



SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226

EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA
WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

OPINION - The Missing Evidence Test

Drafted by Shaun Lyle

What Europe's Firearm Research and Parliament's Own Data Can Teach South Africa: Evidence First. Assumptions Last.

South Africa's firearm debate too often starts after the conclusion has already been reached. A violent crime is committed with a firearm. Public anger follows. So do calls for tighter firearm controls. Lawful firearm owners are then placed, rhetorically if not legally, in the dock.

Yet one question should come first: Where did the firearm come from? Was it lawfully licensed to the offender? Was it stolen from a civilian? Was it lost or stolen from SAPS or another State institution? Was it diverted from private security? Was it trafficked across a border? Was it previously seized and returned to criminal circulation? Was it unlawfully possessed from the outset?

Until those questions are answered through reliable trace data, prosecution evidence and source analysis, SA risks regulating what is visible rather than what is actually driving the harm.

What the European Review Actually Found

A useful starting point is the peer-reviewed systematic review *Firearms and Violence in Europe* (2021), published in PLOS ONE by Krüsselmann, Aarten and Liem. It focused on criminal interpersonal firearm violence in

continental Europe; suicides and accidental shootings were excluded. Its value is not that it supplies a convenient answer for either side of the firearm debate. It does not. [1]

The researchers searched **nine databases** and ultimately found only six studies that met the review criteria. ^ Four examined restrictive firearm regulation and firearm homicide; ^ Two examined relationships between firearm availability and firearm violence.

The findings were mixed. Some studies reported reductions in firearm homicide following restrictive measures; others found limited or subgroup-specific effects.

The review also identified a basic methodological problem: studies used inconsistent measures of firearm availability, reducing comparability and making broad conclusions difficult.

LESSON ONE: ASSOCIATION IS NOT CAUSATION

The first warning is fundamental: evidence must be strong enough to support the conclusion drawn from it. An observed relationship between firearm availability, regulation and violence is not, by itself, proof of causation.

The review does not establish that firearm regulation never works. Nor does it justify a universal claim that restricting firearm availability will necessarily produce the same result in every setting.

SAGA Snippets September 2026

Special points of interest:

- *Opinion: The Missing Evidence Test*
- *Women's Safety*
- *SAGA Fact Sheets*
- *SAGA Personal Membership*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership List*
- *Ballito Defensive Sport Shooting Club Women's Month Open Day*
- *Wildland Magazine September 2026*
- *Blood, Sweat & Tears Challenge 2026*
- *Brief: Reageering: Onwettige wapens 'n groeiende bedreiging*
- *My Mom Is My Bodyguard*
- *40 Year Insignia*

Continued...The Missing Evidence Test

The narrower and more defensible conclusion is that the empirical European evidence remains limited, contexts vary, and methodology and definitions matter.

If European evidence requires caution, South Africa's materially different circumstances demand an **even more** rigorous approach. South Africa's firearm-violence environment is materially different. It includes entrenched violent crime, organised criminal networks, gang violence, unlawful firearm possession, trafficking, State firearm losses and diversion, corruption and uneven enforcement.

In that environment, it is analytically unsound to treat every firearm as though it represents the same policy problem:

- * A firearm lawfully possessed by a vetted, competent and licensed civilian is not the same policy problem as an unlicensed firearm in the hands of a gang member, hijacker or murderer.
- * A firearm lost or stolen from a police station is not the same policy problem as one lawfully stored by a licensed sport shooter.
- * A firearm trafficked into a criminal network is not the same policy problem as one lawfully held by a licensed homeowner.

Different sources. Different failures. Different enforcement problems. Yet too much public debate collapses them into one category: 'firearms'. That may simplify a political narrative, but it does not identify the source of the violence.

Context matters. Firearm cultures, legislation, socioeconomic conditions, policing systems and crime patterns differ between countries. Europe cannot simply import conclusions from the United States, and South Africa cannot simply import conclusions from either.

South Africa's firearm debate must therefore be South African in its evidence, not merely South African in its rhetoric.

