



EXECUTIVE UPDATE March - April 2024

- **SIX MONTHS IN FOR THE CURRENT EXEC TERM:**

Many thanks to those clubs that have held successful trials to date, and those trialists who have attended and participated. Also, a massive thanks to those “behind the scenes” helpers who turn up time after time to steward, operate throwers, fulfil secretarial tasks etc...

Most clubs are now on top the post-trial information that is required by Bill (NZGTA FT Secretary) for his record keeping and on the whole the systems are working well. Reminder that Championship results need to be with the NZGTA Field Trial Secretary within 21 days of the trial.

The Executive has remained busy:

- 1) Attending to re-writing the Constitution to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This is on-going, the first draft has been formatted but is not quite ready to be sent out to clubs and members for review.
- 2) Re-formatting the Regulations. These are now in A4 format and have been uploaded onto the NZGTA Website. Improvements include being able to click onto the subject as listed in the index and go straight to that site within the document. Also, a click onto “Return to Contents” at the bottom of each page to return to the index. There is a change register located at the back of the document.
- 3) Liaising with Firearms Safety Authority (FSA) to develop a National Firearms Policy for our sport. The policy for all simulated field trials that use blank shots only is in its final stages and, subject to review at the next Executive meeting, will be reviewed by FSA. We will circulate to clubs at that point and welcome constructive feedback.

The good news is that, despite rumours that have been circulating to the contrary, our simulated blank shot trials do not fit the profile that requires those hosting clubs to register as Shooting Clubs.

The Executive is now turning its attention to our Live Game trials and will be in touch with clubs hosting those events to ensure that we develop a policy that fully complies with current legislative requirements.

- 4) Amendment to Reg Admin 2. This regulation has been amended to clarify the number of events that can be hosted at any one New Zealand Championship. The regulation now reads:

New Zealand Championship Field Trials:

One such meeting shall be allowed per year and will be held alternatively in the North and the South Islands. Trials at this will include a **minimum** of an All Breeds, Retriever, Pointer & Setter and Spaniel Championship Field Trial, **with a maximum of two different championship disciplines per above mentioned groups.**

- 5) Amendment to Reg Gen 11. Although this amendment has been well publicised with detailed reasons, there is still negativity being directed by a small group of people towards the Executive about this change. The Executive would like to remind members that this change was made to ensure that all championship trials are being judged to the same set of regulations. As it stood, some clubs were hosting trials that omitted some tests required under our regulations, while other clubs hosting those same events were testing for all regulations. This caused a problem for the Executive when called upon to approve some schedules. So, for the duration of this Executive term, we request that members respect the decision made by the Executive to resolve this administrative problem.
- 6) Talking of respect. Unfortunately, the Executive has recently been subjected to some correspondence that does not meet the standard that would be expected from a senior member of our organisation. The Executive welcome correspondence but request that members express themselves in a manner that could not be construed as bordering on abusive or threatening. Please remember that if you feel strongly about any aspect of your sport and want to make changes, there is a process whereby you can present a remit or recommendation for consideration and voting upon at the AGM.
- 7) Judging Forums.
We have been looking at the possibility of a Judging forum – where by a panel of Senior Judges is invited to answer questions from probationary judges and competitors. We would hold this online. Can we please have feedback on the interest in doing this.

- 8) A note for clubs, judges and competitors -
Reg Ret 13 “In all retrieve trials dead game shall be used.”
This means competitors should not encounter live pigeons being released on any heel retrieve trials. Retriever walk-up on the other hand specifies that live birds can be used as distractions.

• **CONGRATULATIONS – NEW JUDGING APPOINTMENTS**

New Star Judges

Don Mackay - Pointer and Setter ABRFF and Spaniel SRFF

Sue Sinclair - Retriever, ABHR and Spaniel Water.

Neil Stewart - All Breeds (ABRFF) and Spaniel (SRFF)

David Wilson - Retriever, ABHR and Spaniel Water.

Helen Sansome – Pointer Setter Brace (Panel A and Star) and Natural Game (Panel A)

• **FEEDBACK**

- 1) The amendment to Reg Gen 11 acknowledged that some clubs preferred to use alternative blank shot firing devices. It should go without saying that those devices must be fit for purpose so that all regulations can be complied with. Regardless of the device being used the regulation is quite clear:
“In all trial's shots shall be fired in an upright position from the shoulder in a realistic hunting-like manner in the interest of gun safety”

The spirit and intent are very clear.

• **HEELING STICKS**

The Executive recently put out a notice regarding bringing these devices onto the trial grounds, and to the trial itself. The purpose of the notice was to advise clubs that they can deal with this problem on the day.

We advise that clubs develop their own policy to deal with devices and training aids that they do not want to be brought on to the trial grounds and publicise this in the particulars on their schedule. In the long term a recommendation can be put forward to the 2024 AGM to add Heeling Sticks to those items that are banned under Reg Gen 9.

- **Complaint to NZKC**

It seems to be fairly common knowledge around the traps that complaint was put to the NZKC regarding the Exec, and our handling of a specific matter. We have not commented on it thus far as the issue is following through a process. This issue has been ongoing since October 2023 in various stages.

Thursday 4th April we received the report back from the NZKC Disciplinary Chair. This report is a recommendation to the NZKC Exec committee so we consider the decisions are not yet signed off, and so are not sharing them publicly.

- **GAME BIRD SEASON**

The Executive would like to wish everyone a safe hunting season. For many this is why we spend so much time training our dogs for gundog trials in the off-season. The difference a well-trained gundog makes to a day's hunting cannot be under-estimated. In fact, for many enthusiasts excellent dog work is as important as the shooting itself. Our organisation makes a significant contribution to enhancing the social license of our gamebird hunting community.

Good luck to all participants. Remember to post your hunting photos to the Facebook page.