversameling van alles-en-nog-wat het 'n klompie .22-loskruitpatroontjies gelê wat ek as slagdoppies sou inspan. Daarvoor het ek 'n gat in die agterkant van my tuisgemaakte dop geboor. Die patroontjie moes van agter, effens van senter af insteek, want die patroontjie was randslag en die geweer senterslag. Toe het ek 'n invoegsel wat voor in die dop insteek gemaak, wat moet dien as 'n ontbrandingskamer vir die loskruitpatroontjie. Ek het sonder



Die Snider-Enfield Merk III Artilleriemodel.
Foto Shipwrecklibrary.com.

ONDER: Patrone vir die Snider-Enfield: links, die Mk IX met papierdop; regs, die latere patroon met geelkoperdop; middel, my tuis-vervaardigde poging.



sukses geprobeer om ronde loodstafies as koeëls te vorm. As laaste alternatief het ek 'n staalkoeël uit 'n ou koeëllaer (wat lossies in die loop kon inrol) gebruik nadat ek soveel swartkruit in die dop gegooi het as wat ek kon. Toe het ek die loskruitpatroontjie agter op sy plek ingedruk, die patroon in die geweer gelaai en die skoot afgetrek.

Die resultaat van al hierdie innovering was nou nie wat hardebaardskuts indrukwekkend sou noem nie, maar skiet het hy geskiet. Natuurlik het ek mettertyd met die lede van die Historiese Vuurwapenvereniging kontak gemaak en is die "olifantgeweer", steeds met die patroon (nou weer herlaai), op die Bellville-skietbaan onder die streng oog van die baanmeester afgevuur. Die verskil was dat ek nou geweet het dis 'n Britse .577 3-band Snider-Enfield.

Ek kan nie dink wat in hierdie groep gesoute skuts en kenners se gedagtes omgegaan het toe ek ná die skoot die

Letters

continued from page 8

of approximately 500gr (32 gram). Shoot these loads over a chronograph and work up slowly. I did the same some 20 years ago using a 480gr slug, but 16gr MP200 produced very low velocities and I had to work up a heavier load. Unfortunately I cannot recall the details.

To illustrate the difference in loads: in the September 1991 edition of Magnum it was recommended that 30gr MS200 be used for a 580gr slug. I can only presume this was for a case with a "normal" capacity and I'd consider this a very heavy load. Somchem's reloading manual give loads of 26.2gr of MS200 for a 494gr (32 gram) slug, 28.9gr of MS200 for a 438gr slug, and 30.9gr of MS200 for a 341gr slug. Somchem used an SWP case with a roll crimp.

If you are satisfied with your gun's accuracy, well and good ("if a thing works, don't fix it"). However, most sources suggest that slugs achieve better accuracy when fired from cylinder-bore barrels, or improved cylinder at the tightest. Potentially, you might enhance your gun's accuracy levels if you had a gunsmith cut off its full choke. You don't need a 32-inch barrel to burn up all the powder. ED

Optics International
Performance Optics

LEICA BINOCULARS PROMOTION

Leica Trinovid 10x42 HD
Compact Quality European Optics

Leica Geovid 10x42 R, M
Quality European Optics c/w Laser Rangefinder

REDRING PULSAR STEINER BURRIS meopta REDFIELD
Aimpoint DOCTER KARLES ZEISS Tricon LEUPOLD SWAROVSKI

Jan 082 574 4859 • info@opticsinternational.co.za
www.opticsinternational.co.za

Like us on: facebook.

FIREARM MOTIVATIONS

CONTACT US FOR PERSONAL SERVICE!

JRM
GOODS & SERVICES (PTY) LTD

Kobus van den Berg
c: 082 619 7236
f: 086 236 0615
e: jagtersreg@firearmsa.co.za
w: www.firearmsa.co.za

WINCHESTER sako BERETTA BROWNING LOCK PERFECTION
Nikon Sport Optics Nikon ZEISS norma Clever

dop uittrek en hulle dit stilswyend tussen hul vingers gerol het nie. Hierna het ek die dop 'n laaste keer herlaai, dié keer met 'n behoorlike Minié-koeël wat hulle my gegee het, en die tuisgemaakte patroon stilletjies in my versameling weggebêre.

Een van die lede was so beïndruk met my vindingrykheid (en waagmoed) dat hy vir my 'n ou geweer gegee het en my aangespoor om dit te maak skiet. Dit was in .45 kaliber wat gedateer het uit die era van die Eerste Vryheidsoorlog. Die Boere het dit 'n "Wessel Riekert" genoem. Dit was beide voorlaaiër en agterlaaiër. Die geweer was gehawend en ek moes verskeie onderdele maak om dit in werkende toestand te kry.

DIT HET 'N aapstertvormige grendel gehad wat boontoe opskarnier. As voorlaaiër laai jy 'n pluisie, 'n lading kruit en 'n bolronde koeël, natuurlik nadat jy die grendel mooi toegemaak het. Dan sit jy die doppie op die nippel. 'n Veerbelaaide knip sorg dat die grendel nie oop wip wanneer die skoot afgaan nie. Ek moet erken ek was aanvanklik skepties oor die betroubaarheid van dié meganisme.

Goed onthou ek die dag toe ek, vergesel van my hoërskool-kys, op 'n plasie teen die voethange van die Swartkopberge by Simonstad die ou strydros se stem kon laat weerklink. Ek het in jare daarná nog 'n paar van die "Monkey-tail" Westley Richards-gewere bekom, een 'n spoggerige sportmodel met geruite kolf. Maar daardie eerste een, en my lompe pogings in die rol van geweer-smid om dit aan die skiet te kry, het 'n belangrike rol in my ervaringswêreld gespeel.

My derde geweer was wat tipe betref die oudste van die drie en 'n volwaardige voorlaaiër. Dit was egter 'n Italiaanse reproduksie – gekoop in 1975 in Kaapstad. Met hierdie geweer het ek baie geskiet, meesal informeel op 'n plaas saam met vriende, maar ek het ook as

lid van 'n vereniging daarmee aan historiese optredes deelgeneem.

Dit het die bynaam Kentucky-rifle gehad en in Amerika was dié Pennsylvania Long Rifle op sy dag die akkuraatste langafstand-voorlaaiër. Die eerstes, sedert 1725 in Pennsylvania deur Duitse vakmanne gebou, was toegerus met 'n vuurklippie wat 'n vonk maak wanneer dit die pandeksel tref – en so die kruitlading laat ontbrand.

Nà die Franse en Indiaanse oorloë is hierdie langloopgewere deur die pioniers die binneland van die VSA ingedra tot by die verste grense. Die mense wat hierdie gewere gebruik het, was hoofsaaklik ontdekkingsreisigers en pelsjagters.



'n Westley-Richards "Monkey-Tail" karabyn.
Foto Kirkemmerich.co.uk.

In die vroeë 1800s is die doppie-ontstekingstelsel uitgevind en het dit gou die vuursteen-ontstekingstelsel vervang. Nie alleen is nuwe doppieslot Kentucky-gewere gebou nie, maar bestaande gewere is ook omgebou om met doppies te kan skiet. My splinternuwe, slanke Kentucky (glad nie bonkig soos die voorlaaiers wat so 'n belangrike rol in die vroeë Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis gespeel het nie) was met dié doppie-ontstekingstelsel toegerus.

Die kolf van ligte okkerneuthout strek tot voor by die tromp van die loop. Die loop is kenmerkend baie lank. Agter in die skouerstuk van die kolf is 'n holte vir die bêre van bybehore soos doppies en pluisies, met 'n versierde dekseltjie daarvoor. Die kolfplaat is tipies halfmaanvormig.

So tussen al my doendinge met die Kentucky het ek my verlustig in die verhaale van die avonturiers wat die ruwe

Weste binnegesypel het. Hulle het nie bloot op 'n jagtog uitgegaan en ná 'n paar dae weer huistoe gekom nie. Hulle was onverskrokke individualiste wat gewoon, en somtyds wetteloos, geleef het in die onherbergzaamheid van die natuur. Hulle was ten volle afhanklik van hul eie veldkuns, skietvermoë en, les bes, die instandhouding van hul geweer, om te kan oorleef. Hulle moes hulself nie net teen gevaarlike diere verweer nie, maar ook by geleentheid teen mense. Die Kentucky-geweer was vir die pionier méér as bloot 'n wapen; dit was ook dikwels sy enigste getroue metgesel gedurende weke en maande van ontbering. Die kuns om jou geweer vinnig en korrek te laai en die bybehore te gebruik en in stand te hou, was alles deel van hul oorlewingstrategie.

Die oorspronklike Kentucky het geleidelik 'n gesogte versamel-item geword, maar my relatief goedkoop reproduksie, wat ek ná al die jare steeds besit en koester, is by my net so hoog aangeskrewe. Ek het dit dikwels gebruik as demonstrasie tydens museum- en feesdae, waar mense, jonk en oud, oor kultuuraangeleenthede toegesprek is. Loskruitskote is gewoonlik tot groot vermaak van die toehoorders geskiet, maar by een spesiale geleentheid is 'n soort binneshuise skietbaan ingerig waar ek met die Kentucky die laai en afvuur van 'n voorlaaiër met regte loodkoeëls kon demonstreer.

DIE DRIE WAPENS in die artikel is baie ordinêr, maar sonder die vaste fondament wat hierdie drie heel basiese skietgoed vir my gelê het, sou ek nie later saam met die "ou" manne kon gesels nie. Jy loop nie 'n geweerpad alleen nie; oor baie jare het 'n hele skare mense, wat nes ek begeesterd is, met my saamgegaan. Aan al hierdie wonderlike mense is ek baie dank verskuldig! 