LESSON TWO: ASSUMPTION IS NOT EVIDENCE

Parliament has now supplied a direct South African test of why those distinctions matter. On 21 July 2026, the Acting Minister of Police's

written reply to Parliamentary Question 2492 reported firearm-murder figures by licence status. Across the four financial years from 2022/23 to 2025/26, the reply recorded 41,297 persons murdered using unlicensed firearms, compared with 393 persons murdered with legal firearms used by licensed firearm owners - a ratio of about 105 to 1. [2][3]

Data Note: "Unlicensed firearm" follows the terminology in the Minister's reply. The figures do not identify the original source of every unlicensed firearm; that source question is the evidentiary gap addressed in this opinion.

That ratio is striking, but it should not be over-claimed.

The figures classify each firearm by its licence status at the time of use. They do not establish the original source of every unlicensed firearm. 'Unlicensed' describes status at the time of use, not source; treating it as proof of origin would substitute assumption for evidence.

But the figures make one policy question unavoidable: if firearm murders overwhelmingly involve firearms outside the licensed civilian system, why does so much of the policy debate begin with additional restrictions on people already inside that system?

Parliament now has a South African test: **a ratio of more than 100 to 1 is a starting point, not the answer.** It tells us where the next investigation should begin.

Parliament should now require the evidence chain behind the headline number: where did the unlicensed firearms come from?

How many crime guns were actually traced?

How many were trafficked across South Africa's borders or illegally imported?

How many were stolen from licensed civilian owners?

How many were lost, stolen or diverted from SAPS or other State institutions?

How many were diverted from private security?

How many had previously been seized by the State and later returned to criminal circulation?

How many were obtained through corruption or fraudulent processes?

How many were possessed by people already

Continued...The Missing Evidence Test

prohibited from possessing firearms?

Tracing Is Not the Same as Source Analysis

Most importantly, what does the tracing data show about the original sources of those firearms?

That is the missing evidence.

A murder statistic tells us what happened. A firearm trace can begin to show how the firearm reached the offender. Source analysis can then identify where the supply failure occurred.

Outcome, source and mechanism are distinct evidentiary questions; policy should not collapse them into a single category.

LESSON THREE: POLICY TARGETS MUST MATCH THE DEMONSTRATED SOURCE

This is where the European methodological warning meets the South African evidence gap. A licensed firearm owner is already inside the legal system: the firearm is registered; the owner is licensed and competent; and statutory storage and accountability obligations apply. The State knows the identity of the owner and the firearm recorded against that licence.

An unlicensed firearm in the hands of a violent criminal is outside that system. If it entered the criminal economy through trafficking, State leakage, theft, corruption or prohibited possession, the policy response should target that pathway.

Additional administrative burdens on compliant owners should not be assumed to disrupt a criminal supply chain unless the evidence demonstrates how they would do so.

If the State contends that lawful civilian firearm ownership is a significant driver of murder, it should produce the evidence. If it contends that further restrictions on lawful owners will reduce violent crime, it should demonstrate the causal pathway.

The Same Evidentiary Standard Must Apply to Every Source

If a licensed owner breaks the law, prosecute that person. If a dealer is corrupt, close the operation and prosecute those responsible. If negligent storage leads to theft, enforce the law. If

police or other State firearms are lost, stolen or diverted, establish how and trace them. If criminal syndicates traffic firearms, dismantle the networks. If prohibited persons obtain firearms, enforce the prohibition.

Evidence-based regulation cannot demand accountability from lawful citizens while discounting failures within the State's own firearm-control systems. The same evidentiary standard must apply to every source, pathway and failure point.

The Missing Evidence Test: Does the Policy Target the Problem?

SAGA's position is straightforward: regulation should be disciplined and evidence-led. Identify the problem. Establish its source. Test the proposed intervention against the evidence. Regulate only where that evidence justifies it.

The central question is simple:

Does the proposed policy target the demonstrated source of the problem?

If yes, the evidence should show the connection. If not, Parliament should reconsider the policy.

The Government's own July 2026 firearm-murder figures reinforce the Missing Evidence Test. The policy response should follow the demonstrated source of the crime guns rather than defaulting to further restrictions on licensed owners. The essential questions are: where are the crime guns coming from and which intervention will actually interrupt that pathway?

European research does not tell South Africa what its firearm laws should be. It does, however, **warn** against three shortcuts:

- mistaking association for causation (Lesson 1),
- mistaking assumption for evidence (Lesson 2),
- mistaking a convenient policy target for the demonstrated source of the problem (Lesson 3).

Parliament's own numbers do not end the inquiry; they tell SA where it must begin: with the source.

Trace the gun. Identify the source. Prosecute the offender. Fix the leakage. Legislate only where the evidence justifies it.

