

A NEWS LETTER  
TO ALL MEMBERS AND HONORARY MEMBERS

From Adam Hill  
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to start this letter with my most profound apologies for the delay in its issue. Since the SCI Convention in Reno there have been a number of occurrences that have delayed its production. The latest being a delay of two months subsequent to my being seriously attacked in my home by robbers. Luckily and due to the fantastic neighbours that I have – including Life Member Andre and his wife Lesley De Kock - I am now recovering. My computer has also recovered having had the monitor stolen and the main computer thrown on the floor – computers and concrete floors are incompatible. A great number of documents were strewn all over the floor, many of them completely ruined and others lost.

On the night of the attack thankfully my wife Elisabeth was on her way between London and Nairobi. I don't like to imagine just how appalling it would have been had she been here.

Elisabeth and I are extremely grateful and deeply moved by the many messages of sympathy and concern that we have received from Members and Honorary Members of the APHA. Thank you all very much: your messages are greatly appreciated. I am writing to you all individually as I become better re-organised.

I don't believe that I will ever see my .470 Gibbs and Rigby 375 H&H Mag. ever again. They were stolen together with a lot of other kit during the raid. However, I expect that elephant poachers somewhere in Africa will enjoy them – probably better than gabores. So if any of you come across an up-market poacher with some rather nice rifles don't be too surprised. The police recovered the sad remains of my 12 bore Gibbs. The barrels had been cut off at about 10" from the breach and the stock just behind the hand piece. The charmers had used it to murder a perfectly innocent bystander a week after my incident.

### **Retirement**

It was with very mixed feelings that I retired as Executive Officer – a hard decision. I have been very honoured to hold the position since 1999 and to have participated in the development of the Association. I hope that I

contributed towards that development. Not only that but it has been a very great pleasure to have met and become friends with so many of the members and Honorary Members of A.P.H.A. who hunt all over Africa and so many of whom have homes scattered all over the world. Thank you all very much for your help and support. I have very much enjoyed my time with A.P.H.A.

I am extremely grateful for the very generous present that I was given to mark my retirement. This is one of Patrick Mavros' silver bull elephants and a calf of similar breeding. Thank you very much A.P.H.A they come to join my small family of silver elephants wandering across the dining room table.

### **The New Executive Officer A.P.H.A.**

It is an immense step forward for the Association that my successor Joe Prather has taken over the reins. Joe will be remembered by many as the President of his very well known Gun Maker company, Griffin & Howe. He is a safari hunter of considerable experience. His first safari was in Kenya guided by Dougie Collins and Freddy Seed – and that goes back a long way in time – and he still continues to hunt Africa.

Joe was appointed an Honorary member of APHA in 2006 for services rendered to the Association. His enthusiasm for the Association and for all that it stands for is remarkable. Without his unending help prior to the last SCI Convention we would have been unable to hold our Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner.

Although the APHA is an association for Professional Hunters who operate in Africa inevitably the majority of administration and operations have to occur in the United States: our principal currency is the USD and our (so far) only annual meeting has to happen over the SCI Convention. Therefore it is appropriate that the Executive Officer should be an American, resident in the United States. But that is a detail; of the utmost importance is Joe's enthusiasm for all that APHA stands for, his enormous commercial experience in the world of Safari Hunting his reputation and influence throughout our field, including SCI and the Dallas Safaris Club and his unflagging energy in the interests of the APHA.

I know that from now onwards the Association will take its rightful place in the Safari Hunting world and that influence will be as considerable as its founders intended.

A very warm welcome to Mr. Joe Prather; from now on the APHA will progress by leaps and bounds.

THE ANNUAL DINNER this year was held in the Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno. It was probably the most successful one that we have held. A total of 169 tickets were sold: a record so far – there was barely enough room to fit the members and their guests. The venue, the food and the service were excellent – as was the company. But that we had had the same sort of attendance at the AGM.

## Membership

The following applications for membership were approved by the Executive Committee on January 21<sup>st</sup>. 2008.

