

ANNUAL MEETING 2008

I regret that I have to apologise for the lack of proper records. The robbers who beset me left our entire house in total chaos. Those very kind neighbours who cleaned up the next morning told me that the office floor was completely covered in paper – most of my personal records and many of the APHA papers were strewn everywhere, many of them totally illegible or destroyed. I have at last been able to sort some of those remaining.

Therefore the reports of the Executive Committee meetings and those of the AGM are incomplete and I ask that those who attended both meetings please correct the inaccuracies and advise the new Executive Officer, Joe Prather Prather@AfricanPHA.org of any matters omitted.

Because I no longer have complete accurate records I am running both meetings together using my recollections and the remaining incomplete records.

Adam Hill.
Former Executive Officer

A RECORD OF THE 14TH. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY JANUARY 22ND. 2008 IN THE ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT, RENO, NV.

Present.

Executive Vice President	M. Gerard Pasanisi.. Also representing the President
Secretary General	Mr. Robin A. Hurt
First Vice President	Mr. Douglas Scandrol
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Charles Williams,
Executive Committee Member	Mr. John Sharp,
“ “ “	Mr. Jason Roussos,
“ “ “	Mr. Ian Batchelor,
‘ ‘ ‘	M. Laurent Garcia

Members.

Mr. Nassos Roussos,	Mr. Michael Angekids
Mr. Dirk De Bod	Mr. Craig Doria
Mr. Mike Kibble,	M. Eric Pasanisi
Mr. Gavin Rabinovitch	Mr. Micheal G. Bartlett
Mr. Andre Roux	Mr. Luke Blackbeard
Mr. Cliff Walker	Mr. Bert Klineburger
Mr. David Lincoln	

Honorary Members

Mr. John J. Jackson III, Mrs. Brooke Chilvers Lubin, Mr. J.M. Newell, Mr. Richard Elliot

Apologies.

The President	Monsieur le President Valery Giscard D;Estaing
Executive Committee Member	Sr. Tony Sanchez Arino
Mr. Coenraad Vermaak	Mr. Derek Hurt,
Mr. Gordon Church,	Mr. Andrew Wilkinson
M. Rudy Lubin. .	
Honorary Member Mr. Joseph Prather	

By Invitation:

Ms: Almut Kronsbein, Secretary General, Namibian Professional Hunters Association.

Mr Peter Butland President, Professional Hunters Association of South Africa

In Attendance.

Mr. Adam Hill, Executive Officer A.P.H.A..

Deceased.

We regret to announce the death of our Founder Honorary Member **M. Marc Pechenart** on January 2nd. 2008. M. Pechenart was a renowned hunter, particularly of elephant with a large number of 100 pounders to his credit. Notwithstanding his age he undertook his last hunt in Zambia in 2006. M.Pechenart was a keen Honorary Member of the A.P.H.A. who in 2005 presented a rifle for auction at that year's dinner.

The A.P.H.A. has sent the Association's condolences to his widow.

The sudden death of **Mr. Rolf Rohwer** on Friday January 25th.2008 in his hotel room in Reno shocked all members. The A.P.H.A sends its most sincere condolences to his widow, Carol.

Mr. Rohwer was an extremely experienced hunter who insisted on his clients hunting ethically. Within the last three years he was badly mauled by a lion but, as soon as he had recovered he resumed hunting. Approximately 18 months ago he was badly gored by a buffalo that caused severe damage to one of his legs. He eventually recovered from that and was hunting again I 2007.

VERBATIM MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF A.P.H.A

Dear Friends and Professional Hunters,

This year, again I am extremely sorry to be deprived of the pleasure to meet you and take part in your deliberations.

Indeed, I have commitments in France and Europe concerning the carrying out of the ratification procedure of the Treaty of Lisbon..

Nevertheless I keep on paying great attention to the course of the problems affecting the protection of Big Game Hunting in Africa.

I intervened during the negotiations of the CITES to take care that fair and sustainable solutions will be adopted, and I know that yourselves act with a view to preserve Ethics and Traditions in Big Game Hunting, allowing it to remain a high level sport , closely bound with life and Wildlife conservation

I have requested Mr. Gerard Pasanisi to keep me informed of the conclusions of your deliberations, and I pledge my word on my Honour as a Hunter , to take part in your General Assembly next year.

Sincerely and friendly yours,

V. Giscard d'Estaing.

Accounts.

The Honorary Treasurer , Mr. Charles Williams circulated an abbreviated version of the Annual Accounts for 2007. A complete account was not possible because the Stanbic Bank, Arusha was unable to produce an accurate Statement of Account _for the year ending 31st, December 2007. As a result the Arusha Auditors could not produce an audited account for the year.

Accurate Bank Statements have since been obtained.

Associate Organizations

The Executive Vice President welcomed Ms. Almut Kronsbein of NAPHA and Mr. Peter Butland of PHASA and proposed that their respective organizations should be granted Association Membership of the A.P.H.A. The proposal was seconded by Mr. Robin Hurt and passed unanimously by the meeting.

Weatherby Award Committee

The meeting expressed A.P.H.A.'s profound thanks to the Committee of the Weatherby Award for agreeing to include our three items for auction amongst those at their annual dinner.

A.P.H.A. Lapel Pins

M. Laurent Garcia presented the Association with a large number of very high quality lapel pins bearing the Association logo. These are for sale to members to raise funds for the Association. The meeting expressed it's appreciation to M. Garcia.

Qualification for Membership

The Executive Committee resolved that to qualify for Membership two years will be the sufficient for an applicant to have held a Full Professional Hunter's license that includes all dangerous game. In addition the applicant must have had at least two years as an apprentice. The previous category of Probationary Members was eliminated.

Attendance at Meetings

In view of the very poor attendance at the 2008 AGM it was resolved that members must attend a minimum of at least one AGM every three years. Those who failed to do so would have their membership of the Association reviewed – possibly with the result that their membership would be terminated.

Retirement

The Executive Officer, Mr. Adam Hill, announced his intention to retire at the end of the SCI Convention to this effect he tendered his resignation to the Executive Committee. The resignation was accepted.

Appointment of a New Executive Officer

Upon Mr. Hill's announcement the post was immediately offered to Honorary Member Mr. Joseph Prather who kindly accepted the post and was appointed by the Executive Committee with alacrity. The meeting welcomed Mr. Prather's appointment with applause.

Hunting Ethics

These were debated at length. Especially those concerning hunting with dogs and hunting at night using artificial lights listening devices and similar artificial aids.

The following points were finally resolved.

- Ethical is very much the individuals who within themselves know what is correct and that which counts as fair chase.
- The Association would find it difficult to sensor a member for using a method of hunting that is permitted by relevant Government regulations. For example hunting bongo with dogs is permitted in C.A.R.

- The use of artificial lights and other similar aids is acceptable only for the collection of problem animals if the practice is allowed by the Government authorities.
- Hunting leopards with packs of hounds was totally condemned.
- Mr. Joe Prather had drawn up a re-wording of the list of ethics resolved at the AGM in Las Vegas in 2001. This document was circulated to the meeting. It was suggested that it should form the basis of further debate at the next AGM.

Summaries of points of view on hunting ethics that were expressed in writing by members prior to the AGM are as follows:

Mr. Robin A. Hurt: Extracts Quoted verbatim: “My concern is very simple – we have many members in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Cameroon, and CAR who hunt either bongo or leopard with dogs. They will have arguments to justify this. It is very difficult for us to be totally negative on this subject when it affects so many who operate in countries who allow it by law.

Whilst on this subject there needs to be discussion on the size of enclosed hunting areas. My own feeling is that this should be a minimum of 5000 Hectares(12000 acres) In Namibia no hunting is allowed on less than 2000Hectares, which is a good rule.”

(This latter subject was not raised at the meeting).

Mr. Fred Duckworth:_A Brief_Summary. (Unfortunately Mr. Duckworth’s letter was amongst those destroyed)

- Hunting bongo with dogs is an art.
- From a conservation point of view it is the method that must be used. The sex and suitability as a trophy of a bayed bongo can be correctly determined, thus avoiding shooting females or unsuitable trophies when only a “red animal” is the only thing seen when hunting without dogs.
- For the aforesaid reason the practice is encouraged by a conservation organization in CAR.

Sr. Tony Sanchez Arino_Extracts quoted Verbatim. “Hunting With Artificial Lights. We all know that hunting with artificial lights is 100% unethical so, I do not understand the point to discuss it, even if in some countries it is legal. It is not a question of legal or illegal according to the law, it is a matter of principals, ethics, morals and the honor of a hunter. Artificial lights should ONLY be employed when dealing with real problem animals but, in that case the hunt will be done by the corresponding Game Department and NOT by independent professional hunters with clients, otherwise there is a risk that the number of referred “problem animals” would be increased by dozens.

Further regarding hunting bongo with dogs, there is not art at all to hunt bongo with dogs, only a comfortable and sure way to shoot an animal surrounded by a lot of ferocious dogs, the most unethical and filthy act to be done by a so called professional hunter.