That is the Missing Evidence Test: Evidence First. Assumptions Last.

Women's Safety

By Aziza Scheidereiter

The month of August is a time of reflection for many women in South Africa yet somewhere between the shiny marketing and commercial hype, we find ourselves wondering how much of it has any real significance, or contributes to meaningful changes for the women of South Africa.

My write-up that was meant to highlight the powerful spirit and resilience of our annual Women's Day shooting experience, has been marred by the ongoing, under-publicized and escalating violence all South Africans feel and fear on a daily basis. Suddenly it feels far more pertinent to address the glaring issue we all face.

Somewhere there lies a middle ground, between victim-blaming mentalities and extreme ideas, between financial gain through scare-mongering and inflating someone's confidence unrealistically and, it is our duty as level-headed, law-abiding firearm owners to stand up for what we believe in, calmly and sensibly. In the many discussions around this subject, it was pointed out to me that everyone is very quick to tell us what we have to do. The politicians, authorities, instructors – yet these are not the people who will be there when it all goes south. Very few, however, are telling us why we should be changing our mindset.

Give the following some thought: how many of us are prepared for a fire? I would hazard a guess that most of us have smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, etc yet, the likelihood of a crime being committed against you is statistically far higher than a fire-related incident. How many within your circle have encountered or spoken about a fire incident? Now, compare that to how many people within your circle have been affected by crime. Let us take that analogy further and look at when emergency services arrive for a fire-related incident. They arrive once it is in progress or afterwards. How many incidents are 1. Prevented by the correct equipment being available, and 2. By ordinary civilians being able to use said equipment. Let us translate that to violent crimes.

In the various discussions I have had with experts in the field of self-defence, one that stood out the most was a discussion with James Smart. James has, naturally, received many messages in the last few days from women who are looking for "a self-defence class". An unpopular opinion that James and I both share is that no two hour or even whole day class is likely to make a significant difference to the outcome of a criminal attack. However, there are skills that can easily be learnt and practised daily. A book James has often recommended is "The Gift of Fear" by Gavin de Becker, which deals with the following core message, and I quote James:

"Fear is a vital survival signal: True fear is a protective, data-driven response to real danger, unlike idle worry or generalized anxiety.

Intuition is pattern recognition: Your subconscious picks up on subtle environmental and behavioural cues before your logical mind does.

Violence is predictable: Perpetrators almost always send warning signals beforehand, but people ignore them to remain polite or agreeable.

Red Flags and Manipulation Tactics: De Becker identifies common tactics used by predators to bypass your intuition.

Forced Teaming: Establishing premature shared identity (e.g., saying "we" or "us") to create a false sense of a partnership.

Charm and Niceness: Using friendliness as a tool for control rather than a sign of genuine warmth.

Too Many Details: Over-explaining to distract you and make a lie sound credible.
Loan Sharking: Offering unsolicited help to create an unwanted sense of social debt or obligation.

Discounting "No": Refusing to accept a clear boundary or rejection, which is a major warning sign of potential danger."

In essence, while attending short self-defence classes can cause no harm (if instructed by reputable companies or instructors), it is vital to realise that self-defence and self-preservation, might require a shift in mindset. Be careful of buying into "quick fix



Continued...Women's Safety



tools" or opportunistic marketing strategies to make you feel safer, because shifting your mindset and investing in your skills is an ongoing, life-long commitment.

We should not have to look over our shoulders when going out for a run, yet we must. We should not have to plan our routes according to the time of day or risk involved, yet we must. We should not have to feel unsafe in public transport settings, yet we absolutely must. We must be able to assess the risks and plan accordingly.

While I am in no way undermining the effect of peaceful protests and publicity for awareness, to keep the pressure on our government to effect the necessary changes, I am painfully aware of how long such changes can and will take, if they succeed at all. I am also not insinuating that every woman must be armed, that remains a personal choice, but I am most certainly advocating for a more realistic approach. The sad reality is that, as women, no matter how capable, we will always be looking over our shoulders. We will (and should) always plan our movements with safety in mind. We should not be complacent, nor should we expect that someone is coming to save us.

As a mother, and a woman living in South Africa, I choose to carry a firearm, but I also invest in other skillsets daily, not because it is easy but because it is a life-long responsibility and commitment I have made to myself and to my family.

ment I have made to myself and to my family.

No person in their right mind can still advocate for any form of a "gun free" South Africa, not when our women and children are being murdered in cold blood with shocking inefficiencies from those who have sworn to serve and protect. Quoting from a recent Instagram post from Women for Change SA, "According to SAPS crime statistics for 2023/24 approximately 15 women were murdered every day in South Africa. Yet we still do not have the latest statistics to reveal the full scale of this crisis". The truth is, as old and overused as the statement might seem, we ARE our own first responders. The SAPS simply does not have the capacity to ensure our safety and thus, we are left to make our own decisions how to protect ourselves and our families.

Taking responsibility for our own safety is not taking one class in self-defence and expecting that to be enough. It is not relying on armed response or our spouses. It is not buying into self-proclaimed instructors who inflate your sense of ability for the sake of their own pockets. It is a shift in mindset to survive, to take responsibility for our own safety wherever possible. It is to reach out to our communities and engage in existing initiatives. It is to make a permanent and regular commitment to our skillset, whether it be practicing reaching, wearing and using our pepper spray, exercising and staying healthy to the best of our ability, hand-to-hand

Continued...Women's Safety

fighting skills or the safe and responsible use of a firearm.

The sad reality is that evil exists and in the wise words of Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We cannot stand idly by and assume that "it will never happen to me".

Quoting a dear friend, Gideon Joubert: "Blaming good men for the actions of bad men ignores the fact that bad men do not care about the criticism or rejection of good men, and it simply alienates the good men. We are all victims of predators: the father who loses a daughter, the husband who loses a wife, the son who loses a mother. It is a war of good people versus bad people, and we must stand together on the side of good. Taking responsibility for our own safety is not compromising with evil or disempowering ourselves: in fact, it is taking a stand against evil and empowering ourselves to do so. It is liberating to build resilience. And we can and must do it."

Our annual Women's Day shooting experience focuses on showing women how capable they are, and this year's event included not only an introduction to firearms, archery and axe-throwing in a safe, non-threatening environment, but also an introduction to pepper spray, general safety tips, first aid discussions and networking opportunities with some of the most respected representatives in our industry. Women were given a starting point and inspired to acquire, and practise, the necessary skills.



Over the years the subject of firearm ownership, specifically amongst women, has become far more prevalent and positive which indicates that as a collective we are doing our bit to promote what we stand for. It is time that we stand proud and show South Africa that there is no stereotypical firearm owner, that we are not embarrassed to defend ourselves and that we refuse to be vulnerable.



MATTHEWS ENSLIN

MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC • ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES AND CONVEYANCERS

FIREARM LICENSING AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Trusted legal guidance for firearms owners.

We assist with license applications, renewals, appeals, compliance and firearm-related legal matters.

Suite D1 & D2, Westlake Square 1,
Westlake Drive, Tokai, 7945

✉ david@legalonline.co.za | damian@legalonline.co.za
☎ (021) 702 3070 🌐 www.matthewsenslin.com

SAGA FACT SHEETS

SAGA Factsheets are Issued as part of the SAGA Educational Series to guide firearm owners on compliance and responsible firearm ownership

Here is a list of what has been made available so far:

Factsheet #105 Assault Weapons Defined
 Factsheet #112 Section 12 Additional Licences
 Factsheet #113 Timeframes for Competency Certificates, Licences and Renewals
 Factsheet #120 Temporary Licence Authorisation Printout
 Factsheet #201b Evolution of Jacketed Hollow Points
 Factsheet #202 Roadblocks & Legal Firearm Rights
 Factsheet #204 Gun-Free and Firearm-Free Zones: What the Law Actually Says
 Factsheet #401 Guide to Firearms in Deceased Estates v3 2026
 Factsheet #504 Flares & Flare Launchers under the FCA
 Factsheet #506 Firearm Modifications & Prohibited Firearms

These documents are available on our website on the Useful Information tab

<https://www.saga.org.za/USEFUL-INFORMATION/>

SAGA Personal Membership

SAGA annual individual membership fees for 2026 are:

Adult R310

Pensioner/Junior R180

Family: 1x Adult @R310 plus any number of family members @ R110 each

Join via our website at www.saga.org.za

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes?

Get them to join SAGA today!

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on **066 003 9226**

You can join SAGA at any time.

SAGA Corporate Membership 2026

23 September 2026

ASSOCIATION

CAPE SAAACA
CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOC
KAAPJAG (CAPE HUNTERS & GAME
CONSERVATION ASSOC)
KZN HUNTING & CONSERVATION ASSOC
LOWVELD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
MILNERTON SHOOTING ASSOC
MOSSC SPORT SHOOT ASSOC
MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
NAACCSA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESPONSIBLE
FIREARM OWNERS (NARFO)
NATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING ASSOC
PHASA
PWAV/PAAA
SA DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION (SADPA)
SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOC
SAAACA BORDER CHAPTER
SAAACA GAUTENG
SAAACA KZN
SAAACA MPUMALANGA
SAAACA NORTHERN GAUTENG
SAAACA NOORD-KAAP
SOUTH CAPE HUNTERS & CONSERVATION
ASSOC
WESTERN CAPE SHOOTING UNION
WESTERN SHOOTERS OF SA

CLUB

BALLITO DEFENSIVE SPORTS SHOOTING CLUB
BORDER HUNTING CLUB
BROADWAY SHOOTING CLUB
BUFFALO RIVER SHOOTING CLUB
CAPE SPORTING RIFLE CLUB
DALTON RIFLE & GUN CLUB
FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
GEORGE SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB
KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB
MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
MONTAGU PISTOL CLUB
MONTANA PISTOL CLUB
PREMIER SHOOTING CLUB
PROSHOT CLAY TARGET CLUB



RICHARDS BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
ROCKY RIDGE SHOOTING CLUB
SABIE CLAY PIGEON CLUB
SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB
SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN
VALLEY GUN CLUB
VEKTOR SHOOTING CLUB
WILDEALSKLOOF SHOOTING RANGE
WITBANK PRACTICAL SHOOTING CLUB

DEALER

ADVANCE TACTICAL
ARMS KING
BOOMSTICKS
CHS GUNS & AMMUNITION
CITY GUNS CC
EAST COAST ARMS
ELITE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
FALSE BAY F T A (PTY)LTD
GUNLICENCE.CO.ZA
GUNS & BOWS CC
HILLCREST GUN SHOP
KINGS GUN SHOP
MALUTI ARMS AND OUTDOOR
MILSPEC EQUIPMENT CC
PAROW ARMS & AMMO
SHOOTING STUFF
THE GUN TROVE

Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership 2026



SECURITY

A.O.G SECURITY
ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS
EXPRO PROTECTION SERVICES
GABOON PROTECTION
GRID PROTECTION
HARTWIG & HENDERSON
IRONCLAD SECURITY
MASER SECURITY
MOBI-CLAW911
NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
PRO-SEC TECHNOLOGIES
PVIP PROTECTION
STAR RAPID RESPONSE
STARLIGHT SECURITY SERVICES
WESIZWE PROTECTION SERVICES

BUSINESS

BRUCE SHAW TRUST
DARK EARTH TACTICAL
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
FASTRAK TRADING
FIREARMS GUARDIAN
GH WINGSHOOTING SAFARIS
INSURISERV
KINGFISHER FREIGHT SERVICES
KOEBERG FIREARM SOLUTIONS
LYALL MORGAN & ASSOCIATES
LYLE & ASSOCIATES
MARTIN & DE BEER INC
MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC
MEDWAY
ONE POINT FIVE PERCENT
ORTON & ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD
PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
SEARLE INVESTMENTS CC
SOTHEBYS INTERNATIONAL REALITY
TARGET TRUCK SALVAGE (PTY) LTD
TAXIDERMY AFRICA
TURN TECH
VAN DILLEN SAFARIS
WHYLO (PTY) LTD

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

TRAINER

FAST ACADEMY (PTY) LTD
FUNDIKHONO
MULTI DIMENSIONAL WARRIORS
SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

Please support our Corporate Members whenever you can!

Find out more about becoming a Corporate Member by contacting the office:

TEL 031-562-9951
WHATSAPP 066-003-9226
EMAIL saga@saga.org.za



Ballito Defensive Sport Shooting Club Women's Month Open Day

On 15 August 2026 Ballito Defensive Sport Shooting Club (BDSSC), in association with SAGA, hosted a Women's Month Open Day and Basic Firearm Experience to build confidence on the range.

The event was designed to give the participants, many with limited or no previous firearm experience, a safe and structured introduction to firearms and the shooting environment. The focus throughout the day was on firearm safety, responsible handling, range etiquette and practical shooting under close supervision.

The programme began with a presentation covering firearm terminology, equipment, safe hand-ling principles and basic range procedures. This gave participants an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the environment and ask questions before progressing to the practical session.

Following refreshments and an opportunity for the group to interact, participants moved onto the range where experienced instructors and Range Officers provided individual guidance.

The practical exercises included freestyle shooting, strong-hand-only and weak-hand-



only shooting, followed by an instinctive point-shooting exercise to conclude the session. Each participant was

able to progress at her own pace. One of the most encouraging aspects of the event was the visible increase in confidence among the participants.



Continued...BDSSC Women's Month Open Day

Two women arrived with a significant fear of firearms but nevertheless chose to take part. By the end of the event, both had completed the practical experience and were pleased that they had challenged their initial apprehension.

Progress was also evident on the range, with participants becoming increasingly comfortable and accurate as the practical session developed. Several exceeded their own expectations.

The experience sparked further interest as some participants indicated that they would like to pursue formal firearm proficiency and potentially obtain firearms in future, subject to completing the appropriate training, competency and legal requirements.

Feedback from the participants was extremely positive. BDSSC thanked SAGA and its representatives for their support and involvement, as well as the instructors, Range Officers, club members and family members who assisted in making the day possible.

Fifteen women started the day with different levels of experience, confidence and expectation. They left with a better understanding of firearms, some new skills, considerable enthusiasm and, for several, a desire to return to the range.

It was a successful Women's Month event, and hopefully the first shooting experience of many more to come.

Wildland Magazine September 2026

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, September 2026. Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/71274373/wildland-september-2026>





LYLE & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Secretaries & Tax Advisors

Tax Accounting

Tax Advisory Services

Financial Analysis

Business Valuations

Training

consulting@lyleassociates

Durban 0825537399 | Southern Cape 0713017072

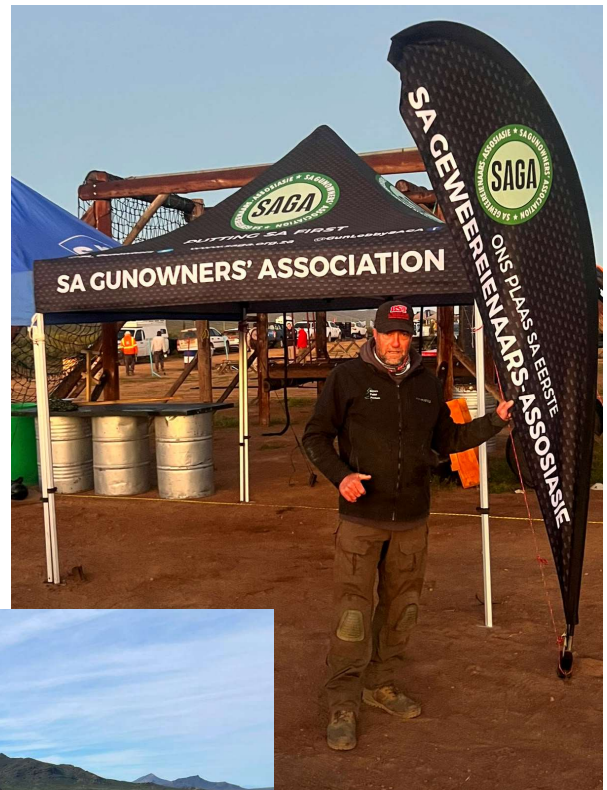
Masters Qualified • Detail Driven • Relationship Centred • Pastel Powered

Blood, Sweat & Tears (BST) Challenge 2026

By Jonathan Deal

The Blood, Sweat & Tears Challenge is South Africa's definitive benchmark competitive tactical event – the only event on the continent that combines multi-platform live-fire marksmanship with genuine extreme physical endurance across raw wilderness terrain.

The main event held on 21-23 August 2026, saw 22 competitors from across the country, using three firearm platforms (a semi-auto rifle, a shotgun, and a handgun). They were supported in this multi-stage competition by 18 Range Officers, in our special 4,000 hectares of Karoo terrain at Gecko Rock Private Nature Reserve. Every stage integrates physical tasks, terrain navigation, and time pres-



sure. There is no luck involved. Performance is measured, scored, and ranked.

Core Activities: Extreme terrain navigation, heavy physical endurance (such as 13km morning runs through the veld), obstacle courses featuring ropes, walls, net crawls, and precision tactical shooting challenges (e.g. 180m shoots following extended cross-country runs).

Blood Sweat & Tears is genuinely for any serious shooter-athlete, not only for peak performers. The division system expands the field while keeping the competition meaningful.

The 2026 Winners are:

BST RIFLE: Drikus Jacobs, Northern Cape
 BST HANDGUN: Dean McElvey, Cape Town
 BST SHOTGUN: Alessandro De Grandis, Cape Town
 BST ENDURANCE: Cole McLaughlin, Cape town

1st place all platforms and endurance: Drikus Jacobs, Northern Cape
 2nd place all platforms and endurance: Carel van Heerden, Northern Cape
 3rd place all platforms and endurance: De Wet van Huysteen, Cape Town
 BST overall champion: Drikus Jacobs, Northern Cape

Thank you to SAGA for supporting BST this year.

Reageering: Onwettige wapens 'n groeiende bedreiging

deur Anton Meyer, Chair GSSC
September 2026

Ek reageer graag op Donderdag 3 September se uitgawe van die *George Herald*, briewe afdeling mbt "Onwettige wapens 'n groeiende bedreiging".

Misdaad word nie gepleeg met wettige vuurwapens. Daardie vuurwapens kan maklik opgespoor word, want dit is lisensiëer aan 'n persoon met 'n fisiese adres, so SAPS weet waar die vuurwapen is.

Misdaad word juis gepleeg met sogenaamde onwettige vuurwapens, omdat dit nie kan nagespeur word. Waar kom hierdie 'onwettige vuurwapens' vandaan?

Daar is gevalle waar kluse in huise uitgebreek word, meeste gevalle word dit met 'n ko-evoet uit die muur gebreek, maak nie saak hoe sterk dit vasgeboud is. Die misdadigers soek deesdae vuurwapens, juwele en geld. Dit kan maklik versteek word, eerder as 'n tv of iets soortgelyk. So, daar is 'n persentasie vuurwapens daar buite, wat onwettig in die hande van misdadigers is, agv diefstal daarvan uit woonhuise.

Die ander kant van die munt, is die feit dat die 'swartmark' floreer met onwettige vuurwapens en die beskikbaarheid daarvan is enorm. In hierdie dorp van ons, is dit moontlik om 'n handwapen met 'n boks rondtes te koop, vir rondom R500. (Volgens stories wat vertel word van persone wat kennis dra daarvan.)

Ons lees gereeld hoe vuurwapens wat in wetstoepassing organisasies is, weggraak en gesteel word. Ons kan seker nie vuurwapens wegvat van hierdie organisasies, hul plig is om die publiek te beskerm teen misdaad en dreigende aanvalle.

Die punt is, al word alle 'wettige vuurwapens' weggevat, omdat daar beweer word dit is waar 'onwettige vuurwapens' vandaan kom, gaan dit nie die situasie red, daar sal steeds gelees word van misdaad mbt onwettige vuurwapens.

In ons Sportskiet entoesiaste se lewens, is vuurwapens ons 'toerusting' waarmee ons ons sport beoefen. Sportskiet groei daagliks in SA en veral in ons dorp. Vir ons is dit 'n passie en ons koop nie vuurwapens noodwendig om ons lewens te beskerm, sou die situasie dit regverdig, maar eerder om dit vir ons sport te gebruik. Ons wettige wapen eienaars, beveilig ook ons huise meer en meer met alarm sisteme en ander voorsorg maatreëls, juis omdat ons nie ons 'toerusting' wil verloor.

Daar word daagliks 'baklei' in SA mbt vuurwapens en die onwettige besit daarvan. In ons Sportskiet geledere, is daar vele organisasies met doelstellings om 'onwettige vuurwapens' besit te beveg en te baklei vir die regte van ons 'wettige vuurwapen' eienaars. SAGA speel 'n reuse rol in SA om ons te help, om ons vuurwapens by ons te hou, sodat ons nog lank ons sport kan beoefen.

So, onderskei asb tussen die besitreg van vuurwapens en moet asseblief nie wanneer 'n woord 'vuurwapen' in 'n berig of storie gebruik word, dink dit is noodwendig 'onwettig' of die probleem is vuurwapens. Aanvalle teen persone word nie net met vuurwapens gepleeg, maar daagliks lees ons van mes aanvalle, panga aanvalle, stomp voorwerp aanvalle, aanrandings met 'voorwerpe', wat nie noodwendig vuurwapens is nie. Die vuurwapen misdaad, is gelukkig 'n klein persentasie van dreigende aanvalle teen persone.

Die volle artikel kan hier gevind word:
<https://www.georgeherald.com/News/Article/Local-News/ongelisensieerde-vuurwapens-n-groeiende-bekommernis-in-thembalethu-202609020349>

My Mom Is My Bodyguard – From Awareness to Capability

by Shaun Lyle (SAGA) & Ridwaan Syed (SA Tactical Institute)

SAGA was proud to again support SA Tactical Institute's "My Mom Is My Bodyguard" Women's Month Self-Defence Symposium, held on 30 August 2026 at the Institute's new headquarters in New Germany, KwaZulu-Natal.

The programme was hosted by Ridwaan Syed, owner and driving force behind SA Tactical Institute, together with Nicole Linden and the SATI team. SA Tactical Institute has developed into an established tactical, fire-arms and personal-protection training institution, with a particularly strong footprint in Durban and KwaZulu-Natal.

Now an annual SAGA-supported event, "My Mom Is My Bodyguard" brought together women of various ages and backgrounds – from young professionals to mothers and grandmothers. This diversity reflected a simple reality: personal safety is not confined to one age, profession or stage of life.

The day was deliberately practical. Participants worked through personal-safety instruction, practical demonstrations and physical self-defence techniques, with concepts explained and demonstrated in a controlled environment before participants had the opportunity to engage with them themselves. Later, the programme moved to the in-house indoor range, adding supervised range time to the day's practical training.



Personal safety is not one skill, one tool or one decision. It begins with awareness and understanding risk, develops through physical skills and decision-making and, for women who choose a firearm as part of their personal-protection strategy, includes competent, safe and responsible firearm handling.

Knowledge creates awareness. Training creates options. Practice builds capability.



Continued...My Mom Is My Bodyguard



One of the recurring themes in SAGA's Women's Month initiatives is that women's safety needs to be approached as a whole. Situational awareness, sound decision-making, physical self-defence, knowledge of the law, emergency preparedness and the responsible use of appropriate defensive tools all form part of the same preparedness continuum.

The objective is not to make women fearful of the environment around them. It is the opposite.

It is to replace uncertainty with knowledge, hesitation with confidence and helplessness with options.

Why "My Mom Is My Bodyguard"?

The title is deliberately thought-provoking. For many families, mothers are already making daily decisions about safety – where their children go, how they travel, which environments feel secure and what to do when something does not look right.

Learning to recognise danger earlier, respond more decisively and develop practical defensive skills is a natural extension of that responsibility.

The value of My Mom Is My Bodyguard therefore lies not only in the individual techniques demonstrated on the day. It lies in changing the way participants think about their own



safety and their ability to influence the outcome of a threatening situation.

A woman who leaves the event asking better questions, recognising risk sooner, and understanding that practical skills can be learned has already taken an important step.

Participant feedback was strongly positive, particularly around the practical knowledge gained and the supportive environment created by the SA Tactical Institute team.

That environment matters. Good training is not about creating fear or turning every participant into a specialist. It is about exposing ordinary women to realistic concepts and giving them the opportunity to build confidence at their own pace.

For some, that may mean greater awareness and avoidance skills. For others, it may mean further physical self-defence training. And for those who decide that a firearm forms part of their lawful personal-protection plan, it means pursuing proper training, competence and safe handling. The important point is that the choice is an informed one.

SAGA is proud to continue supporting programmes that move the discussion around women's safety beyond slogans and into practical capability.

South African women should have access to the information, training and lawful options needed to make their own informed decisions about personal protection.

The 2026 event also marked an important milestone for SA Tactical Institute at its new headquarters, where its training facilities and in-house indoor range allowed the different elements of the programme to be brought together under one roof.

Because empowerment is not simply being told that you are capable. It is acquiring the knowledge, skills and confidence to know that you are.

SAGA's 40 Year Insignia Still in Stock

Some stock of SAGA's 40 Year insignia is still available to purchase.

Order on our website:
<https://shop.saga.org.za/>

PVC Patch with Velcro Backing



PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro like jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90

Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information