Mr. Kia Uwe Denker. Professional Hunter for 25 years. Hunts Namibia  
 Ms. Natasha Ilum Berg. Professional Hunter for 8 years. Hunts Tanzania  
 Has hunted CAR – (bongo without dogs !).  
 Mr. Jasper (Josh) Petrett Professional Hunter for 6 “ “ Tanzania.  
 Runner-up Young Professional Hunter Award 2008.  
 Mr. Alistiar James Professional Hunter for 4 “ “ Tanzania &  
 Cameroon  
 Mr. John Chipman “ “ “ 6 “ “ Tanzania  
 Mr. Roger Hurt “ “ “ 2 “ “ Tanzania &  
 Namibia  
 Mr. Louise Steyn “ “ “ 2 “ “ Tanzania..

The Following were appointed as Honorary Members.

Mr. Patrick Mavros for Services and generous assistance to the A..P.H.A..  
 Mrs. Claire Howells for Services to the A.P.H.A.  
 Miss. Joanna Markham for Services to the A.P.H.A.

Special mention should be made of Ms. Natasha Ilum Berg. The Executive Committee was unanimous in their approval of her appointment as a member of the most experienced and elite association of Professional Hunters. Ms. Ilum Berg’s record as a extremely experienced and ethical hunter is renowned throughout the world of Professional Hunting in Tanzania. She makes a point of hunting lion by tracking on foot and avoids shooting them from blinds. She also makes a point of doing all her hunting on foot using the vehicle only to reach the hunting grounds. Ms. Ilum Berg has an enviable record of success for her clients. Welcome to a thoroughly competent and Professional Hunter.

## Donation

I wish to express the Association’s most grateful thanks to Honorary Member Mr.Ron Mannix for his very generous donation of \$5,000.00 that he presented at the dinner.

## Annual Awards

This year the two awards for trophies were judged using a system devised by Mr. Jason Roussos that has proved much more successful and equitable than in previous years.

The overall system or both dangerous and non-dangerous game is based on four criteria: marks awarded on the scales of 1 to 5.

- Method used on Hunt 1 Common Method – 5 challenging method
- Trophy Size 1 Representative - 5 exceptional.
- Specie 1 very common - 4 extremely rare
- Specific area 1 heavily hunted - 3 limited hunting.

Thereafter the dangerous game are all judged according to the method used on the hunt and then the same method of marking, 1 – 5, on the differing factors of the value of the trophy. For instance lion accentuates the mane and the age while buffalo are judged on the trophy size according the differing measurement systems of Rowland Ward and SCI..

Non-Dangerous Game are judged on very similar lines – again the emphasis being on the method used to hunt and the trophy size.

The final placing of the competitors is decided by totalling the marks awarded by the members of the Executive Committee to each trophy. The maximum number of points for each category is 17. Therefore should all nine of the Executive Committee be judging the maximum number of marks the perfect trophy could win would be 153. In 2008 only six of the Committee were able to judge the non-dangerous game because both John Sharp and Jason Roussos had entries in that category: thus the total points 119. Eight judged the dangerous game.

### **Results 2008**

JOHN SHARP AWARD FOR DANGEROUS GAME.. Total Possible Marks 117

WINNER LUKE BLACKBEARD LION 79 MARKS. Another amazing black maned lion from the Kalahari taken by Mr. Blackbeard.. It will remembered that in 2006 he came second the John Sharp award with an extremely large lion with a very remarkable black mane. With two awards in two years he certainly leads the field in this very important prize.

2<sup>nd</sup>.TIED MAURO FABRIS LION 70 MARKS

2<sup>nd</sup> TIED CLIFF WALKER LION 70 MARKS.

- Sig. Fabris collected his lion in the Selous Game Reserve, Tanzania. This was a extremely large animal with an excellent reddish mane taken by his incognito Spanish lady client from Madrid.
- Mr. Walker's client stopped the charge of this very good lion with an arrow in the chest. This lion is the SCI Number 1 with a bow. Mr. Walker is the winner of the Young Professional Hunter Award for 2008.

