



Upper Tugela branch
Kwa-Zulu Natal Hunting and Conservation Association
**Fin Fur Feather
Clay Target Shoot**

The Fin Fur Feather Clay shoot originated in 1996 after many annual Guineafowl shoots ceased due to the decline in bird populations in the greater Ladysmith area. We were fortunate to be made custodians of the old Ladysmith Gun Club traps and have added more machines over the years.

Originally one of the characters of the shoot was that it was always held at a different venue. So from one year to the next the shoot was totally different. Due to difficulties in finding new venues and logistics in setting ranges, the shoot is now normally always held on "Stewart Park" farm, six km from Ladysmith on the Newcastle road (N11). The traps are kept and maintained at the farm workshop and the farm labour are trained to operate them.

Format

The discipline we use for the Fin Fur Feather shoot is English Sporting. While the other disciplines only use standard targets, in Sporting almost anything goes. Targets are thrown in a great variety of trajectories, angles, speeds, elevations and distances and the discipline was originally devised to simulate live quarry shooting, hence some of the names commonly used on sporting stands: springing teal, driven pheasant, bolting rabbit, crossing pigeon, dropping duck, etc. F.I.T.A.S.C rules apply.

The format of the shoot is English doubles. The shoot consists of five stands with five doubles at each stand. Each stand is serviced by either two traps throwing a single target each or one trap throwing a double or pair. A participant therefore requires one shot per clay. Extra ammunition is advised as if a target breaks before being shot at, then the pair is repeated.

The clay targets used are the following:

Standard or Normal

The most commonly used target of all, must weigh 105 g and be of 110 mm overall diameter and 25-26 mm in height for International competitions.

Midi

Same saucer shape as the standard but with a diameter of only 90 mm; these targets are faster than the standard type.

Mini

This target is sometimes likened to a flying bumblebee at only 60 mm in diameter and 20 mm in height.

Battue

A very thin target measuring about 108-110 mm in diameter, it flies very fast and falls off very suddenly simulating a duck landing.

Rabbit

A thicker, but standard 108-110 mm diameter flat target in the shape of a wheel designed to run along the ground



These are names for different types of "Birds" (targets) thrown at the Fin Fur Feather shoot. (Known as "Throws")

Bird

Any type of target that flies. Includes Normal, Midi, Mini and Battue targets, when called generally means a single bird unless used in combination with other words or types of targets.

Rabbit

A rabbit, a target that rolls and usually bounces across the ground.

Pair

Two targets are thrown from one trap, you may take 2 shots in combination. Can also be called a double. When called generally refers to bird targets.

Pair of rabbits

This is called when two rabbits are thrown together, you may take 2 shots in combination

Bird-rabbit pair/rabbit-bird pair

When a bird and rabbit are released at the same time, rarely if ever used, very difficult targets (requires a quick shot and good eyes to find the next target)

Nested pair or Hen and Chick

Two targets are thrown, a mini is put under a Normal and when released simulate a bird and a young, most people find that shooting the small one first and then the larger one is easiest if attempting to hit both, however new shooters often shoot at the big one first to have a higher probability of hitting at least one of the two targets

Following pair

a target is released and then another target is released soon after (generally as fast as the machine or trapper can reload another single, however not always). When called generally refers to birds.

Rabbit following pair

a rabbit is thrown and another rabbit is thrown (generally as fast as the machine or trapper can reload another single, however not always).

Report pair or On Report

a single target is thrown and as soon as the shooter shoots, another target is thrown usually from a different trap.

Dabchick

A Normal or Midi thrown upside down and skipped across water.

Teal or Springing Teal

A Normal or midi clay is thrown almost vertically into the air and the competitor should attempt to break it before it begins to fall. It may however be broken as it is falling but this is normally more difficult as it accelerates rapidly.



Prizes and Trophies

There are two floating trophies up for grabs annually at the Fin Fur Feather Clay shoot.

Top Score

This trophy is awarded to the competitor who breaks the most number of targets in their first round.

Fin Fur Feather shield.

This trophy is awarded to the competitor who has the highest score according to a formula comparing their first round score on the day to their average over all the Fin Fur Feather shoots they have competed in.



Certificates

Certificates are awarded to the following competitors:

The winner of the TOP SCORE trophy.

The winner of the Fin Fur Feather shield.

Youngest competitor.

Highest Lady.

There are normally sponsored prizes on the day depending on how busy the Upper Tugela committee has been and how generous businesses in Western KZN have been.