- the only way to hunt bongo is by tracking, tracking, tracking - - - -

“After 56 solid years as a professional hunter covering nearly the whole of Africa - - -

I have personally shot with my clients 53 bongo, plus 8 by myself which makes a total of 61 heads. I must confess that to know the “art of bongo hunting with dogs”. I’ve shot two of them with the help of dogs in Southern Cameroon. The first was to see for myself the

famous art, and the second one to re-confirm to myself that this way of hunting was the most unethical miserable and discredit trick, to murder a poor animal in cold blood.”

Mrs. Brooke Chilvers Lubin read M.Lubin’s views to the meeting.

“Nearly all my bongo hunting since 1986 in the CAR has been without dogs. In fact I have a sort of a reputation for it - and with a success rate of under 50%. I have been lucky enough to have had clients with both skill and luck or my so called “fairchase” success rate on bongo would surely have been even less.

The safaris that I did in Southwest CAR and Aouk-Sangawere were with dogs and were very successful. The season that I did in Cameroon four years ago was also with dogs and very successful.

In my limited experience of bongo hunting with dogs the dogs served only to put the animal at bay which allowed the PH to identify whether the animal was male or female and whether it is a worthy trophy and if his client can shoot it correctly.

Although I do not hunt with dogs at present I cannot say that I would not. Quite simply dogs do not thrive in our hunting areas due to the Tse-Tse flies.

I am not against hunting bongo with dogs as it is equally, if not more sporting, than many other hunting methods used in Africa that do not seem to upset anyone. I have had clients who tell me without flinching about hunting their lion from a blind in a tree at night with a light at a waterhole.

Is it really more sporting to shoot a sitatunga from a boat, or a lion or leopard over a bait, or any animal because we have walked 300 metres from a vehicle ? “

Mr. Gordon Church.

- No radios should be used by observers in different locations. However, I am not against the use of radios to report the presence of an animal in a certain area.
- I do not believe that dogs should be used for hunting. However, I am unable to quote professionally in cases such as bongo and sitatunga in Central and West Africa. I am against the use of dogs in hunting leopard – period.
- Without exception no animal should be hunted during the hours of darkness regardless of the moon or otherwise. (Here a comment remembered from the late M. Marc Pechenart is relevant – “The night belongs to the animals.”).
- Without exception no animal should be hunted using artificial lighting, night vision glasses or listening devices.
- In my opinion 20,000 acres is an acceptable area in which to hunt animals in an enclosure.

Mr. Tony Seth Smith_ (Summarised from memory – his letter was amongst those destroyed)

- Absolutely NO hunting bongo with dogs. The fact that they are an extremely difficult animal to hunt is that which makes the bongo such a prized trophy. Hunting with dogs making up to 100% success rate immediately debases the value of the trophy. If a client is a true hunter and he doesn’t take his bongo there is every chance that he will return for another safari.
- Absolutely NO to any form of artificial lights or similar devices for any form of collecting any animal.

It is regretted that letters on the subject were amongst those lost and destroyed during the robbery of my house. These were submitted by the following members :- Mr. A. M. D. (Tony) Seth Smith, Mr. Coenraad Vermaak, Honorary Member Mr. Christopher Kinsey, Honorary Member Dr. Thomas Newcombe and Mr. John Sharp.

In a separate letter Mr. Coenraad Vermaak expressed grave concern about the situation with the licensing of hunting rhino in South Africa. Recently numbers of licenses have been issued by the South African authorities to so called hunters from the Far East – particularly South Korea. These Eastern hunters pay enormous sums for a rhino license, far in excess of the money paid by safari hunters. These animals are shot for the purpose of collecting “medicine” that is sold in for even bigger money in the Far East. Mr. Vermaak’s concern is that the RSA authorities will be so attracted to these vast sums of money that the rhino population will once again be seriously threatened. He also stated that of course such activities and the money paid put the cost of rhino hunting beyond the purse of many genuine safari hunters.

He was also very perturbed by the so called dart hunting of rhino in South Africa. It is a fact that a number of rhino have been frequently darted by different hunters; all of whom of course pose and measure the same rhino that was only recently darted by a different hunter. This frequent harassment of the animals is seriously bad to their health. He called for some action to be taken for considerably stricter control of this form of “hunting”- even perhaps a complete ban on the practice.

In reply Mr. Peter Butland the President of PHASA told the meeting that both of these concerns were being treated extremely seriously by PHASA who were in frequent contact with the relevant authorities. He believed that solutions would be found and had to be found, because of the serious threat to the rhino population that had only recently been reestablished.

Adam Hill

Former Executive Officer.