3<sup>rd</sup>. MAURO FABRIS. for an extremely large hippo with a very large normal tusk on one side while the other side was distorted into nearly a complete circle. Sig. Fabris and his client were suddenly confronted by this animal that immediately charged them. An incident that confirms the A.P.H.A.'s classification of hippo as the sixth of the Big Six dangerous animals.

THE ROBIN HURT AWARD FOR NON-DANGEROUS GAME. Total Possible.Marks 117.

1<sup>st</sup>. ANDRE ROUX Giant Eland 83 marks.. an immense animal taken on the Mballi River C.A.R. Horns 56 ¼." and 55 ¼." with 14 ½." Bases. The measurement up the front of the horn 14 ½." taken by client Mark Watts at 1 p.m. on the second to last day of his safari. Currently pending number two position in the SCI Record Book.

2<sup>nd</sup> JASON ROUSSOS Lesser Kudu 80 Marks. Yet another excellent Lesser Kudu taken by a client (Robert F. Pitts) of Mr. Roussos in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia . Length of horn 35" and 36 5/8." Circumference at bases 71/8." and 73/8". The Roussos family are certainly the Lesser Kudu collectors – Jason's father Nassos won this competition in 2005 with a 36" animal also from the Omo valley.

3<sup>rd</sup>. TIED MAURO FABRIS Bush Buck 65 Marks. Taken by client Marcos Berasconi in Block MT2 in the Selous Game reserve, Tanzania. Both horns 17' long and 6" around the base. Sig. Fabris is definitely well in amongst the leaders of this competition this year.

3<sup>rd</sup> TIED JOHN SHARP Greater Kudu 65 Marks . Taken by client Bob Clark in the Malangani area, Zimbabwe. Length of horns 61 ½." and 60" Circumference of horn at base 10 6/8." & 11".

#### THE OX OF OKAVANGO AWARD FOR CONSERVATION.

This prize was awarded to Keith Roberts on behalf of the Friedkin Conservation Fund (FCF) based in Arusha, Tanzania.

The FCF is one of the three very largest contributors to conservation in Tanzania. The project was founded by the fore sight and motivation of Life Member and Founder Member Mr. Thomas H. Friedkin who continues to be the driving force of this outstanding conservation project.

This organisation is extremely worthy of the award this year. Over the past 16 years. it has made an immense practical contribution to villages in and surrounding the hunting blocks of Tanzania Game Tracker Safaris. Not only has it contributed to building schools, dispensaries, and similar community development work but they have also founded sound extension services and relevant education programs for the local inhabitants.. For instance they have promoted the production of top quality honey in the miombo areas of Central and South Tanzania. This they have done by distributing simple but very effective hives in those areas and supporting this distribution with the appropriate education in their use.

Their contribution towards anti- poaching in conjunction with the Wildlife Division is on a very major scale including a spotter aircraft for that specific purpose.

Altogether the Friedkin Conservation Fund has made an extremely large and very successful investment in the conservation of wildlife and its ecosystem that is ultimately to the long term benefit of the local inhabitants. Not only has the project invested money in the areas but the most important factor is that their efforts and schemes have born outstanding results in the sector of anti-poaching and that of assistance to the local people

It is to be hoped that in the future there will be more entries in this extremely important competition. To date it becomes obvious that Tanzanian operators lead the field in demonstrating in a very practical manner that the safari hunting fraternity are the most important conservationists of African game and its ecosystems.

The award was conceived of and is generously sponsored by Honorary Member Mr. Fredrick P. Mannix who took the strange "ox" buffalo in Botswana after which the award is named.

#### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS AWARD.