Entiat Bifocal Shooting Glasses


OVER THE LAST few years, most hunting and shooting associations and clubs have adopted the requirement that, in addition to hearing protection, shooters must wear eye protection while participating at club shoots. This was accepted with reluctance by most members, but the fact remains that there is a risk to competitors and range officers during shoots, and, it makes sense to have as safe an environment as possible for all participants. A few years ago I attended a rock pigeon shoot with some strangers joining in on the same sunflower field. An hour into the shoot, when the action became fast and furious, a hunter to my left disregarded the "blue sky" rule and sent a load of No 7 shot through the sunflower heads just two metres in front of me. I scrambled for the safety of the bakkie and drove to another part of the field, grateful that the shot hadn't hit me. Since then I have worn yellow-lensed protective glasses that I bought in the 1990s, but they were not ideal.

A new product distributed by Lynx Optics, is the SSP Eye-wear Entiat Bifocal Reader Shooting Glasses, and, as the name suggests, they are suitable for hunters and shooters who are farsighted – a common condition for many people above the age of 40. The glasses exceed the Z87.1 + 2010 ANSI (American National Standards Institute) safety standard and are optically corrected and decentred – meaning the centre of the lens lines up with the centre of your pupil, so they are distortion free. The ANSI standard requires impact resistance against a ¼ inch steel ball fired at over 100 miles per hour. Tests have also shown that No 7 pellets fired from a 12 gauge shotgun at 10 metres did not penetrate the lenses.

THE POLYCARBONATE WRAP-AROUND lenses are treated with a permanently bonded anti-fogging coating – something bird hunters will appreciate on a cold winter's morning when exhaling can make wearing glasses a real pain, as they continually fog up. It also has a durable anti-scratch coating, a necessity for an item that will undergo

some rough use on the range and in the field. Rubber ear pads and a generous one-piece nose pad ensure comfortable wear. A plastic one-piece rim and temples ensure ample flexibility. A UV400 rating provides 100% protection against UVA and UVB ultra-violet rays. They are also approved by the NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association) in the USA, which has more than 40 000 members, as well as OSHA, the American health and safety organization.

At the bottom of each lens, a bifocal section of 30x14mm is incorporated into the otherwise magnification-free lens, affording farsighted users the convenience of both non-magnification and reading glasses in a single pair. I have used these glasses for more than two months while testing ammunition, developing new loads on the range and reloading, and found them extremely comfortable to wear, with no pinching. I have always worn eye protection when de-capping unspent, deactivated primers (a potentially dangerous pursuit) and even when priming cases – the force with which a primer ignites should not be underestimated. The SSP glasses worked perfectly for this purpose, affording protection and the ability to see close-up when examining cases for defects, reading small-print reloading notes and scope manuals. They should be perfect for farsighted range officers taking down scores and for other required reading work on the range.

They are available in smoked or clear lenses with a choice of black, red or tortoiseshell frames and with bifocal magnification of 1, 1.25, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3. At a recommended retail price of R334.00 (including VAT) they are good value for money. If your local dealer does not stock this range they can contact Lynx on 011-792-6644. 

Bushill MOA Bag

BUSHILL RSA, WELL-KNOWN local manufacturer of shooting and hunting accessories, continues to add new products to their line-up. Brand new on the market is their MOA Bag. Gone are the days of bank bags filled with sand, that weigh a ton and spill irritating, abrasive filter sand all over the shooting bench. "X-bags" are popularly used to confirm your rifle's zero or for casual plinking, but for more precise shooting, a steady and adjustable rifle rest is needed.

The MOA Bags are manufactured from Cordura and glued to Supawood blocks measuring 17x13.5x20cm (front) and 17x13.5x14cm (back). The bags are filled with plastic pellets to form a compact platform of two "Vs" for your rifle's fore-end and buttstock. New load development, and long-range accuracy confirmation and testing, requires an absolutely steady rest. This is to eliminate inconsistent rifle movement and to provide a steady platform to enable the shooter to keep his cross-hair on exactly the same spot, every time. It is important for the shooter to be able to sit comfortably, so the rifle must be high enough on the shooting bench. When sighting in big bore calibres with high recoil, like the .375H&H, it is important to sit as upright as possible. Hunching to 'cradle' the rifle could bring your eyebrow too close to the scope's ocular lens, resulting in "Weatherby eye". Felt recoil also increases dramatically when the recoil pad contacts the top of your shoulder instead of the front of it, and excessive recoil does affect shooting ability – more for some than others. When doing load development for any calibre, felt recoil needs to be reduced as much as possible. The rifle also needs to recoil consistently from shot to shot and should not snag on anything that could impede



the rifle's movement as the bullet travels down the barrel. To achieve this, F-class Bisley


competitors go as far as

lubricating the surfaces of their shooting rests with baby powder, and use rests with a massive base to ensure a steady platform. They don't mind lugging all this equipment to the shooting range, but for the average hunter or sport shooter, Bisley-type rests are unnecessary, and this is where the Bushill MOA bags come in handy.

TEXTURED RUBBER PADS on the underside of the rests ensure that there is enough grip to stop them from moving under recoil. Included in the package are four additional blocks, two 10mm thick and two 20mm thick, also with rubber lining and rounded edges. These can be used to increase or decrease the height of either or both the front and back rests and allow for easy adjustment for different stock designs and shooter physiques. Many shooting ranges are built in less than perfect settings and shooting uphill or downhill is a common requirement. Another major advantage of the addi-

tional blocks is that your rifle's position can be adjusted by ten percent up or down from the horizontal position – enough to cater for even the most sloping ranges – in just a few seconds.

I recently tested the MOA bag at a farm shooting range that slopes downward about 4m from the bench to the 100 metre backstop. We did some load development as well as scope testing, both requiring a rock-solid rest. We fired approximately a hundred rounds in various calibres and even under the recoil of 300gr factory ammunition in my .375H&H, the Bushill blocks did not move. Recoil was consistent and the rests ensured pin-point shot placement, even at the downward angle.

The MOA bags come in a useful carry bag with two handles. I can recommend the Bushill MOA bags to any rifleman, hunter, sport shooter and range owner – they are a pleasure to use, a quality product, and locally made to boot. At a recommended retail price of just under R400 for the bags with carry bag, they represent good value for money and are available at more than 160 dealers stocking Bushill products. If your local dealer does not stock the MOA Bag, call Bushill on 021-945-2160. 

HAWKE OPTICS RECENTLY introduced their first rifle-scope with the reticle in the first focal plane (FFP): the Sidewinder 30 FFP. *Magnum* received the 4-16x50 Mil to test (a 6-24x56 model is also available). Apart from its first focal plane reticle, this model, with its 30mm tube, has side focus parallax adjustment and an illuminated reticle.

On opening the box I was surprised to find, along with the scope, a 4" side-wheel for the parallax adjustment, 4" screw-in sunshade, a pointer for easy parallax adjustment reference (important when using the side focus for ranging), metal flip-up lens covers, a lens cloth and a CR2032 battery. More on this later.

Another surprise was the MRAD calibrated turrets, the same system used on the reticle. Hawke is known for turrets calibrated in MOA and the reticles in Mil, a combination of two different measuring systems that's not ideal when using your turrets and reticle to adjust or compensate for bullet drop or wind drift.

According to Hawke the lenses are all fully multi-coated with 18 coatings per surface for clarity enhancement. I found the optics good for the price range – low-light shooting at targets well after sunset was no problem.

The side focus control for parallax can be adjusted from 10 yards to infinity, making the scope, rated for all calibres, ideal for use in close-range shooting with air rifles or .22s.

The Christmas tree type reticle is etched on the glass and has red and green illumination controlled by a rheostat next to the side focus, offering a brightness range of five intensities. The centre's sub-tensions are half mil increments for a total of 5 mils up, down and sideways, while the reticle's outer edges are boxed posts, segmented in 1 mil and 0.2 mil. The windage aim points consist of small crosses that enable the shooter



Hawke 4-16x50 FFP Scope

to intuitively get them on target. Hawke also includes a small booklet explaining the use of the reticle and provides drop compensation information when using a .223, .243, .308 Win, .17 HMR rimfire, .22 rim-fire, .22 air rifle and .177 air rifle at predetermined velocities.

I mounted the Hawke on a PCP air rifle and later on a centre-fire rifle, and during tracking tests the scope consistently returned to zero. I also found that using it for long-range work with the help of a ballistic app got me on target every time. The first focal plane reticle allowed me to make adjustments without first checking the scope's magnification setting. For example, I shot at a target at 134m with the magnification on 12, and using the reticle found that I was shooting about 1 mil to the left. I simply adjusted 1 mil right and the next shot landed on target. With a second focal plane scope I would have first had to set the magnification to maximum

SPECIFICATIONS:

Chassis:	30mm mono-tube
Optical Objective:	System: 4-16x 50mm
Reticle:	FFP Mil
Illumination:	Red/Green - 5 intensities
Parallax/Side Focus:	9m/10yds to infinity
Field of View: m@100m:	7.7 - 2.2m
Eye relief:	90mm maximum
Length:	366mm
Weight:	810g
	Waterproof, shockproof, nitrogen purged


(or the indicated magnification for use with the sub-tensions) and then determine the adjustment needed. However, keep in mind that with FFP scopes the reticle's sub-tensions become very small (hard to see) at lower magnifications. Conversely, dialling up to maximum magnification may result in the crosshair being too thick for precision work, and the

part of the target obscured by the reticle stays the same notwithstanding the scope's magnification setting.

Turret adjustments are carried out by lifting the turret and then turning in the clicks. At the lowest position the turret cannot rotate, locking it to a preset position. The Hawke's adjustments were tactile and clearly audible. To zero the scope's turrets after getting the rifle and scope combination on target, you loosen the turrets with a hex key (supplied), turn to zero and then tighten.

Another distinctive feature is the ocular lens, which can be locked by tightening a metal lock-ring, similar to that found on Leupold scopes. The all-metal lens covers are screwed into the objective and ocular lenses, ensuring that they cannot be bumped off, and are durable and easy to use. The 4" side-focus wheel makes adjusting the focus easy. Hawke also offers a 2" wheel as an aftermarket accessory, something I will definitely invest in if I buy such a scope. It's less obtrusive than the bigger version and makes fine adjustment simpler, especially when shooting prone.

Overall, I found the scope easy to use, and I can foresee a permanent place for it on my PCP, although it's equally at home on a centre-fire.

For those considering their first FFP, but are put off by the normally heavy price tag attached, this scope offers a good entry to the world of first focal plane reticle use. I found it advertised online for R7 299. For more information contact Suburban Guns on 021-797-8787. 



The Monkey Tail men. David and I in front of our canvas tent in the bush.

Photo by Brand Bienenadel.

Patry's Buck

by MC HEUNIS



Posing with Patry's ewe. The dog could not sit still long enough for a photo!

Photo by Willie Barnard.

I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY with the saying that you should never take another man's wife, gun or dog – but what if the dog takes you?

In May this year my good friend Dr Willie Barnard invited me back to his farm for the fourth annual week-long 1880s black powder re-enactment hunt. The farm is situated along the foothills of the Waterberg in the Thabazimbi district and its bushy veld is ideally suited for walk-and-stalk hunting. Participants strive to recreate a typical hunting camp from this era, with appropriate clothing, firearms, accommodation, supplies, cooking utensils and methods. Hunters dress in corduroy and game-skin outfits, with handmade *velskoens*. Our camp consisted of small white canvas tents and a real *kakebeen* ox wagon laagered around an ancient camelthorn, lit by small candle lanterns and equipped with animal skins and wool comforts for the cool autumn nights. We enjoyed coffee roasted over the fire then brewed in a Voortrekker kettle, *boerbeskuit*, rich game stews, fresh bread from a riverbank oven, biltong and even milk tart baked in a Cape copper pie dish. The smokepoles were all historically correct black powder burners and ranged from

muzzle-loaders to Westley Richards "Monkey Tails", a Snider, a couple of Martini-Henry rifles and a Cape Gun or two. Hunting was done on foot alone or in pairs, in allotted disused cattle camps. Any game taken had to be carried back to camp where it was slaughtered and processed the traditional way. There were no chalets, electric lights, flushing toilets, cold rooms, farm hands and, best of all, no cell phones! These circumstances attracted some interesting campfire sitters from around South Africa: a medical doctor, a teacher, a nuclear physicist, a PH, a gunsmith, a game ranger, a farmer, an engineer, a *dominee*, a student and even a "distinguished" Englishman, to name but a few. People who would not know one another in their daily lives, but in the bush, they became the best of friends with a shared passion for things and times long past.

Patrys, Willie's three-year-old German shorthaired pointer cross, was the only female hunter in camp. She was born with an overdose of natural instinct to seek and dislodge the grass-dwelling winged inhabitants of the bushveld. Although not a trained gun dog, she certainly knows how to get her avian foes all fluttered up. Despite receiving lots of attention from Willie, Patrys unfortunately gained a bit of a reputation as she sneaked out at night to visit neighbouring tents. She loved the hunting camp; lots of attention, tasty left-overs, a nearby river for frequent swims, and of course Oom Gert's comfy folding chair. At first she pretty much ignored me, but soon realised we had something in common, we both liked spending lots of time in the bush.

After good rains, the bushveld was dense. Where, before, red paths were easy to negotiate, these were now almost impenetrable rivers of tall grass and thorny shrub. Conditions were not really conducive to walk-and-stalk hunting with abundant fallen leaves, dead twigs and dried grass. Even the skilled and stealthy hunters' slightest move-



Patrys and I relaxing on Willie's wild olive riempie couch with David.

Photo by Cleve Cheney.

ments were noisy and one hunter exclaimed, "It's like walking on Simba chips all day."

The first weekend saw only one warthog brought to camp on a hunter's back but on the Monday, experience paid off when PH Hansie Minnaar bagged a nice impala ram with his sporting Martini. To make it even more memorable, he made a sled in the bush and pulled the ram back to camp using his two donkeys!

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, I had success with my 1876 Westley Richards capping breech loader or "Monkey Tail". I saw a herd of impala in the distance and started to stalk them when a troop of baboons moved between me and my target. As the baboons had not seen me, I backtracked to go around the troop and to stalk the impala from another angle. I slowly made my way through the bush until I came to an old cattle fence which was the boundary of my designated hunting camp. Not wanting to cross this thorny destroyer of trousers,

or to enter someone else's area, I moved north along the fence to get the sun behind me before resuming my stalk. While I was on the small game path along the fence, two impala rams came charging out of the bush. The challenger was being chased by a bigger, older ram. In their fury they rushed right past me before taking note of my dark shape standing there, completely exposed. The older ram disappeared just as suddenly as he had appeared, but the younger one stopped for a brief moment with a puzzled look on his face. This hesitation allowed me a broadside shot at 45 paces. The .45 calibre 405 grain pure lead conical bullet hit him perfectly on the left shoulder, pulverized his left lung, sliced off the top part of his heart and, after breaking up some shoulder bones, exited on the right side. Adrenalin kicked in and the ram sped off, but when he tried to jump the fence a few metres on, he couldn't, and crashed down dead. As I was alone, I converted my impala into a backpack and started the long road back to camp.



ABOVE LEFT: My impala backpack. ABOVE RIGHT: Hansie's bush sled and donkeys transporting his impala ram.

Photos by Gert Odendaal.

The next afternoon, walking alone to my designated hunting camp, I passed the farmhouse. Patrys took note of me entering the bush with rifle in hand, and, after waiting cleverly for me to be far enough from the house not to turn around or chase her back, she joined me on my hunt. My original plan to quietly search for impala and kudu was not to her liking and soon we were crashing through the bush chasing up feathery prey. Partridges, guineafowl and even a herd of nyala fled from Patrys's eager attempts. From then on, if I headed out with a rifle over my shoulder, Patrys would try to join me.

On the Thursday morning I hunted with fellow Bloemfonteiner, David Bellringer. We did an arduous trek around a long sloping ridge that runs parallel to the Waterberg and by late morning, having had no success, we strolled back to camp for a well-earned cup of coffee and some brunch. As we walked down a farm road running along the base of the ridge, Willie passed us


in the farm Jeep on his way to do some bush whacking and road maintenance, with his ever-present companion Patrys on the back. Willie stopped to ask how the morning had gone when Patrys decided she would rather walk with us.

Willie ordered her back, but as we were not hunting and only walking back to camp, we said she could join us.

So off we went with Patrys in the lead, sniffing for clues of unsuspecting fowl. A few hundred metres on, where the ridge is at its lowest, we heard the belching roars made by impala rams during the rut coming from above us. I softly asked David

if we should investigate, but he was not keen on a stiff climb up the side of the hill, and volunteered to wait below with Patrys in the shade of a *wag-'n-bietjie* bush while I took a look. My progress was slow as I made my way up, trying my best not to warn the impala of my approach. I was about halfway when Patrys came screaming past and made straight for the spot on the summit where I had heard the rams a few min-

utes earlier. I tried to give chase, but with her legs being better adapted to scaling inclines than mine, she reached the top long before I did. The ensuing impala snorts, barks, breaking of branches, dust clouds and stones rolling from above convinced me that my attempt had been thwarted. I could clearly hear the impala herd crashing through the bushes along the ridge away from me with Patrys in hot pursuit.

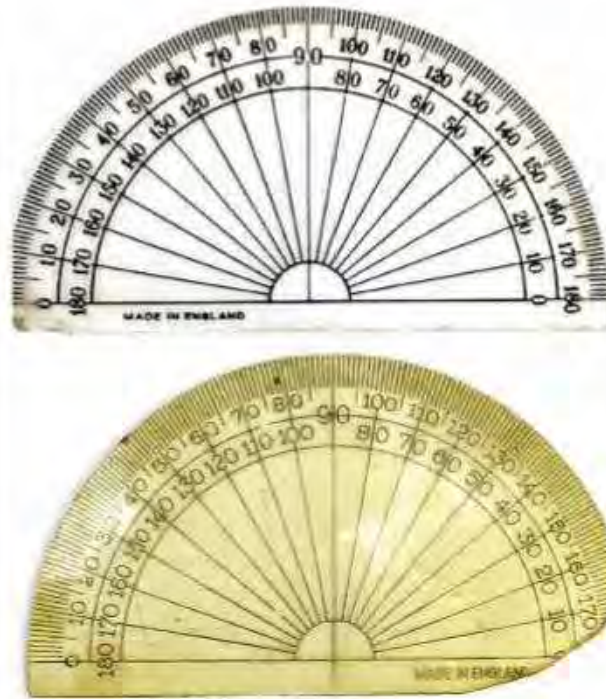
I was about to voice my disapproval when an impala ewe appeared on the ridge above me. In the chaos she had probably been separated from the herd. As only her head and neck were sticking out of the tall grass lining the brow of the ridge, I aimed as low as I could and squeezed the trigger. I heard the shot find its mark and saw her fall into the grass. I quickly zig-zagged the last twenty or thirty paces to the summit as Patrys came running up to me with what looked like a huge smile on her face. As she got to me, we both saw the downed ewe's legs come up a few metres away. Before the ewe could contemplate a getaway, or even get onto her feet, Patrys was on her and held her down, which gave me enough time to give the ewe a *coup de grâce*. And so Patrys got her buck with a little help from me and the Monkey Tail. 

I quickly zig-zagged the last twenty or thirty paces to the summit as Patrys came running up to me with what looked like a huge smile on her face

WITH LONG-RANGE SHOOTING currently all the rage, I find myself reading more and more about *accuracy*, and I have noticed one or two erroneous notions being repeated in magazine articles and Internet chat rooms. This worries me, because when a wrong notion is repeated often enough, it can become lore, and then it lasts for generations and can be very difficult to refute in the minds of young and old alike. My generation grew up with the long-held notions that longer rifle and handgun barrels are inherently more accurate, longer shotgun barrels shoot 'harder' and further, choked shotgun barrels shoot further than 'spread' barrels, and other such fallacies, some of which are still believed to this day. So I thought some entry-level discussion on certain aspects of accuracy might be helpful.

Firstly, I notice some small but persistent misuse of the term MOA. What is MOA? (Apart, that is, from an extinct flightless bird resembling an ostrich.) The average South African rifle shooter achieving a one-inch group at 100 metres will call this 'minute-of-angle accuracy' or MOA. In practical terms, that's what is accepted locally, simply because our shooting ranges are marked off in metres. A more astute shooter will tell you that MOA is one inch at 100 yards, which is more correct, being the commonly accepted definition among rifle shooters internationally. Nevertheless, even this more astute shooter would still be guilty of a slight 'inexactitude' because MOA actually subtends as 1.047 inches at 100 yards.

However, it is important to understand that 'minute-of-angle' is



as a protractor – a flat half-disc of transparent plastic (pictured here). In my schooldays they were made of celluloid – a mixture of nitrocellulose and camphor that burned as rapidly and cleanly as smokeless gunpowder, which is why my old yellowed one appears partially consumed following an extramural experiment to prove this compelling chemical property (maths was more fun in my day). This instrument is used for measuring angles. Note that the peripheral gradations number 180 – the number of degrees in a half-circle. Now, for much more precise measuring, these

angles are divided up even further – into 'minutes' (not shown on high-school protractors). There are 60 minutes in one degree, hence this 180-degree protractor encompasses 10 800 minutes, and there are 21 600 minutes in a full circle. So a minute is an extremely acute angle.

Now, if you protract one minute-of-angle

over a distance of 100 yards, the distance between the two diverging 'lines' at that point is 1.047 inches. Picture your 5-shot group as a long cone shape, with its apex or vertex (point) at the rifle's chamber-mouth, very gradually and minutely expanding over a distance of 100 yards to print a 'circle' one inch in diameter on the target. Therefore, to shoot a MOA group (1 inch at 100 yards) your rifle's barrel must not move away from a constant axis by

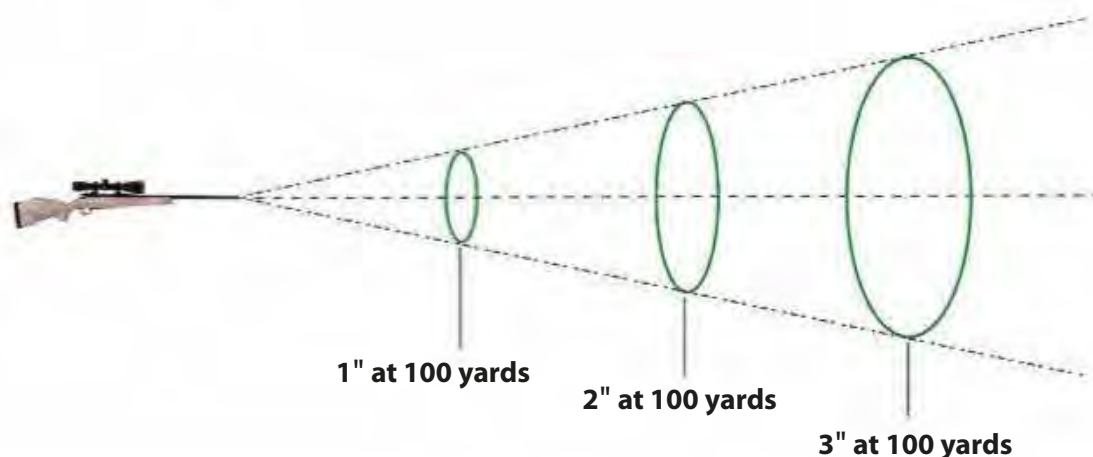
more than one minute-of-angle or 1/60th of a degree *throughout the string of shots*.

Now, what some shooters apparently fail to grasp, is that the cone continues to expand as the distance increases – and the expansion is constant

MOA, Inherent and Practical Accuracy

what the term implies – it is an angular unit of measurement, not a linear one. The common unit of measurement for angles is the 'degree' and I'm sure you know that a full circle is made up of 360 degrees. Most know that a pizza, sliced up into the usual eight segments, forms a circle that has been divided into eight 45-degree angles, each with its apex at the centre of the circle.

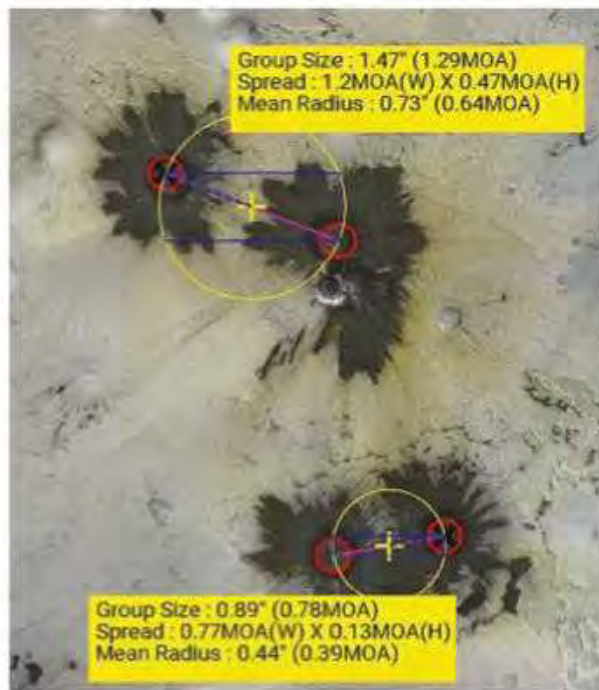
If you studied geometry at school, you'll remember an instrument known



(in theory, that is – assuming absence of wind, etc). In practice, the cone will bend downwards in a curve called a parabola as the range increases, due to the force of gravity acting on the slowing bullets. Nevertheless, this constant expansion means that a MOA group printing into a one-inch circle at 100 yards becomes a 2-inch group at 200 yards, a 3-inch group at 300 yards, and so on. Some shooters report that their dedicated long-range rifles shot a one-inch group at 300 yards which they describe as a “MOA group at 300 yards”. No, your rifle shot a one-third MOA group. A MOA group is three inches at 300 yards, and six inches at 600 yards, and 12 inches at 1 200 yards.

Furthermore, this ballistic ‘cone’ can *only* expand – it can never contract. Some shooters believe that a rifle can shoot a group measuring, say, 1½ inches at 25m due to the fact that the bullets have not yet stabilized at that distance, but once stabilized, the same group (cone) will contract to one inch at 100 yards. This is buffalo manure of the purest ray serene.

Now: the difference between **inherent accuracy** and **practical accuracy**. Most shooters know that ‘inherent accuracy’ refers to the intrinsic or ‘built-in’ accuracy potential of the rifle itself. We might say that most wartime bolt-action military rifles are less inherently accurate than a dedicated long-range target match rifle. This is because most military rifles were mass-produced, roughly finished, often hastily assembled and the objective was not ‘tack-driving’ long-range accuracy. A custom-built target rifle has a heavy, rigid bull barrel, free-floated, a robust, rigid, single-shot bolt-action, expertly bedded; close attention has been paid to the precise alignment of the chamber axis with the bore axis, and the bolt axis with the chamber axis, and the “truing” of the locking lugs with their corresponding contact surfaces within the receiver, and so on – there are many such factors and features which contribute to improved ‘inherent accuracy’ in a rifle. Inherent



accuracy also includes the cartridge: quality of the components, matching bullet length to rifling twist, load selection, special equipment for perfectly aligned assembly – everything you’ve read in Sean I’Ons’s current article series. Inherent accuracy refers to the potential accuracy of the instrument and its ammunition, *assuming no human error* whatsoever in the discharging of the rifle.

PRACTICAL ACCURACY REFERS to the *shooter’s* ability to use said rifle/ cartridge combination to optimal effect: consistent bodily attitude for consistent recoil absorption, consistent hold on the rifle, consistent trigger release, ability to read wind conditions and make the appropriate allowances, and so on.

Now, in combining the two, many shooters believe that the average hunter has no need of a rifle capable of achieving minute-of-angle groups, because in practice the average hunter is only capable of shooting 2MOA groups himself, or even 3MOA from ‘field positions’ (when hunting). This is a common argument, but it is completely fatuous.

Take two (otherwise identical) rifles, one of which is **INHERENTLY** capable of shooting 1-inch groups at 100 yards, and a second which, for whatever reason, is **INHERENTLY** capable only of shooting 2-inch groups at 100 yards. Now, hand the 1-inch grouper to a given individual – we’ll call him John Jones – and let him do his best to shoot his tightest groups. John proves to be a bit of a trigger-jerker, or a flincher, or whatever, and the very best he can do is shoot a 2-inch group with this 1MOA rifle. Now, hand the other rifle (which is inherently capable only of shooting 2-inch groups) to this very same John Jones, and tell him to try just as hard to shoot his tightest groups with this one. The fact is, he is **NOT** going to shoot 2-inch groups with it – his groups will open up accordingly. The second rifle’s margin of error is *added* to his own. So, no matter how ordinary a marksman you are, a rifle that is inherently capable of MOA or half-MOA accuracy can only *improve* your groups and your chances in the hunting field. ■

Editorial Comment

In preparation for hunting, determine your practical accuracy limitations with a specific rifle/load combination by shooting from ‘field positions’ (over shooting sticks or similar rifle rests). Make a target with an aiming mark the size of the vital organs of the game to be hunted, and shoot at this from various distances. If, for instance, you can consistently keep all your shots in the vital area at say, 175m, but not at 200m, set the lesser distance as your personal maximum.

Practise range estimation in the veld. Pick a tree or termite mound; call the range, then pace it out, or use a range-finder. At longer ranges, incorrect judgement of distance causes more misses or wounding than the limited ability of either shooter or rifle.



Chocolate Banana Smore Malva

by CHARLOTTE-ANN AUCAMP

THIS IS AN easy to make dessert that goes well with the outdoors and an open fire. Marshmallows can be used as a topping when reheating.

INGREDIENTS:

Malva base

4 to 6 bananas, cut into rings

20g butter (soft)

1 cup castor sugar

2 eggs

½ cup flour

½ cup cocoa powder

3ml salt

20ml strawberry jam

½ cup milk

5ml bicarbonate of soda

5ml vinegar

Sauce

1 cup cream

1 cup water

½ cup sugar

100g butter

½ cup cocoa powder

500g bag marshmallows for topping (optional)

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C. Place the sliced bananas in the bottom of a greased, oven-proof bowl to completely cover the bottom (see right).

Whisk together the butter and castor sugar until well combined. Add the eggs and whisk until light and fluffy. The mixture should be almost smooth.

In a separate bowl, sift the cocoa powder and flour. Add the salt.

Mix together the strawberry jam,



milk, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

Into the butter and egg mixture add ⅓ of the sifted dry ingredients. Mix thoroughly and then add ⅓ of the milk mix. Repeat this until thoroughly mixed.

Pour the malva batter over the bananas and place in the oven to bake for about 45 minutes.

Once the dessert is in the oven,

start on the sauce as this needs to be poured over the still-hot dessert so it seeps in.

Place all the sauce ingredients (not the marshmallows) in a pot on medium heat and stir. Once properly combined let it boil for a few minutes. Pour the sauce onto the dessert as soon as it comes out of the oven.

Most people make a malva pudding to reheat and serve later. If doing this, once it is slightly cooled place some marshmallows on the top in an attractive pattern. Reheat in the oven for 10 minutes at 160°C. This will allow the marshmallows to puff up and turn lightly golden brown. Eat immediately after reheating with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream. **M**

Gun Dogs



Magnum at 42 weeks.

My Dog, Magnum

First aid for dogs

AT SOME POINT during its life, your gundog is likely to be injured – all experienced owners know this to be true. The nature and rigors of this sport inevitably lead to occasional emergencies, some potentially serious. You need to familiarize yourself with the injuries and consequences your dog could suffer in the veld, and know how best to deal with these. For this article, I draw on the excellent book, *The German Shorthaired Pointer in South Africa*, edited by Slang Viljoen and produced by the Transvaal Hunt, Point and Retrieve Field Trial Club, as well as www.petmd.com. Both are valuable sources of information for GSP owners.

It is unlikely there'll be a veterinarian around, so you yourself must immediately deal with any emergency. First aid procedures applied to canines in distress are much the same as for humans. The obvious difference is that your dog cannot tell you what is wrong, so watch for the signs: limping, squealing, choking, biting or licking at the site of injury, or blood. Immediately remove the dog from any danger of further injury to somewhere quiet and shaded. If the injury renders carrying the dog painful or potentially harmful, use your jacket as a makeshift stretcher. Proceed gently and try to keep the animal as level as possible. Talk to it in a calm, reassuring tone. Maintaining your own composure will help to calm the dog, especially if it is in shock.

Then assess the injury. Be careful, as even the most docile animal may snap at you if your touch causes it pain. If necessary, use a strip of bandage or a handkerchief to apply a temporary muzzle.

Three of the most serious emergency conditions are collapse, bleeding and fractures. Collapse can result, *inter alia*, from choking, a hard knock, seizure and poisoning. Should your dog

check the *circulation*. A dog's pulse can be found on the inside of the back leg, at a point on the top of the thigh muscle. If there is no pulse, give the dog a heart massage. With the animal on its side, exert firm pressure over the rib cage at five-second intervals.

Artificial respiration is given by holding the dog's mouth closed with one hand and blowing through its nose. Your



A basic family first aid kit is suitable for use with your animals. Any extra items can be purchased from your local vet.

collapse, remember the ABC of first aid: Airway, Breathing and Circulation.

The first priority is to check the *airway*. Clear it of any foreign objects or matter and move the tongue away from the back of the mouth. Next, observe the dog's *breathing*. Watch the chest and note if it rises and falls. Finally,

other hand should put firm pressure on the throat to prevent air going into the stomach – but be careful not to strangle. Breaths should be given at five-second intervals, and remember to continue checking for a pulse. Your lungs have three to four times the capacity of a dog's, so exhale just enough air to raise

the rib cage. Keep an eye on the colour of the tongue; it should go from blue to pink and stay pink. Once the animal shows signs of maintaining its own respiration you can stop the assisted breathing and monitor its condition.

Physical traumas are common in working dogs, resulting from sharp sticks, barbed wire, broken glass, fallen iron fence standards, etc. Minor cuts require only washing with an anti-septic solution and observation for secondary infection. Ensure that dirt and any other foreign objects are removed. In more serious cases, profuse bleeding is life threatening. If an artery has been severed, a quick response is vital to saving your dog's life. You should stop the bleeding by applying direct pressure to the wound using an absorbent pad and bandage. Army field dressings (sometimes available from military surplus stores) are best for this, though your T-shirt will do in an emergency. If possible, raise the site of the injury above the dog's heart to reduce blood flow to the wound. Try to avoid the use of tourniquets, as mismanagement of this technique may do more harm than good. Get the dog to a vet.

Broken legs are common injuries. Symptoms of bone fracture include malformation, limping and swelling. Try not to handle the break any more than is absolutely necessary, as this is not only painful for the animal, but may cause additional damage. Immobilize the limb as best as possible. Use material as padding and secure the injured limb to a splint. Try to prevent the dog placing weight on the leg. Again, get it to a vet.

ACCORDING TO www.petmd.com extreme heat or cold conditions can also pose a risk to your dog. Hyperthermia is a rise in body temperature that is above the normal range. Although normal values for dogs differ slightly, it is usually accepted that body temperatures above 39°C are abnormal. This is not uncom-

mon among working dogs in hot African climates, especially the longer-haired breeds.

Heat stroke is a form of non-fever hyperthermia that occurs when heat-dissipating mechanisms of the body cannot handle excessive external heat. Typically associated with a temperature of 41°C or higher without signs of inflammation, heat stroke can lead to multiple organ dysfunction. Symptoms include but are not limited to: panting, dehydration, excessive drooling, reddened gums and moist tissues of the body, production of only small amounts of urine or no urine, rapid heart rate, vomiting blood, black, tarry stools, muscle tremors, and a wobbly, uncoordinated or drunken gait or movement.

Early recognition of the symptoms of heat stroke is essential. The first, immediate step will be to lower the body temperature. Some cooling techniques include; spraying the dog down with cool water, or immersing the dog's entire body in cool – not cold – water, wrapping the dog in cool, wet towels, and/or evaporative cooling (such as isopropyl alcohol on foot pads, groin, and under the forelegs). Cease the cooling procedures when body temperature reaches 39°C (using a rectal thermometer) to avoid dropping below normal body temperature.

Avoid ice or very cold water, as this may cause blood vessels near the surface of the body to constrict and may decrease heat dissipation. A shivering response is also undesirable, as it creates internal heat. Lowering the temperature too rapidly can lead to other health problems, a gradual lowering is best. This also applies to drinking water. Allow your dog to freely drink cool, not cold, water. However, do not force your dog to drink.


Hypothermia is characterized by an abnormally low body temperature, and can occur when retrievers undertake numerous retrieves in very cold water, especially if there is a cold breeze blowing. It has three phases: mild, moderate, and severe. Mild hypothermia is indi-

cated by a body temperature of 32-35°C, moderate hypothermia at 28-32°C, and severe hypothermia anything less than 28°C. Hypothermia occurs when an animal's body is no longer able to maintain normal temperature, causing a depression of the central nervous system. It may also affect heart and blood flow, breathing, and the immune system.

Hypothermia symptoms vary with the level of severity. Mild hypothermia is evident through weakness, shivering, and lack of mental alertness. Moderate hypothermia reveals characteristics such as muscle stiffness, low blood pressure, a stupor-like state, and shallow, slow breathing. Characteristics of severe hypothermia are fixed and dilated pupils, inaudible heartbeat, difficulty breathing, and coma.

During treatment, movement should be minimized to prevent further heat loss and a potentially deadly irregular heartbeat (cardiac arrhythmia) while the animal is being warmed.

Mild hypothermia may be treated with thermal insulation and blankets to prevent further heat loss, while moderate hypothermia requires active external re-warming. This includes the use of external heat sources – get your dog into the cab of a vehicle and get the heaters going. If the dog does not show signs of recovery, drive to the nearest vet who will apply heating pads to its torso to warm its "core." Severe hypothermia requires veterinary attention, as invasive core warming will be necessary – warm water enemas and warm intravenous fluids.

THE ABOVE ARE first aid measures – seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible. Carry your vet's contact number with you; if shooting far from home, ask the landowner in advance for the name and cell number of the nearest vet. 



Like our page at
www.Facebook.com/ManMagnum

HEARING PROTECTION

IS crucial to the hunter and sport shooter. Accepted medical standards stipulate that regular and/or continued exposure to noise levels above 85 Decibels (dB) will cause damage to one's hearing, and with a gunshot easily reaching 140dB, we need to take notice. About eight years ago, I caused permanent damage to both my ears by sighting in my .375H&H unprotected. Just two shots cost me 30% hearing loss in my right ear and slightly less in the left. Such damage is irreversible. There are other causes beyond our control, but we can and should protect our hearing while hunting and shooting. Hellen Keller, the famous deaf-and-blind author, said "Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people".

I have since invested in a pair of electronic noise suppression ear plugs distributed by Hear Technologies, and I use them for all range work, sport shooting and hunting. Bulky electronic muffs are fine on the range, but hunting with them is a pain. They interfere with the proper contact between your cheek and the stock, snag on branches and create hot, sweaty patches around your ears. Non-electronic muffs don't work for hunting as they render you unable to hear bush sounds.

Cens DX5 are small, silicon earplugs which contain a removable electronic noise suppression module. They are custom-moulded for the individual, using two types of silicon of differing softness, and both units, including batteries, weigh only 12.88 grams. Making an impression of your inner ear takes



The DX5 model is top of the range and comes in a quality hard rubber carry case with all the necessary accoutrements.

Cens Proflex DX5 and Mino



The DX5 plugs fit snugly into the inner ear, almost flush with the outer ear. They remain comfortable even when worn all day.

only a few minutes and is painless. Your ear canal, up to the eardrum, is inspected to ensure it is wax-free before a small foam plug with string attached is inserted into the ear to protect the eardrum during the process. Then a soft medical-grade material is injected into the ear canal, filling all the

available space. It takes three to five minutes to set before removal. This provides a moulding which the manufacturer of the silicon plugs will copy when forming the final anti-bacterial plug. Your local audiologist can take an impression.

The snug fit prevents noise seeping past the plug and is comfortable to wear for extended periods. You can choose almost any colour: skin-colour for factory wear, bright red or orange to stand out should you accidentally drop them in long grass. The right ear's plug has a red dot at the bottom to distinguish it from the left.

The removable electronic module, housed in a recess, contains the 'heart' of the device. It amplifies normal day-to-day sounds, while electronically cutting off noises above 82-83dB

before they reach the eardrum. Each unit is powered by a single 13/13P battery, readily available at most pharmacies.

Cens's latest top-of-the-range model DX5 caters for every possible shooting requirement, having five different programmes, each optimised for the chosen discipline and its related ambient sounds. Each earpiece contains an On/Off + Mute switch situated at the top of the module – ideal for the competition shooter who wishes to cut out all range noise to permit intense concentration. A digital toggle switch is situated near the bottom of the module; a short press up or down affords ten different volume levels with an auditory confirmation beep as the level changes plus a vocal prompt on reaching minimum and maximum volumes. A longer press selects the various modes: Hunter, Wireless Comms,

Range, Clay and Game, each announced vocally as selected.

Hunter mode reduces the amplification of quieter sounds like footsteps on dry leaves. Wireless Comms enables the shooter to listen to audio input via a neck loop (supplied) fitted with a 3.5mm mono jack plug to a cell phone or two-way radio, and full two-way communication is possible with the purchase of an SRC (Single Rising Cable) harness. Range mode reduces ambient sounds, and the manufacturer prudently recommends dual protection – wearing conventional earmuffs in combination with the DX5 earplugs for extended range work. Clay mode is designed for multiple

shots fired in quick succession, by yourself or fellow shooters, while the Game mode returns sound levels to normal immediately following a shot, enabling the hunter to hear a quarry running away, for instance. The Hunter, Clay and Game modes all feature a wind noise reduction algorithm and all programmes offer the same level of 25dB SNR (Signal Number Rating) noise reduction. Since the perception of sound differs from person to person, you need to try the various settings to determine which

best suits your hearing. The DX5 also gives the user a verbal warning of low and critical battery statuses. When batteries are replaced, it automatically restores the last volume and programme selection, confirming this vocally when the unit is switched on. Claimed battery life is 400 hours.

Having long used CENS products, I can vouch for their quality; they enable you to hunt and shoot all day long without discomfort, the amplified ambient sounds being an obvious benefit. I have tested the new DX5 model on range days and during seven days in the veld; it lives up to the reputation set by its

predecessors and as far as hearing protection is concerned, it's in a class of its own. At a recommended retail price of R13 300, it is not cheap, but quality never is, and you cannot place a value on the preservation of your hearing.

THE DX5 COMES in a high-quality hard rubber carry case, with instruction booklets, wireless comms neck loop, belt/pocket pouch, spare batteries, battery replacement rod, cleaning tools, carabiner and a tube of gel to facilitate easy insertion into the ear. It is EN352 certified with Water-Shield™ protection and the modules are available in six metallic finishes.



LEFT: The Minos are very versatile – the smallest foam plug fitted my 11-year-old's ears perfectly.



RIGHT: The Minos are supplied with different sized plugs and will fit all ear sizes.

For the budget-conscious, the Cens Mino is excellent value for money at a recommended retail price of R3 650. It offers a very impressive 31dB SNR and if used in combination with regular earmuffs for range work, it should give a user the maximum protection available: about 34dB NRR (Noise Reduction Rating). This no-frills model is not custom-moulded; instead, the electronic module is inserted into soft foam ear plugs which come in various sizes. Simply compress the plug by rolling it between your fingers then insert into the ear while pulling up the top part of


the outer ear. Wait a few seconds for the foam to expand and you are done.

They are comfortable and create a very effective seal on their own. Additional/replacement foam plugs can be ordered. The Mino has only one model that cuts out noises above 82-83dB while amplifying day-to-day sounds by means of three different volume settings. A push-button switch at the top of the module selects amplification levels with one, two or three beeps giving auditory confirmation of the active sound level. It has no On/Off switch – inserting the battery turns it on, removing it turns it off. The battery tray is small; take care

when inserting and removing batteries. The small 10A zinc battery operates the device for three days and a warning sound indicates a low battery. The universal fit afforded by the Mino's soft foam plugs enabled me to lend it to my hunting companions for evaluation. All agreed that it offered the same level of protection as the DX5, and I concur. Loud noise suppression is excellent and the amplified ambient sounds are crisp – certainly the best we had experienced. It is

the perfect product to lend to anyone accompanying you to the range or veld. I also used the Minos in combination with conventional ear muffs for double protection and the noise reduction was excellent – my .30-06's report sounded like a handclap.

The Mino comes with a belt pouch, instruction booklet, spare batteries, battery replacement rod, cleaning tools, and six sets of foam plugs of various sizes.

Both models carry a two-year manufacturer's warranty. The DX5 and Mino can be ordered from Hear Technologies, call 080-111-1665. 



International Hunting Rifle Shooting Association World Championships

by PHILLIP HAYES



THE THIRD WORLD Championship of the International Hunting Rifle Shooting Association was recently held in South Africa. Competitors from South Africa, Namibia, Denmark, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Australia and Germany competed in two categories for top honours. This type of shooting requires competitors to shoot from typical field positions used when hunting.

The event was held over six days, three days for the .223 Class and three for the Open Class. Competitors fired 30 shots per person per day, meaning that the 65 contenders in the .223 Class and the 160 competing in the Open Class, expended 20 250 rounds of ammunition, not counting the ammunition used for zeroing rifles.

The competition, held on the farm Oude Kraal outside Bloemfontein, kicked off with the .223 shoot. This division is becoming more popular as cheaper ammunition and longer barrel life makes shooting this class more affordable. Recoil is also negligible. Apart from using a rifle in calibre .223, the targets are slightly smaller and shooting distances shorter compared to the Open Class.

IN THE OPEN Class, popular rifle calibres are the .22-250, 6mms like the 6XC, .243, .243AI and 6mm SLR, and of course the 6.5mm calibres like the 6.5x47 Lapua, 6.5 Creedmoor and .260 Remington. Interestingly, some of the European competitors preferred the 6.5x55 instead of the more modern 6.5s. This calibre, originating in the late 1800s is still competitive, and is now being loaded with light bullets in the 100 to 120gr class, pushed at a velocity of 2 900fps and faster.

Most shooters prefer to shoot a high ballistic coefficient bullet at a high velocity to ensure flat trajectory and less wind drift. Rangefinders are not allowed, not even by officials when setting up the ranges, and being able to accurately judge distance is a definite advantage. During the international shoot, distances to targets varied between 150



Some of the shooting positions used during the competition.

and 400m, while local competitions are limited to a maximum distance of 350m. Apart from life-size animal targets, gongs were also used.

This shooting discipline is one of the most realistic simulations of shooting from hunting field positions. The organisers can set up supported or unsupported shooting positions with combinations of standing, kneeling, sitting and prone. During a typical hunt, natural supports in the field are used to provide a more stable shooting position, ensuring a more accurate shot. Therefore the IHRSA prefers (as far as practically possible) to do the same during competitions, but when more than two shooters are on the firing line, artificial supports are used to ensure that all the firing positions and rests are the same and that no competitor should get an unfair

advantage. A good example of this is the use of artificial anthills as rests.

Sometimes competitors have a choice between kneeling (affording a steadier rest) or standing upright while using a rest. However, on certain targets kneeling meant that a part of the target was obscured by tall grass, forcing competitors to shoot from a standing position.

THE WINNERS WERE: In the .223 Class, 1st went to Jacoos van Niekerk of South Africa, 2nd Henk Brink (SA) and 3rd Stephanus Marais (Namibia). In the .223 team event first place went to SA, 2nd the Czech Republic and 3rd to Namibia.

In the Open Class, Stephanus Marais of Namibia was the winner, 2nd Manus Moolman (SA) and 3rd Pieter van der Westhuizen (SA). The SA team was the

overall winner with the Czech Republic and Namibia second and third respectively. Moolman's performance is particularly notable as he's a Junior.

To start out in this sport, any hunting rifle and scope will do and if you choose to adhere to the field shooting positions, instead of paper punching from a bench, this discipline will definitely improve your shooting skills in the hunting field. For more information on the international shoot visit www.internationalhuntingrifleshootingassociation.com or www.sahuntingrifle.co.za for a club near you.

Our thanks to the sponsors: Zeiss, Whylo, Gerrie Coetzee Vuurwapens, Lite Optec, Sniper, Adventure Tech, L&O-Sig, Die Skietwinkel, Nicholas Yale, Wildebees, National Cartridge Company, Inyathi-GRS, Somchem and Tudortech. 



L-R: Stephanus Marais winner of the open class, with organisers Willem Botha and Jurie Vermaak (right).



L-R: Henk Brink, Jacoos van Niekerk and Stephanus Marais, 2nd, 1st and 3rd respectively in the .223 class



The ladies class winner, Annelize Pieterse with Jurie Vermaak.

Auction: SA Historical Artefacts



Holt's of London is a leading auction house specializing in modern and antique firearms. Their forthcoming auction on 20 September 2018 offers numerous historical items of special interest to Southern Africans. The auction will be held online, so prospective buyers have the opportunity to bid live via the internet, by telephone, or written commission bid. Selections of lots which may be of interest include:

Lot 200 – An Historical Carved Zulu Knobkerrie (£300-500)

This Zulu weapon was recovered on 29 March 1879 at the Battle of Kambula by Private Thomas Turner of the 90th Perthshire Rifle Volunteers. It is 28 inches in length with an integral 2½ inch diameter bulbous head. The shaft is carved variously with "T. TURNER", "KAMBULA – MARCH", "T. KEW" and features a Scottish thistle motif, geometric designs, a heart and a garter.

Lot 227 – A well-preserved Full-Size Isihlangu Zulu Cowhide Shield (£800-1 200)

Almost completely white and possibly from King Shaka's personal regiment, 'Fasimba' (The Haze), the oval shield is approximately 41½ inches long and mounted on a wood shaft of approximately 70 inches. There is contrasting

dark hide trim showing through the slotted facing, the reverse features a natural wool grip and there is a cow-tail plume to the top of the shaft. The shield has some hair-loss and shedding.

Lot 230 – Regimental Brass Insignia of the 22 Squadron SAS (Rhodesia) (£3 000-5 000)

This item is a solid brass casting, measuring approximately 30x14 inches. It is the Special Air Service 'Winged Dagger' emblem with the motto 'WHO DARES WINS' below, with a suspension chain to the reverse, and weighs approximately 20lbs. The wings were from an original set of four of which two were mounted on the new Kabrit Barracks gates. The brass used for the casting was smelted from spent casings recovered from the range and it is believed to have been cast by the Rhodesian prison service circa 1978/9.

Lot 900 – The BSAC Flag from CJ Rhodes Funerary Catafalque (£5 000-10 000)

This flag was used to drape Rhodes's coffin during his 'Lying in State' in Bulawayo in April 1902. The design is a Union Jack with a central circular 'passant gardant' lion device grasping an elephant's tusk in its outstretched paw above 'B.S.A.C.' (the corporate trademark of the British South Africa Company).



Lot 901 – A Collection of Photographs, Publications and Ephemera Relating to CJ Rhodes and Sir Thomas Smartt (£500-800)

This collection includes Smartt's personal copy of the privately published rare volume *The Late Right Honourable Cecil John Rhodes; A Chronicle of The Funeral Cere-*

monies From Muizenberg to the Matappos March-April 1902 by the Cape Times Ltd, 1905; a large scrapbook containing newspaper cuttings regarding the death and funeral arrangements of Sir Thomas Smartt (some loose); a group of original photographs of Rhodes's and Smartt's own funeral courtages and burials; a 1963 reprint from the *Central African Journal of Medicine* titled *Rhodes and the Doctors* by J. Charles Shee; a leather-cased oval photograph of Rhodes in a gilt metal frame with stand; a hand-drawn diagram of the Rhodes funeral arrangements; a small manilla envelope dated 22



March 1902 containing a lock of Cecil Rhodes hair; a further print of a photograph of Rhodes mounted on board, and a negative of a photograph of Smartt and others at the grave of Rhodes in Bulawayo.

Lot 906 – A .380 Double-Action Revolver Owned By CJ Rhodes (£5 000-10 000)

Circa 1885, this revolver has a nickel-plated octagonal 4¾ inch barrel, crescent fore-sight, raised sighting groove to the rear of the top-strap, a break-open frame with auto-ejecting fluted six-shot cylinder, and twin 'Pryse' locking bars. It features a spurred hammer, smooth ivory grips, shallow spur to back-strap, lanyard swivel and guarded trigger. The revolver has virtually all its original nickel-plated finish and appears little used, in a full-flap open-ended leather holster.

Visit www.holtsauctioneers.com to view the entire auction catalogue and for more information. – **Morgan Haselau**



Continued on page 68

MAN MAGNUM

Have It Delivered! **FOR HUNTERS & SHOOTERS**

and enjoy a discounted rate!

My Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

When sending a Gift Subscription, please give us your name and address (above) as well as those of the recipient (below)

Please send a Gift Sub to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Message: _____

Send proof of payment to: subscriptions@manmagnum.co.za

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- EFT Payments – NB Please send proof of payment!**
EFT Banking Details: ABSA Bank Account: Magnum
Acc No: 407 373 4765 Branch code: 506009
- Credit Card:** Complete the order below and fax to 086-520-3711
- Cheque:** Send application with cheques to the address below
- OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS may only pay by CREDIT CARD (VISA, Master) or by BANK DRAFT**
Note: We adjust period of subscriptions paid at the wrong rate

ORDER FORM	RSA	Namibia Botswana Swaziland	Elsewhere	Qty	Total Amount
1 NEW subscription 1 year Start with the _____ edition (new subs only)	R395	R700	R1330		R
2 RENEWAL 1 year When renewing, please provide subscription number: (top right hand on envelope label)	R395	R700	R1330		R
3 GIFT subscription 1 year	R395	R700	R1330		R
4 BINDER: each	R180	POR	POR		R

Total amount due for items ordered: R

NB: CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO MAGNUM

I enclose my cheque bank draft

Please debit my Master card Visa card

Card no: _____

Expiry date: _____ CVV No: _____

IMPORTANT: We cannot process your subscription without the expiry date of your credit card

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Email: subscriptions@manmagnum.co.za

Fax: 086-520-3711 Postal: Magnum Subscriptions
PO Box 35204 Northway 4065, South Africa

MASSIVE REDUCTION - NOT TO BE MISSED

RIFLES	RIFLES
MOSSBERG 464 LEVER ACTION .22LR R 8 995	SABATTI ROVER TACTICAL .308WIN R19 500
MOSSBERG 802 BOLT ACTION .22LR R 3 995	BROWNING A-BOLT II .30-06SPRG R 6 995
ARMSCOR M14P BOLT ACTION .22LR R 3 995	SAUER 202 CLASSIC .30-06SPRG R27 995
CZ 455 AMERICAN .22LR R 7 995	CZ 550 EBONY EDITION .30-06SPRG R16 995
HOWA 1500 STD BOLT ACTION .22-250REM R 7 995	CZ 550 PREDATOR .30-06SPRG R11 500
STEYR PRO HUNTER .25-06REM R12 995	STEYR PRO HUNTER .30-06SPRG R12 500
TIKKA T3 SUPER VARMINT .25-06REM R16 995	WINCHESTER 70 ULTIMATE SHADOW .30-06SPRG R11 995
WINCHESTER ULTIMATE SHADOW .243WIN R11 500	WINCHESTER EXTREME WEATHER .30-06SPRG R15 000
REMINGTON 783 SYNTHETIC STOCK .270WIN R 7 995	TIKKA T3 HUNTER WOOD STOCK .30-06SPRG R13 995
WINCHESTER ULTIMATE SHADOW .270WIN R11 500	WINCHESTER MOD 70 ALASKAN .338WM R13 995
HOWA HB STAINLESS STEEL .300WM R 9 995	
SAKO A7 TEC RANGE .300WM R19 995	
SABATTI STR TACTICAL .300WM R35 000	
KIMBER M96 S/STEEL .308WIN R 7 500	
WINCHESTER COYOTE LIGHT .308WIN R15 000	

53 HUNTER ST
DURBAN
Tel: 031 337 6424
info@kingsfirearms.co.za

KINGS
EST. 1873

22 WINSTON RD
PIETERMARITZBURG
Tel: 033 342 0137

VECTOR OPTICS PREMIUM SCOPES

Excellent Optical Performance. Satisfying Perfectionists!
Challenging the World's Best Brands with Fair Price

- German optical system
- Clear Schott glass lenses
- 30 mm Monotube
- Long eye relief (100 mm)
- Adjustment 1/8" & 1/16" mil
- Side focus
- Glass mil-dot reticle
- RED illuminated
- Honeycomb sun shield
- FREE Picatinny mounts

SCOPE MOUNTS

Premium-quality, Stress-free Mounting
Ultimate Repeatable Accuracy & Reliability

- Quick-detachable Pivot Mounts
- Quick-detachable Picatinny rings with lever with perfect repeatable zero
- Mounts for Sako Tikka, Blaser R8 / R95, Docter sights and sporting rifles
- Vector rings from R500

Model	Price
PARAGON - German Style: 1.2-6x24mm	R5 900.00
2-10x50mm	R7 500.00
3-15x50mm	R8 500.00
4-20x50mm	R9 900.00
6-30x56mm	R9 600.00
PACER - Air Rifle & .22: 3-9x40 x 1"	R 990.00
GRIZZLY - Bos & Vlakke: 2.5-10x56mm	R3 750.00
3-12x56mm	R3 900.00
FORESTER - Value For Money: 2-10x40mm	R3 900.00
3-15x50mm	R4 500.00
REAPER - Multi-coated III: 6-24x50mm	R4 600.00
6-24x50mm	R4 950.00
SENTINEL - Multi-coated III: 6-24x50mm	R4 950.00
TAURUS - 6xZoom Focus III: 3-30x56FFP	R8 900.00

www.eaw.de/en/service/online-catalogue.html

NORTHERN CAPE PH SCHOOL

7-month specialist PH course - Book now for 2019!

- Ideal for a gap year after matric.
- Students will hunt, guide and fish for 7 months.
- Students will each hunt a kudu, oryx, blesbuck, mountain reedbuck, blue wildebeest, red hartebeest, springbuck and warthog.

Students will be market-ready after course - ready for employment.

For more information, call Mynhard: 083 262 1891 or email: mhhs@mweb.co.za



www.ncph.co.za

PLAINS GAME & BIRD HUNTS 2018 (0704):

Specialising in corporate groups, father & son & families. Private owned concessions country-wide. Quality self-catering accommodation. 082-419-7486, todd@safaribound.co.za / www.guideservices.co.za

ARMTEC SYNTHETIC STOCKS

PO Box 20481 Noordbrug 2522 (Potch)
Chris 082 853 7134, Office (Daleen) 083 531 5860
fax 0866 284 893 • www.armtec.co.za



Manufactured from multi-layered fibreglass cloth, laminated under pressure and filled with hi-tech composite material. Finished in non-slip, chip resistant epoxy coating. Available for Lee-Enfield, P14 and Brno.
Custom built stocks for all other makes

MAN MAGNUM

FOR HUNTERS & SHOOTERS

Continued from page 66 ▶



Dragon Gun Mystery

Some time ago a muzzle-loading friend sent me pictures of a gun the likes of which I had never seen. As the unusual piece was in a different town, it took me six months to finally make a special trip to view it. And I am so glad I did – this piece is truly something special.

Magnum may be the first magazine to publish pictures of this mysterious gun – possibly the only one in existence. No one has any idea who made the gun, what country it came from or for what purpose it was made. All we know is that it was found long ago at the bottom of a rubbish dump.

The most striking feature of the gun is the butt; carved in the shape of a snarling dragon's head. Out of its open jaws, lined with real teeth, possibly from a dog, protrudes a long carved black tongue. The beast's red glowing eyes appear to be semi-precious stones. The head and body are covered with glinting scales made from mother of pearl, studded with what looks like silver nails and wire scroll work. The firing mechanism is a standard flintlock type, except the cock and side plate have a bold floral design of a plant I do not recognise. The brass trigger guard and finial are also beautifully chiselled with a design I have not seen before.

On the left side a brass dragon holds the screws that secure the lock plate. The gun is fully stocked and this too is adorned with mother of pearl scales and silver nails along the dark, unidentifiable wood. Brass thimbles hold the brass-tipped ramrod under the 19-inch barrel which has a flared muzzle measuring 1¼ inches at the mouth. The overall length of the gun is about 38 inches.

My guess is that this gun was made for ceremonial or religious purposes and I feel that the creature represented is a sea monster, not a dragon – maybe Javanese. None of my many gun books has revealed its secret and I am hoping a reader somewhere in the world can tell us more about this truly intriguing one-of-a-kind piece. – **Robin Barkes**

Grandfather Guns

In response to my article on older shotguns (Sept 2018 edition) in which I mentioned inheriting a beautifully slim, lightweight Charles Boswell side-lever 16-bore double passed down through generations in my family, Brian Hoare of the Western Cape sent in this photo of his own side-lever Charles Boswell 12-bore hammer gun. Notice its elegant round action, graceful hammers and Damascus steel barrels. Brian has been using this gun for years to compete in the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting, having fired literally hundreds of Eley 2½-inch 21 gram factory-loads through it.

Geoffrey Boothroyd's book, *Shotguns and Gunsmiths, The Vintage Years*, has a photo of a hammerless, side-lever, round-action 16-bore gun made by Dickson of Edinburgh, Scotland, which is quite the slimmest and most elegant I have yet seen. Dickson can be credited with making famous the round-action shotguns. Sadly, the famous firm of John Dickson & Son recently closed their Frederick Street shop after 211 years of gun-making in Edinburgh – 80 of these years spent at this shop. The firm will continue making guns at the

KNIFEMAKERS! (0103)

One stop shop for all your knifemaking machines, tools and supplies. 067-077-2318 / admin@kmts.co.za, 067-078-0420 / sales@kmts.co.za, 071-382-3127 / laser@kmts.co.za or www.KMTs.co.za

GUN DOG - BLOOD SPOOR - PROTECTION (0703):

Specialising in gun dog training. Trailing - tracking blood spoor. Protection dogs for families. Program includes hands-on field training with training facility owner Todd Lutman 082-419-7486, todd@safaribound.co.za

THE PERFECT BULLET PULLER (0702):

Professional, quick and easy. No damage, no waste. Mauritz 084-461-3421 (012). www.perfectbulletpuller.co.za

www.manmagnum.com

Dunkeld factory, but will no longer have a retail presence.

We read so much of the English gun-makers that few realise just how competitive the Scottish gun-makers were, with names like Alexander Henry, John Dickson, James MacNaughton, Daniel Fraser and Thomas Mortimer making guns every bit as fine as those of the famous London firms. And not just shotguns – they made rifles of all types. Alexander Henry could be described as the father of the falling block action, though the name Farquharson became synonymous with this design (court case records indicate a strong possibility that Farquharson stole Henry's design). Scottish makers built fine large-bore double rifles for hunting African big game (MacNaughton even built a .600 Nitro Express).

Strangely, the Irish have not stood out as a nation of gun-makers – though there is fine shooting to be had on the Emerald Isle. I have seen but one Irish-made shotgun in all my days – and it was quite a surprise (though perhaps it shouldn't have been). We've all heard the Paddy jokes, and how the Irish seem to get everything 'arse-about-face' as the old saying went. Well, my late friend, Len Dawson of Pietermaritz-



burg (originally Rhodesia) showed me his double 12-bore shotgun, made in Ireland, and I kid you not, the right barrel was the choke barrel and the left was the spread barrel, and the front trigger fired the left barrel and the back trigger fired the right barrel!

Incidentally, Brian Hoare also pointed out that, in the photo on page 24 of the "Grandfather Guns" article, the firing-pin return springs of the Cogswell & Harrison illustrated, have

collapsed, leaving the pins protruding through the standing breech-face, placing them in danger of being sheared by the extractors on closing the gun. He says an easy fix for this is to remove the nut (which should be ¼-inch) that keeps the firing pins in, and remove the broken/collapsed springs from inside. New springs can be made from the return spring inside a ballpoint pen, cut to the correct length. – **Gregor Woods**

Magnum's Facebook Page

When the first issue of *Magnum* hit the shelves in May 1976, no one could have predicted that in a few short decades, the world of entertainment, news and the printed media would see the biggest revolution in human existence – the digital age. *Magnum* is no exception, and subscriptions have been available in digital format for a number of years. This is a fast-growing trend whereby *Magnum's* traditional readership is being joined by a new generation of hunters who prefer advanced technology and who are switching over to online content – even archiving their favourite magazine on a hard drive instead of in a brown binder. The digital age also brought us Facebook where *Magnum's* page has had a steady and

loyal following since 2015.

Our Facebook page is used to update readers on: the content of upcoming issues, publication dates, special features and offers, competitions, reader polls, exciting news and more.

To stay updated, Like and Follow our Facebook page and be the first to know. Visit www.facebook.com/ManMagnum or simply search "Man Magnum" on Facebook to find us. And then, importantly, invite your friends to Like and Follow us as well!

– Francois van Emmenes



190 Years of Eley

Eley Hawk, Europe's oldest existing manufacturer of shotgun cartridges, is celebrating 190 years of developing "the most reliable, safe and innovative products for shooters and hunters". This British company was founded in 1828 by the Eley brothers, William and Charles, and has long earned a reputation as an



industry pioneer. They opened their first factory in 1830, manufacturing wire cartridges for muzzle-loading shotguns patented in France by Joshua Jenour. The wire cartridge consisted of a cylindrical paper tube within which was a fine copper wire basket containing shot with a wad on top. This invention was a major step

toward the self-contained cartridge as we know it today.

To celebrate the anniversary, the company has launched its new range of clay target cartridges: Titanium and Titanium Strike – the first ever produced by a British manufacturer using nickel-coated lead shot.

The combination of Eley Hawk's pioneering developments and ever-advancing manufacturing methods has grown the company from its early British roots to become a global player in the industry, currently selling close to 100 million shot cartridges a year to over 40 countries, including Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Australia and South Africa. – **Morgan Haselau**



Sabatti Stock

In the September 2018 edition we reported that the bolt of the Sabatti Mk2 rifle we tested could not be pulled back far enough to pick up a round with the cheek-piece in a specific position. This rifle was one of the very first Mk2s imported and, unlike the Mk1, these are all built on a long action, irrespective of calibre. Sabatti has notified us that this problem has now been rectified and all new rifles will have a modified stock to accommodate the long bolt. – **Phillip Hayes**

MAN MAGNUM

PEOPLE



Meet Our Contributors: David Schoeman

David has recollections of being on hunts with his father from the age of three or so, and he shot his first impala ram at the age of eight close to the town of Sentrum in Limpopo. His favourite animal to hunt is the blue wildebeest as he has always been

amused by their playful nature and curiosity. This coupled with their toughness and the challenge they provide, ensures that they always make his list of prospective quarry. A few years ago he had the opportunity to hunt a problem elephant in Zimbabwe which ranks top of his all-time best hunts. He prefers to hunt in bushveld conditions and has fond memories of the Limpopo Valley. His favourite calibre is the formidable .375H&H. David's personal outlook and hunting motto is that; "At the end of the hunt, the real trophy lies in the experience".

More About Our Subscribers: Gerhard Holtshausen

Gerhard lives in Mpumalanga and has been a *Magnum* subscriber since 1995. His favourite rifle is his .308 Brno deluxe that his father bought in his birth year (1973) and nicknamed "Stoffel". Stoffel was officially handed to him when he was about 12 years old. Now he only has to point in the direction of game and Stoffel will do the rest. He says that his .308 is like a Land Cruiser bakkie, you can take it anywhere and you will never be disappointed. He also shoots with a Brno .375H&H, and experiments a lot in terms of bullet weight, velocity, etc. He currently hunts with 235gr Claw bonded bullets that produce very good results.





THE
**ULTIMATE
SNIPER**
CHALLENGE

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK AND OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL TO CATCH ALL THE ACTION AND SEE WHO WILL WIN THE **ULTIMATE SNIPER CHALLENGE!**

 @SNIPER_AFRICA
 SNIPER AFRICA
 SNIPER AFRICA

OCTOBER 2018

WHO WILL TAKE THE TITLE? ALL SKILL, NO LUCK



HERE ARE YOUR TOP 6



Dinner is out there

you just have to find him.



RAZOR GEN II
5-20 x 50



VIPER
6.5-20 x 50



DIAMONDBACK HP
4-16 x 42



CROSSFIRE II
6-24 x 50 A0

For your closest dealer, please call 0861-005903. Proudly distributed in Southern Africa by Whylo Distributors