This competition is sponsored by Mr. And Mrs. David Little of Kynamco, sporting ammunition makers in England and Swarovski, the well known optical manufacturers in Austria. The prize for the winner is \$250.00 and a pair of Swarovski 8 x 40 binoculars. The A.P.H.A. is most grateful to these two generous sponsors. The original concept of the award was that of Mr. David Little who so rightly believes that the younger members of the profession must be encouraged. The award is open to full members of the A.P.H.A. of 30 years and under.

This year the very worthy winner was Mr. Cliff Walker who also came third, tied, in the John Sharp Award for Dangerous Game. Mr. Walker lives in Bulawayo and hunts Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, Namibia and Cameroon with Swanepoel and Scandrol Safaris.

At 16 he started his apprenticeship with his father's company in the Zambezi Valley and gained his full Zimbabwe Professional Hunter's licence at 18. He is highly experienced.

During his career he has guided clients to 112 different species of African game. His clients have taken 50 elephants, 50 lions, over 150 buffalo and in 2007 a client collected Mr. Walker's 100<sup>th</sup> leopard.

In 2007 guided his clients to collect the following:

Number one lion with a bow, Number two elephant with a bow. Number two hyena (rifle). Number 9 sitatunga (rifle). 5 leopards (rifle). Five lion (4 rifle. 1 bow). 11 buffalo (rifle). Four crocodile (rifle). 2 elephant (1 rifle, 1 bow).

In 2007 Mr. Walker was appointed to the examining board of the Zimbabwe Professional Hunters Association.

The runner up was Mr. Jasper (Josh) Perrett who lives in Kenya and hunts Tanzania, he has held a Tanzanian Professional Hunters licence for six years. Although he has an enviable record of hunting in Tanzania he does not yet have Mr. Walker's experience. It is to be hoped that he will enter the competition again in the future.

THE HUNTERS CONSERVATION AWARD is presented by Mr. And Mrs. Robin A. Hurt to the Honorary Member who has contributed the most towards conservation of African game during the preceding year.

For a somewhat different reason this year it was presented to Mr. Joe Prather as an acknowledgement of his tremendous work on behalf of the Association. As stated earlier he was entirely responsible for the liaison with the authorities of SCI to persuade them to allow our auction of donations at the Weatherby Award Dinner. He also obtained the approval from SCI for our meetings and dinner to be held in the Atlantis Casino Resort. Not only was Mr. Prather working extremely hard with SCI but he was also in close contact with the Dallas Safari Club who might have been an alternative venue for the auction of the donated safaris and the very valuable rifle.

Unfortunately Mrs. Prather was unwell over the Convention so the award was presented to Mr. Prather in his absence.

It must be explained that SCI have insisted that no other organisation, other than the Weatherby Award Dinner, may raise money by any means in Reno over the Convention. They also have priority of use for their own purposes of all the leading hotels in the city. Their permission must be sought before the venue for any functions is approved.

### **Fund Raising**

The A. P. H. A. is very grateful to the Committee of the Weatherby Award for so kindly including our three items for auction amongst those of theirs. Most especially we want to thank Mrs. Renee Snider, who is also an Honorary Member of A. P. H. A., for all the help that she gave to our Association in the organisation of our items for auction and for arranging the availability of a special table for those of our members who attended the Weatherby Dinner.

The extremely generous items that were donated for auction by members of A. P. H. A. were as follows:-

Mr. Andre Roux;                    14 day hunt in C.A.R. for Giant Eland.

Mr. Robin A. Hurt.                7 Day buffalo hunt in Tanzania to be guided for free by Mr. Andre de Kock.

Mr. Thomas H. Friedkin .    Brand new .416 Rigby rifle made by Jeffery.

On behalf of the Association I want to thank all three of these kind donors and Mrs. Renee Snider all of whom enabled the Association to raise badly needed funds.

Finally I say a sad goodbye to the A.P.H.A. knowing that it can be no better hands than those of Mr. Joe Prather and being sure that the Association will remain proudly elite; only for the most experienced and ethical African **Professional** Hunters of impeccable integrity.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Hill,  
PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION