

# Irish COUNTRY SPORTS and COUNTRY LIFE

Volume 17 Number 3 Autumn 2018 £3.00 / €5.00





# The Great Game Fairs of Ireland 2019

Having delivered the largest ever ALL IRELAND 40th Anniversary Irish Game Fair in 2018 the Great Game Fairs of Ireland team intend to build on the huge publicity generated for Irish country sports and the rural way of life by organising two superb country sports and lifestyle events in 2019.

## The Irish Game Fair & Fine Food Festival



### Shanes Castle, Antrim, 29th & 30th June 2019 The Irish Game & Country Fair



### Galway Racecourse, Ballybrit, 15th & 16th June 2019

Previously staged at Birr Castle, Co Offaly the **Irish Game & Country Fair** has joined up with the **Galway Homes & Gardens Festival** to deliver a potentially huge  
**IRISH COUNTRY LIFESTYLE FESTIVAL**

at the superb new venue of the world famous Galway Racecourse.  
For further details of these exciting events see our web sites coming soon:

[www.Irishgamefair.com](http://www.Irishgamefair.com)      [www.irishcountrylifestylefestival.com](http://www.irishcountrylifestylefestival.com)

[www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com](http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com)

Tel: 028 ( from ROI 048) 44839167/44615416

E: [irishgamefair@btinternet.com](mailto:irishgamefair@btinternet.com)

or follow us on

[facebook](#)

[twitter](#)





**Front Cover:**

The legendary International. Dual Champion David of Westley at Shanes Castle.

From an original oil painting by renowned Northern Ireland Artist - John R. Moore

# Contents

- |           |   |            |   |
|-----------|---|------------|---|
| <b>4</b>  | ROI Comment   | <b>64</b>  | The Pointer & Setter Early Circuit - By Hugh Brady                              |
| <b>5</b>  | Northern Comment  | <b>66</b>  | The Last Safari - By Frank Brophy   |
| <b>6</b>  | Countryside News  | <b>70</b>  | The Irish Fly Fair – Latest Developments For Ireland’s Extravaganza             |
| <b>23</b> | The Taxidermy Association of Ireland - By Ingrid Houwers  | <b>72</b>  | A Hidden Gem Provides Idyllic Angling - By Michael Martin, Six Mile Water Trust |
| <b>26</b> | Irish Country Sports & Country Life Lifetime Achievement Awards                                   | <b>76</b>  | Summer Mink Hunting in Cork By Derek Fanning                                    |
| <b>27</b> | 40th Anniversary Game Fair Success - and a new initiative evolves!                                | <b>79</b>  | FISSTA’s News & Views   |
| <b>32</b> | NEW PARTNERSHIP DRIVES ROI’S IRISH GAME & COUNTRY FAIR - DRAMATIC NEW LOCATION FOR FABULOUS EVENT | <b>86</b>  | FISSTA / IFI  |
| <b>36</b> | A Future for Woodcock - Owen Williams Examines the Prospects                                      | <b>90</b>  | ‘Young Irish Country Sports Writer of the Year’ - Winner Announced              |
| <b>40</b> | Calling Crows - Simon Everett’s on Decoys & Calls   | <b>92</b>  | Art & Antiques by Michael Drake   |
| <b>44</b> | Obituary - Alan Rountree  | <b>96</b>  | Hunting Roundup with Tom Fulton   |
| <b>45</b> | *EXCLUSIVE* Pointer and Setter Champion Stake 2018 - Report by David Hudson                       | <b>99</b>  | Red Stag Stalking in Sutherland - By Liz Edgar / Tweed Media Photography        |
| <b>50</b> | Terrier, Lurcher & Whippet Show Roundup - By Margaret McStay                                      | <b>104</b> | Weever Fish & Seaside ‘Delicacies’ - Johnny Woodlock Explores                   |
| <b>56</b> | Quinn’s Charity Show - Huge Turnout Boosts Cash for Autism Initiatives NI                         | <b>106</b> | Scattered Shots - A Walk on the Wild Side With Steven McGonigal                 |
| <b>57</b> | *ANNIVERSARY EXCLUSIVES* Golden Retriever Breed’s 150th / Ulster Golden Retriever Club 50th       | <b>110</b> | A Little Known Story of Ireland’s Whaling - By Derek Fanning                    |

**Managing Editor:** Albert Titterington, **ROI Editor:** Derek Fanning, **NI Editor:** Paul Pringle, **Associate Editor:** Irene Titterington

**Publishers:** (Editorial & Advertising) Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd. Cranley Hill, 5b Woodgrange Road, Hollymount, Downpatrick BT30 8JE **Tel:** (028) (from ROI 048) 44839167

**Email:** Email: [irishgamefair@btinternet.com](mailto:irishgamefair@btinternet.com) **Web:** [www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com](http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com)

**ROI Office:** ROI Office: Derek Fanning, E: [derekfanning123@gmail.com](mailto:derekfanning123@gmail.com) Tel: 05791 20003

**Printed by** W.&G.Baird **Distributed by** Easons (Dublin), E M Distribution Also Available by Subscription ISSN No. 1476-8240

The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or the publishers. Whilst every care is taken to ensure that information published is accurate and reliable, the publishers cannot be held responsible or accept liability for any errors or omissions in this publication. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written consent of the owner. No liability is accepted for the safe custody of unsolicited materials and manuscripts. Publication of accepted articles is not always guaranteed and the publishers will not be held liable for any manuscripts, photographs or other materials lost or damaged while in their possession, although every care will be taken. The editor reserves the right to amend any such articles as necessary.



# Country Sports and Country Life Rol Comment

I never attended the Game Fair in Shane's Castle until this year. With such a fine Fair taking place every year in Birr I felt, perhaps wrongly, that there was little reason to travel north. 2018 was different of course, with the Game Fair in Birr coming to an end in 2017 after a decade entertaining big crowds from all around Ireland. The Birr Fair was greatly loved by many people in the midlands and it was always a fantastic day out. A lot of people were very disappointed when they heard it wasn't going to happen this year.

I decided instead to travel to Shane's to experience the Northern Irish version of this fantastic day out. Fair Director Albert Titterington told me that he loves Shane's as a location and I could see why. It is the ideal location for an enormous event like this. The logistics of things like accommodating big trucks with their tents, trade stands and displays are simple enough. There is loads of car parking for the general public. The ruins of Shane's Castle and the vast expanse of Lough Neagh are a picturesque backdrop. There is ample room for all the tents and trade stands. It's a venue which easily handles many thousands of people. You would be very hard pressed to find a better venue in the whole of Ireland.

The weather of course was stunning for this year's Shane's which increased the crowd numbers. It was a fantastic success and my wife and I loved our day wandering around taking it all in. One of the things I enjoy is the witty repartee of the participants in the main arena who really have their show down pat. I also enjoy watching the gun dogs being put through their paces, and browsing in the clothing and food tents.

The day after the Fair we put on our tourism caps and did a little bit of exploring of the Lough Neagh region which has lots of old things, like castles and ancient sites, therefore we were in heaven!

I have also enjoyed several days of heaven this summer following mink hounds along the lush banks of rivers. As I write this my face and arms are still sunburned and tender to the touch after a long day hunting along a sun-blessed river. This was a section of the River Nore in south Laois and about 60 foot followers turned up for several hours of fun. For the first four hours we walked the banks in quest of mink but found nothing. Never mind. The chat was good, people were in excellent humour and we were walking through an attractive pastoral landscape. But then at the end of the fourth hour, at Poorman's Bridge, we heard a hound tentatively start to give voice. His voice grew more confident and then he was joined by a couple more hounds. At this moment the huntsman, standing up to his chest in the water, spotted the mink swimming only a few feet from him. The horn was blown excitedly. More hounds began to open up. The huntsman blew his whistle as well and now the whole pack was speaking as one, in full voice. From our vantage point on the bank several feet above the water and the hounds, the sound was considerably amplified adding to the thrill of the music. One felt the excitement coursing through one's veins, the ancient



thrill and beauty of the chase. All worries and preoccupations were banished as we joined in the hunt with the pack, participating in something which humans have done for countless millennia. This was happiness.

We pursued up and down the riverbank for two hours, the huntsman and his whips giving it everything. Eventually we gave the mink best and decided to call it a day, our stomachs rumbling for grub after so much exercise, and for tea to quench our thirst. As I looked around at the homeward bound foot followers I could see that people were tired

but very happy.

Regular readers will know that I love reading hunting books and I often write about them. In recent months I have been reading several, including a 1908 book by Ludovick Cameron called "Otters and Otter Hunting" which is full of fascinating information and insights about this long-dead pastime. But what we can no longer engage in we can still enjoy vicariously through either reading old books or going fishing or mink hunting, two riverine pursuits which bear some resemblance. Cameron tells us that there is not much in the literary tradition concerning the otter, probably due to the creature's secretive disposition. He says the earliest reference to an otter in European literature is contained in a medieval Norse poem called "the Second Lay of Sigurd Fafnisbana" which describes three Norse Gods coming upon an otter eating a fine salmon, which it has just killed, and one of them slays it. The otter in this instance was in fact a Norse dwarf called Ótr, who could change into any form, and would spend his days in the shape of an otter, sometimes eating fish. Cameron also tells us that in his classic book "The Compleat Angler" Izaak Walton describes in detail an otter hunt, in which we learn from the phrase "all the horse are got over the water" that in the seventeenth century people rode to otter hounds. Walton tells us that the Master, "noble Mr Sadler" called the meet so early that he "prevented the sunrising." The English Poet William Somerville (1675 to 1742), wrote a celebrated poem called "The Chase" in which he described an otter hunt and memorably depicted an otter as being a "sly, goose-footed prowler".

"In the realm of art," says Cameron, "the otter, for all his handsome shape, and otter hunting, for all its picturesqueness, have suffered much neglect." However, he adds that otter hunting seems to have been one of "the earliest organised sports indulged in in the British Isles. It is not improbable that our Celtic ancestors pursued the otter for sport in the boulder-strewn streams of mountainous Wales, Cumberland, Devon, and Cornwall with some species of rough-haired water-dog and flint-headed spears."

Finally, there are plans in 2019 to hold Game Fairs both North & South of the border. The venue for the ROI one will be the historic Galway Race Course, just over one hour's travel from Birr. The dates are 15/16 June 2019.

**Derek Fanning**  
ROI Editor



# Country Sports and Country Life Northern Comment

Two friends joined me fishing on a river where I first learned to fly fish for trout over half a century ago. I hadn't been there for years and buying permits from the local shop, asked if it was fishing well. He didn't know, nobody bothered with the river nowadays, preferring the rainbow fishery. 'Just turn up and fish,' he laughed. 'Nobody's got the time and they want real fish.' It seemed the little trout I loved back then just weren't doing it for some anglers nowadays.

We tried a couple of places that I remembered. Well, we tried to get to the places, no easy task with the brambles, broken stiles etc. Never look back they say, maybe they're right. With difficulty we managed a place or two elsewhere to fish, we even had some beautifully finned little river trout too. But the river was a shadow of what it once had been. Like he said, nobody bothered and that went for the conservation work too.

Over a cuppa, we talked about the river's downturn and somehow the topic turned to the current fad for big bags and of course, shooting at extreme range. The flurry of correspondence in the letter pages of other sporting journals, maybe that started our debate.

Anyway, I'll not mention exactly who said what, but here's the gist how it went:

'I've been over it on Facebook many times, including with some very well known people at the heart of this so-called 'extreme pheasant shooting.' The huge difference for people that regularly shoot these days is simply the amount of game they are under. Think of 40 plus days a year, maybe as many as 70 days under birds at extreme range.

'Yes, they can kill birds at that distance but it's a xxxx measuring contest in my opinion. If it gets to the point you are shooting with a heavy barrelled, tight choked trap gun with 42g 3s at partridge then surely it's all wrong.

'Respect for quarry is paramount as far as I'm concerned and believe it should be for everyone. Like so many things - yes you can do it, but should you do it and what is ultimately the point you have proven? Clays can be sent out at whatever range you want to prove how good a shot you are after all. But I fear it's a never ending discussion.

'Driven shooting hasn't been with us for very long in the grand scheme of things. The brutality of the early Battues would horrify many of us today. I wonder in another 50 years or so will be the same be said of today's extreme pheasant and partridge shooting? Trying to justify shooting birds at the distance they are being shown on some 'extreme' bird shoots is defending the indefensible and the sooner they understand that the better!

'They might shoot hundreds of cartridges at grotesque numbers of birds, but surely something is missing from the day: appreciation of the companionship, the experience of being in the countryside surrounded by nature and friends which we share on a DIY shoot, or a small day's shooting at more traditional distances. Surely with game guns and game cartridges it's testing enough if the misses that we see are anything to go by?'

'It comes down to shooting massively high, unnaturally presented birds with heavy clay guns. I'm not so concerned with large bag days - when there is an outlet for the meat. I think if



it doesn't go to the shoot and the Gun/besaters etc or game dealer, then charities, food banks and homeless shelters should automatically get the meat, if there is no restaurant or retail demand. I know that is being done in parts of the UK with great success.

'Simply paying the money and turning up, day in and day out, shooting and shooting with heavy loads from heavy guns would be too much like a tiring day's work. What I prefer is the whole thing of working at all levels in the

shoot and not just being a travelling gun. I've had a grounding in the countryside and country sports since childhood. Airguns, single barrels and shotguns and rifles are no strangers. Plus I've spent time wildfowling, when a shot was a bonus.

'All shooters should spend time with keepers, or beating, picking up etc to appreciate the birds. And that goes especially for Guns who simply 'turn up.' They're missing out on the 'whole' picture, from poul to pen, to covert to shoot days, not to forget how to prepare and cook the game.

'On our DIY shoot, I sit with my pheasants in the pen and can watch them for hours. I watch by the ponds as the mallard come and go. I watched snipe fly their mating displays this year for the first time. I have even watched fox cubs playing, and seen barn owls.

'I love to read about all aspects of shooting and conservation. (Here, he fetched from the car, '20,000 shots' by David Baker as he wanted to quote what was written). The subject of the book is Arthur James Lane 1816- 1906, who grew up using flintlocks and died using breech loading ejectors. In the book, Lane said: "Think of this, ye shooters of the present day, who go out with three guns and men to put cartridges in for you. Nevertheless the sport in those days was much more enjoyable and health giving, and in advance of the present style, as fox hunting is to rat hunting. Then, every man who carried a gun knew the habits of every kind of game as perfectly as he knew his own fields, and in what way to set about circumventing their wiles and cunning tricks, and I shrewdly suspect a good many shooters of the present day are not satisfied unless they are constantly firing their guns, until they get too hot to hold; and it must be confessed we old fashioned shooters cannot see the sport of this "slaughter of the innocent." What will we be saying about the cult of 'extreme' shooting in years to come?

'When I was younger, I went in search of pheasants most weeks in the season. I probably only shot a couple of very small driven days each year. On my average walk up I covered miles, usually with only one other friend and a couple of springers. Six pheasant seen, never mind shot was a big day, often we blanked.

'On my wee shoot, on a boundary day, I would take a maximum of 3 or 4 birds home with me. I generally only get one or two chances for a duck in an evening, so one or two ducks is all I get. Pulling the trigger is the least important and possibly least enjoyable bit of the day out.

Just like fishing, there's so much more to enjoy than big numbers and simply tapping the fish on its head. If I was constantly injuring trout I'd give it up and the same goes for extreme birds too in my book. I couldn't hit them anyway. And we all agreed on that!

**Paul Pringle, Northern Editor**



## Untagged salmon and illegal nets seized

**26** untagged salmon were seized in The Glenties area in Donegal and 1,100 yards of illegal salmon drift nets off Inishbeg Island. The seizures were secured by Inland Fisheries Ireland's Fisheries Officers who are based in Donegal.

The first seizure took place following covert surveillance by Fisheries Officers which resulted in 26 untagged salmon being identified. The second seizure occurred at Inishbeg Island later the same day while Fisheries Officers were conducting sea patrols along the North West coast of Donegal. Two drift nets, measuring 600 yards and 500 yards respectively, were located drifting east of Inishbeg Island and were seized together with two salmon.

The Fisheries Officers were utilising the first of a new fleet of 7.8 Delta RIB boats recently commissioned by Inland Fisheries Ireland and officially launched by the Minister of State for Inland Fisheries, Sean Kyne and Joe McHugh TD, Minister with responsibility for Gaelige, Gaeltacht and the Islands in Rathmullan, Co. Donegal.

Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "Both incidents highlight the importance of ongoing Inland Fisheries Ireland offshore and coastal patrols to protect migrating salmon and sea trout stocks against illegal fishing activity at a time when salmon stocks are under severe pressure from high temperatures, very low water levels and a long term decline in survival rates at sea. The value of prompt and accurate information from concerned members

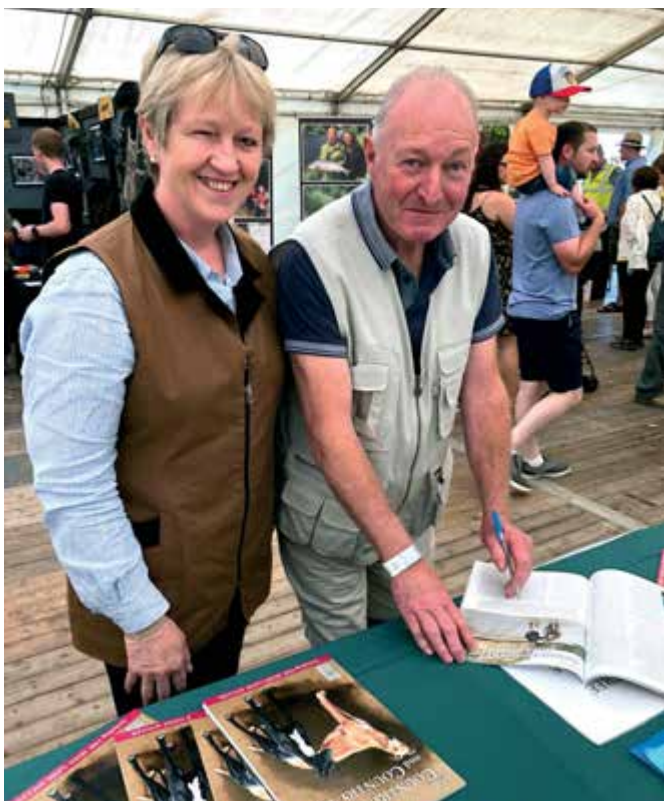


*Fisheries Officers following the seizure off Donegal.*

of the public who report instances of suspected illegal activity or pollution alerts cannot be overstated.

Information may be passed directly to local Inland Fisheries Ireland staff or by phoning our confidential Hotline number on 1890 34 74 24 or 1890 FISH 24."

## A 'Personal Signing' for the High Sheriff of Antrim



**F**ollowing the Shanes Castle Game Fair's opening ceremony, Antrim's High Sheriff Gillian Bingham took time out to join the thousands of others enjoying the Fair's Anniversary 'buzz.' At the Irish Country Sports & Country Life magazine stand, retired gamekeeper and author, Alastair Beattie, was delighted to sign his article in the summer edition of the magazine for the High Sheriff.

## New shooting record for Frank Brophy

**O**n 28 August, our regular contributor Frank Brophy was in action at a weekend-long NASRPC Shooting Competition at Hilltop Shooting Range in Co. Wicklow.

In fact, Frank set a new Irish record for Open 25 metre Precision .22 Pistol Shooting, returning 289 points including 13X, winning Gold. The previous record was 284. Congratulations Frank from everyone at ICS&CL.

## Barbour Autumn / Winter '18 Countrywear

**S**ince 1894, countrywear has been a focus point for the Barbour brand. This Autumn / Winter '18 collection maintains its attention to practicality and performance, offering a stylish selection of functional outerwear and layered clothing expertly suited for outdoor activities.

Dominating this year's colour trend is a mixture of olive and navy. The collection features an assortment of lightweight quilted and waterproof jackets, combined with a choice of chunky knitwear and country checked shirts in rustic and neutral themes. This collection is sure to suit those who embrace the country lifestyle – guaranteeing practicality and performance throughout.

Barbour countrywear is available to buy from [www.barbour.com](http://www.barbour.com) and the following retailers:

Smyth Country Sports, 1 Park Street, Coleraine BT52 1BD  
Northern Ireland (+44) 02870343970

Homefield & Stream, 18 Church Street, Enniskillen BT74 7EJ  
Northern Ireland (+44) 02866322114

Sportsden, Trimgate Street, Navan, Co. Meath, R.O.I. (+353) 0469021130





Smyth Country Sports, 1 Park Street, Coleraine BT52 1BD N. Ireland  
(+44) 02870343970

Homefield & Stream, 18 Church Street, Enniskillen BT74 7EJ N. Ireland  
(+44) 02866322114

Sportsden, Trimgate Street, Navan, Co. Meath Ireland  
(+353) 0469021130

**Barbour®**  
#BarbourWayofLife



# Countryside Alliance



## **A Glorious Twelfth at Belle Isle**

On Saturday, 12 May 2018, the sun shone brightly down over the beautiful Belle Isle Estate in County Fermanagh. Kindly hosted by His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, a charity simulated game shoot in aid of The Countryside Alliance Foundation (the charitable wing of the Countryside Alliance) and The Irish Guards Benevolent Fund, was held.

The day started promptly when after registering and receiving their rotation plans, the participants were given a safety briefing and then sent off to their various stands to commence the event at 10.00am. Twenty-two teams of four guns took part in the competition which took the form of a simulated 100 bird game shoot comprising 10 stands and a 50 bird flush.

Lower Erne Shooting Club were recruited to run the shoot and the stands were a mix of challenge and fun. The ten stands tested the guns with a variety of scenarios such as Fur and Feather, Driven Partridge and a Looping Pheasant On Report and Crossing Pheasant Right and Crossing Pheasant Left. A break for lunch at 1.00pm, provided much needed refreshments, which set the teams up for the afternoon's sport.

Friendly banter and rivalry was the order throughout the day and there were a variety of attractions for the non shooting guests including Sky's Portrait Artist of the Year, Gareth Reid, who gave a masterclass, archery lessons, Muff Gin cruises on Trasna (very popular)! and a cookery demonstration by Danni Barry (Clenaghans, Aghalee).

One of the main attractions at the event was Domhnall, the Irish Wolfhound Mascot of the Irish Guards, who happily mingled with the guests throughout the day. The guests hailed from all over Ireland, USA, Monaco, Belgium, India, Sri Lanka, Africa and GB.

Following the prize giving there was a short break before a gala dinner was served in a marquee situated on the lawn overlooking the lake. After dinner which was devised by Michelin starred Chef Danni Barry and executed by Posh Nosh, silent and live auctions were held, with some amazing lots on offer. The pipes and drums of the Irish Guards provided a very fitting finale to the evening's festivities.

It really was a truly unique event, in the most magnificent of surroundings and all in aid of two very deserving charities. The

organising committee cannot thank everyone enough for their support; the main sponsors, Cunningham Coates Stockbrokers and Bentley Belfast, the participants and guests, the donors and to the many wonderful, generous and talented people who helped make the event such a marvellous success.

## **Dog Breeding Establishment Guidelines July 2018 – R of I**

The Department of Rural and Community Development (the Department) has put in place a revised set of Guidelines for Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs). The Guidelines are in place to support the improvement of standards in DBEs and form part of the framework within which local authorities carry out inspections and issue improvement notices where required. There is a substantial shift in the new guidelines towards a focus on the welfare of dogs and pups. Better socialised pups, housed in appropriate accommodation make for better pets. Where there is a focus on socialisation in the key first few weeks of life, there is a smoother transition to life in a family home.

The Guidelines have been issued under Section 15 (4) of the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 (the Act) following a public consultation process. They come into effect from 1 January 2019, at which time they will replace the previous Guidelines. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Act. For more information - <https://drcd.gov.ie/>

## **Three New PSNI Firearms Licensing Online Forms**

As of 14 June 2018 three new firearm licensing forms are available on line: Cancellation, Change of Address and European Firearms Pass. Guidance notes for these forms are available online and there is a dedicated helpline for queries relating to the completion of online application forms. Telephone 0800 783 9899 – Monday – Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

All other queries for Firearms & Explosives Branch should as normal be made between the hours of 2.00pm to 4.00pm through the non-emergency number 101 (Monday – Friday).

## **Countryside Alliance Show How Rural Activities Can Lead To Health Benefits**

The Countryside Alliance has told a Government inquiry how taking part in rural activities such as fishing, hunting or shooting sports has shown to provide a positive impact on social mobility, education, health, and community engagement.

The Countryside Alliance submitted written evidence on the positive role rural sports can have as part of an inquiry into the social impact of participation in sport by the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. The Countryside Alliance's evidence outlined the benefits from their charity arm, The Countryside Alliance Foundation which has introduced thousands to the countryside and enabled many young people who get few life chances to participate in positive outdoor rural activities.

The Foundation's key projects which includes Casting for Recovery, Fishing for Schools and Falconry for Schools all demonstrate that positive engagement in rural activities can improve health and educational attainment. In addition to this, Countryside Alliance also outlined the benefits of shooting and its associated activities such as beating, picking up or manual work and how they contribute to the wellbeing and health of those who take part. Hunting also plays a key role in many communities. The majority of hunts organise social activities which can include a point-to-point or a quiz night, while a hunt



*The CC Team along with Irish Guards Mascot Domhnall*





**Incorporating The Irish Game  
Protection Association**

Countryside Alliance Ireland is a highly effective and professional rural campaigning organisation. We promote and protect all country sports interests at the very heart of Government decision-making and in the media.

Countryside Alliance Ireland is the only organisation that campaigns for and protects all country sports throughout Ireland, working closely with a broad range of partner organisations.

We have developed a powerful voice that is making a real difference.

### **STRENGTHEN THAT VOICE BY JOINING US TODAY**

#### **Membership Benefits**

- £10/€12 Million personal public liability cover
- £30k personal accident cover\*
- £15k accidental death cover\*
- Free members E-zine
- Special membership package for clubs and syndicates
- Support for Countryside Alliance Ireland campaigns
- \* Payable in euro at current exchange rates

**FOR INFORMATION ON THE BEST VALUE COUNTRY SPORTS MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE IN IRELAND PLEASE CONTACT:**

**T:** Dublin: 01690 3610  
Belfast: 028 9263 9911  
**E:** [membership@caireland.org](mailto:membership@caireland.org)  
**W:** [www.caireland.org](http://www.caireland.org)

Countryside Alliance Ireland  
64a Dows Road  
Belfast  
BT8 8LB

Countryside Alliance Ireland  
Courtclough Shooting Grounds  
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin  
K32 KD99

# **EASTWOOD MOTORS**

**DESMOND EASTWOOD MOTORS LTD**

**TELEPHONE: 028 9262 1293**

**[www.eastwoodmotors.com](http://www.eastwoodmotors.com)**



**Number 1 for Subaru and Isuzu**



meet itself gives people in the community a chance to come together.

Countryside Alliance, Head of Policy Sarah Lee, commented: "The Countryside Alliance welcomed this inquiry as we believe that rural sports and outdoor activity are increasingly being recognised as important for their contributions to our physical, personal and social wellbeing".

The next Casting for Recovery retreat in Ireland will be held at Mount Falcon in County Mayo on 19–21 October 2018. For more information – [www.castingforrecovery.co.uk](http://www.castingforrecovery.co.uk)

## Minister Announces Chair of the TB 2030 Forum in Ireland

The Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D. today announced the appointment of Michael Cronin as the Chair of the TB 2030 Stakeholder Forum. The Minister recently sought and received Government support for the stated ambition of eradicating bovine TB from the national herd by 2030. As part of that process, it was agreed to establish a Stakeholder Forum tasked with drawing up proposals that can help achieve eradication by 2030, and the Terms of Reference for such a Forum. The Minister will then consider these proposals in finalising a TB 2030 Strategy.

Commenting on his appointment, Minister Creed said: "I am very pleased that Michael has agreed to take on the challenge of chairing the TB Stakeholder Forum. His extensive experience in the agri-food industry makes him an ideal Chair to facilitate the views of all stakeholders in developing proposals that can help deliver eradication of bovine TB by 2030. I look forward to considering these proposals from the Forum in due course."

Michael Cronin has many years of experience, working in the agri Food Industry in Ireland. He has an in-depth knowledge of the Irish Dairy Industry gained from his long tenure as CEO of Newmarket Co-op and from his time as Chair of the Irish Dairy Board from 2002 to 2010. Michael was also a board member of Bord Bia and Chair of their Quality Assurance Board. Over the past 6 years, Michael has continued to work in the agri-food industry as a partner of Agri-food Business Partners.

Further members will be drawn from interests that include DAFM, farm organisations, veterinary profession, agri-food industry and the farming and research communities. The Forum will hold its first meeting in September 2018 and discussions will centre around three themes i.e. governance, policy options and cost and benefits.

## CAI at the 40th Anniversary All Ireland Game Fair

The weekend of 23 & 24 June 2018 was blessed with unseasonably good weather which was very welcome for the organisers and attendees at the All Ireland Game Fair at Shanes Castle in County Antrim.

There were some new attractions along with the regular, firm favourites and it was a very fitting tribute to this special anniversary Fair.

Countryside Alliance Ireland had a significant presence as the



The Montgomery Family - visiting the CAI stand in some style!

largest country sports organisation at the Fair and we were pleased to welcome our members and supporters onto our stand. Visitors included longstanding CAI member, George Carberry and his wife Eleanor who have attended every one of the Great Game Fairs since they started; a remarkable feat by any standards.

Luke McCourt, winner of the 'Young Irish Country Sports Writer of the Year,' came along to the CAI marquee where he was presented with his prizes. We were delighted to hear that Luke is going to continue with his writing and we are sure he has a very bright future given his winning entry.

CAI Chairman, Barry O'Connell, attended over the two days and was very impressed with the attractions, exhibitors and trade stands on offer. Barry was kept busy presenting various prizes throughout the weekend and he was also interviewed by the Fieldsports Channel in respect of CAI's opposition to the removal of shooting from the Commonwealth Games.

CAI would like to thank everyone who visited us over the weekend and also to our fellow exhibitors who enhanced our presence at the event; BDS NI, PSNI FEB, PSNI WLO, NIEA Wildlife Officer, the NI Stickcarvers Club and Sunnyland Beagles.



Shanes Castle 2018 - our fellow exhibitors

## Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework: Stakeholder Engagement

The United Kingdom (UK)'s exit from the EU will mean that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will no longer apply in Northern Ireland. Agricultural policy is devolved and its future direction will largely be determined by the devolved administrations. Following initial engagement with a range of key stakeholders across food, farming and the environment, DAERA is now undertaking wider engagement to help shape the debate on future agricultural support arrangements and inform future Ministers.

Under the draft Withdrawal Agreement<sup>1</sup> between the UK and the EU, it is anticipated that existing Regulations under CAP in relation to direct payments will continue to apply in 2019 and there will be no scope to change these. Direct support from 2020 would operate under domestic legislation.

This paper builds on the previous DAERA Minister's letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on 2 March 2017. This described the following key desired outcomes and long term vision for the Northern Ireland agricultural industry (discussed in more detail later in this paper):

1. Increased productivity in international terms; 2. Improved resilience to external shocks; 3. An agriculture industry that is environmentally sustainable; and 4. An industry which operates within an integrated, efficient, sustainable, competitive and responsive supply chain.

This engagement, therefore, seeks stakeholder views on two time periods: 1. 2020-2021 when CAP would no longer apply and support is funded by UK Government (UKG). This could be a transitional period which provides some certainty in relation to support arrangements but may provide some scope for simplification; and 2. 2022 and beyond which looks towards a longer term agricultural policy.

Countryside Alliance Ireland will be responding to this consultation and we shall keep you updated on any developments. For more information: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/northern-ireland-future-agricultural-policy-framework>



YOU CAN FIND OUR PRODUCTS  
AT EXCLUSIVE SPECIALIST RETAILERS  
AND ONLINE AT [WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM](http://WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM)



BY APPOINTMENT TO  
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
SWAROVSKI OPTIK  
SUPPLIER OF BINOCULARS



## Z8i 2-16x50 P **RIGHT AT HOME** *ANYWHERE*

The Z8i 2-16x50 P from SWAROVSKI OPTIK is a true all-rounder that is perfect for both driven and long-range hunting. It sets new standards in optical performance, design and ergonomics. An excellent rifle scope with a large field of view for maximum overview and an 8x zoom for those crucial details. Also ideal for use at twilight and in poor light conditions. When seconds are crucial – SWAROVSKI OPTIK.

SEE THE UNSEEN  
[WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM](http://WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM)



**SWAROVSKI**  
OPTIK



## Irish Deer Commission Launch



**T**he Irish Deer Commission, Ireland's newest deer organisation, recently held its official launch at the Irish Fly-Fishing & Game Shooting Museum, Attanagh, Co Laois. The Irish Deer Commission is a voluntary Association that promotes and encourages efforts to improve the management and conservation of our wild deer through a partnership arrangement with land users and stakeholders, member events and through its website [www.irishdeercommission.ie](http://www.irishdeercommission.ie)

The event was well supported by all stakeholder groups and government agencies including Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), An Garda Síochána (AGS), media, farming, hunting and deer stalking interest groups.

While the Association is new, the founding fifteen Executive members hold vast knowledge and experience on wild deer and their management and conservation. Speakers on the night included leading deer academic Dr Ruth Carden, who is the Association's Scientific Advisor and spoke about the need for deer management and best practice.

Garda Superintendent Martin Walker, an honorary member of the Association and recognised as the driving force behind the highly successful An Garda Síochána and NPWS "Operation Bambi" investigating the illegal killing of wild deer, spoke about the ongoing efforts to combat wildlife crime in Ireland. Superintendent Walker announced that a Garda Inspector rank in each Garda Division would work closely with their opposite number in the NPWS and that a new training course on combating wildlife crime will be lead by a Garda Assistant Commissioner and launched in September 2018.

Irish Deer Commission Chairman Mr



L-R Damien Hannigan, Irish Deer Commission PRO, John Clooney, IDC Secretary, Michael Fenlon, NARGC Chairman, Vincent Kelly, IDC Chairman

Vincent Kelly spoke about the Association's Aims and Objectives, including that the Association would "support landowners and land managers to ensure deer are managed at sustainable levels" "support initiatives to combat wildlife crime" "support academic research" "Offer members a wide range of deer-related activities" "conserving our native deer species as part of Ireland's rich natural heritage and biodiversity" "Advise key public bodies on deer-related issues".

Irish Deer Commission PRO Mr Damien Hannigan also spoke on the night about the increasing time pressures on those undertaking voluntary work such as the Irish Deer Commission, he praised the founding Executive who had the courage and determination to start a new Association, Mr Hannigan also spoke

about the importance of supporting landowners who had genuine deer problems.

The event was kindly hosted by Mr Walter Phelan of the Irish Fly-Fishing & Game Shooting Museum, who gave an entertaining talk on the Museum and its history.

The Irish Deer Commission is now accepting applications for membership through its website [www.irishdeercommission.ie](http://www.irishdeercommission.ie) with ordinary membership for just €20. The Association will also hold a free rut walk and talk on wildlife photography hosted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Killarney National Park on October 14th 2018 – places are limited and must be booked in advance by emailing [info@irishdeercommission.ie](mailto:info@irishdeercommission.ie) this is a family event and suitable for all fitness levels.

## Gleneagles introduces traditional game shooting packages

**G**leneagles is perfectly placed for country pursuits, with neighbouring estates that can offer walked-up or driven shooting, as well as the chance to enjoy the "sport of kings", traditional grouse shooting. Other species that may be shot, depending on the season, are red-legged partridge, soaring pheasant, wild mallard and the elusive woodcock. There will be gundogs on hand to retrieve your shot game, and there may be pointers to flush the game to the Guns.

Guests will be accompanied by the head gamekeeper, as well as a shooting instructor, who will pass on their encyclopedic knowledge and experience, helping Guns to enjoy the day and achieve success.

Price: £1,350 pp for one guest; £1,100 pp for two; £950 pp for three; £895 pp for four on the basis of each guest shooting between two and three brace. Driven shooting can be arranged for groups of more than six, prices on request.

Those shooting must have insurance, which the hotel can arrange through the British Association of Shooting & Conservation at an additional cost of £78 per person. Minimum age is 15 years old, and young people must be accompanied by an adult. Rooms start at £520 per night based on two sharing, and include a full Scottish breakfast each morning and use of The Health Club facilities.

For more information, visit [www.gleneagles.com](http://www.gleneagles.com)



Walked up and driven shooting can be arranged.



"IFA Countryside provides good cover over a range of outdoor activities eg fishing, walking etc. Good backup and friendly staff"

**Golden Kilfeacle Gun Club**



## We defend the interests of members who actively enjoy our countryside through:

- The protection of the environment
- Influencing positive change in policies that impact rural Ireland
- Providing real cost-savings

In addition to strong representation, IFA Countryside also offers a range of Exclusive Member Benefits including free Personal Accident Cover and Personal Legal Liability Cover, hotel breaks, mobile, power, telecom, TV packages and much more.

### Join IFA Countryside's Club Programme and avail of the following additional benefits:

- Subsidised Pheasants & Ducks
- Subsidised Feed from Local Dealers
- Vermin Trap Subsidy
- Subsidised HCAP Courses

"We are delighted with IFA Countryside as it suits our needs as a club and is a perfect fit as a rural based organisation keeping up-to-date on countryside matters and preserving the countryside ethos & community spirit"

**ABGN Gun Club**

## Membership from €50

## Join IFA Countryside TODAY.

[www.ifacountryside.ie](http://www.ifacountryside.ie)  
1890 924 982  
[countryside@ifa.ie](mailto:countryside@ifa.ie)

IFA Countryside Head Office,  
Mill Park Road, Enniscorthy,  
Co. Wexford, Y21 N9F5

### Contacts:

Marcus O'Halloran  
M: 087 167 0830

Barbara Killeen  
T: 1890 924 982



## Simon Ward flies the flag for Schöffel Country

**P**remium country clothing brand, Schöffel Country, has teamed up with world-renowned game shot Simon Ward, who has been appointed as a brand ambassador.

Marcus Janssen, Schöffel Country's brand director, said: "We are delighted to welcome Simon on board as a brand ambassador for Schöffel Country. He is a very natural fit as he shares our core values – a passion for fieldsports and an unstinting resolve to be the very best at what he does."

"Having witnessed Simon shoot on many occasions, there is no question that he is more than deserving of his reputation as one of the world's finest all-round game shots. We are extremely happy to be working alongside him."

Highly respected within the industry, Simon is now considered one of the best in the country and this is backed up by his consistency in all forms of game shooting and is one of the most highly regarded gun fitters in the UK.

Simon will work in partnership with Schöffel Country as a representative of the brand in the field. He will also assist with product development through rigorous field testing of technical shooting products. For more information on Schöffel Country, or any of its products, visit [www.schoffel.co.uk](http://www.schoffel.co.uk).

*Schöffel Country's brand ambassador Simon Ward.*



## Le Chameau launches most luxurious collection to date

**L**e Chameau's iconic rubber shooting boots have seen a further status rise with the launch of the Prestige collection, the brand new flagship of the entire Le Chameau range.

This exclusive collection incorporates both the classic Chasseur shooting boot and the elegant and timeless Vierzon as inspiration. New accents have been added such as exquisite leather detailing, a heritage metal logo and, in the case of the Vierzonord Prestige, a tartan-patterned 3mm neoprene lining – all of which add distinction and elegance. The collection includes: Chasseur Cuir Prestige, Chasseur Neo Prestige, Vierzon Prestige and Vierzonord Prestige.

The Prestige collection is handcrafted by maître bottiers (master bootmakers) using Chamolux™ rubber – Le Chameau's closely guarded secret recipe and process. It is this rubber that allows Le Chameau rubber boots to have a fit, comfort and durability unlike any other.

The Prestige collection features an anti-fatigue, dual-density, all-terrain grip/cross outsole that is both shock absorbing and insulating. A reinforced shank for better arch support and the use of Kevlar® reinforced Chamolux™ rubber foot and leg shield provide added abrasion-resistance and protection.

Available in both men's and women's versions, the Prestige collection comes with a 2-year warranty. Prices from £200.



*The Vierzonord Prestige Vert Vierzon.*

## Swazi launches The Hood sweatshirt

**R**espected around the globe, award-winning cult hunting clothing brand Swazi Apparel has unveiled a stylish and practical polar fleece – The Hood.

Providing warmth and protection against the elements, the hood's stand-out feature is a long zip which makes it quick and easy to take on and off.

Made in New Zealand at Swazi's factory nestled under the Tararua Mountains, The Hood is made from 280gsm polar fleece. It is long cut to retain warmth and comes with a handy zipped chest pocket.

Davey Hughes, founder and creative director at Swazi Apparel commented: "I believe a lot of innovation comes from necessity. The Swazi team is made up by a lot of hunters, who are out in the field, wearing our gear all the time, so they understand the requirements for a good outdoor garment. I was camping out on a really windy, cold morning, wearing one of our global favourite garments, the Swazi Bush Shirt which has been in our stable for 23 years, when I came up with the idea to add a hood. The Hood was designed to act as an extra collar, stopping the wind going down the back of your neck and that's where the name came from."

For more information, visit [www.swazi.co.nz](http://www.swazi.co.nz).

*The Hood sweatshirt by SWAZI.*







# THE VOLVO XC60 ARRIVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE.



Book your test drive today

**Agnew Belfast** | 028 9068 6000  
[www.volvocarsbelfast.co.uk](http://www.volvocarsbelfast.co.uk)

**Greers of Antrim & Coleraine** | 028 9446 0066  
[www.volvocarsantrim.co.uk](http://www.volvocarsantrim.co.uk)

Official fuel consumption for the Volvo XC60 D4 R-Design (manual) in MPG (l/100km): Urban 44.8 (6.3), Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 emissions 142g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.



 **Schöffel**  
AUTHORISED RETAILER



**WEAR  
THE BEST!**

AVAILABLE IN-STORE & ONLINE AT  
**Mc CLOYS**   
— COUNTRY ATTIRE —

10 CREAGH ROAD, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3SE | 028 7965 0641

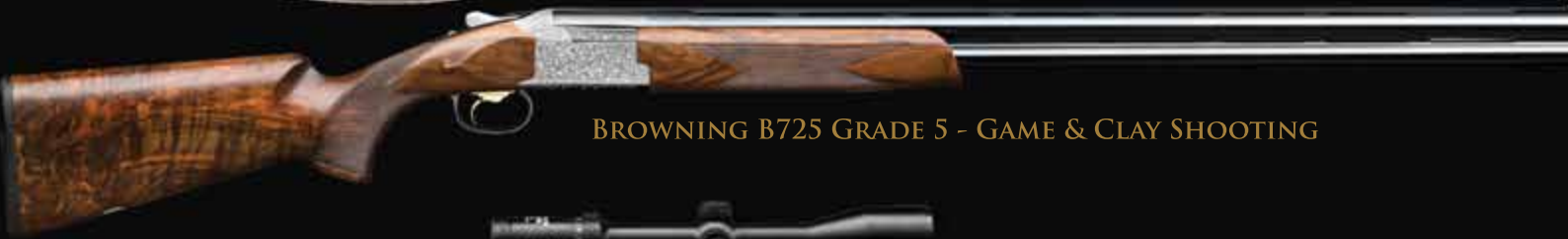




# NEW SEASON. NEW GUN.



BLASER F16 GRAND LUX - GAME SHOOTING



BROWNING B725 GRADE 5 - GAME & CLAY SHOOTING



BLASER R8 SUCCESS .223 & .308WIN - MEDIUM & LARGE GAME



BROWNING T-BOLT VARMIN'T .17HMR - SMALL GAME

VIEW ONLINE

**WEBSITE UPDATED DAILY**  
**WWW.MCCLOYS.COM**



## GWCT's response to mountain hare study

**I**n response to the publication of the **Watson and Wilson (2018) paper on mountain hare populations**, **David Noble, Chairman (Scotland) of GWCT**, said: **"We are delighted that the authors of this paper recognise that that mountain hares thrive on heather moorland managed for red grouse, that their numbers can increase quickly in such areas and that the long-term threat to their population is from landscape scale habitat change, especially coniferous tree planting.**

"GWCT's studies of where mountain hares are living in Scotland agree that most losses are at the edge of their range, where heather moorland has been changed to forest and farmland 1. But data gathered by the GWCT over the same period as this study does not suggest such a decline in hare numbers on our remaining grouse moors2, and that our counts in recent years have found robust hare populations close to where this paper appears to be reporting very few. Now this paper is published we look forward to reviewing it, especially how the counts were made, because assessing hare numbers accurately is challenging.

"It is also important the grouse moor community take on the challenge of

assessing hare numbers themselves and does not ignore public concerns about the culling of this charismatic species. What is required and should parallel Scottish Ministers' review of grouse moor management in 2019, is a coordinated approach with counting and management of mountain hares at regional level to safeguard against the possibility of any threat to local populations."

### **New GWCT chairman lays out his vision for the future**

THE new chairman of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) is ready to embrace the 'huge challenges' ahead as we enter a Brexit era.

Sir Jim Paice, who started his new role in July, hopes to achieve more for our countryside, wildlife and shooting during his time as chairman. As a keen Gun, he wants to increase the understanding of shoot conservation and improve standards by raising awareness of Guns' legal and ethical obligations. So far, the GWCT has



done this through the publication of its new book *The Knowledge: Every Gun's Guide to Conservation*, which is aimed at seasoned Guns as well as those new to shooting.

"The continuing conflicts in the world of shooting, bag sizes, releasing, predator control and lead shot all need science as the basis of resolution. So, the work of GWCT is vital to the interests of hundreds of thousands of sportsmen, farmers and conservationists; yet barely 20,000 are our members," he said. "I would like to see all these people join us but let us start with the shooting community. I feel very strongly that people who shoot should appreciate all that goes into it and the countryside where it happens. If all our members insisted that anyone who shoots on their land, either as a guest or a client joined GWCT, it would get us going. I hate hearing of shooters who know and care little about the countryside which is providing their enjoyment - the least they can do is support the work that enables it to survive. Personally, I would rather they didn't shoot at all than to simply want to exploit it but I know that is unrealistic."

## NARGC ROUND UP

**I**n the autumn, field sports men and women turn their thoughts towards the coming season. Whether it is hunting, shooting, stalking or any of the activities surrounding these sports, equipment will be checked and plans will be made to repair or replace essential kit. Hunters will also consider the past spring and summer and the success or otherwise of the game breeding and rearing season.



team conducted a two-day Open Day Seminar in Bloomfield House Hotel back in June with a guest Gamekeeper passing on elements of his craft to eager students.

Thirteen highly successful Proficiency Courses were held also and our standard-setting Game Meat Handling

Course has been revived to warm welcome. Of course there was no Birr Game Fair this year but many of us took the opportunity to visit Shane's Castle instead, where Albert Titterington and his crew made us very welcome. We eagerly await next year's event in its new venue.

July saw us in sunny Ballinasloe for our Annual Clay Shoot extravaganza. Grounds owner, Pat Loughane, Clonfad Gun Club and our Galway hosts otherwise were on top of their game putting on a well organised two days that ran like clockwork. My own county, Louth, emerged as winners in both the county and club competitions.

As I write we still have the Ploughing Championships to look forward to. This is another great event where our team gets to meet our Associate Members and our farming friends.

Of course, our RGC's staged many events ranging from charity clay shoots to environmental projects and game and duck releases, all the time playing a key



**By John Toal, NARGC PRO**

part in the life of our communities.

In my role as National PRO, I get to help out in my small way but the positive actions of our regional and club PRO's are what builds our profile across the entire country.

On the European front, our FACE representatives fly the flag for Irish interests with a careful watch being maintained on the ever-intensifying lead shot issue. Wildlife diseases, biosecurity and firearms legislation loom largely also.

The NARGC wishes all its Clubs and members a safe and productive hunting season ahead.





# The N.A.R.G.C Compensation Fund

**Ireland's foremost source of Public Liability and Personal Accident Protection  
for Hunters, Clay Shooters, Target Shooters and others who are Members of our affiliated Clubs.**

*The National Association of Regional Game Councils encourages game shooters and clay/target shooters to support the Shooting Lobby by joining a Gun/Game Club, Clay Pigeon Club or Target Sports Club affiliated to the NARGC.*

*With 27,000 Members, you will be joining the most authoritative voice for the sport of shooting in Ireland. You will also enjoy the protection of the NARGC Compensation Fund which carries a ceiling of protection of €10m each and every claim. The Association welcomes the affiliation of new Clubs through its RGC structure.*



**In addition, with the NARGC you have:**

- Full-time staff dedicated to working for shooting interests
- A say in the running of the Association - elections/resolutions
- A Members' Magazine posted free to your home at least once annually
- Habitat and other Grants for your Club - €350,000 granted annually
- Special Funding for Grouse Projects
- Grants for the purchase of Predator Control equipment by Clubs
- Mallard/Pheasant Release subsidies for Clubs and RGC's - currently €4.37 per bird
- Research into Game and other species
- The defence of Members rights, individually and collectively, even in the Courts

- Club of the Year Award
- Game Meat Handling Courses
- Representation otherwise at EU level
- A good working relationship with Farmers
- An Association Shop - books, badges, stickers, ties etc
- Monitoring and input into the drafting of legislation affecting shooting sports
- Inter-Club & Inter-County Annual Clay Shoots - biggest Clay Shoot in Ireland
- Members' access to information/advice on all issues every day
- Proficiency Courses and Safety Seminars for Associate Members
- Constant Government lobbying in Ireland and at EU level

**We now offer  
Fund Membership to  
Club Members who are under 14  
for just €10**



**For information on the Compensation Fund, call our Fund Office on FREEFONE: 1800 222 444  
or telephone our full-time National Fund Administrator on 086 788 8411 (office hours only please)**



**Are you going  
home to a  
Clearview ?**



**THE HOME OF CLEARVIEW STOVES IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM**

**Naghan Lodge, 200 Newcastle Road, Seaforde, BT30 8NU**

**Telephone: 028 44811783**

**info@cdfs.co.uk    www.cdfs.co.uk**

**UK manufactured for 31 years**





## Country Sports Ireland

### Unique experience for Country Sports Ireland members

A number of Country Sports Ireland members enjoyed the unique experience of participating in a live deer cull on Sunday 9th September in Clara, Co. Offaly.

Under the expert guidance of Country Sports Ireland Deer Advisor, David Dunne attendees were able to bleed, gralloch and inspect freshly shot deer carcasses – substantially developing their knowledge and skills in a very short space of time. David also delivered an excellent demonstration on disease identification and butchery which was greatly appreciated by all those in attendance.

Thanks to Lenka Dunne who treated everyone to a venison lunch and to other members of the Country Sports Ireland team who supported the delivery of this excellent event.

### DSC 1 delivered

Creggagh Field Target Club, Draperstown Co. Derry provided an ideal venue for the Country Sports Ireland Deer Stalking Certificate Level 1 (DSC 1) course which took place on 24th & 25th August and had been fully booked weeks beforehand.

The facilities at Creggagh Field Target Club are second to none and the knowledge and hospitality of club officers outstanding.

Special thanks also to course assessor James Scott, event sponsors SL Sports and course attendees who flew through the course and were a pleasure to work with.



control - which reflected Ivan's 30 years of experience and unrivalled knowledge.

There were also presentations on legislation and safety followed by a shoot at life like fox targets on Creggagh Field Target Club's approved shooting range under the expert guidance of club officers.

Thanks to Derek, Pat and Tom from Creggagh Field Target Club for their hospitality, help and support which made a major contribution to the success of the event.

### Deer Stalking Training Course – outstanding success!

There has been an incredible reaction to the Country Sports Ireland Deer Stalking Training Course which was launched earlier this year and delivered on several occasions in the ideal surroundings of the Midlands National Shooting Centre of Ireland, Tullamore, and Co. Offaly.

The Country Sports Ireland team of Chief Executive Ronan Gorman, Firearms Advisor JP Craven, Deer Advisor David Dunne and Gerry Conlon from Lough Bo Rifle & Pistol Club, Co. Sligo delivered comprehensive presentations on deer law, safety, species identification, ballistics and shooting performance followed by written, safety and shooting assessments.

Feedback from everyone who attended the course has been incredibly positive and we are very grateful for this enthusiastic support and positive feedback.

We were also particularly pleased to receive official confirmation that the Country Sports Ireland Deer Stalking Training Course is accepted by Coillte for any person hunting deer under licence on Coillte lands and also accepted by National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of Section 42 License applications.

The next Country Sports Ireland Deer Stalking Training Courses will be delivered in early 2019. Details will be published on the Country Sports Ireland Facebook page and website [www.countrysportsireland.org](http://www.countrysportsireland.org)

### Gundog Training Course

Top retriever men John Barr Jr and John Barr Snr recently joined Country Sports Ireland's Ronan Gorman to deliver a Gundog Training Seminar on some beautiful training ground in Kilrea, Co. Derry.



Course attendees

### Fox Control Training Course

The highlight of the Country Sports Ireland Fox Control Course which took place at Creggagh Field Target Club, Co. Derry on 7th July was undoubtedly an extremely comprehensive presentation from professional gamekeeper, Ivan Wilson on every aspect of fox



Fox control course shooting techniques



Members on the Gundog Training Day.

The event covered every aspect of training for hunting dogs and retrievers and finished with a demonstration of fully trained spaniels and retrievers working together in a realistic shooting/trial situation.

Contact Country Sports Ireland:

Email; [ronan@countrysportsireland.org](mailto:ronan@countrysportsireland.org)

Web; [www.countrysportsireland.org](http://www.countrysportsireland.org)

Phone: 07542 111542 Phone: 087 6509598





**CONTACT US TODAY FOR  
YOUR FREE CATALOGUES**

[WWW.FISHINGMEGASTORE.COM](http://WWW.FISHINGMEGASTORE.COM)

Tel: 00 44 141 212 8880

Glasgow Angling Centre produces several comprehensive catalogues throughout the year dedicated to Game, Sea and Predator Fishing, as well as two compendium versions which include a Hunting section and a bespoke Fly Tying section. Giving you tens of thousands of products at your finger tips. To receive any or all of these catalogues contact the mail order department today or request yours through the website.

Glasgow Angling Centre operates a bustling, multi award winning mail-order department, sending out hundreds of parcels every day to customers all over the world, and giving valuable advice to anglers who aren't within striking distance of the stores.

**The company takes pride on realistic delivery costs. This includes free delivery to Northern Ireland and the ROI on all orders over £150. This busy service is backed up by two huge warehouses, which are both stuffed to the rafters with stock to keep both shop and mail-order customers constantly supplied.**

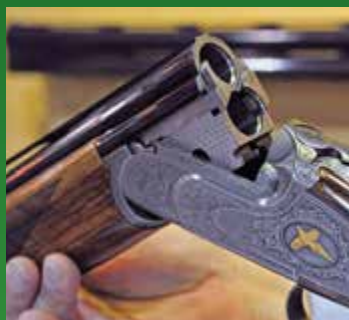


**Seen a better price elsewhere? Our Price Match Promise makes sure you don't have to go anywhere else!**

# Hunting, Shooting, Fishing

**Everything you'll ever need or will ever want...**

**G**LASGOW ANGLING CENTRE, along with its instore gun room Glasgow Field Sports, is without doubt a haven for shooters and anglers alike. They stock a wide range of brands and products unrivalled in the industry. All at competitive prices. Dedicated shooters and anglers travel to Glasgow from all over the UK and abroad - and it is easy to see why. With almost 30 years in the trade they know exactly what customers want to see. For the shooters Glasgow Field Sports store located inside GAC, with hunting and shooting equipment and country clothing from top brands like Harkila, Seeland, Jack Pyke, Swarovski and many more, plus a well-stocked gunroom with over 500 new and used Airguns, Shotguns and Rifles for all your hunting and shooting needs. GAC has hundreds of rods and reels set up and on display for you to touch and try. You can have a go with any fly rod you like on their bespoke casting pool or even the nearby canal basin if you want to try a salmon fly rod - by far the best way to make sure you have chosen the best tool for your needs. The UK's biggest range of angling apparel and waders line the walls of the clothing section from floor to ceiling, gives you the perfect opportunity to restock.



**COME ALONG TO THE GLASGOW ANGLING OPEN WEEKEND - 28th-30th SEPTEMBER**  
CHECK OUT THE LATEST GEAR, GET FREE DEMOS AND TUITION, AND PICK UP A BARGAIN OF COURSE!



Unit 1 The Point Retail Park,  
29 Saracen Street,  
Glasgow, G22 5HT

TEL: 00 44 141 212 8880



Granton Retail Park,  
65 West Harbour Rd,  
Edinburgh, EH5 1PW

TEL: 00 44 131 202 6351

*This really is  
a one stop solution  
for all your hunting,  
shooting and fishing  
needs...*



Visit us on Facebook  
[/glasgowanglingcentre](https://www.facebook.com/glasgowanglingcentre)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@glasgowangling](https://twitter.com/glasgowangling)



Read our Blog  
[blog.fishingmegastore.com](http://blog.fishingmegastore.com)



## Calor NI Leisure Show 2nd – 4th November 2018



**F**ollowing on from the success of last year's show, the second Annual Calor NI Leisure show will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th November at the Eikon Exhibition Centre, Balmoral Park, Lisburn.

Nutt Promotions have been greatly encouraged by the positive feedback from both exhibitors and visitors alike and will continue to expand the show to include new exhibitors under the leisure banner, to include fishing, boats and outdoor equipment and activities.

For 2018 we are adding a new larger Exhibition Hall, which will allow us to expand as planned. Building on the success on the inaugural show, we feel we will be able to fill both Halls at this fantastic venue.

Another success last year was the number of caravans and motorhomes that camped overnight. This year camping is available for 3 nights at the show, tickets can be booked online.

If you are interested in taking space at the show, or for camping packages and tickets, visit our website [www.nileisure.com](http://www.nileisure.com) or call 02870351199. Car parking is free and children go free!

## NEW ROI Fair 2019 - a little teaser before we reveal all!

**H**undreds of people have been asking ...where is the new fair in the ROI going to be held in 2019?

So here's a final clue in the shape of a famous poem written by the Irish poet W. B. Yeats.

*HERE where the course is,  
Delight makes all of the one mind,  
The riders upon the galloping horses, The crowd that closes in behind:*

*We, too, had good attendance once, Hearers and hearteners  
of the work; Aye, horsemen for companions,  
Before the merchant and the clerk Breathed on the world with  
timid breath. Sing on: somewhere at some new moon, We'll  
learn that sleeping is not death, Hearing the whole earth  
change its tune, Its flesh being wild, and it again  
Crying aloud as the racecourse is,  
And we find hearteners among men That ride upon horses.*

And if this hasn't got you 'under starters orders' for the most anticipated event in the 2019 Irish Countrysports Calendar - please turn to page 32 for all the details.

AND WE'RE OFF!



# Houwers

## TAXIDERM Y

TURNING GREAT MEMORIES INTO EXTRAORDINARY WORKS OF ART



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US TODAY:**

HOUWERS TAXIDERM Y  
2 BALLYCROCHAN AVENUE  
BANGOR, CO. DOWN, BT19 7LA  
TELEPHONE: 028 9145 7944  
WEBSITE: [WWW.TAXIDERM YNI.COM](http://WWW.TAXIDERM YNI.COM)



**YOUR CHOICE FOR:**

- AWARD WINNING TAXIDERM Y
- PROFESSIONAL QUALITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
- OPEN AND FRIENDLY CUSTOMER SERVICE
- COMMISSIONS AND RESTORATIONS
- QUALITY SPECIMENS FOR SALE
- FULLY D.O.E REGISTERED







WITH RETURN CUSTOMERS FROM ALL OVER THE EU YOU CAN COMMISSION WITH CONFIDENCE. SIMPLY UNMATCHED IN PRICE, QUALITY AND TURNAROUND!



# The Taxidermy Association of Ireland

The art of taxidermy has evolved greatly in the past hundred years and is now more focused on preservation and education for future generations than it has ever been before. Through our work we allow people to experience these animals up close, to see, and better understand them and it gives us the opportunity to have a physical record of species that are regrettably no longer with us.

This of course comes with its own unique set of challenges and obstacles, which I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that, as with many professional fields, taxidermy is full of rules and regulations. These are there to protect both the wildlife and those working to preserve it. For this reason, in 2017 the Taxidermy Association of Ireland, or T.A.I. for short, was founded.

Many countries worldwide have national taxidermy federations, guilds and associations, but not Ireland. It was reasoned that there was a need to bring taxidermists from across the entire island, both North and South of the border, together. To educate its members in wildlife regulations, share knowledge and techniques and to help grow and enhance the skills of those involved. It also aims to demystify the world of taxidermy for the general public and take us away from the image of creepy stuffed animals with snarling jaws encased in glass or mounted menacingly on the walls.

An inclusive organisation open to all whether they are fresh faces eager to learn or old hands set in their ways, free of judgement or politics. Since its launch in August of last year during the Great Game Fairs of Ireland's Irish Game & Country Fair at Birr, Co Offaly, the association has gone from strength to strength. Its first AGM was held in the Abbeyleix Manor Hotel on

the 18th November 2017 during which practical demonstrations were given and established taxidermists hosted workshops for those who wished to learn or compare methods. Although still small, the association has been attracting interest from across the UK and Europe and its ranks continue to grow with both local and international members looking to take part.

On the 29th of September, the T.A.I. would like to invite you to attend Ireland's very first national taxidermy championships at the Castle Oak House Hotel in Limerick, a beautiful Georgian Manor House set on 26 acres of beautiful mature gardens, bordering on the banks of the River Shannon. Although submissions are only open to existing members, anyone can purchase a day pass for the event for €55 which will give you access, not only to view the pieces on display, but also the talks and seminars scheduled. This includes a special guest seminar by Danish ornithological taxidermist Peter Sunesen, whom has won the World and



European Championships several times.

For those wishing to just have a look at the entries there will be a public viewing opportunity on that day between 4pm and 6pm, this will be €5 per adult, or €3 per child, and anyone coming to the viewing will also receive a voting card to submit their favourite for the 'public's choice' award.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months as we continue to grow and we hope you will take this journey with us. For anyone interested in joining the association or for more information please visit the website:

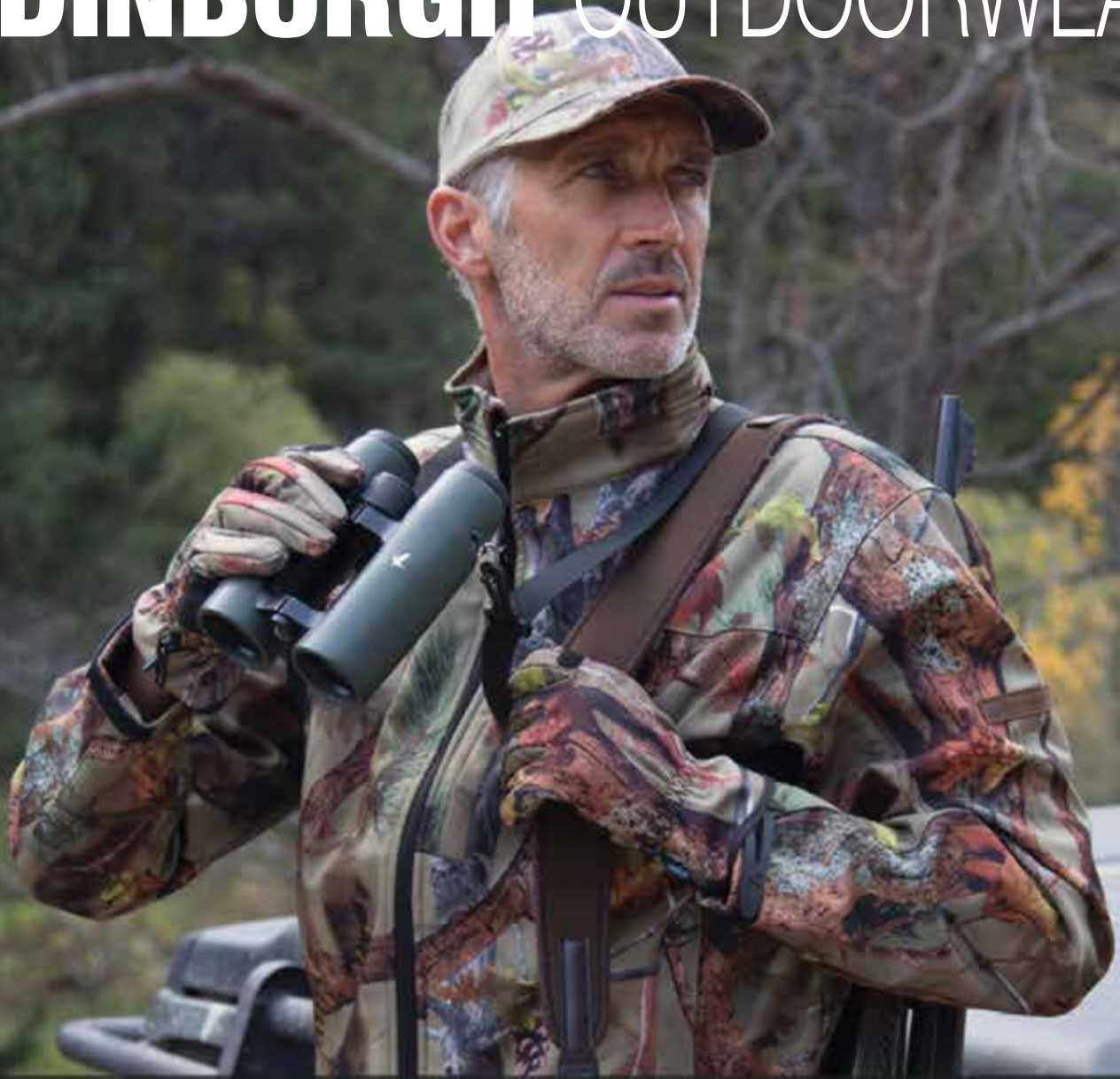
[www.taxidermyassociationireland.com/](http://www.taxidermyassociationireland.com/)  
or find us on Facebook.



Demonstrating the process at the AGM.



# EDINBURGH OUTDOORWEAR



Check out and order our new range of

## PERCUSSION

Country Clothing

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE**

ORDER Your PERCUSSION COUNTRY CLOTHING Online

[www.edinburghoutdoorwear.com](http://www.edinburghoutdoorwear.com)





# EDINBURGH OUTDOORWEAR

## Percussion Normandie 3 in 1 Jacket Khaki £130.00

Percussion's 3 in 1 Normandie jacket comes completely waterproof and breathable, designed for any type of weather! its removable inner vest gives another layer of protection to help with a cold day!

Colour: Khaki Sizes : S - XXXL



## Percussion Normandie 3 in 1 Jacket Marron £130.00

Percussion's 3 in 1 Normandie jacket comes completely waterproof and breathable, designed for any type of weather! its removable inner vest gives another layer of protection to help with a cold day!

Colour: Marron Sizes : S- XXXL



## Percussion Normandie Trousers Khaki £50.00

Percussion's Normandie trousers comes fully waterproof and breathable, its lightweight and durable material makes it great for all types of activities whatever the weather!

Colour: Khaki Sizes : 30 -47"



## Percussion Normandie Trousers Marron £50.00

Percussion's normandie trousers comes fully waterproof and breathable, its lightweight and durable material makes it great for all types of activities whatever the weather!

Colour: Marron Sizes : 30 -47"



## LIGNE VERNEY-CARRON Verney-Carron Rapace Trouser Khaki Noir £60.00

Verney-Carron rapace trousers come ultra-resistant for all types of shooting/hunting. Fully waterproof and breathable, great for all types of "rough shooting" activities.

Colour: KhakiNoir Sizes: Sizes 30-47"



## Percussion Savane Trousers Khaki £30.00

Percussion's Savane trousers come lightweight and offer effective moisture transfer so particularly good on warm and dry days, its elasticated waistband ensures a very comfortable fit.

Colour: Khaki Sizes 30-47" Leg Length: 32"



## Percussion Tradition Trouser Brown Khaki £30.00

Percussion's newest tradition trouser comes in a 2-tone brown rather than previous years Green.

Designed for mild weather these DWR treated trousers to give protection against light showers and will keep you cool on warmer days.

Colour: BrownKhaki Sizes 30-47 Leg Length: 30"



## Percussion Rambouillet Zipped Wellington Brown £89.00

Percussion's neoprene wellington designed for all weathers – wet or cold! its 4mm neoprene lining gives increased comfort and extra warmth.

Colour: Brown Sizes UK: 6 – 12 EU:39 - 47



## LIGNE VERNEY-CARRON Verney-Carron Rapace Gaiters £30.00

Verney-Carrons Rapace gaiter is designed to be highly resistant and fully waterproof. Perfect for rough shooting and beating.

Colour: Green



## Percussion Normandie Baseball Cap Khaki £15.00

Percussion's Normandie baseball cap comes fully waterproof and breathable, adjustable at the back so one size fits all! Completes the normandie range off nicely.

Colour: Khaki



**Visit our NEW web site for Sizes Available ; Post and Package Costs and many more  
SPECIAL BARGAINS in our Menswear, Ladieswear and Kidswear Ranges.**

**Tel: +44 (0)7967 207104**

**www.edinburghoutdoorwear.com sales@edinburghoutdoorwear.com**



# Irish Country Sports & Country Life - Lifetime Achievement Awards

Five Lifetime Achievement Awards were announced this year this year. Fintan (Captain) Kelly and Mick Walsh could not make the ceremony and were awarded theirs at the gundog presentations. The other three awards were made at the Award Ceremony taking place at the Press Launch of the 40th ANNIVERSARY ALL IRELAND GAME FAIR at Shanes Castle.

Awards are made annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to country sports and heritage, and the 2018 Awards were presented to:

## *Declan Boyle*

Newry country sportsman Declan Boyle was recognised for his longstanding contribution to the training and breeding of internationally acclaimed gundogs.

Declan who is the Honorary Field Trial Secretary of the Labrador Retriever Club and a panel judge in the Irish Kennel Club earlier celebrated winning the Irish Retriever Championship with his superb dog, FTCH Miller McDuff.

Presenting the award, Albert Titterington said: "Those of us who watch with admiration as his dogs perform in the field or in competition understand just how much hard work and skill lies behind those prize-winning runs. Declan forges close bonds with all his dogs and knows how to draw the very best out of them. Their enthusiasm and energy are boundless!

"Declan also brings great skill to his relationships with fellow sportsmen and he is a superb Team Captain, encouraging and supporting others and always modest about his own achievements."

Declan (right) is pictured receiving his award from Paul Pringle, NI Editor of Irish Country Sports & Country Life magazine and web portal.



## *Sam and Wendy Willoughby*

Dog-loving Dunmurry couple Sam and Wendy Willoughby received their Award as the force behind the local charity 'Gundog Rescue & Rehoming' and in recognition of outstanding contributions to country sports and heritage.

'Making Sad Dogs Happy' is their slogan and they have been doing just that, matching hundreds of sporting breed dogs with new, country-living, owners who can provide them with active lifestyles and loving human families.

They were nominated by proud re-homer Robin Whiteside who

adopted his dog, Lucy, from the charity: "I am delighted to say a special thank you to two great country-people who have put real happiness into the lives of dogs and their new owners and I congratulate them on this award and recognition of their contribution to animal welfare."

Wendy and Sam Willoughby (left) are pictured receiving the award from Paul Pringle. Adding their support are proud dog owner Robin Whiteside and Black Labrador, Lucy, now a contented member of the Whiteside household.



## *Ingrid Houwers*

A Bangor woman described as 'the official face of The Great Game Fairs of Ireland' also received an Irish Country Sports & Country Life award.

Dutch-born Ingrid Houwers, a respected taxidermist and artist, is passionate about Northern Ireland's countryside and rural traditions. Her enthusiasm sparked a close involvement with the Great Game Fairs of Ireland and, over the years, she has supported the annual shows, and reflected her love of Irish history, by taking on the roles of Betsy Gray, Lady Clotworthy, Lady Lurgan ... even a Viking Lady emerging from the waters of Lough Neagh.

Albert Titterington says: "Ingrid is not only one of Ireland's most respected and versatile taxidermists, she is also a jeweller of note, a stunning wildlife artist and even includes Victorian-style corsetry amongst her accomplishments!

"Her talents and innovative reinterpretation of traditional arts encourage new, younger, audiences to appreciate our heritage and we are constantly surprised and delighted to see what Ingrid will tackle next, as she showcases rural arts and crafts with unique style and flair."

Ingrid is pictured receiving her award from Paul Pringle, NI Editor of Irish Country Sports & Country Life magazine.







# The Fortieth Anniversary Irish Game Fair Shanes Castle 2018 – a huge success on which to base another great initiative



The largest crowd ever seen at Shanes enjoyed every moment of the spectacular event.

**I**n 2017 the team discussed how we could mark the 40th anniversary of us introducing the Game Fair concept to Ireland and our track record of delivering 64 successful Irish Game Fairs in several locations.

Often in these situations serendipity provides an answer. We had spent 10 very happy successful years at Birr Castle with our Irish Game and Country Fair, with Lord & Lady Rosse being wonderful hosts and the people of Birr and County Offaly being fully appreciative of the fantastic boost we gave to their economy.

However, the Birr Castle Demesne while providing a truly beautiful backdrop for any event was far from practical to operate for such a large event and in many ways we 'fitted the fair' to the site. This took great forbearance from our exhibitors having to queue to enter through one narrow entrance and our visitors, many of whom had to walk quite a distance from the carparks.

The organisers of another cognate event had expressed interest in incorporating one of their events into the fair to not only increase the visitor experience but give the fair much wider exhibitor/visitor appeal. They liked what they saw of our

delivery of our programme but suggested that a new joint event might be better in a more exhibitor/visitor friendly venue.

Further changes to the management of the ground uses of Birr which created constraints under which we could not operate properly plus the Pope's planned visit to Ireland on our normal dates made the decision to relocate from Birr, after the 2017 fair, an easier one. And as the fair at Birr in 2017 was one of our best ever with excellent crowds and exhibitors reporting record takings we were able to leave Birr on a high.

Working with our new ROI partner organisation we decided to skip one year in the ROI, while we planned the launch of a new enhanced event in a new venue for 2019, and concentrated on the promotion and delivery of the largest and best publicised 40th Anniversary ALL IRELAND Game Fair at Shanes Castle.

**The 40th Anniversary ALL IRELAND Game Fair was superb in terms of all of the parameters of success**

The Largest Ever Tented Village Of Trade Stands - and this could have been greater as we were virtually fully booked by Easter and turned several potential late bookings away. We featured a rich and extensive mix of country-focused retailers, country arts and crafts, sporting and conservation bodies,





The vast array of trade stands were packed from 'dawn to dusk'.

shooting and fishing equipment and country clothing from all over Ireland and the UK. This year we had two exhibitors from Pakistan and a visit by a Pakistan trade delegation.



Welcoming Afsheen Ul Haq and her Pakistan Trade Delegation to the 40th Anniversary Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle, Antrim - Ireland's largest ever Game Fair.

With a new layout planned for 2019 we can take some more stands and have opened bookings already. So if you have products or services you would like to promote to the largest country sports and lifestyle audience in Ireland you need to contact us now.

**The Largest Ever Attendance At Any Irish Game Fair -** with visitors from all over Ireland and several from the UK and further afield. In order to attract country sports visitors from the ROI and to 'compensate' them for missing our ROI fair and having to travel we had several discounted admission offers which gave admission for just €5. Many took advantage of this to not only visit the fair but also to take in many of the attractions of NI including the Titanic display, Lough Neagh Tours; the Antrim Coast & Giants Causeway etc. It was so successful that we intend to repeat many of these offers plus make new admission offers for the TWO 2019 GREAT GAME FAIRS of IRELAND!

**Competitions With The Greatest Prize Fund Ever** – local, international and qualifying competitions covering

gundogs, terriers and lurchers, fly casting and clay shooting. This year we increased the prize fund and presented the champions with one-off antique trophies embellished with semi-precious Ruby Zircons to mark our 40th anniversary.

The Smith family once again set a brilliant example of country sports charitable donations, by donating their winnings, when their dog Scooby overcame an injury to win the prestigious Master McGrath Challenge for the second time. This was followed by other spaniel handlers doing the same and the organiser of the Terriers, Lurchers & Whippets making a large donation from entry fees. A donation to a children's cancer charity was co-ordinated by Ken Lindsay, our Spaniel Gundog Director.



The inimitable 5yo Scooby winning Ireland's most prestigious lurcher race the Red Mills Master McGrath challenge for the second year. Photo: Paul Morrison



Donal and Nicky Smith with Ken Lindsay

**Action Packed Arena Programmes** – we ran 3 arenas, the main entertainment arena and 2 special interest, smaller arenas. The arena programme included all our customers' favourites, such as medieval jousting, dog agility, long netting, falconry, antique firearms and a return of the Western riding display. Many displays were interactive and invited audience participation, particularly for children.



Thrilling Jousting with the Knights of the North.



**The Largest Ever Living History Festival** – this year we headlined our Living History Festival, an increasingly popular attraction for our wider family audience. The festival drew on timelines from the Vikings through The Bruce's & Williamite campaigns, with a strong focus on the 1798 Rebellion and the Battle of Antrim and included historical re-enactments, arena displays including medieval jousting and an interactive living history village.

**A Huge Fine Food Festival** – since the YOFD in 2016 we have developed our Food Festival to focus on local (NI and RoI) craft producers, with a smattering of favourite 'foodies' from GB, such as Peter Gott. Chef Emmett McCourt headlined our demonstration kitchen and our festival this year also included the Delicious Magazine regional produce awards with an additional demo kitchen. The fair and its fine food producers was also the focus for the production of two half hour national BBC programmes.



The Norfolk Warrener Steven McGonigle photographed outside the Delicious Magazine Kitchen – perhaps he was hoping to put rabbit on the menu!

**Have-a-go activities** – These included archery, fly casting and fly fishing, laser clay shooting, field air rifle shooting and interaction with ferrets, birds of prey, etc., around the grounds of the fair.



Peter & Jack Hutchinson with their 'catch of the day'.

Plus of course the DAERA sponsored children's fishing area co-ordinated by Bobby Bryans, Mark Tierney and Paul Smith AKA 'Larry the Leprechaun' and the rest of the NSF team. In addition to the have-a-go-activities around the Fair, we provided a dedicated children's playground area with amusements.



Film maker Harry Cook catches a rare shot of a leprechaun about to fish the 'put & take' fishery.

### ***A Huge PR Success For Irish Countrysports And The Rural Way Of Life***

A substantial rise in facebook coverage, gained directly (with Great Game Fairs' own facebook page topping the 10,000 Followers mark), and indirectly, with exhibitors, competitors and fans liking, sharing and originating their own material about the 2018 event.

The 2018 partnership with Fieldsports Channel which carried video features on the event brought the Fair to the attention of a highly targeted special interest audience right across Europe. (Fieldsports Channel is the number one European hunting channel, about twice as big as the next biggest in Europe and four times bigger than the next biggest from the UK. The channel records almost a million views a month from 400,000+ unique monthly viewers).

BBC proved particularly supportive with a television feature for the BBC Northern Ireland 'Home Ground' programme, plus filming at the show for two half hour national BBC programmes planned.

The partnership forged with the national Delicious magazine reinforced the developing 'foodie' element of the Fair and gave Northern Irish artisan exhibitors an important new showcase. The magazine has a hard copy UK circulation of 59,096, boosted with a significant online presence, which includes a facebook community of 748,195.

The Shanes Castle event was listed in the Daily Telegraph's prestigious 'Top 20 Food Festivals in The UK. The influential national newspaper has a circulation of 458,487.



Picking up on the visitor appeal of the event, the Trip Advisor site (which boasts 3 million unique users) listed the Irish Game Fair amongst the top 10 UK visitor attractions for June 2018.

Our partnership with U105 Radio delivered over three weeks of continuous pre Fair promotion and an excellent 3 hour outside broadcast from the fair on the Friday by Frank Mitchell.

In addition to those high-points, the very positive PR coverage via broadcast media exposure and across regional, weekly press, daily newspapers and in magazines/journals including a prestigious German guide to Ireland was estimated to have a value of over £800,000.

## ***Our Objectives Achieved***

From day one when we started to plan the first major Irish Game Fair in 1978 our objectives have remained fairly constant and that was to deliver a successful showcase to promote and defend country sports and the rural way of life. It was our opinion that this is best done by providing an all Ireland forum for country sports enthusiasts to meet, to compete in top quality competitions, to bring their families, to meet with representatives of the sporting organisations and to see interesting displays and demonstrations and to make the odd bargain purchase. Also to promote and provide an attractive family based event for those visitors who simply like a day out in the country in a beautiful historic setting. Make no mistake by letting such people see 'country sports in action' at these fairs is one off the best ways of promoting and defending the continuation of such sports.

## ***Meeting up with old and new friends***



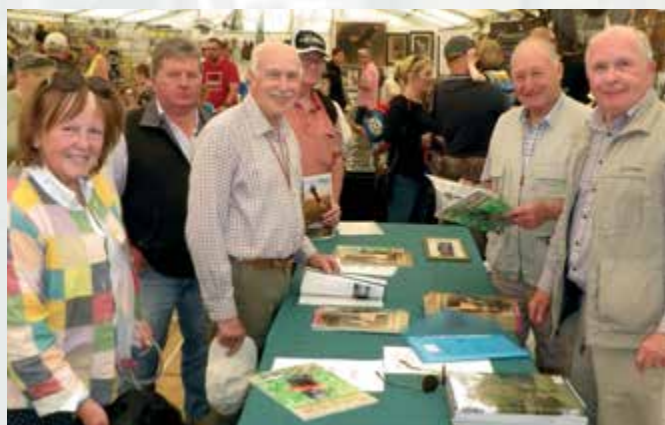
I was delighted to see Kieran Fox return with a superb HPR demo and to see our previous Angling Director George Legge (at 83 years young) still enjoying the fair.



The Retired 'Comber Eel Catcher' tastes some Lough Neagh Eels.



Wayne & Yvonne Biles two Australian visitors who started their Irish holiday with tickets to the fair through our Irish Countrysports Diaspora sample some iconic NI produce.



Lillian Jennet and Philip Turner meet up on the magazine stand with Paul Pringle and the 'Grumpy Game Keeper'



Larry Taaffe and Simon Devereux on the CIC stand.



Unfortunately, some of the younger shooters who cannot remember back to when Ireland did not have a Game Fair nor indeed many of the competitions which started at the Game Fair and, are now run throughout the country on a weekly basis, have criticised the fair simply because they thought there were not enough guns there for them to handle. We have never set out to be a gun show and anyone who wishes to go and see a wide range of guns can best do this at one of the UK Shooting shows. Having said this we had seven gun-dealers booked in to come to the fair plus a large display of antique weapons. Unfortunately one of the dealers, who covers the full range of weapons and accessories, had to pull out on Friday due to a family bereavement and three others for various reasons decided not to display guns. But there was still a good display of guns to suit most tastes and pockets if one had come to the fair to purchase a gun and a rather special stand featuring Scott Wilson assessing guns and even doing repairs on the spot and Michael Yardley and Chris Simmonds doing gun fitting and stock bending.

### ***A Visitor's Impression of the Fair***

Valentina Harris was part of the Delicious Magazine Awards judging team at the Fair and we are delighted to reprint her thoughts on the fair which she shared with the magazine's readership.

"The Irish Game Fair in beautiful County Antrim, this year celebrating its 40th anniversary, was the setting for the Northern Ireland round of judging for the delicious. Produce Awards in association with Fisher & Paykel, on June 23. We were blessed by astonishingly sunny weather for a place so famous for its soft summer rain.

"Surrounded by gun dog trials (which they take enormously seriously here); historical re-enactment scenes and the constant loud crack of the clay pigeon shooting competition, our three judges took their seats in the Fisher & Paykel trailer next to the ruins of Shane's Castle, ready to judge the 20 entries on the shortlist.

### ***Expert tasting panel***

"Legendary food hero Peter Gott, one of the founding traders of Borough Market and passionate farmer of wild boar and rare breeds at his Sillfield Farm in Cumbria, food writer, teacher and TV cook Jenny Bristow and Professor Una McMahon-Beattie Head of the Department of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Ulster University formed our expert judging panel.

"The entries overall were of a very high standard. But the prize for the most innovative entry has to go to the unusual but utterly delectable Goat Bacon produced by Broughammon Farm, which unsurprisingly has made it through to the finals, together with 8 other local products. These included the amazing, huge, creamy Pacific oysters from Rooney Fish, Abernethy Black Garlic Butter (which the judges re-named 'Irish Tapenade'), and the Lough Neagh Fishermen's Cooperative Society's stunning, densely textured, yet so delicately flavoured smoked eel.

### ***Under the June skies***

"The vast cornflower blue sky and hot sunshine, the sparkling waters of the Lough, (which I found out from my super knowledgeable and voluble taxi driver Ivor is the largest lake in the British Isles, covering an incredible 151 miles), the hundreds of dogs with their proud owners, and countless people dressed up in costume, all helped to give this very special event an atmosphere all of its own.

"There was plenty of fabulous food being cooked, demonstrated and prepared in and around the food area, but all set rather incongruously against the backdrop of the lovely ruined castle and its Nash designed Camellia House, crammed to bursting with plants.

### ***Scene setting***

"There were silent fishermen repeatedly casting their rods on the impossibly green grass next to flamboyantly branded grazing horses, and loyal gun dogs of all breeds rigorously being put through their paces by means of staccato whistling, under the watchful gaze of grave, tweed-suited judges.

"This was a unique and somehow very precious experience, quite obviously a wonderful and very traditional outing for local families and an event that draws people from far and wide.

### ***Woodcock wonder***

"At breakfast in my B & B one morning, I was entertained over the delicious potato pancakes and black pudding by the President of the Irish Woodcock Association, who told us all – a family group from Wales who were there to judge the Lurchers, the owner of Delphi Lodge – one of my favourite places on the planet in Connemara – who told me he'd be in the salmon tent all day (sadly I never got there to find out what was happening in the salmon tent), and several other enthusiastic Game Festival goers – about the life cycle of this remarkable bird.

"Certainly an unforgettable location for our round of judging, a special day in a very special place in the company of some extraordinary, kind, generous people, many of whom were happy to chat for hours about food and local produce with knowledge and unmistakable pride. I very much hope we'll be back there next year."

### ***The 2019 Irish Game Fair***

The Irish Game Fair will take place at Shanes Castle on the 29th & 30th June. An exciting range of new stands have already been confirmed and building on the success of the 40th anniversary fair many of the initiatives taken this year including discounted admission for ROI country sports enthusiasts will be continued. Keep up to date with these on our facebook group and page; the magazine and our web site [www.irishgamefair.com](http://www.irishgamefair.com). Due to us having to turn away many potential exhibitors in 2018 we have already opened bookings for our new layout for 2019. So if you have quality country sports and lifestyle products to promote at Ireland's largest Game Fair contact us now for your exhibitor's pack and 'early bird' booking discount. E: [irishgamefair@btinternet.com](mailto:irishgamefair@btinternet.com) Tel : 028 (from ROI 048) 44839178 /44515416



# An exciting new partnership to take the Irish Game & Country Fair forward



Alan Collins and Albert Titterington, two of the legends of Irish event organising, have teamed up to launch the new country sports and lifestyle event.

We are very excited by our new ROI initiative which sees The Great Game Fairs of Ireland join up with Alan Collins and Exhibitions Ireland Ltd, organisers of the Mallow and Galway Homes & Gardens Festivals, to launch a new Irish Country Lifestyle Festival (incorporating the Irish Game & Country Fair and the Galway Homes & Garden Festival). We are convinced that the combined successful track record of the two organisational teams and the superb reputation of their events will deliver probably the largest celebration of country sports and country living ever seen in Ireland with an enhanced mature audience. The greatly strengthened team will copper fasten the future development of the ROI Irish Game & Country Fair at a uniquely prestigious site. With the Support of the Mallow Homes & Garden Festival (24-26 May 2019) and The Irish Game Fair, Shanes Castle, Antrim ( 29th & 30th June) the new Irish Country Lifestyle Festival will automatically be one of Ireland's largest outdoor events and a very important vehicle to promote Irish country sports and the rural way of life

The site selected for this very exciting new event is the historic Galway Racecourse at Ballybrit. The racecourse has an international reputation and is celebrated in a WB Yeats poem

‘ At Galway Races’ and the song ‘The Galway Races’ popularised by the Dubliners.

The site first hosted the Galway Racing Festival in 1869 and since then this has developed into a five day festival attracting over 150,000 people.

The racecourse provides a green oasis within easy reach of Galway and it has an immediate catchment area of 250,000 people. As a Game Fair site it has many of the facilities which we lacked at Birr, including hard standing car parking (all within 200 metres of the entrance); good competitor / exhibitor entrance; and excellent grassy facilities and space inside for all of our sporting competitions. It also has excellent internal exhibition facilities and is just over 1 hour's travel from Birr.

We feel it is an exciting opportunity to take our ROI Irish Game & Country Fair to a completely new level in a uniquely historic venue. The Irish Country Lifestyle Festival incorporating the Irish Game & Country Fair will take place at Galway's Ballybrit Racecourse on the 15th & 16th June 2019. Full details will be available on our websites [www.irishcountrylifestylefestival.com](http://www.irishcountrylifestylefestival.com) and [www.irishgameandcountryfair.com](http://www.irishgameandcountryfair.com).

A green oasis with first class modern facilities.





# MALLOW HOME & GARDEN FESTIVAL 2019



INTERIORS | GARDENS | LIFESTYLE

## { MALLOW HOME & GARDEN Festival

FRIDAY 24th • SATURDAY 25th  
SUNDAY 26th MAY 2019



**BOOK  
TODAY**

CONTACT  
ALAN COLLINS  
087 2562788

*Ideas & Inspiration*

THE IDEAL WAY TO SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

[www.exhibitionsireland.ie](http://www.exhibitionsireland.ie)



# M18 HAS ARRIVED!



The Peoples rifle for  
an unbeatable price!  
[www.mauser.com](http://www.mauser.com)



DAS ORIGINAL

Lakeland Shooting Centre Ltd Dalystown | Mullingar | 00 353 44 92 23127

[info@lakelandshootingcentre.ie](mailto:info@lakelandshootingcentre.ie) [www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie](http://www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie) [www.lakelandsportssupplies.ie](http://www.lakelandsportssupplies.ie)





## Mythical Adventures

# Blaser

Lakeland Shooting Centre Ltd  
Dalystown | Mullingar | 00 353 44 92 23127  
info@lakelandshootingcentre.ie  
www.lakelandshootingcentre.ie  
www.lakelandssportssupplies.ie



By Owen Williams

# *A future for Woodcock*



'Flushed Pair'



Growing up in the West of Wales should have been a blessing for me as a young lad with a passion for rough shooting, however unlike the situation in Ireland where access to shooting was relatively open, in Wales it was a matter of finding a location that hadn't already been tied up by an agreement with the landowner. As a 16 year old my chances of squeezing in to shoot woodcock in the valleys below my home were negligible. To add to my problems I also happened to live next door to Wales's greatest woodcock fanatic who would have peppered me if he found me sneaking in on his patch.

However, this meant that woodcock became elevated from being a source of great curiosity to one of 'forbidden fruit,' a fact that no doubt inspired my painting of many pictures of them since

becoming a sporting artist in 1985.

Both fishing and shooting were my gateway to the natural world, every trip was spiced with finding new plants, insects, and birds and learning about these new discoveries from books came fast on the heels of cleaning my gun, or placing my split cane rod back on my bedroom wall just above my collection of bird wings. I would bet my last woodcock painting on the fact that my passion for nature was every bit as keen as Chris Packham's, but instead of engaging through a pair of binoculars I became a part of that rich ecosystem stalking boggy ditches for duck, or flicking a 'black and peacock spider' onto a smooth glide of water under a riverside hawthorn bush in search of lurking brown trout. Being restricted to shooting snipe, pigeon and duck around

our farm gave me a keen appreciation that overshooting would result in a decline of those species, and this sustainable philosophy has remained with me in both shooting and fishing ever since.

In recent years, my constant curiosity about woodcock has been joined by a deepening worry about the way that shooting has come under increasing threat. I have come to understand that we can't defend our sport for future generations if we don't know even the basics about the population status and migration patterns of the wild species we shoot. This prompted me to investigate the possibility of learning to ring woodcock and, having gained my BTO ringing permit in 2008, I went on to establish the Woodcock Network to encourage others to do the same. The idea was to supplement the data that Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) were collecting on their few research sites with data from ringers up and down the country. This enabled to join a growing community of woodcock ringers in France and more recently, Russia, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

### ***Regarded as 'their' local wintering population***

Without making light of the hundreds of hours I have spent ringing over 2000 woodcock, I have been surprised how quickly this effort has yielded hitherto unknown information. Through writing articles, such as this, in the shooting press and giving talks around the country I, along with Andrew Hoodless at GWCT, have been able to share the information we have learned so that we can ensure a sustainable way forwards. To illustrate this point I know that the members of the syndicate shoot where I pick up through the season have changed their perspective on shooting woodcock. The information I was able to give them about the high proportion of woodcock that return to exactly the same spot each winter made them realise the dangers of overshooting. No longer did they think they were just taking a few out of a milling mass of migrants,



'Sharing the Limelight'



they now regarded these birds as their local wintering population and understood the importance of following the principles of a sustainable harvest. In no way would I want to diminish the sport that I have enjoyed for so long, on the other hand I am acutely aware of the very real risk of having this taken away from us if we don't show our ability to shoot sustainably.

Our greatest hope of preserving our sport is to show that we are funding the science, but more importantly responding to its findings. Last year, we learned from Russian ringing data that the ratio of juveniles to adults on autumn migration from Russia was lower than normal, indicating what observers on the ground already knew – it had been a very poor breeding season. This was because of a very cold and wet spring, meaning that many nests were waterlogged and the chicks that did hatch suffered a high mortality rate.

On learning this, GWCT and the Woodcock Network sent out a joint press release asking shooters to exercise voluntary restraint. There were good signs on social media that many had taken heed of this request, but of course there were some who saw this as an over reaction and continued as normal. Whilst understanding that many don't like being told what to do, we must also understand that like any hunters we have a duty to ensure that sufficient remain to ensure a healthy breeding population. Of course, in a species such as woodcock, which we know so little about, it is even more important to play it safe and avoid excess just because we enjoy a good day out so much.

### ***The weather had forced them into survival mode***

We will never know what benefit was derived from the restraint of last season, but there is little doubt that, alongside the bag limits of French shooters last season, this will have ensured that more numbers returned to breed than would have done otherwise. This is good news particularly considering that in late February our migrant woodcock

population faced the additional threat of 'The Beast from the East'. With the ground being frozen at a time when they were supposed to be putting on weight for their migration they were forced into survival mode for several weeks before setting out on their migration. Following the powerful urge to get to the breeding grounds some of these birds will have left in poor condition and ill-equipped to make the 3 – 4000 km flight against continuing easterly headwinds.

We have to be aware that shooting is under closer scrutiny than ever before. For anyone looking for reasons to persuade governments to ban woodcock shooting, a study of shooter's posts on social media of piles of dead woodcock are a Godsend because it allows them to give a distorted impression of the numbers we shoot and convince politicians that we don't care about the status of the population. This is particularly damaging when the French have publicly announced lower bag limits because of concerns about poor breeding the previous summer, as was the case last season.

With the dramatic changes in weather we've seen in the past few years it seems fair to assume that we will need to be even more vigilant about how our wild quarry populations are faring. Continued monitoring through ringing and tagging will make this easier, which is why it so good to see the ringing initiative started by Paddy Keenan and fellow woodcock enthusiasts in Ireland making such rapid

progress. It is exciting to think about what we might learn about your population and how they relate to those elsewhere in Europe as more are ringed and tagged.

This being an initiative started by shooters, as it was in the UK, speaks volumes about your shooting community's concern for the future health of woodcock populations. It is a great help if anyone who shoots a woodcock with a ring reports this through the international website [www.euring.org](http://www.euring.org) this is also the case for birds that may have been shot several years ago. If you don't want to give an exact location or date don't worry, the name of the nearest town will do. Equally if you don't have a record of the exact date an approximate one will do, as long as the month and year are accurate. My view is that this is better than no record of that bird at all. Every piece of data helps us gain a better understanding of woodcock population dynamics, it should be a matter of pride that historically shooters have been always been excellent in reporting ringed birds.



Owen Williams releasing ringed Woodcock.





# URBALSHINNY SPORTING LODGE

REGISTERED FIREARMS DEALER  
CLAY & GAME SHOOTING



SAKO 85 FINNLIGHT II



TIKKA TX3 TAC A1



SAKO 85 CARBONLIGHT

**Blaser**



TIKKA



LYALVALE  
EXPRESS  
Make more of it.

**Benelli**

 **BERETTA**



**sako**  
FINLAND

 **CZ**

 **RUGER®**

MAIN AGENT FOR SAKO, TIKKA & BLASER RIFLES  
15A URBALSHINNY ROAD, , OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0TP

TELEPHONE 028 8075 8395

[www.urbalshinnysportinglodge.co.uk](http://www.urbalshinnysportinglodge.co.uk)



# Calling Carrion Crows

## A morning on the decoys and calls

Using my Sam Niet crow call from within the hide.

The wind dropped to nothing this morning, so I loaded the car with net, poles and lofters plus usual kit and set off to see if I could be in place for when the pigeons come to the trees to digest their breakfast. The snow on the verges on the way there was 6 feet high where it had drifted. I unloaded the lofters, my rucksack, net bag and poles, leaving them out of sight while I went off to park the car in the lane 400 yards away. I would have to walk back carrying my rifle in its bag.

There was still no wind and very little moving but as I approached the gate a crow flew off from the copse, so there was hope! Now, my hide spot is right beside the gate post, there is a big holly tree, holly trees always make a good hide background. This one gave me the opportunity to make a hole in the bottom where I could sit inside. I had to get the secateurs out of the pocket on my rucksack and start trimming the stems to form a hole. I cut these at an angle and thrust them into the ground further up the hedge, to fill some gaps hopefully, if any of them

take. If they don't root, there is no real loss, but they have more chance than if they had just been discarded in a pile.

With the hole made, I hung the net across the poles in front of it. Because the hide will be lit up by any morning sun, I doubled the net, as I have it in the crutches of the poles on the outside, then took it back on the inside, dropping the loops right over the pole

crutches, so the weight of the net would hold the first layer in the grooves securely. The kitbag I use for the net and decoys also forms my seat and cushion if needed by stuffing it with some grass or straw, but under the holly the ground was soft from years of leaf mould building up beneath the spreading branches, so I just used it as a ground sheet to sit on.



Simon placing his lofted decoys in the branches.





Lining up from within the hide.

From within the hide the view to the trees was ideal, but I decided I needed something to give me a shooting support other than the hide poles, so I nipped out and across to the copse and found a straight hazel stem about 2-inches thick. My folding pruning saw soon had it cut and trimmed. I sharpened the end a bit to help me stick it in the ground to hold it. From the copse looking back at the hide, it was perfect, the holly gave a solid, dark background and even with the sun on it another day, because I am sat back inside the holly, I will have the dappled shadows from the stems breaking me up and giving great cover. Sat inside I have a back support in the form of a thick holly trunk, maybe 3 or 4 inches thick, so I can sit back and rest and just watch and listen for birds flying in.



Re-setting pigeon decoys in the rape.



I sat there quietly and allowed life to get back to normal. The pigeons were hitting the rape, I could see their activity but it was 800 yards away from where they have been and where I set up. Isn't that just typical. I heard a crow calling from the other side of the trees though, so I got my special crow call out, it is one that was made for me by Sam Niet in Belgium. I rode my motorbike over to meet him and watched as he made me two calls, one for crows and another for magpies. He also taught me how to converse with the crows using his call.

### ***The muzzle poked out of the netting***

Within seconds of me starting to call this big, carrion crow flew in and sat eyeing up my lofted pigeons. 'First customer', I thought as I lifted the old Rapid quietly, poking the muzzle slowly out through a hole in the netting. I had a great seated position and the

rifle was on target when he hopped forwards and presented a full frontal shot. I lined up at 32 yards and the pellet smacked home, the crow just fell off backwards, it never even flinched! I lifted the bolt instinctively, I don't reload, I just lift the bolt so it is released, ready to pull back to load again. I waited for the usual flurry of activity from other corvids, but none came. I didn't fetch it immediately but stayed still and out of sight.

It wasn't long before a cock pheasant sauntered down the edge of the tree-line. He stopped at about 40 yards and fluffed his feathers and started to call, immediately he was answered by a rival on the other side and sure enough a second one came strutting round the copse from the other direction! I like to have some normal wildlife around me, it gives the birds I am after greater confidence that the coast is clear. I just sat back in my hide and watched.

After about another 10 minutes I started calling again. Within seconds my calls were answered and soon after that another crow flew into the tree to the right hand side. It hadn't seen his stricken comrade and just fluffed up and started calling. I cocked the rifle and poked the barrel towards him, he was a bit further away, so I lined up with the first BDC circle down on my crosshair and let fly.

Another resounding smack echoed back and the second crow fell to the ground, almost landing on one of the cock pheasants which came out of the rubbish around the bottom of that tree like a rocket, cackling indignantly! There was no more activity and after a further 20 minutes it was time to head for home and warm up. It hadn't been a complete waste of time, even though no pigeons showed. I have got the hide sorted and will be able to set up in a couple of minutes from now on.



Two customers accounted for.



# CASALE 2000 LTD

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

LADYSWELL ST. CASHEL, Co. TIPPERARY

Tel: 062 63106

Mob: 087 2477957

[www.archerycashel.com](http://www.archerycashel.com)

[casale2000ltd@gmail.com](mailto:casale2000ltd@gmail.com)

**SOLE IRISH APPOINTED AGENT FOR**



**TRUGLO**  
WHEN BRIGHTNESS COUNTS™



 **MULTI SOUND**



## Morelli Rod & Gun



**ARCHERY • FISHING • SHOOTING • OUTDOOR CLOTHING • AIR SOFT • KNIVES**

You are Welcome To Cashel.

Francesco Morelli

**GUNS - RIFLES - PISTOL - AMMUNITION**



# Obituary

## ALAN ROUNTREE

The Kennel Club was deeply saddened to receive the news that Alan Rountree, a director on the Kennel Club Board, passed away peacefully at home on Friday 27th July.

Alan served the Kennel Club with great distinction for many years, having been elected as a member in 1990. He served on the General Committee/Board for 17 years since his election in 2001 and was on the Field Trials Committee for 14 years from 1998 to 2012, and was its chairman from 2000 to 2012. He served eight years on the Field Trial Council and also spent time on the Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee. In recent years, he led the search for freehold property for the Kennel Club to provide facilities for working dog activities, leading to the acquisition of the Emblehope and Burngrange Estate in March 2016.

Always passionately interested in game, shooting and Gundogs, he first trained German Shorthaired Pointers and began competing in Pointer and Setter trials. He got his first Labrador in 1973, and made up eleven Labradors to Field Trial Champion, eight of these to international Field Trial Champion, and won the International Gundog League Retriever Championship and the Irish Kennel Club Championship five times. He judged the International Gundog League Retriever Championship three times and the Irish Kennel Club Championship twice.

Alan qualified as a solicitor in 1971, having been apprenticed to his father, and was the third generation of the family to practise law in the family firm. He retired at the end of 2012.

Alan's wealth of knowledge was a great benefit to the committees which he served, and he could always be counted on to proffer his considered opinion on subjects of importance,



whether it be in support or opposition to the general consensus. He remained actively involved with the Board throughout his illness, joining meetings regularly via video conferencing when unable to travel over to London from his home in Northern Ireland. His passion and commitment shone through

to the very end.

Alan will be sorely missed by the committees which he served, the staff of the Kennel Club and those who knew him. Our thoughts are with his wife, Deirdre and stepson, David.

This obituary was published originally by The Kennel Club



# Pointer and Setter Champion Stake 2018

Gun Rory Butler watches as a grouse goes away from Bill Connolly's English setter Ballyellen Cara handled by Gerry Devine.

Ireland was well represented at the 2018 Pointer and Setter Champion Stake with no fewer than seventeen of the thirty-six runners who competed at the Duke of Roxburghe's Byreclough Estate on the 10th and 11th of August. The Championship sponsors were Connolly's Red Mills and Bill Connolly actually had four dogs qualified for the stake, two handled by himself and two by Gerry Devine. There were nine Pointers, twelve each of Irish and English setters and three Gordon setters making up the card for Judges Richard MacNicol, Steve Robinson and Carole Brown, all three of them being previous winners of the Champion Stake.

Before getting proceeding under way, Jon Kean called for a minutes silence in memory of Alan Neill from Stewartstown who was killed in a road accident on his way over to the trials. It was especially poignant to see three pointers that Alan had qualified to run in the Champion Stake still listed in the catalogue, one of whom died alongside Alan in the crash. Alan was a great sportsman and a true gentleman and will be sorely missed.

2018 generally has not been a good year for grouse in England and Scotland. Late snow and a cold spring meant many birds were in poor condition at the start of the breeding season, then the long spell of hot, dry weather left the moors short of water and of the insect life essential for the chicks' survival. That said, Head Keeper Drew Ainslie had picked an ideal beat for the first day of the stake with enough grouse to ensure that every

brace had birds on their beat. We saw some good coveys that were mostly quite well grown, though there were a couple of broods of cheepers as well and a plentiful supply of blue hares.

It had been raining as I drove across to the trial ground but, by the time things got under way, the clouds had cleared and we had a fine, bright day with a steady breeze and what appeared to be an excellent scent. Some of the dogs were pointing birds from well back



The winners: Steve Lound with Pointer FTCh Frosted Elfin at Fleetstalk working out a point.





Brian Morris's Irish setter puppy Erinvale Meadow running with Bill Connolly's English Setter bitch FTCh Ballyellen Cara handled by Gerry Devine.

and more often than not the coveys were jumping as soon as the handlers got to the point. It would not have been an easy day if the Gun, Rory Butler, had been required to actually shoot grouse rather than just firing a shot into the air to test the dogs' steadiness to the gun.

The heather on the beat was in great condition and just starting to shed pollen as we walked through it. On some other beats, Drew told me, the moor has been badly hit by heather beetle with large swathes of heather turning brown and dying off. This, combined with the overall shortage of grouse, means that in common with many estates the shooting at Byrecleugh will be very restricted this year.

The morning started briskly with three of the first four runners eliminated in quick time. Things started to settle after that, with the three Judges working well together to keep the trial moving along with no big breaks for discussions between dogs. While I have some reservations about the three Judge system, at this Champion Stake it worked well, Richard MacNicol taking the centre of the beat with Carole Brown and Steve Robinson on the flanks but holding fairly close station until a dog came on to point.

### ***It now seemed that the grouse were sitting a bit tighter most of the time***

We stopped for lunch after the Judges had seen ten brace, of which four brace made it through to the second day. Afternoon conditions were a little warmer than it had been in the morning

and it seemed to me that the grouse were sitting a bit tighter most of the time, which may have accounted for the slightly lower attrition rate with seven of the sixteen afternoon runners being called back for the second round the next day. Those still in contention were four pointers, five apiece of English and Irish setters and a single Gordon setter.

Drew had selected a beat with not quite so many birds on it for the second day's competition and this meant that the dogs were able to get out and show just how well they could quarter their beat. The first brace to run were Gerry Devine handling Bill Connolly's English setter FTCh Ballyellen Cara and Brian Morris's Irish setter Erinvale Meadow and they set a standard for the rest of the runners to try to match. The two dogs were a world apart in terms of experience, Gerry having won the Champion Stake with Cara in 2016 while Brian's setter is still a puppy and qualified for the trial by winning the Kennel Club Derby Stake on August

9th. Experience or not, there was little to choose between them for pace and style as they buckled down to their work.

The same handlers were back with the next brace, but took up less of the Judges time when a hare and a little bit of indiscipline brought their trial to a close, along with the bye dog (also handled by Gerry). Gerry was back with his fourth dog FTCh Gortinreagh Faith to run with last year's Champion Wilson Young's FTCh Fearn Quark of Burncastle and this time there were no mistakes.

### ***Four runners were called back to run***

Two dogs that had impressed in the first round were Steve Lound's Pointer FTCh Frosted Elfin at Fleetstalk and Mark Adam's Irish Setter FTCh Ballydavid Spitfire and they were drawn together for their second run where more good work from both dogs did their cause no harm at all. We lost the only surviving Gordon setter when Sarah Chichester's Wiscombe Tomintoul moved as a covey flushed off to his left, then Gerry Devine and Billy Darragh were the last brace to run before the Judges sat down in the heather for a discussion, the result of which was to call four runners back for an extension to the second round.

Running an extension rather than a third round suggested that the Judges had already got a winner on ice and were looking to settle the minor places. Brian Morris and Gerry Devine were the



Judge Carole Brown watches as Lester Anderson casts off Pointer Snap Dragon





Judge Richard MacNicol watches as John Naylor casts off Pointer FTCh Gerensary Starlight of Bitternboom.

first brace down in a re-run of their earlier pairing, but sadly a hare popped up right under the nose of Brian's setter and an enthusiastic chase put paid to her chances. What a promising pup though, and no doubt her time will come. Billy Darragh's Irish setter FTCh Erinvale Ice Flare and Linda Westron's Pointer FTCh Goddrib Florence were the last dogs to run in the stake before the Judges called 'Trial over,' and we made our way back to the cars for an early lunch.

The Trial headquarters was at the Buccleuch Arms in St Boswells and a long convoy of cars made their way off the hill and across to the hotel to await the results. A few soundings from the handlers as we were waiting for the announcements proved spot on when Steve Lound's Pointer FTCh Frosted

Elfin at Fleetstalk was declared the winner, with Mark Adam's Irish Setter FTCh Ballydavid Spitfire as runner-up. Third and fourth went to Billy Darragh's Irish Setter bitch FTCh Erinvale Ice Flare and Bill Connolly's English Setter bitch FTCh Ballyellen Cara handled by Gerry Devine with Diplomas of Merit to Wilson Young's Pointer dog FTCh Fearn Quark of Burncastle who won at Bollilhope last year, Linda Westron's Pointer bitch FTCh Goddrib Florence and Gerry Devine's English Setter bitch FTCh Gortinreagh Faith.

An emotional Steve Lound tried to express his thanks to everyone involved, but it was left to his wife Sharon to take centre stage and do the honours on his behalf. The Judges were unanimous in

praising the sportsmanship of all the competitors and the quality of the dog work on display. This was, for me, one of the most enjoyable Champion Stakes I have attended with perfect weather, a superb stretch of moorland with an ample supply of grouse for pointer and setter work and a procession of really great bird dogs working the ground as only pointers and setters can. There can be few better sights in the shooting world than a truly top class brace of dogs quartering a beat, then crashing on point on a cov-ey of grouse. 2018 may not be a vintage year on the moors and it will always be tinged with sadness after the loss of a great sportsman in Alan Neill, but as far as the Champion Stake went this one was right up there with the best.



Runner-up Mark Adams casting off Irish setter FTCh Ballydavid Spitfire.





The Judges: Richard MacNicol, Carole Brown and Steve Robinson.



Sara Chichester's Gordon setter Wiscombe Tomintoul in action.



Winner Steve Lound with Pointer FTCh Frosted Elfin at Fleetstalk.



(Above) Bill Connolly's Irish setter Gortinreagh Honey in action.

(Left) Mark Adams and Michael Houston with Irish setter FTCh Hunshigo Donard and Pointer Int FTCh Ardclinis Francie Frank.

(Below) Competitors waiting to run on the first morning.







# MUESLI MIX

A SUSTAINABLE FUEL FOR HARD WORKING DOGS

## PERFECTION ALL YEAR ROUND

Muesli Mix is a complete food that provides all the nutrients your dog needs to be fit, happy and healthy

Coated in glucose to help sustain performance

Moderate level of protein & fat to support energetic output



### TOPTIP!

A perfect lunchtime 'snack' for highly active dogs to reduce fatigue towards the end of a working day!

Request a FREE sample today  
visit our website using promo code: IGF8

**Call: 01379 384247 [www.skinner.co.uk](http://www.skinner.co.uk)**



# Terrier, Lurcher & Whippet Show Roundup

## ***Combined Clubs Dog Show and Race Day at Annaghmore Race Track Sun 29th April***

It was a beautiful day, with the sun shining continuously, families and country sportsmen and women came out in their droves. By 12 noon the field was full to capacity with every breed of dog you could name.

### **Overall Champion and Best in Show Fiona Devlin with Musty**

#### **Some Racing Results**

Champion Whippet Brooke Rafferty with Milly

Champion Bull Cross Charlene Rafferty with Red

#### **Master McGrath Qualifier**

Michelle Rafferty with Dino

**Mick The Millar Qualifier** Michael Mc Grath with Stella

## ***DWTC Dog Show and Race day at Sandy Heaks Modern farm in Scarva Sun 13th May***

At Sandy Heaks Modern Farm in Scarva, everything was in mint condition with show rings and racecourse ready to go for another day's enjoyment at this now superb popular venue.

There was an exceptionally large turnout of Whippets, Lurchers, Terriers and Strong dogs, backed up with glorious sunshine for most of the day. There was a lovely atmosphere, with many country sportsmen and women, parents and children, all enjoying themselves in the summer sunshine.

#### **Showing Results**

Overall Champion Pup Gareth Crumlish with Chi Chi

Overall Champion Lurcher Sean Burke with Kash

Overall Champion Terrier Douglas Hanna with Dutch

Overall Champion Whippet Rick Hepburn with Kerry

Overall Champion Bull Cross Mickey Quinn with Haus

Overall Champion Strong Dog Niall

Mc Cann with Ralph

Overall Show Champion And Best In Show Rick Hepburn With Kerry

#### **Racing Results**

Lurcher Pup Race Seamus Hart with Moses

Under 23 Kirsty Harper with Lady

Over 23 Ian Balfour with Bud

Bull Cross Charlene Rafferty with Red

Whippet Race Paddy Mc Grath with Mick

#### **Master McGrath Qualifier**

Michelle Rafferty with Sally

**Mick The Miller Qualifier** Mairead Fearon with Jessie

## ***Gilford Lurcher, Terrier, Whippet Show and Raceday, Countrysports Fair, Scarva, Saturday 26th May***

### **Showing Results**

Overall Whippet Champion Dean

Spence with Rint, Megan Tucker with Tia

Overall Champion Lurcher Jed Donagh

with Chunk, James Woods with Buster

Overall Champion Terrier Billy Craig with Fergus, Billy Craig with Hanratty

Overall Champion and Best in Show Jed Donagh with Chunk

#### **Racing Results**

Over 23 Stephanie O Connor with Bear

Under 23 Joe Leonard with Not Scared

Whippet Racing Barry Chambers with Alfie, Barry Chambers with Ruby

Nicky Smith with Scooby

Overall Racing Winner Stephanie O Connor with Bear, Joe Leonard with Not Scared.

## ***Armagh Sporting Dog Charity Show and Race Day, Sunday 3rd June (Fiona Devlin's Show)***

#### **Racing Results**

Elite Winners Joe Leonard with Scared in 20.11

Malachy McFall with Sukie in 18.64

Joe Leonard with Not Scared in 18.71

Non Elite Under 22 Kirsty Harpur with Lady

Under 24 Kirsty Harpur with Skylar

Over 24 Sean Burke with Milo

Bull Cross Charlene Rafferty with Red

Terrier Race Sam White with Finn

Whippets Barry Chambers with Alfie

#### **Master Mc Grath Qualifier**

Charlene Rafferty with Ned

**Mick the Millar** Charlene Rafferty with Red

#### **Showing**

Overall Champion Terrier Dorita

Manson with Sheamus

Lurchers Overall Champion Lurcher Maurice Mc Dowell with Sport

Whippets Overall Champion Whippet

Davy Best with Merlin

Champion Pup Dorita Manson with Josie

Champion Strong Dog Niall Mc Cann with Dollar

Overall Champion of Champions and Best in Show Dessie Mackin with Sheamus

Reserve Champion Maurice Mc Dowell with Sport

## ***The North Armagh Dog Show and Race Day, Sunday 10th June***

Every year this show grows in capacity, but this year's topped them all. By the start of showing there was not a vacant parking place on this vast stretch of show ground and all parked three deep. Matthew Downey and Simon Kelly also provided a superb display of top class entertainment in the Ferret showing and racing ring.

#### **Showing Results**

Overall Champion and Best in Show Sheamus Donnelly with Pepsi, Freddie Hallissey with Lennox.

## ***The 40th Anniversary Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle, 23rd and 24th June***

The long talked about 40th



anniversary of the Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle finally arrived and we were not disappointed. From early morning families, cars, barking dogs, trailers and the laughter of little children could be heard for miles around. The sun beamed down on both days for the largest ever Irish Game Fair to be held in Ireland.

We arrived on both days at around 9.00am, to give time for breakfast and some retail therapy. There were over 200 stands to visit on site, with everything related to country sports and fine food on offer.

It was nice to meet up with some people I would only see once a year at the game fair. The ferrets are always at the top of my list to start my day off at the game fair, so it was off to the ferret ring to join Darren Moore and Graham Fyffe who always produce a great ferret show, both in racing and showing. In this ring you are guaranteed first class entertainment, plenty of craic and great sportsmanship, and we were sure not disappointed. Stephen McGonigle kept everybody informed of the winning classes and Malachy McFall judged. Darren and Graham many thanks for another very entertaining and professionally run event.

The excitement was buzzing around the race track, as the draw took place for the Master Mc Grath. Nicky Smyth's top racing dog Scooby took the honours again this year, and once again the Smyth family donated their monetary winnings to a Children's Cancer Charity. These people have hearts of gold!

**Results: Master McGrath** Nicky Smyth with Scoobie, Michael Mc Grath with Tucker

There was more excitement on the way with the Mick the Miller race to follow.

**Results: Mick the Miller** Ned Kane with Fonk, Jed Donagh with Chunk

#### **Other racing**

Under 21 elite Gary Farmer with Stagland Sue

Under 23 elite Geriant Woolcock with Cuckoo

Lurcher pups David Nolan with Celtic Warrior

Over 23 traditional lurcher David Nolan with Julie.

**All Ireland over 23** Sheamus Moore with Speedy

**All Ireland under 23** Stephen Mc Grath with Meg

**All Ireland Bull Cross** Tommy Cullen with Bronco

Whippet racing Charlene Rafferty with Zio

Heavy Bull Cross Charlene Rafferty with Red

#### **Showing Results**

German Breed James Richardson with Bru, Myrtle Allen with Ruby

Overall Champion Terrier Drita Manson with Troy, Dessie Mackin with Bounty

Overall Champion Lurcher Mickey Quinn with Haus, Rose McCoy with Lacey

Overall Champion Whippet Mairead Fearon with Jill, Barry Chambers with Alfie

Darren Mackin Bull Cross Memorial Perputal Cup Mickey Quinn with Haus, Freddie Hallissey with Lennox

#### **5 Nations Terrier Championship**

Sheamus Donnelly with Pepsi, Mark Hanlon with Brady

#### **5 Nations Lurcher Championship**

Maurice McDowell with Poacher, Jed Donagh with Finn

#### **5 Nations Whippet Championship**

Janet Duke with Levi, Mairead Fearon with Jill

A big congratulations to above winners! Our judges, all well versed in their breeds and did a first class job on the day. A special mention as well to Tom and Leanne Barry, who worked tirelessly ringside to make sure that everything went without a hitch. A final accolade is reserved for Albert Ttitterington, his wife Irene and all the directors for a great and memorable 40th anniversary weekend at Shanes Castle. Thank you again this year for all the happy memories and I look forward to more of the same in 2019.

### **Batterstown Charity Dog Show Sun 27th May - In aid of Alzheimers Day Care**

There was a reasonable turn out of Terriers, Lurchers, Whippets and Pets at this show, and all out for a great days enjoyment. This was a very well equipped venue with country sports stands and an excellent PA system keeping us well informed of all the happenings around the rings.

#### **Showing Results**

Whippets Champion Whippet Janet Duke with Oscar

Champion Lurcher Aaron Mc Phail with Blue

Champion Terrier Paul Quinlivan with Ruby

Champion Hound

Johnny Dicker with Rockview Barman

Overall Champion of Champions Aaron Mc Phail with Blue

### **Cuchulann Terrier and Lurcher Club Dog Show and Raceday, Laurencetown, Sun 1st July**

This picturesque village is now famous for its dog shows and race days held annually at Springvale Road Laurencetown. The weather was very welcoming, if not a little too hot. I am told it was 29 degrees on Sunday and dogs were well looked after and washed down with cold water at different intervals during the show.

#### **Racing Results**

Puppy Race Danny Maxwell with Blue.

Under 23 Neil Pinkerton with Dipper  
Under 23 Elite Neil Pinkerton with Chase

**Master McGrath Qualifier** Neil Pinkerton with Jake

Traditional Lurcher Maurice McDowell with Blu

Mick the Miller Qualifier Danny Maxwell with Blue

#### **Showing Results**

Children's Handling Class Riley McCormack with Deva, Conghal Burke with Luna, Georgia Trimble with Blue

Overall Champion Puppy Sean Burke with Luna, Neil Pinkerton with Pureo

Overall Champion Whippet Barry Chambers with Alfie, Mairead Fearon with Jill

Overall Champion Lurcher Gabriel Frank with Hari, Fiona Devlin with Musty

Overall Champion Terrier Terry Crossen with Teddy, Jackie Norman with Chad

Overall Champion Strong Dog Thomas Coleman with Sully, Niall McCann with Ralph

Overall Show Champion and Best in Show Gabriel Frank with Hari, Terry Crossen with Teddy.



# THE 40th ANNIVERSARY ALL IRELAND GAME FAIR



Red Mills Master McGrath Winner and Runner Up.



Mick the Miller Winner and Runner up.



Feedwell Five Nations Lurcher Champion & Reserve Champion.



(Above)  
Feedwell Five  
Nations  
Champion &  
Reserve  
Champion.



Bull Cross Lurcher Champion.



(Right)  
Red Mills  
Five Nations  
Terrier  
Champion.





# Beechview Kennel Runs

www.kennelruns.com

Tel: (028) 29540183 Mob: 07887746511

## Pens Delivered & Erected Free within N. Ireland



ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Tel: 028 2954 0183 Mobile: 07887 746 511

Email: [brian@kennelruns.com](mailto:brian@kennelruns.com)

**[www.kennelruns.com](http://www.kennelruns.com)**

9 Lisheegan Lane, Ballymoney BT53 7JZ

NOW STOCKING





# Micky Quinn's Charity Show in aid of Autism Initiatives NI (photos by Margaret McStay)



A great turnout with all proceeds going to charity.

**F**eedwell were among the sponsors who helped Micky Quinn & Tom Barry's Charity Show & Racing raise £1450 for Autism Initiatives NI. The event was held at the Annaghmore Race Way on Sunday 19th August. It was unfortunate that another Terrier & Lurcher event was staged on the same day but also testimony to the generosity of the country sports community that it too raised £1,630 for its charity, the Antrim Hospital Special Care Baby Unit. We will be asking both charities to tell us how the money raised by the terrier, lurcher and whippet community helped NI families.

I understand with this concept of an end of season Championship being such a success that a similar event is planned for 2019.

Judges on the day were Terriers :James Toal; Whippets: Michael Quinn Jnr; Lurchers : Sam Shaw

2018 Champion of Champion: Judges Terriers : Tom Barry Lurchers : Steven McGonigal Whippets : Albert Titterington



Tom & Micky present the funds raised to representatives from the charity



Micky Quinn with Mel Patterson (AINI).



Overall Show Champion Neil Pinkerton and Res Ch Fiona Devlin.



## Used by Field Trial Champions across Ireland

**Tim Crothers** – Birdrowe  
([www.birdrowegundogs.com](http://www.birdrowegundogs.com))

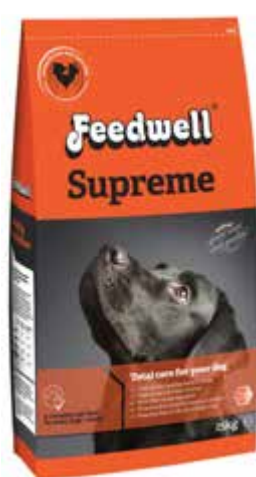


Tim has won the IKC Spaniel Championships twice; 3rd twice and 4th three times; 2nd in the British Championship twice and many diplomas; and has been a member of the CLA team and won Top Spaniel many times.

**Damian Newman** – Maighmor  
([www.maighmorgundogs.com](http://www.maighmorgundogs.com))



Damian has won the IKC Retriever Championship twice, won and been placed in trials with cockers and springers and has been a member of the winning CLA team



- Made in County Down
- 26% Protein
- Natural Omega 3 and 6 Oils

- No Artificial Colours or Preservatives
- Sold throughout Ireland



# 2018 Show Champion of Champions



(Above Right)  
Ch & Reserve  
Champion  
Lurcher.

(Right)  
Ch & Res Ch  
Terrier.

(Left)  
Ch & Res  
Ch Whippet.



# 2018 Racing Champion of Champions

(Below) Over 23" Champion

(Below Middle) Under 23" & U 22" Champions

(Below Right) Bull Cross Champion

(Right) Rough Coated Champion





# Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Golden Retriever Breed and the 50th Anniversary of the Ulster Golden Retriever Club

I have been involved with golden retrievers since 1979 and I felt I could not let this important anniversary and the anniversary of the foundation of the breed pass without marking it in some way – hence my commissioning the painting by John R. Moore of Int Dual Champion David of Westley the most famous Irish golden and arguably the most successful gundog ever.

My first golden, which I purchased from Michael Kennedy, went back to David of Westley and this and my friendship with the late Michael Twist inspired me to both show and work my dogs. I had some modest success along the way with a bitch Mandingo Posy of Ruadth which won tests and ran in trials but also won BIS at the All Ireland Golden Retriever Cub Championship Show; was 3rd in a large Open Bitch class at Crufts and was a Green Star and Res Group Winner at Championship Shows. Mandingo Yours Truly of Ruadth was the first Irish bred golden to gain a Junior Warrant, a test winner and had several Green Stars. Rosapenna Rustler won several Green Stars and a Reserve CC. All three gained their working certificates with Rustler, I think quite uniquely, being the last golden to get its working certificate actually competing in a Field Trial. However, when I acquired my initial best working bitch Holway Heidi of Ruadth I rather lost interest in showing. She had several test and trial awards and was 3rd in a class of 16 when I tried running her as a dare in an obedience test. She bred several Field Trial winners. However, in handling her I realised that the dream of having a ‘dual purpose’ golden was all but dead and it was highly unlikely there would ever be another ‘David of Westley.’

## *The history of the Golden Retriever*

Although the Golden Retriever is one of the most recently developed retrievers it was not until 1960 that the true origin of the breed became known as being established by Lord Tweedmouth in 1868. The birthplace of the golden retriever is celebrated as being Guisachan House, Inverness where the 150th anniversary was celebrated in some style by golden retriever owners from all over the world.

<https://friendsofguisachan.org/main/>

Prior to Mrs Elma Stonex's book, *The Golden Retriever*, published in 1952, the most commonly accepted origin of the breed was that it had been developed from a troupe of Russian circus dogs bought by Lord Tweedmouth during a visit to Brighton.

The Russian circus dog story of origin became the accepted version of the beginnings of the breed and appeared in the Crufts catalogue until 1960. One of the greatest proponents of this theory was Colonel Le Poer Trench who had his St. Hubert's strain registered with the Kennel Club as retrievers (Russian Yellow).

Certainly Caucasian sheepdogs of the time did appear to bear a resemblance to the early goldens and Atwood Clark in his book *Gundogs and their Training* (1938), reports seeing a Russian Retriever at one of the earliest dog shows which he attended. Many authoritative canine writers of the day also upheld this theory including Croxton Smith, Robert Leighton and Mrs Charlesworth. However the most romantically written version of this story must certainly be the account of



Titterington's Test and Show Winner Mandingo Posy of Ruadth winning Res in the Gundog Group



Patrick Chalmers in his book *Gundogs* (1931).

Chalmers states that the golden owes to the collie or sheepdog his "lion sable and the comb and waving feather of his stern." He subscribes to the circus dog origin primarily because as he states "and the extra ordinary thing is that he just occurred like a mushroom, and no man knows, for certain, the how or the why of his coming." He then goes on to quote from Sir Hilary Saxmundham's *Diary of a Sportsman* in reporting, "My Lord Panmure owned a wavy coated straw coloured retrieving dog at his castle near Carnoustie in 1865." Writing in 1877, Sir Hilary apparently refers back to the dog Tarf and says how comparatively common the type is becoming. Chalmers completes his section on the golden by repeating a charming story on the genesis of the golden from Charles Gunter's book *Gun-Room Brevities* (1882) including the poem 'The Midas Touch' included below.

However, the true history of the breed was first published by Lord Ilchester in 1952 in an article in the *Country Life* entitled 'The Origin of the Yellow Retriever.' This was based on over ten years of research by Mrs Stonex and in 1959 she and Lord Ilchester put their findings to the Kennel Club.

In 1960, the Crufts catalogue carried the true origins of the breed as approved by the Kennel Club:

"Description of the Golden Retriever  
'The origin of the Golden Retriever is less obscure than most of the Retriever varieties, as the breed was definitely started by the first Lord Tweedmouth last century, as shown in his carefully kept private stud book and notes, first brought to light by his great-nephew, the Earl of Ilchester, in 1952. In 1868 Lord Tweedmouth mated a yellow Wavy-Coated retriever (Nous) he had bought from a cobbler in Brighton (bred by Lord Chichester) to a Tweed Water Spaniel (Belle) from Ladykirk on the Tweed. These Tweed Water-Spaniels, rare except in the

Border Country, are described by authorities of the time as like a small Retriever, liver-coloured and curly coated. Lord Tweedmouth methodically line-bred down from this mating between 1868 and 1890, using another Tweed Water-Spaniel, and outcrosses of two black Retrievers, an Irish Setter and a sandy coloured Bloodhound. (It is now known that one of the most influential Kennels in the first part of the century which lies behind all present day Golden Retrievers was founded on stock bred by Lord Tweedmouth)."

From this description it can be seen that all golden retrievers go back to the yellow retriever Nous, who was obviously the produce of Flatcoated Retrievers. Many canine authorities of the day including Rawdon Lee in his *Modern Dogs* (1893) referred to brown retrievers including pale chocolate coloured dogs being bred from black parents.

In the pedigree of Prim and Rose, the last two yellow retrievers recorded in Lord Tweedmouth's records, one can see the influence of both the Flat-coated Retriever and the Tweed Water Spaniel in the development of the Golden Retriever. The Tweed Water Spaniel is now extinct but writers of the time including Stonehenge in *The Dog* (1859), Vero Shaw *The Book of the Dog* (1890), give detailed descriptions of the Tweed Water Spaniel as a small type of retriever used by fishermen in the borders between Scotland and England.

The type of flatcoats used in the breeding programme to produce Prim and Rose were very much of the old golden type in head and conformation, rather than having the construction and head of the modern flatcoat. Zelstone, Think and Tracer were all from the breeding of S.E. Shirley and photographs of Ch Moonstone (Brother to Tracer) published in Nancy Laughton's *A review of the Flat-coated Retriever* 1968 and Thoughtful (sister of Tracer) published in Sir Henry Smith's *Retrievers and how to break them* (1898) show dogs very much of the early golden type. One other throw back to the flat coat ancestry is the presence of a few black hairs on some of even the lightest goldens. More uniquely a local experienced breeder told me that in one of her very early litters she had an almost totally black puppy. Unfortunately she put this puppy down at birth.

The link between Prim and Rose to Culham Viscount Harcourt's Cluham Brass (the dog behind most of today's pedigrees) is via a bitch called Lady who was thought to be a daughter of Prim or Rose. Other Guisachan bred dogs which can be traced through early pedigrees are Conan and Rock.

To summarise the origins of the breed, I think it fitting to quote from Mrs Stonex's book:

"The influential recorded links of Guisachan bred Lady, Conon and Rock, prove the descent of today's Goldens



Keeper Thomas Walker had a well established kennel of Golden Retrievers at Hutton Castle in the borders in the late 1800s probably of Lord Tweedmouth breeding.



from the first Lord Tweedmouth's thoughtfully planned matings on a foundation of a yellow retriever of unknown antecedents (Nous) and two Tweed water spaniels (Belle and Tweed). The roots of the breed lie in Scotland and the Border Country."

Some years ago further information on the development of the breed came to light when a lady contacted me through the magazine to advise that her husband's grandfather, had been involved in the development of the breed and that it was chronicled in the book 'Letters from a Lowland Keeper' by Rt Hon H J. Tennant published in 1918. Tennant succeeded Edward Marjoribanks, the 2nd Lord Tweedmouth as MP for Berwickshire. In 1876, Dudley Majoribanks, the 1st Lord Tweedmouth, had purchased Hutton Castle and most of Tennant's book covers partridge shooting on the estate and neighbourhood under the direction of the game keeper, Thomas Walker.

From a photograph in the book, it can be seen that in the late 1800s/early 1900s, Thomas Walker had in his charge in the Scottish borders a well established kennel of golden retrievers of the modern type, probably from Tweedmouth breeding. And in a photograph I have seen, amongst his goldens is a dog which I think was a Tweed Water Spaniel, or a first generation cross.

### ***The Golden Retriever in Ireland***

**In 1994 Michael Gaffney and I published and edited a book 'The Golden Retriever in Ireland.' Many people contributed to this history, including Alexa Brown, current Chair of the UGRCC, the late Graham Cox and the late Michael Twist. Some of the material in the book is summarised below. I still have a few copies of this book available.**

The first golden retriever to be registered with the IK was Cubbington Beauty in 1925, but they did not really take off as a breed until in 1953, largely

due to the influence of the late Michael & Cynthia Twist. The All Ireland Golden Retriever Club was founded with Michael and Cynthia being elected Chairman and Secretary respectively. As both were very committed to the concept of breeding good looking goldens that retained their working ability they encouraged the organisation of both shows and field trials.

The Ulster Golden Retriever Club was founded in June 1968 and thus celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The founding members included Everett Massey, Heather Avis and the late Eva Harkess and Lucy Ross.

The first golden to really make its mark in field trials was Lucy Ross's David of Westley handled by Jim Cranston, reckoned by many to be the best Irish gundog trainer and handler ever making up FT champions in several breeds.



International Dual Champion David of Westley

The first All Golden Stake was held at Ballygar, Co Roscommon in October 1954 on snipe. It was won by David and not only did it give him the first leg of his Irish FT title but it saw the emergence of Fred Dobson, from Mohill, into field trialling. Fred went on to have great success, including winning the Irish Retriever Championships.

It was not until the 25th January 1955 that David of Westley gained the second leg to his title as a field trial champion, putting him very close to becoming the first dual champion of the

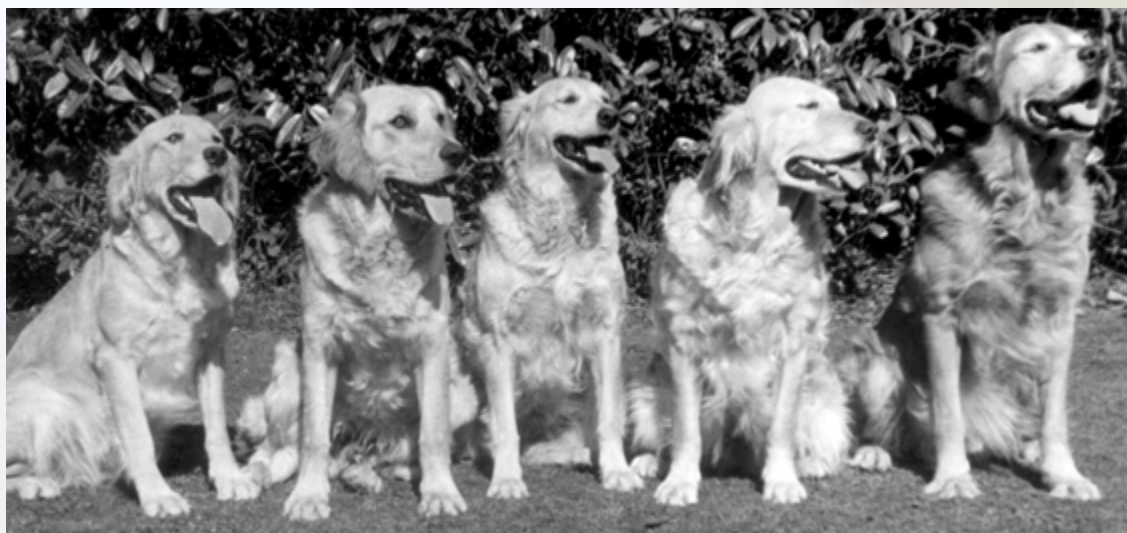
breed in Ireland — at the time he only needed one more point on the bench. He won his second trial at the South of Ireland Gundog Club's A.V. Stake at Adare, Co. Limerick, which I judged with Mrs. Fairfax-Ross from England, a most capable and unbiased judge who really knew her job. It was certainly a great day for golden retrievers in Ireland and, I feel, an extract from a report by the late Michael Twist for 'Our Dogs' (issue of 4th Feb: 1955) would be appropriate here.

'The card consisted of thirteen Labradors, one Golden Retriever and one Irish Water Spaniel. It was generally agreed by both spectators and competitors that the standard of work was high, in fact many were of the opinion that it was the best ever witnessed in Ireland. At lunch time, three dogs had established a good position in the lead, namely Miss Ross's Golden Retriever, David of Westley; Morrissey's Dusty of Hamdere, both handled by Jim Cranston and Goodbody's Smut of Castleroy, handled by his owner; if anything the latter was slightly in the lead, having had a good runner just before lunch. In the afternoon David quickly set about leaving no doubts in anybody's mind that it was his day. Most ably handled he first 'wiped the eye' of Smut of Castleroy on a hen pheasant lying in the open on the far side of a stream with heavy cover on either bank. He quickly followed this with another 'eye wipe' over Dusty of Hamdere and Pielow's Orwell Dusky Sal on a woodcock in heavy cover. The judges then took Smut and Dusty to try for a snipe on the edge of a ride through the covert, both dogs failed and David was again called into the line to complete his hat trick in 'eye wipes.'

David of Westley won the dog Green Star and B.O.B. the following Easter Monday, thus giving him his dual title. He went on to win his UK titles making him the most successful gundog of all time as an international dual champion.

The late Michael Twist, whose own ambitions to make up a Dual Champion





Some of the dogs from the Twists' Bryanstown Kennels – show and trial award winners.

were agonisingly thwarted by David, told me about this apart from his wins in trials and shows in Ireland and the UK (4 CCs, 7 Irish Green Stars and 24 field trial awards) the dog also won the Obedience tests three years in a row at the St Patrick's Day show in the RDS. He said if the obedience title had been available he could well have been a triple champion!

And his connection with Shanes Castle? Some years ago, in a discussion in a Gundog planning meeting for the Irish Game Fair at Shanes, a discussion arose about the best Gundog ever seen in Ireland. There was some surprise when Bob Fettis, a lifelong spaniel enthusiast proposed David of Westley, who he had seen run in trial at Shanes. Apparently the Maine was in flood and only two dogs would face it. These were the famous Flatcoat Champion handled by Major Harry Wilson and David of Westley handled by Jim Cranston. Bob said David's work throughout the day was excellent but his retrieve across and back over the swollen Maine had lived in his memory.

The first Irish Retriever Championship in 1964 was won by Billy Blossom's FT Ch David of Corrievern (a son of David of Westley) with Fred Dobson's Ft Ch Holway Legato 2nd. In 1966 Billy Blossom won the championship with FT Ch Dorcas of Mohill with Dorcas's 11 year old mother in third!

When the Twists left Ireland interest in the working golden appeared to wane

although Michael Kennedy and Roy Rankin made up Ardyle Toddy and Toberhewney Tess respectively as FT Champions. Joe McGivern also had success with several golden retrievers. But, by the time I purchased my first golden retriever from Michael Kennedy, both clubs had stopped running trials.

I got involved in both showing and working my dogs and later with Michel Twist's encouragement tried to get the working side of both clubs going again. I ran some trials for the AIRGC and got the UGRC's trials going again including us running three confined stakes. We also fielded teams in the annual UK inter-club working test.

However, once again while the trial side of the club blossomed to run AV qualifying stakes, interest in the golden retriever waned again, although Brendan Mack did make up a FT Champion and Joe McGivern had a couple of near misses.

However when we hosted the inter-club test at the Game Fair and the UGRC team won, this encouraged a resurgence of interest and the emergence of John Williamson who has proven to be a formidable trainer, and Shauna McGroarty, who has tasted success in both show ring and field and bred Rita Corr's dog, our most recent FT Champion.

Meanwhile, the show side of the Club has flourished with the Abinvale Kennel emerging as a truly international force. To give the 'state of play' in working and show sides of the club I

asked Shauna McGroarty and the Archibald family to give us a summary of their own activities.

### **Update on looking at both sides of the coin – showing & working by Shauna McGroarty**

Golden Retrievers have definitely had a bit of a comeback in the last few years but when I first started looking for a pup from working stock it was like trying to find a needle in a haystack. There were great dogs from Albert Titterington's kennel and Joe McGivern's kennel, but litters were hard to come by. I was eventually put in touch with Uel Craig from the Lawpark Kennel and bought my first golden pup, 'Bella' (albeit she was a pale show type) but what did that matter, having lived with the breed all my life, I just assumed all golden retrievers could work.

Well, she could to a point and, as much as I tried to prove Mr Gordon Wilson wrong, she was never going to be a field competition dog. Gordon ran the first gun dog classes I went to and he taught me well and hardened me for the cut throat world of Field Trials and the disappointments that would follow. However, having a passion for all things golden, I decided I would make the best of what I had. I spent hours studying lines (show and work), picked Uel's knowledge on pedigrees and breeding etc and decided Bella would be my foundation bitch, and from her I bred Bonnie, she is a Crufts winner and she





Shauna's Ch Tamniarn Sybil.

is one of two GB Champions to be bred in this country,

Bonnie has produced top winning dogs who are owned by some of the top kennels in England and Europe. I watch her progeny with interest and it gives me a lot of satisfaction, more so than actually competing at shows. Still having a desire to compete in the field I also acquired a golden from working stock a couple of years after I bought Bella. We had a huge amount of fun but could never get that win. As a consequence and possibly not getting a

chance really to campaign in England in the Goldie circuit, no one ever asked to use 'my Barney.'

He was a super dog and even as a novice I knew that for sure, it was me who failed him. I needed a new pup but I was adamant that I only wanted a pup from 'Barney,' so I decided to take the bull by the horns and put an advert on Facebook looking for anyone who would allow me to use him on their working bitch. A cheeky ask but it paid off, as obviously hearing my desperation, Dr Mike Hamilton came

forward, gave me his bitch, the

pedigree fitted beautifully and a few years later we have two Field Trial Champions and a Field Trial winner from that one litter... no mean feat in goldens these days. I am excited to see what these young dogs go on to produce.

It was during this time I met John Williamson at one of Albert's Game Fairs. He casually walks up from nowhere and shouted 'where did you get that dog from?' I thought who is this guy with the trench coat and oversized hat? Ireland's answer to John Wayne, or something to that affect. Anyway I passed myself and was polite, biggest mistake I made, John mistook that for friendship. I put John in touch with a few people in England then took him out picking up 'showing him the ropes,' the little I knew. Two years later John made up his first Field Trial Champion, had success at the Irish Championships, then went on to make up a further two Field Trial Champions, one an International Field Trial Champion and his current young Field Trial Winner will, I am sure, be made up in the coming seasons. Boy did he take the golden world by storm, things dreams are made of! Goldens can be an inconsistent breed which is why they can be hit or miss in competitions, however John appears to have a knack of turning every one he has into a success, and after all that, he still won't tell me his secret.



Barney and Son



John Williamson running in the IKC Retriever Championships.



**The Abinvale Kennel is arguably the most successful Irish show kennel ever - so I asked the Archibald family to give me some of their highlights.**



Blue with owner Jeanette Filkov and handler Emma Arhibald winning BOB at Crufts.

The Archibalds had their first Golden Retriever in 1978 and began showing in 1993. Their foundation bitch, Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale, came from the Gunhills Kennel in Derbyshire.

The Abinvale Kennel has dominated awards in Ireland but also has done extremely well against some very numerically strong competition in the UK. **This includes Irish Kennel Club Annual Champion Competition - Owners or Breeders of the IKC Annual Champion 2010, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17.**

**Top Brood Bitch In Ireland 2010 - 2017 -** Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale 2010 to 2015 and Abinvale Mystic River 2016 2017

**Top Brood Bitch In UK 2015 –** Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale  
**Individual Dogs Notable Achievements**

**Danish, GB, Irish and Int. Sh. Ch Abinvale Traguado (Blue)** (Sh. Ch. Shardanell Talk O' The Town at Ipress JW X Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale) - DOB 16th March 2008

Crufts BOB and Gundog Group 2 (2014)

Top Golden Retriever in the UK 2014

Top Golden Retriever and Top Dog in Group 8 in Ireland 2014

7 CC's, 5 Res CC's (one of which

was at Crufts in 2015), 20 Green Stars, 2 All Breed BIS's in Ireland and won CACIB's in 5 different countries

Blue went to Demark at 8 weeks old and was campaigned on the continent by his owner Jeanette Filskov and gained his Danish title. In July 2013 when he was 5 he came back to us in Northern Ireland and was shown by Emma gaining all of the above UK and Irish awards in just 18 months.

**Sh Ch & Ir. Sh. Ch Abinvale Levanto (Cody)** (Sh Ch Telkaro First Look JW X Sh Ch & Ir Sh Ch Abinvale Mystic River) - DOB 9th May 2014

4 CC's, 6 Res CC's, 34 Green Stars, 2 BIS at Scottish Breeds Championship Show in Ireland

Cody gained both his GB and Irish titles at just 3 years during 2017 and the highlight being the winning of the Gundog Group at the Scottish Kennel Club

Championship Show 2017.

**Sh Ch & Ir Sh Ch Abinvale Mystic River (Tegan)** (Sh. Ch. Shardanell Talk O' The Town at Ipress JW X Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale)

5 CC's, 2 Res CC's, 34 Green Stars, 2 All Breed BIS's in Ireland in 4 days on the Munster Circuit 2015 It is believed Tegan is the only Golden Retriever Bitch to take 2 Best in Show wins in 4 days.

**Ir Sh Ch Abinvale Pirtatella (Darci)** (Sh. Ch. Shardanell Talk O' The Town at Ipress JW X Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale)

1 CC, 2 Res CC's, 38 Green Stars  
**Sh Ch & Ir. Sh Ch Abinvale The Aviator (Denver)** (Sh. Ch. Shardanell Talk O' The Town at Ipress JW X Gunhills Blue Secret at Abinvale)

4 CC's, 4 Res CC's, 26 Green Stars  
And Veteran World Winner Amsterdam 2018-08-16

**If you are interested in joining the Ulster Golden Retriever Club please contact: Frank Archibald**

**Tel: 028 27665797**

**E: [ulstergrc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ulstergrc@hotmail.co.uk)**



Abinvale Mystic River



Abinvale The Aviator



# THE Gunstore.ie

Connolly's  
**RED MILLS**  
SINCE 1908

Shop in-store or online at  
[www.redmillsoutdoorpursuits.ie](http://www.redmillsoutdoorpursuits.ie)



Some of the popular brands we stock:

 **BERETTA**



**Blaser**



 **BROWNING**

 **Benelli**



 **Hornady**

  
**TIKKA**  
BY SAKO

**sako**  
FINLAND

**HÄRKILÄ**

 **AIGLE**  
DEPUIS 1853

 **Deerhunter**  
OUTDOOR CLOTHING

**Seeland**

 **BERGARA**

**STEINER** 

**Remington**

Connolly's RED MILLS, Cillín Hill Retail Park, Dublin Road, Kilkenny  
Ph: 056 4449010 Email: [info@thegunstore.ie](mailto:info@thegunstore.ie)

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday, 8am - 6pm



# Pointer & Setter Early Circuit

Spring 2018 will be remembered for the once in a lifetime fall of snow and the various disruptions that entailed. The Spring circuit for pointers and setters which, are principally held across mountain ranges across Ireland were therefore severely impacted.

Spring, while sometimes less pleasant due to colder weather conditions than the Summer and Autumn circuits, are seen as a great test of dogs due to the more challenging conditions and the wildness of the grouse. The weather while cold is sometimes preferable to the heat of a fine August day. The circuit begins on

1st February and ends on 31st March and like dominoes every weekend the various clubs cancelled their events. However, just one trial did go ahead primarily because it was held on the lowlands in the west of Ireland which was not as affected as the east and middle of the country. The Connaught field trial club held a novice trial near Athenry in county Galway on the 17th February.

The meet was in the historic medieval town of Athenry under the shadow of the castle finally built in 1248 and the Abbey constructed in 1241. A few of the participants had a wander through the site of the abbey

which even enjoyed university status in the 1600s until it was desecrated by Cromwell's troops in 1652. Given the aforementioned weather, and the consequent impact of preparing dogs, a respectable card of eight and a half brace went to post. Under experienced judges Davy Byrne and Declan O'Rourke, each brace got enough time to demonstrate their ability and with a decent fall of snipe there was plenty of action.

From the off, David Bell's Irish setter Sheenmel Dream had a smart find under some provocation from his brace mate. He was paired with the bye dog and after some fast quartering ended with another excellent find.

A later brace saw Joe Tannion's Sheenmel Judy having a smart find on a snipe. There were a number of new debutants to pointer and setter field trials in P.J. Clarke and Alan Flynn. P.J. Clarke running a handsome red and white setter Craigrua Nelson gave a terrific quartering display only to come to grief with unsteadiness to flush.

The other debutant Alan Flynn with his Irish setter bitch Ballinahemmy Sadie gave a fantastic performance of fast quartering only to suffer similarly to slight unsteadiness to flush. It bodes well for the future of the sport to have dogs presented to this level and class by new handlers.

Ray Monroe's Irish red Granaghburn Nebraska had some good work and a brace of finds on snipe. Ray's Craigrua Hardy produced excellent fast quartering and two excellent finds on snipe. Pdraig Kiely's Gordon setter bitch Birchvalley Rusty Tipped and Hugh Brady's Irish setter Malstabodarna Embla of Ballydavid gave a superb display of quartering where the Irish setter had an excellent



The Dominican Priory in Athenry on a Spring morning.





The winner was David Bell's Sheenmel Dream.

find far out on the wing just at the end of the run. After a leisurely lunch basking in the spring sunshine, three and a half brace was called to give a second account of themselves.

The first brace of David Bell's red setter dog and Ray Monroe's Granaghburn Nebraska set off at a furious pace. While just as it looked like control could be tested, the Irish setter pointed steadfastly before expertly producing a brace of snipe. The next brace of Joe Tannion and Ray Monroe's Craigrua Hardy performed well but some strong scent pulled the red setter forward. Alan Bartley was called in with Ballinhemmy Hannah to continue the run with the Irish red & white setter. The final brace of Paraig Kiely's Gordon setter and Hugh Brady's Irish setter got a long run where both performed well.

An extension was called for Paraig Kiely's Gordon setter and Ray Monroe's Irish Red & white setter Craigrua Hardy where the red & white had another good

find on snipe. The trial was then called to an end.

After some deliberations and debate between the judges, the results were read. First prize with excellent to David Bell's own bred red setter dog Sheenmel



Hugh Brady's Malstabodarna Embla of Ballydavid.

Dream. A dog of enormous potential until injury stalled his progress, this was a popular result and David's first field trial win. Second was Hugh Brady's

Malstabodarna Embla of Ballydavid also with excellent categorisation and third Ray Monroe's Craigrua Hardy also with excellent. The crowd gently moved off after finishing chats and various stories ending a very convivial day in the early years sun.

On a final note, congratulations to one of our longest field trial people, Jimmy Dalton who received his British title with his pointer bitch Shannaghview Gershwin De Lagopus (Int FTCh Lagopus Yorkie x Sally Girl) in the Northern Ireland pointer club trials under Meryl Asbury and Ross O'Neile to become an International FTCh. Jimmy has been trialling since the early 1960s and this is an enormous achievement.

Reader please note that Hugh will be reporting in the next issue on the Summer stakes some of which are underway as we go to print



Ray Monroe's Craigrua Hardy.



Int. FTCh Shannaghview Gershwin De Lagopus.



# The Last Safari

**T**he last safari was exactly that – the very last! Like everything else in life the day comes when you ask yourself if you need to do this again. That point was reached about three years ago and didn't require any soul-searching or deep thought. After 28 safaris it was time to walk away, so I did. A number of factors quietly led to The early days.

that decision: the misery of long haul flights, ever increasing hunting rates, security issues, plus Father Time had an input.

The old saying that Africa gets into more than your bloodstream is definitely close enough to the truth, although it's probable that I contracted the bug as a youngster when Henry Ryder Haggard's 'King Solomon's Mines' appeared on the silver screen with Stewart Granger in the lead. Robert Ruark's books of the late '50's graphically describing his African hunts were a major influence - Hemingway's to a lesser extent.

Back then, Ruark immortalised a young professional hunter, Harry Selby, who passed away only last January, well into his 90s. In 2007 I received an invitation to go buffalo hunting in Botswana with a group whose Professional Hunter was to be Mark Selby, Harry's son. Illness forced Mark to retire in 2008 so I never got to meet him. Sadly he died in 2017.

It was in the 1990s that I first set foot on the Dark Continent's South Africa, at the time the most organised and structured hunting venue there.

Johannesburg's airport was named after Jan Smuts and Afrikaner Police Officers issued temporary firearms licences upon arrival. Two further airport name changes took place as the years rolled on.

In those early days our hunting accommodation was basic: mud/straw huts with earthen floors and food cooked on open fires - it was all we could afford. In many areas mobile phone reception didn't exist, a drive of up to 50 miles was necessary to make a landline call – assuming copper wire in the overhead cables hadn't been stolen. Eventually we graduated to slightly more comfortable quarters. Rondevaals (circular brick huts) with oddments of furniture and straw roofs that leaked were an improvement, despite having to move beds around to find a dry spot when it rained. Candlelight wasn't ideal for shaving, cold showers, or cleaning firearms. Neither was the odd week of rain and mud – when it rains in Africa it really rains!

## ***We moved on to something more comfortable***

While roughing it was mostly a great experience and reminiscent of what





hunters endured in the early years of the 20th century, we rapidly moved on to comfortable lodges complete with electricity, en-suite rooms, kitchen staff etc. Some even had swimming pools. We had seen enough of the 'old days.' One particular camp outside Thabazimbi in Limpopo Province that became our base for many years was equipped with all the comforts of home including top class living quarters, modern 4X4's, quad bikes, radio communications, good trackers and staff.

On a number of occasions I was left in charge of this camp for several days running the entire hunting operation as I was familiar with the surrounding bush

and countryside. The owner Mike Hodge made news headlines earlier this year having been seriously mauled by a male lion in a nature reserve that he currently owns. At the time of writing he was still in hospital – lucky to be alive.

Interestingly, we rapidly developed our 'Africa eyes' - the ability to spot animals instantly in the bush or plain. There are parallels with deer stalking e.g. an ear or something sticking out behind a shrub that was out of place etc. It often didn't endear us to the African Trackers if we spotted something before they did, although they were way ahead of us in identifying the particular species. Our standard firearm for many

years was a .270 rifle – the maximum calibre licensed here at the time. We successfully hunted pretty-well most species of Plains Game in bush and open veldt conditions. Our 'little' .270's attracted a few incredulous glances (and comments) at the airport Police Office from other visiting hunters. They weren't to know that we practised with our rifles throughout the year in all conditions and were highly competent in their use.

Dangerous Game was a different proposition requiring a rifle of .375 calibre minimum. Following my involvement in a few bouts of High Court litigation here, we graduated to larger rifles. I possessed two, a Sako.375 H&H Safari model plus a .416 Rigby CZ 550 American model and used both on Buffalo and Leopard hunts as well as larger Plains Game.

In between I briefly used an American-made 30-06 rifle but it just didn't "sit right". Where critical precision shots were required, the .270 Mauser was my preferred rifle. With its Schmidt and Bender 6X42 'scope constantly set for a 100 metre point of aim/impact - adjustments for other distances were simple.

We had many incredible adventures all over South Africa, such as being based for a week in Cecil Rhode's 1800s luxury lodge at the original DeBeers diamond mine at Sidney-on-Vaal outside Kimberley. The open-cast mine is still operating today. That hunt included culling many species of plains game plus taking on a huge troop of baboons that was devastating the mine-workers' crops and endangering the food supply. Elsewhere I was involved in a number of leopard hunts involving shooting bait, placing it in a suitably sited tree and sitting up all night in a nearby hide trying to stay awake.

Crocodile hunting along the Limpopo River was another risky business although I knew what I was getting into. Treading cautiously along the river-bank alert for sleeping Hippos or crocs was tedious and tiring. Despite having the CZ 416 Rigby



Professional Hunter Mike Pearson checking for tracks in the bush.



Michael, Pat and I with my Buffalo.





Khosa ladies who looked after catering.

available I decided to use the .270 Mauser for this hunt. As luck would have it, the specific bull croc that we were after was eventually sighted at 100 metres, ideal for the shot that had to be taken. The target area – the brain – is only the size of a golf ball. A hit anywhere else would have driven him to the bottom to take refuge. This particular cold-blooded fellow had made a few attempts to pull children who were fishing along its banks into the river and had been earmarked by the local Wildlife authorities for culling. Croc bulls are territorial so tracking him down along the Limpopo was not an insurmountable problem.

### ***The Buffalo charge as close as***

### ***10 metres!***

Far more risky was Buffalo hunting in Palaborwa, not far from the Kruger Park. I was involved there in the scary follow-up of a wounded bull. Wounded or otherwise Buffalo is reckoned to be Africa's most dangerous species. As we entered the long grass on his trail (spoor) the call went out "rifles to your shoulder with the safety catch off – the charge could come from as close as 10 metres". That's a turn of phrase never to be forgotten. We also hunted in the Eastern Cape, the Great Karoo, KwaZulu-Natal and close to the Botswana and Zimbabwe borders in the Northern Province.

Invariably we met people from all

walks of life although our days were spent mostly in the company of Professional Hunters. These are a breed unto themselves, in the main highly professional ethical hunter/guides who take pride in their work and look after overseas hunters to a very high standard. Unfortunately crime is a serious problem outside of the well policed tourist areas in all African countries. I had three close calls, the third of which my wife and I were clearly earmarked for robbery and possible murder, but luckily we got away due to some fast driving. This was never an issue whilst hunting probably because we were always armed with rifles and on occasion carried side arms. So tourists beware! Venturing beyond the holiday trail guarantees you're being earmarked as a potential target. That's a fact of life in any African country.

Much has been written about stunning African sunsets. While they are quite a spectacular sight, I often wondered if the authors had ever seen an African sunrise. I witnessed innumerable sunrises, being up and about daily from 5am. Dipping a rock-hard rusk (Boer biscuit) into hot coffee was routine while standing, rifle on shoulder, watching while sunrise set the background aflame was always a sight to behold. As the sun climbed colours changed dramatically creating a stunning kaleidoscope of patterns, accompanied by the early morning scent of Africa, carried on a barely discernible breeze. Never to be forgotten!

While my African hunting days are over, the two large calibre rifles that I used are still around - both were bought by a client from the firearms dealer who was storing them. I don't know if they will ever return to the African hunting scene. I hope they will. The .270 Mauser is in regular use at the range and on the hill during the deer season. Long-time shooting companion Pat and I have no plans to retire from hunting in the Wicklow Mountains.

C'est La Vie!



Comfortable Safari Lodge along the Matlabas River.



# AT STUD

## FTCh Barley Laddie of Laggengill

'Alfie' is a lovely big, strong dog, a very powerful and stylish worker. He is a natural game finder.



'Alfie' has qualified for the Irish Championship three times in a row  
Hips 3/3. CNM and PRA  
Clear, Eyes Clear.

### OTHER DOGS AVAILABLE AT DRUMINDONEY GUNDOGS...

- FTCh Calderhey Evan aka 'Jed' (qualified five times in a row for the Irish Cchampionship)
- FTW Drumgoose Rooney of Drumindoney aka 'Finn'

[www.facebook.com/drumindoney](https://www.facebook.com/drumindoney)

[www.gundogsonline.co.uk](http://www.gundogsonline.co.uk)

Tel: 0044 (0) 7739507011

**InstaMold<sub>NI</sub>**  
CUSTOM MADE HEARING PROTECTION

*Are you Wearing Protection?*

*... Because Every Ear is  
Different*



Tel: 07720 890010

[www.instmold-ni.co.uk](http://www.instmold-ni.co.uk)

[info@instamold-ni.co.uk](mailto:info@instamold-ni.co.uk)

# PACDOG

Since 1989



*We have a solution  
for you:*

- PAC DOG Training Systems
- HUNTLOC Trackers
- Trail Cameras
- Bark Controllers
- Dog Fence



Low call: 1890 361361  
Tel: 059 97 24690  
[www.pacdog.ie](http://www.pacdog.ie)

Connect with us:



[pacdogcollars](http://pacdogcollars)

**PAC** |   
Dog Control Systems



# The Irish Fly Fair – Bigger and Better than ever



Ireland's biggest fly fishing extravaganza will again feature the largest group of fly tyers and game angling stands under one roof. A host of the greatest fly dressers, fly casters and angling celebrities from all over the globe will once again gather at the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill, to participate in the 9th Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show. On the 10th and 11th of November, visitors will come from all over the world to this celebrated event. They will have the opportunity to see some of the finest fly dressers from around the world practice their art, while champion fly casters will be available to demonstrate and advise on fly casting techniques and fishing tactics.

Stevie Munn said: "The show gets bigger and better each year. Last year's Irish Fly Fair saw some of the best fly casters and fly tyers in the world descend on The Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill. The show is a fantastic success with many of the fly dressers, demonstrators and visitors to the show returning again and again, the feedback is always exceptionally positive, with many saying it was the best game angling show they have ever been to in the world, we hope to build on this and have many new trade stands, fly tyers and celebrities for this year, keeping the event fresh."

"The tackle trade will be very well represented at this

year's event with a huge range of quality trade stands in form of tackle, outdoor clothing, and fly tying gear and many others, so something for everyone! The event team would like to welcome back angling celebrities, who will be demonstrating and advising on all aspects of fly fishing! We would like to welcome our new guests. We also have tuition from qualified angling instructors APGAI who will give free casting and fly tying lessons during the two-day exhibition. Experts from the Inland Fisheries Ireland, Tom Doc Sullivan, Dr Ken Whelan, and many more will be hosting talks and seminars on various angling related topics. Also, the "Youth Fly Tying Competition" giving the kids a chance to show the "Pro Fly Dressers" what they can do.

The Irish Fly Fair is hailed as one of the

finest shows of its kind in Europe, a great weekend to meet up with old friends and make new ones! This show is a must for all angling enthusiasts. A big thank you to all that support the show, including the sponsors Guideline, Veniard, Semperfli, Regal Vise USA, Fulling Mill, LTS and Partridge Hooks.

"This is the undisputed best Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Show in all of Ireland and one not to be missed. In one of Galway's best Hotels, many visitors now come for the weekend with their families and experience the whole atmosphere of the show. Please come along and give it your support, angling needs feel good events like this." For more details see web.

[www.irishflyfair.com](http://www.irishflyfair.com) or contact Stevie Munn by Email:

[anglingclassics@aol.com](mailto:anglingclassics@aol.com)"



Fly dressers Row sponsored by Veniard.



# The Irish Fly Fair

& International Angling Show

10th & 11th November 2018, Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill

Open 10am to 5pm both days

# 60

Of The Worlds **Best Fly Tyers**

HUGE Range of Tackle & Trade Stands

Fly Casting Demo's

Junior Fly Dressing Competition

Talks & Presentations

And much much more

[www.irishflyfair.com](http://www.irishflyfair.com)

Brought to you With the help of our Sponsors

**GUIDELINE**

It's all about the experience



**PARTRIDGE**  
OF REDDITCH



**REGAL VISE**

**LTS**  
FLYFISHING





# A HIDDEN GEM

A swirl and the fly has gone.

Tucked away in a fold of the hills overlooking Belfast lies a little dam affectionately known as the Boghill Dam. Constructed in the 18th Century to supply water for the Hyde Park Bleaching and Finishing Works and later supplying water for the Michelin plant in Mallusk, the dam provides a haven for anglers and wildlife alike. It's a beautiful refuge, hidden from the hustle and bustle of the outside world. Access is from a little lane and as you drive down it's winding bends the angler becomes enveloped in the peace and tranquility, as the trees form a tunnel and gorse and hawthorne line the path; you become aware that you are entering a special place! Perched high in the hills the Boghill overlooks Belfast Lough and the evening sunsets can be stunning, as the globe slides behind the hills illuminating everything in a pink and orange glow.

On a warm day in May, the air is heavy with the scent of the hawthorn blossom and wild mint as you tread the margins of the dam. In the trees above are black gnat and ungainly hawthorn flies. In the water are buzzers, damsel

flies and the odd olive. Swallows and sand martins are hawking the margins, enjoying the bounty of insects after the lean pickings of earlier months. All around are the newly arrived summer visitors taking up territories and searching for nesting sites, or just feeding hard before moving on.

Chiff chaffs, yellowhammers, warblers, linnets and reed buntings come and go, their bustle and song are a contrast to the harsh bleakness of the winter months. Larks sing from the adjoining meadows and, on a still night, the angler is often accompanied by the song of the nightingale or the churr of the little grasshopper warbler through the dark hours.

I move stealthily through the margins, eyes scanning for movement on the lightly rippled surface, a bulge or a ripple going the wrong way or a whorl as the spotted trout takes an emerging olive or buzzer. The shallow margins are better at this time as they heat up more quickly, stimulating the insect activity. In the little bay by the old hut, a trout is feeding steadily on buzzers, he is patrolling the weed bed along the shore and I sit watching as he cruises up

and down taking the grey boy and apple-green midges as they struggle to the surface; sometimes a leisurely sip and other times in a swirl, I can see the gold flash as he rolls near the surface.

## ***A pristine wild brown trout almost two pounds, spotted with red and black on golden flanks***

Tying on a CDC shuttlecock emerger, I degrease the tippet and ease into position for a cast, watching the trees behind; it will not have to be a long one. I wait until the trout is downwind before placing the fly alongside the weed margin, the trout grazes back toward me and my heart skips a beat as he nears my offering, dangling in the surface film. There is a pause: I think he's refused the fly but then a swirl and the fly has gone. I tighten into him and he bolts into the deeper water before crashing through the surface at the end of his run. Soon, I am easing the trout over the waiting net to unhook him, a pristine wild brown trout almost two pounds, spotted with red and black on golden flanks. Hook eased out, I gently hold him until the strength returns to his





Trout flourish with the abundant insect populations.

muscles and he bolts into the open water once more and I sit on the bench and just bathe in the heat of the spring sunshine and the pleasure of being in this magical place.

The richness of the Boghill lies in the underlying rock, limestone seams bringing alkaline water to the dam, the perfect medium for the aquatic invertebrates on which the other wildlife thrive. It also permeates the soils, and the margins and meadows burst with plants and flowers not often seen elsewhere. The dam is home to water rails, cuckoos, dabchicks, mallards, tufted duck, swans and more. In the evenings the angler is accompanied by little bats and an owl which haunts the shores.

Bees, butterflies and grasshoppers are abundant and when you become immersed in this haven it's hard to imagine that industry, roads and housing estates are only a few miles away. This is a hidden world so far untouched by the ravages of modern development, a last haven for wildlife in a countryside blighted by bulldozers, pesticides, intensive factory farming. The Boghill is essentially a wild brown trout fishery, but in previous seasons was stocked with a small number of trout to start the season. Our last stocking was several years ago and included some rainbow trout which still survive today. As

anglers generally release their fish, the trout grow well in this rich environment and the abundance of food means an average weight of almost two pounds. A brown trout of over seven pounds was caught a few years ago on a dry fly, a great trout for such a small sheet of water.

The fishing season on the Boghill marches through the months: March brings buzzers and alderfly larvae, May brings hawthorne fly, black gnat and olives, summer brings damselfly, sedge and caenis, then autumn brings better black gnat hatches and a second hatch of olives. Like any brown trout fishery it can be moody, but given reasonable

weather conditions there's usually something moving somewhere along the shore or in the bays. Even in a strong wind there's always somewhere to find shelter. Caenis-time and lovely summer nights can provide great rises but challenging fishing, as the surface is covered in fly. A better tactic can be to stay late as the trout turn their attentions to buzzers, when a shipman's buzzer can earn its keep. As darkness approaches, trout slurp flies noisily, giving away their position in the gloom.

### ***Stealthy anglers can watch trout cruise underneath displaying every spot and scale***

My favourite time has to be in the autumn as the leaves turn red and gold and hedgerows are laden with glossy blackberries, crimson haws and orange rosehips. Given some sunshine, swarms of black gnat appear and the trees which overhang the dam wall are laden with an abundance of these insects, which provide food for birds stocking up for winter as well as the trout. Every gust of wind delivers gnats into the water and the trout don't take long to notice. Often the better brown trout cruise close to the margins under the branches, mopping up flies and this can provide great intimate dry fly fishing with fine tippets and small flies. The stealthy angler can watch as lovely trout cruise underneath



Caenis hatch in huge numbers, stimulating many an evening rise.





Photographed and swiftly returned to the water.

him displaying every spot and scale, making for exciting angling in the clear water and often every bay and corner seems to have a patrolling trout.

The Boghill Dam was saved from destruction by the Mallusk Angling Society President Samuel Mills, who ended up waking a magistrate from his bed in attempt to give the dam a stay of execution. The attempt was successful and the dam was saved, providing a fantastic resource for generations of anglers and a place of peace and tranquility during Belfast's troubled times.

It has inspired several renowned anglers such as Stevie Munn, Bobby Bryans and the late Jackie Childs, as well as fly dressers of renown such as Frankie Haddock. There are great

characters in the club, Joe Woods being the greatest and most loved, always having has a sympathetic ear and words of advice and wisdom for members going through a rough time. The dam is also the last resting place of many anglers whose ashes reside on its shores.

The wee dam provides a sanctuary from the stresses and strains of modern life, a balm in troubled times and a place where the fishing can often take second place, as members become immersed in the intimate tranquility of its verdant banks. It provides a place of fellowship and during our competitions, the banter rings out over the water as the boys enjoy a burger and beer. The hut provides an epitaph for those members who have passed on to more hallowed shores and their memories



The sun sets on the 18th century Boghill dam as we wonder will it still exist for future generations to enjoy?

linger long on the shores of the Boghill.

Unfortunately the modern world has caught up with our little dam, as planning has been granted for the flood plain of the outgoing stream and the Reservoir Act that spells death to so many dams will undoubtedly wreak havoc with the trees on the dam wall which give the place its character. A developer has purchased the dam and control is out of the club's hands as the lease hasn't been renewed. Now it's up to engineers to see if they can save the small body of water which has given so much pleasure to so many people over the years.

### ***Progress, but at what price?***

Has the last lovely brown trout been caught, has the last skylark sung through the night on it's shores, has the last merlin snatched a pipit from it's meadows, will the otters have nowhere to chase their eels? We can't stop the march of progress but I can't help thinking if progress is the right term, is planning permission in our most beautiful and vulnerable countryside progress? Do planners and developers consider our natural heritage? When I think of Ireland and home I think of green fields, trees, wildlife not roads and houses, is there no responsibility on government and councils to protect our wildlife rich areas as tarmac and concrete engulf the country?

All we have now is the good will of the new owner to ensure the future of this little gem hidden high in the Belfast hills, yet will he consider our love for the Boghill and its wildlife to be worth the expense of saving? I truly hope so. I know many clubs will be facing this dilemma at present, this is why our authorities are to selling off the reservoirs, and I wish you all well with your own situation, I will leave you with a quote which should be hung on the door of every planning agency, council and developer: 'The wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after.' George VI.





Department of

**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



# Angling

in Northern  
Ireland

Many DAERA  
fisheries accessible  
to anglers with  
disabilities.



## What's stopping you?

**T: 0300 200 7860 | [www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling)**

Department of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural Affairs

Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street

Belfast  
BT2 7EG



# A Pleasurable Summer's Mink Hunting In County Cork



Members of the joint meet of the County Cork and Desmonds watch the action during a very hot day in July.

I joined the County Cork Mink Hounds at the beginning of July for my first hunt of several with them during the season. The mink hunting season typically lasts from the beginning of May until the end of September, but the packs might also venture out in April and October depending on the weather. I joined the County Cork at 11 on a Sunday morning at a pleasant pub called Fitzgerald's in the countryside a few miles east of

Mallow. There was a really big turnout for the hunt, perhaps 60 or 70 people, at least twice the normal number of people who turn out. The reason for this was a mink-hunting week being held by the County Cork and the Desmonds. The Desmonds are based in Limerick. The two packs hosted days out on alternate days during the week. When I met them it was the County Cork's turn. There were many visitors over from England and they told me they were having a

very enjoyable week; a very sociable number of days, featuring the finest hunting in beautiful countryside.

Brian McDonagh is the huntsman of the County Cork, a friendly man who puts his heart and soul into days out on the river. He and his assistants bring great energy and enthusiasm to the hunt and when the animal is spotted and the hounds are in pursuit, they do their best to drive the hounds on and keep them from losing the scent. We are very



Hunting on a section of the river near Mallow.





Some of the County Cork field observing the action near the village of Banteer in north Cork.

fortunate to have such fine hunting people in our midst, who are not only carrying on a great tradition but also doing it in the best way possible.

When I joined the County Cork the country was its fourth week into the summer's drought, which meant that we were able to hunt a wide section of the River Blackwater near Mallow, the first time the pack was able to do so in three years because normally the river in this section is too high. The Blackwater is a majestic river, rising on the Cork / Kerry border, flowing eastwards for 75 miles through Counties Cork and Waterford before entering the sea at Youghal Bay. Prior to the arrival of railways this beautiful waterway was a busy trading route for the region, with barges and small sailing vessels transporting and exchanging merchandise. The river is navigable by small sailing vessels from Youghal to Cappaquinn County Waterford. Ireland's fourth-longest river also has a lot of fine salmon fishing spread among many private and club fisheries. Spinning and fly fishing for salmon are the methods allowed on all fisheries, but on some fisheries the use of a worm or shrimp is allowed.

### ***The mink had shown itself to be a worthy opponent***

We walked down a long, green laneway to the river and cast the hounds about for an hour before they picked up a scent. This first mink of the day gave

us a great chase, lasting for an hour and a half and frequently going from one bank to the other and going up and down the river. At one stage the hounds were just a foot behind the quarry and it swam away in a spectacular fashion breaching the water several times like a porpoise. The following hounds briefly lost the scent before picking it up again which gave the mink some more valuable yardage. After 90 minutes hunting this one creature the huntsman gave best and decided to draw another section of the wide, slowly flowing river. The mink had shown itself to be a worthy opponent, dexterous, swift and full of stamina. Sometimes it's best to finally decide to leave such quarry alone and move on, as they could give great sport once again on future days. We found again shortly afterwards and once more enjoyed an excellent and long-

lived chase. Once again however our quarry eluded us. After six hours out in the field the huntsman decided to call it a day and blew the long call for home. We were all pretty tired by this stage and were glad to be heading back to the cars. It had been a smashing day hunting-wise and weather-wise. The temperature had been in the high 20s and the sun had beaten down on us all day. It felt like we were hunting on the continent not in Ireland. But such temperatures, while delightful, can of course be demanding as well and I drank a vast quantity of water and tea, and ate oranges when I got back to the car.

My second day during the season occurred in mid July and I met the County Cork at the Blackwater near the village of Banteer, again not far from Mallow. There were 30 people out and they were a happy bunch, obviously greatly in love with the activity at hand. As someone said to me halfway through the day, "Why would you want to be anywhere else?"

For my second day out mink hunting we were further upstream on the Blackwater than previously. The river was still wide and majestic here, but slightly more narrow and more shallow. The County Cork had chosen this location because quarry is always found here. It began slowly for us though, with the first hour proving a blank, scent-wise. I was disquieted to see that the banks of this part of the Blackwater had



Japanese knotweed on the Blackwater. Knotweed is a rampant threat now prevalent in every county in Ireland. It is an epidemic and takes over riverbanks preventing the possibility of other plants growing.





A pause in proceedings.

been heavily colonised by Japanese knotweed. Knotweed is a rampant threat now prevalent in every county in Ireland. It is an epidemic and takes over riverbanks preventing the possibility of other plants growing. It's also infesting the gardens of private residences throughout the country. In the UK the plant has long been classified as controlled waste. In Ireland we were slower to act. It was only as a result of EU regulations introduced last year on the control of invasive alien species that many local authorities are now taking the threat seriously. Irish property owners are obliged by law to take proper measures to control / eradicate the plant if it grows on their land.

After an hour the hounds latched onto a scent and the mink passed along the bank only a few feet from where I stood, up to my waist in the water. It was moving swiftly on the bank, in and out of the undergrowth, the trees and the knotweed. The hounds weren't far behind, making great music. We hunted two mink over the next four hours spending a lot of the time in the water itself. The quarry made clever use of the terrain, sticking to the terrain where the undergrowth was at its thickest and never daring to head for open country and the surrounding fields.

### ***They were very close but the mink managed to keep ahead***

Sometimes the quarry will travel

across open country, surprisingly quickly, usually making its way to another section of the watercourse or a branch off it; but that didn't happen here and the hounds found it difficult to catch up with it amidst the undergrowth. On a couple of occasions they were very close but the mink managed to keep ahead. Finally, after six hours in the field the hounds and foot followers began to feel a bit tired and the huntsman blew the long, lovely call for home. As always, it took a while to gather in all the hounds and then we walked up the long hill away from the river to our cars where welcome sandwiches and tea awaited. One is always very hungry after a day's mink hunting and food waiting in the car is a very good idea.

I have fished only a few times in my life. Hounds, horses and birds of prey have been my focusses of interest. I love watching hounds work. I love the scenery when out hunting with packs of hounds; I enjoy the social aspect, and the exercise is important. I have read a considerable amount about fishing but it has never captivated me sufficiently to start angling regularly. Recently, a relative gave me a hunting book from the 1960s called "The second Field bedside book" which was a collection of articles, letters and poems from The Field magazine.

One of these articles beautifully described the charm and the attraction

of fishing on rivers and it struck me as I read it that some of this charm and attraction is also enjoyed by mink hunters. "To cast a fly upon the waters is to begin an adventure," the writer memorably begins, "and there is no better time for adventure than when one is young." The writer describes taking his two young sons to the Dovey River for an angling outing. The Dovey is in mid Wales and is known for its salmon and sea trout. "I wanted to communicate to the elder boy, (the younger already knew)," the writer says, "the joy and pleasure of 'the arts of the angle', to indoctrinate him into the ways of rivers, to communicate to him the feelings and delights, the intense passion and the spiritual pleasures that fly fishermen know as part of their being and which it is as much their heritage as their duty to pass on to their sons and the friends of their sons."

He says his day-job includes long days and nights reporting in the House of Commons, which he says can feel like an "intolerable burden" and a form of madness. The antidote for his work, he says, is taking the rod to the river, escaping "into the clean air of the countryside." He says fishermen can appreciate, more than a casual onlooker, "The beauty and mystery of the river itself: the movement, graining, flow and tracery upon the surface, the seductive half-revealing suggestions beneath, of weed or rock or the shadows that may be monsters." Eventually the elder son is won over and converted. The writer is very happy because he knows he has given his son an inestimable gift. He adds modestly, "All I had done was to give him a rod and take him to the river; and the river, which is very kind and beneficial to man, had done the rest. A fisherman had been born."

The beauty and mystery of the river is also evident to mink hunters. The benefits of their pastime are similar to the benefits conferred on fishermen. As with fishermen, their pastime is an inestimable gift. The hunt is not just good exercise, etc, it is also an antidote, a solace, for modern living.



# Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers

Conaidhm na Slat Iascairí Bradáin agus Breac Geal

VISIT US AT [www.fissta.com](http://www.fissta.com)



**F.I.S.S.T.A.**

The back end of the salmon season is like the blackberries which are now withering on the briar, and the Autumnal light creates a panic or sense of loss for what could have been had we stolen more time by the water. The heatwave that faded by July brought some good days angling that really commenced with the very welcome rain of August. We all have different ideas of what an anglers dream day is on the river or lake. We have all experienced a kind of time tunnel, when you are hypnotised by the rhythmical tune of the water until light fades and you are left wondering where the day went, only to sleep a few hours and wake up to the angling excitement of doing it all over again. To date this season has thrown up many challenges to our salmon and our beloved sport that has doubled the workload of our National Executive Council members who give of their time voluntarily to improve the lot of the salmon and seatrout angler.

It is now over fourteen months since we lost our wild Atlantic salmon leader and while none of us know what the future is for wild Atlantic salmon, one thing is for certain. We need to continue to do everything in our power to preserve what we have. We need more people to join us to work together, trust each other and be willing to make sacrifices — because once it's gone, it's gone forever and we will have failed all future generations.

Without the Birr Game Fair this August, many of our country sports fraternity are at a huge loss as they have



Noel Carr, FISSTA's Secretary / PRO missed out on what is the major event of our calendar and despite the excellent Shanes Castle Game Fair in Antrim earlier in the Summer which had kicked off our season, we are looking forward to the 2019 plans of the Great Game Fairs team which has served us so well down the forty years of spectacular fairs.

## *Latest developments*

- The Best Wild Salmon News in Years has been the deal secured by our wild salmon NGO's in the North Atlantic to protect our wild salmon in their feeding grounds.
- The massive reaction to our exclusive report on mackerel predation of our postsmolts in the North Atlantic has provoked a huge reaction from the commercial boatmen and marine press who have never been shy to criticise us for getting the driftnets banned.
- There was a sense of a 'risen people' mood when game anglers met at a packed public meeting in Oughterard last month to discuss a campaign to

protect our wild brown trout and salmon from proposed legislation on Bye Law 806/2000 that threatens our sport.

- FISSTA and GBASC threaten legal to oppose the ABP decision to grant public supply water abstraction rights to Marine Harvest in Locha a' Mhuilinn near Kilkieran in Co Galway.
- In a separate battle with Bord Iascaigh Mhara, GBASC has objected to a new desalination plant to be constructed in Killary Fjord to provide a new supply of fresh water for the salmon farms to treat Amoebic Gill Disease which is impacting massively on the fish stocks within the cages and our wild salmon and shellfish.
- Blackwater Weir at Fermoy Bye – Law – FISSTA stand with their fellow anglers in opposing an anti - angling Bye – Law
- The fallout from the rainbow trout farm escape on the Mourne has caused major controversy as absolutely nothing has happened to penalise or sanction the perpetrators of one of the most serious infestations to our wild fisheries in years.
- The Best Wild Salmon News in Years We reported earlier that we had applied for funding to assist our colleagues in the North Atlantic Salmon Fund to pay salmon fishermen in the Faroes and Greenland to refrain from netting our wild Atlantic salmon in the feeding grounds. Sadly, Minister Kyne declined to offer any assistance citing





FISSTA attends the 2018 NASCO Conference, USA.

the apparent advice from Inland Fisheries Ireland in which he states that “the main business of the North East Atlantic Commission which is chaired by CEO of IFI Mr Ciaran Byrne on behalf of EU/Ireland is to control measures in Faroese waters.” This was and has been the policy since 1990’s but we had sought a new thinking from a new visionary Minister that could protect our salmon in the feeding grounds and not just leave it to private agreements and donations alone as has been the case with deals done by the late Orri Vigfusson RIP since 1991. We endeavoured to lobby to change the mind of our Minister arguing that a donation of €50,000 from our €3.5m salmon conservation fund taken from anglers rod license fees was one of the best ways to spend this money rather than on car parks and angler access boardwalks which deliver no fish to the 147 salmonid rivers of which 104 are closed to taking a salmon. Now that Orri was gone, the big question was who or what was going to step up to the plate and write a cheque to pay to keep our salmon from being fished out thus never returning to our natal rivers to spawn.

Well, thankfully the new version of NASF (post Orri) achieved great success in such a short period of months and thankfully did not have wait for Irish (both north and south) Ministers

funds to do a deal that secures the future of our wild salmon for two generations or twelve years in the Greenland case.

In late May the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) announced they had signed new agreements with commercial fishermen in Greenland and the Faroe Islands that will protect thousands of adult wild Atlantic salmon from commercial nets and longlines, allowing them to return to North American and Irish and European rivers.

### ***The new Greenland Salmon Conservation Agreement will be for a period of 12-years (2018-2029)***

The coastal waters of Greenland and the Faroe Islands are critical ocean feeding grounds for large wild Atlantic salmon from hundreds of rivers in North America and Europe. Commercial catches in these areas are known as “mixed-stock” fisheries because salmon are captured from relatively healthy populations as well as endangered ones. This impacts vulnerable rivers like the Penobscot River in the US and the St. John River in Canada, as well as iconic rivers with reduced counts, such as the Feale, Moy, Blackwater and Liffey and indeed with other rivers such as the Tweed in Scotland, Iceland’s Bix Laxa, and the Alta in Norway.

“Significantly reducing the harvest of wild Atlantic salmon on their ocean feeding grounds is meaningful and decisive, not only for salmon conservation, but also for global biodiversity and the health of our rivers and oceans,” said FISSTA Chairman Paul Lawton who acknowledged the very hard work from both ASF President Bill Taylor and NASF’s Chad Pike.

“The unique ocean environment surrounding Greenland and the Faroe Islands is where large, mature fish from over 2,000 rivers throughout the North Atlantic are known to spend their winters feeding. These conservation agreements create sanctuaries for wild salmon at these critical habitats, which is a historic win for salmon conservation.”

In exchange for no commercial salmon fishing in Greenland, ASF and NASF will financially support alternative economic development, scientific research, and education initiatives focused on marine conservation. A subsistence harvest by licensed recreational fishermen for personal and family consumption will continue.

In the Faroe Islands, a historic agreement has been in place since 1991 and its salmon fishery has been closed since that time. Orri Vigfusson RIP, founder of the NASF, negotiated the transaction with the forward-thinking Faroese government, who were pioneers in marine conservation, and have recently emerged as leaders in sustainable aquaculture regulation.

Under previous ASF-NASF-KNAPK Greenland Conservation Agreements, scientific and regulatory authorities reported increases in the number of large salmon returning to North American and European rivers. In this case, a 12-year commercial fishing hiatus will provide relief for two entire generations of wild Atlantic salmon and population benefits are expected to be significant.

All money required to support these agreements is raised privately from



donors and supporters of ASF in North America and NASF in USA, Europe of which FISSTA is a founding donor member and supporter since 1991.

FISSTA attended NASCO in Portland, USA in June to assist NASF and ASF to copper fasten this deal and will continue to lobby our government to support a buyout programme in the absence of a state agreement to contribute to the wild salmon netsmen deal that protects our stocks.

### **Appeal to ABP Decision to Grant Planning Permission for MH Abstraction**

FISSTA and GBASC threaten legal action to oppose the ABP decision to grant water abstraction rights to Marine Harvest in Locha a' Mhuilinn

In a separate battle with Bord Iascaigh Mhara, GBASC has objected to a new desalination plant to be constructed in Killary Fjord to provide a new supply of fresh water for the salmon farms to treat Amoebic Gill Disease which is impacting massively on the fish stocks within the cages and our wild salmon and shellfish.

### **Blackwater Weir at Fermoy Bye Law**

FISSTA registered their objection below with the Minister in vain and the bye-law was signed in the following month.

FISSTA representing over 90 club angling associations on the entire island of Ireland, wish to support and join with local anglers at Fermoy Bridge Salmon Anglers in objecting to the proposed No. 4 or Lismore Fisheries District, River Blackwater, (Fermoy Weir) Bye Law - Angling limitations that target only one river area and one fishing club on the river to resolve a problem not of their making and not of their fixing.

FISSTA challenge the IFI assertion: *"IFI staff are worried about the level of stress which is imposed on these fish by the high levels of angling activity taking*

*place in this confined area. This change would be a practical measure to greatly decrease the stress on migrating salmon gathered at the weir wall and unable to make passage of the weir, while a permanent solution is awaited."*

As the proposed bye law will end all angling for this club on their river area in question, it must be noted and acknowledged that the club have already imposed very restrictive angling measures that demonstrates their commitment to salmon conservation on this part of the river in which Inland Fisheries Ireland have been advising and cooperating with them over the many years of their existence.

Some notable restrictions entails a '4 angler limit' fishing the area at any one time already in operation and enforced by Fermoy Bridge Salmon Anglers which many other clubs have adopted on their waters as an effective conservation measure as it reduces the fishing effort by 75%. Also, Fermoy Bridge Salmon Anglers have already in operation barbless hooks and a ban on all shrimp & prawn fishing with new additional conservation measures being introduced such as a ban on the use of 'Fast Sinking Fly fishing lines' to become effective this season in the Weir Pool:

FISSTA challenge the IFI assertion in their FAQ No 2: *"Why doesn't Inland Fisheries Ireland just fix the weir? Statutory responsibility for the weir rests with its owners, Cork County Council (Fermoy Municipal District). Cork County Council is at present seeking to secure funding to repair the weir structure and construct a new fish bypass channel on the river."*

Remove the problem, not the angler! We are informed that "This bye-law would be subject to review after a given period once the weir has been made passable to migrating fish at all water levels by way of a fish bypass channel to be constructed by Cork County Council" FISSTA question the duration of this byelaw and wonder will it be a permanent one?

As the repair of the weir is outside

the authority of the IFI and will most likely be many years before corrective and approved works are undertaken, the only group being discriminated and disenfranchised will be the local angling club that has for many years promoted and nurtured the sport of salmon fishing in which tourism have long observed and photographed as they look over the Fermoy bridge to enjoy their wild Atlantic salmon experience as they do in Galway and many other salmon leaping honeypots all over the country.

Removing anglers from this salmon habitat area will not conserve one fish only ruin the idyllic natural environment on a waterway that has long sustained the sport of salmon angling for generations of youth both past and present.

FISSTA challenge the IFI assertion in their FAQ No 3: *"Who is affected by this Bye-Law? This Bye-law will affect any anglers who normally fish on Fermoy weir or in the waters immediately downstream of the weir."*

FISSTA asserts that more than just the anglers will be affected by this Bye – Law as it will have to be legally argued and challenged that "anglers who normally fish downstream of the weir" including tourism and commercial net fishing license holders may be included in the future. Should this Bye – Law be introduced, it will set a precedent that will erode the rights of all fishery owners or their nominees to participate in the sport of angling or to take a fish by rod and line in the rest of the waters below the weir. Indeed, all angling on the river will be put under scrutiny, especially on other weirs above and below Fermoy bridge.

This IFI rationale to target anglers below a weir will increase awareness and scrutiny to include all Fishery owners rights, not just on the Blackwater River, but also on many other rivers with weirs, will share our concerns and be supportive of an organised legal recourse if such a precedent is attempted.

FISSTA reminds IFI and the Minister of the social impact this byelaw will



have on the local economy as it will impact on the potential for Fermoy to continue develop an angling tourism trade which is already worth almost €1 billion to our island at present. (Source: IFI TDI study 2013)

The social impact will also be felt as it is a FISSTA tradition in our 90 clubs to foster and promote our sport among the youth. Local anglers admit that many Fermoy anglers of today learned the sport in this angling area now being closed down. Take away the youth angling playground which include these waters and instructors in Fermoy and you are denying the future generations of a local amenity and youth enhancement opportunity that has sustained towns like Fermoy for generations

FISSTA is astounded that the Minister has not published the scientific advice and Appropriate Assessment documentation as evidence that this bylaw is justified in the context of repair to the fish pass. Without sight and consideration to these legal documents, FISSTA will object and mobilise public opposition to such byelaws in every way possible to protect our angling rights and salmon conservation on the waters of this country.

An extract from the Dail record in June seems to confirm that Minister Kyne would prefer to victimise the victim rather than the perpetrator of the crime when you read where he asks the questioner Pat Buckley TD to make enquiries of the relevant authorities on his behalf.

### **FISSTA'S PRIORITIES FOR MINISTER KYNE – SEASON END RESULTS**

In the Spring issue, we laid out our plans which we summarised into six objectives. The following is an update on these following over nine months of lobbying work.

#### **Prorection of our salmon in the feeding grounds**

Our most urgent priority is to contribute our share to the Faroese

buyout agreement which we have honoured and paid Mr. Orri Vigfusson, Chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) in Iceland since 1993 from voluntary contributions donated by our clubs. The wild salmon stocks feeding in the Faroese waters are so dependent on us maintaining this agreement and that is why it is vital to obtain support from our own government to protect these salmon in our feeding grounds

**RESULT: FAILED TO CONVINCE GOVERNMENT TO CONTRIBUTE BUT THANKFULLY NASF AND ASF FOUND ENOUGH FUNDS TO SECURE THE DEAL**

#### **Salmon Farming in Ireland**

We understand that the present government support the licensing of sustainable salmon farming, but any Minister must also accept that there is no such example in existence as yet. All open sea net-cage systems are highly unsustainable as yet. The obvious choice is to seek closed contained on shore or land based as in Norway and EU countries where the technology has advanced to feasible levels to invest in without damaging the wild fish habitat from sea-lice and diseases. We need our salmon Minister to fight harder for our wild fish by assisting us in raising the awareness for the new sea-lice roadmap agreed in 2017 between the government and Marine Harvest in Norway where net-cages will no longer be licensed in their bid to eliminate sea-lice from their fjords.

**RESULT: FISSTA QUESTIONED THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AT NASCO AND RECEIVED A POSITIVE PROGRESS REPORT THAT MARINE HARVEST WAS ON SCHEDULE TO END OPEN NET CAGES IN NORWAY. SADLY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAVE YET TO END OPEN NET CAGES**

#### **Plan to keep rivers open**

The announcement of a continued pattern of river closures is unacceptable to our Federation and we are frustrated

that our submissions in past years fell on deaf ears, especially, to review the criteria why rivers were closed due to lack of logbook data. This decision was an administrative one that has no bearing on science advice which we always accept and for which we have endured the hard verdict of closure. Closing river communities and economies down for administration reasons of the IFI is self-harming to our fisheries and unacceptable to us.

**RESULT: VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON IMPROVING RIVER STOCKS AND OPENING RIVERS – EVEN TWEAKING THE FIGURES HAS HAD LITTLE IMPACT.**

#### **End Gweebarra & the river takeovers by IFI**

We have campaigned to IFI and a range of Ministers over a number of years to assist us in enhance angling tourism and fishery protection by cooperating with our clubs instead of the present hostile environment in which we now work in daily. It costs Ireland's economy dearly as we believe we can double our contribution to €2billion if we were operating on a partnership basis with an interested IFI.

#### **To progress hydro and dam removals to the benefit of our salmon habitat.**

**RESULT: THE VERDICT OF THE GWEEBARRA CASE WILL HOPEFULLY VINDICATE DONEGAL AND IRISH GAME ANGLERS WHO SUPPORTED US THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT DAYS IN THE FOUR COURTS. NO PROGRESS IN IMPROVING IFI RELATIONS AS TENSIONS ARE MOUNTING FOLLOWING THE PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT BYELAW 806/2000**

#### **National Inland Fisheries Forum - NIFF Meetings**

Our Federation has decided to engage with the IFI through these NIFF meetings to achieve progress. The previous NIFF was a complete failure.

**RESULT: VERY LITTLE**



## PROGRESS TO DATE

### **Review industry structure for paying rod licence & criteria for allocation of grants**

RESULT: NONE. IN FACT THE NEW RULES IMPEDE FURTHER OUR CLUBS FROM OBTAINING FUNDS TO IMPROVE FISHERIES. SOME CLUBS HAVE PAID CONTRACTORS ONLY TO BE TOLD BY IFI THAT THEIR GRANT HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN.

MATCH FUNDING WAS INTRODUCED TO NEW APPLICATIONS THIS YEAR THUS RULING OUT ANY CLUB THAT HAS NO OR LOW FUNDS FROM AVAILING OF NSAD FUNDS.

### **The club bill increase due to IFI demands for insurance to cover everyone**

NEW DEMAND TO MAINTAIN WORKS IN FUTURE

## **FISSTA UPDATE ON RAINBOW TROUT ESCAPE ON MOURNE**

The impact of the August 2017 flash flooding in the Inishowen, East Donegal and Tyrone area are still being felt over twelve months after the event. Many homes were ruined in the Buncrana area as the River Crana burst its banks and left people and businesses devastated. The Buncrana Anglers Association will take a very long time to repair their waters and their assets judging by their present level of support despite the heavy promises at the time. But it is nothing new for angling to take the full brunt of a disaster such as this one, and while we all agree the homes and humanitarian needs come first, our local clubs do expect them to be supported and equipped to recover from the flooding act of God which ruined our hard won angling waters and angling tourism market built up over many years.

In the last issue, Andrew Sides, Angling Development Manager wrote a piece titled "RAINBOW TROUT ESCAPE - LOUGHS AGENCY UPDATE" in which he stated that the

August 2017 heavy rains that fell across the North West of Ireland, received almost double their normal August rainfall. Put simply, over 63% of the average monthly rainfall for the average month of August fell within an 8 to 9 hour period causing unprecedented damage to the Glenelly, Owenkillew, Faughan and Burndennet catchments.

As we all know, this heavy downpour resulted in flooding that was widespread and the River Strule burst its banks at Newtownstewart in County Tyrone, flooding the adjacent trout farm, a commercial business licensed by the authority for land based fish farms in Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Officials estimated 387,000 rainbow trout were flushed out of the confines of the fish farm, "prompting the Loughs Agency to undertake an immediate assessment, gauging the potential impact of this escape of non-native species on the wild fish stock."

The Agency are at pains to point out the action taken which consisted of mainly desk surveys and after a long delay and as a result of serious local concern, engaged former Marine Institute Aquaculture Director and now private fisheries scientist Professor Ken Whelan to work in tandem with its in-house science team, to review the situation. A report was made available prior to the Strabane Angling Show in April 2018 which raised more questions than answers with the clear admission that there could be a repeat of the incident again should such a rainfall occur as it was business as usual for the trout farm with stocks replaced and rearing to go again.

Mr Andrew Sides did admit to a co-ordinated programme of netting and electrofishing which resulted in the removal of over 500 rainbow trout from the 387,000 in the system. Indeed, it was pointed out that our anglers caught more fly fishing in one morning than their 500 over the entire "programme". The facebook pictures from anglers would support the view that our clubs

caught over 100,000 from the August to October 2017 period without little or any help from officialdom.

While the manpower employed conducting these surveys showed locations and "that the greatest density of rainbow trout were in the rivers close to the fish farm being Strule, Derg and Mourne – the two former converge not far below the farm to form the Mourne. Interestingly, analysis of stomach contents of a sample of the fish revealed that the 'diet' of many of these farmed animals included a variety of 'non-food' items, such as twigs, stones and vegetation."

Interesting stuff to the scientific fraternity, but not a word on action taken to remove any more than the 500 already electrofished out already. In fact, they admit that they did not monitor the river at all when they state that it was the anglers that drew their attention huge populations of rainbows still in the rivers when Mr. Sides states

"With the start of the angling season on 1st April, reports were received from anglers of high catches of rainbow trout. With such reports being picked up, the Agency recommenced netting and electrofishing, resulting in removal of hundreds more rainbow trout. Further analysis of stomach contents reassuringly confirmed that many of the fish continue to consume items of limited food value (stones, twigs etc)." How could they be still living from August to April on such a non food diet?

They admit that nothing was done during the smolt run period from April to June as they were "Fearful of harming smolts, the Agency has temporarily suspended its plans to capture rainbow trout using nets and electrofishing. An operational plan has been developed to put in place measures to capture escaped rainbow trout. Activity proposed includes: a rod fishing survey that will commence after the smolt run ends and run through to next spring; a netting operation to target appropriate sites, if a concentration of fish is located; and an electrofishing



programme will be trialled.” While FISSTA welcome this action we regret to say it is precisely 12 months too late as the escape of a large number of non-native fish into our rivers know the work that is ahead of them to recover stocks and develop the spawning enhancement projects once again. It is obvious that the Agency had no plan other than to depend on Mother Nature and the sheer force of the incredible flood to kill them with predators such as the cormorant, heron, otter and mink to mop up the remainder.

So thirteen months on from this flooding disaster, rainbow trout still threaten the harmony of the river ecosystem, competing with native fish for food and living space, as well as consuming fish eggs and smaller wild fish. The Loughs Agency appeals to anglers to continue their trojan efforts to do their mopping up by humanely removing rainbow trout from rivers, and imploring them to submit timely reports of catches (using the reporting sheet available from the Agency website). We note that the cost for a licence has

not changed despite the quality of angling being reduced to zero as anglers land pest after pest of the rainbow species while fishery staff watch us continue the clean up.

Loughs Agency told Highland Radio on April 6th 2018 that ‘while some of these fish have moved downstream, the majority of these fish are still concentrated in the lower Strule, lower Derg and upper Mourne.’ So how many fish are the “majority” still there in the system? Can we estimate that from the total number of rainbow trout escapees admitted by Andrew Sides to be 387,000, at least 80% are still in these waters over one year after this unfortunate incident happened.

So, it is back to business as usual, with the fish farmer restocking probably 500,000 new rainbows with likelihood of a repeat flooding which cannot be ruled out and so the same devastating hit could happen again as the licence has not been withdrawn. They say ‘they will continue to work with the relevant statutory agencies to ensure robust biosecurity mechanisms are put in place

at fish farms to minimise the risk of further escapements.’

There is a strong feeling among anglers that having delayed for up to ten months doing nothing on the ground, it is very hard that they now mean business when they say ‘they will continue to work with the relevant statutory agencies to ensure robust biosecurity mechanisms are put in place at fish farms to minimise the risk of further escapements.’

How can anybody have confidence in paying a rod license for them to be then expected to be treated as pest controllers or refuse collectors? At the Strabane Angling Show, I updated the members on various FISSTA initiatives, and when question time came around, one young boy asked what we were doing about the rainbow trout escape. I explained that we were once again dealing with the “Good Cop, Bad Cop” strategy where one state Department issued the licence that caused the nearly half million rainbows to be there, while the other state department may have objected but had to clean up the mess (and in this case did not take their responsibility and commit their budgets to it) once the floods receded. I told him we were lobbying very hard but it is likely this could happen again. I could see from his confused expression, that my answer meant nothing to him or indeed to many other local anglers in the room.



The lovely salmon waters of the River Clady at the foot of Donegal's Mount Errigal.



# DELPHI LODGE

CONNEMARA · IRELAND

NEW

## Delphi Lodge and Fishery Salmon Club and Syndicate Connemara

WEEK 6 TO 9  
THE "HARDCORE" WEEKS



Early Spring Salmon 17 pounds - 28.02.2015

WEEK 10 TO 22  
THE PRIME SPRING SALMON  
WEEKS



Cracking Spring Salmon 21 pounds - 06.03.2016

WEEK 23 TO 35  
SUMMER GRILSE & SEA  
TROUT WEEKS



Catch and release

WEEK 36 TO 39  
AUTUMN WEEKS



Boathouse Cottages

An opportunity to purchase prime Irish Salmon Fishing with accommodation in a country cottage. Each new member will have the option of a one week stay, a four day stay or a three day stay fixed for five years.

The Delphi Salmon Club is an exclusive 5 year syndication that is a newly designed initiative to replace the existing syndication that expires in 2018/19. This exclusive Syndication is offering 3 fishing slots per week (3/4 days, or full week) in conjunction with a Boathouse cottage from March through to September. The Fishing rota is over 7 days and consists of allocated beats on The Bundorrahga River, Fin Lough and Doolough.



For more information please contact Michael Wade, General Manager for your information pack and brochure.

DELPHI LODGE & FISHERY LEENANE, CO. GALWAY, IRELAND  
T +353 954 2222 F +353 954 2296 E [info@delphilodge.ie](mailto:info@delphilodge.ie) W [www.delphilodge.ie](http://www.delphilodge.ie)

## The Smartwave AV3500



The Smartwave AV3500 has impressive deck space lending it to many applications. This craft is well suited as a tender, fishing or duck shooting platform, for rescue work or as a tough

commercial boat. In short the AV3500 will excel in every application. The AV3500 is designed for maximum space, stability and low planning speed.

### Specifications

Length 3.5m (11.5ft)  
External beam 1.7m (5.6ft)  
Hull Weight 100kg (220lbs)

Horsepower 25Hp  
Deadrise 13deg  
Hull thickness 8mm  
Warranty 5 years  
Max No People 4  
Max Payload 340 Kg

### Standard Accessories

Stern grab rails  
Anchor cleat & locker  
Bow storage area with padded seat  
Rear seats  
Central bench seat  
Bow seat  
Fuel storage  
2 x fishing rod holders  
Diving platforms  
Oar Storage Well

## RLS Boats

stockists of Smartwave and Mac Boats  
throughout Ireland

Contact: River Lake and Sea,  
58 Coleraine Road, Portrush BT56 8HN

E: [info@riverlakesea.com](mailto:info@riverlakesea.com) [www.riverlakesea.com](http://www.riverlakesea.com)

Tel: +44 (0) 77 25-144 784 or +44 (0) 28 708 250 67

**5 Year  
Warranty**





**T**his magazine was founded to promote and defend ALL legal country sports and the environment which they take place and we are strongly of the opinion that we should give a voice to country sports enthusiasts seeking to influence government policy through open debate. FISSTA Secretary / PR Noel Carr had made some very robust criticisms of IFI policies and practices in his column so in the interest of fairness we offered IFI the right of reply. Noel wished to come back on some of the IFI's responses and no doubt IFI will wish to put their point of view in this debate in future issues of the magazine. But the subject of how well IFI is managing fishing in Ireland is now firmly on the table.

## Inland Fisheries Ireland Response to FISSTA article:

### IFI - Salmon Management in Ireland

*"Anglers are broadly aware that the abundance of salmon has decreased significantly over the last thirty years, a phenomenon not unique to Ireland. In terms of international salmon management Ireland is included in the Southern North East Atlantic (NEA) area. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) who provide the international scientific advice have stated that the for the Southern NEA stocks, which includes Irish salmon, "1 Sea Winter & Multi Sea Winter stock components are both considered to be below minimum level required to successfully return to Ireland, reproduce & ensure a sustainable level of harvest".*

*Therefore Ireland has managed its salmon stocks on the basis of scientific advice since 2006. In 2018, 78 rivers were open for angling, an increase of five rivers over 2017. 42 rivers are fully open with a harvest surplus, 36 rivers are open for catch and release angling and 68 rivers are closed to all angling.*

*As a conservation focused organisation, Inland Fisheries Ireland appreciates the support of anglers who comply with the legislation and log book recording requirements which assist with scientific analysis of the fishery. Through management measures introduced in 2018, more rivers were*

*open on a catch and release angling basis than in 2017. It remains to be seen whether this management measure led to a greater presence of anglers on the ground and enhanced protection of our rivers. In 2018 all commercial fishing ended on the 31st July or earlier if the quota had been reached.*

*In relation to international salmon management, no fishery has taken place in the Faroese waters since the early 1990s and Inland Fisheries Ireland understands from the Faroese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade that there are no imminent plans to change this position. Thus the rationale for Ireland to contribute anglers' funds to pay Faroese fishermen to refrain from prosecuting a fishery which has been closed for almost 30 years is unclear."*

### Noel Carr's Response:

As a founding member of North Atlantic Salmon Federation since 1991 and having strong working relations with Atlantic Salmon Federation over the same period, we receive full briefings from their Iceland personnel who negotiated the 12 year Greenland deal and Faroese renewal on a very regular basis.

Salmon feeding in these grounds are very much part of our natal rivers here and unless we buy protection for them from very poor fishermen earning a low income they will never survive to return to Ireland and Europe. That is a reality which we have faced up to every season since 1991 and the payment of this deal means millions of feeding salmon have been saved to return here. Without this arrangement in place it is likely they would have become extinct by now and yet our government have opted to let others pay for their protection and delivery into our economy to generate €1 billion and 12,000 jobs in our economy. History will not be kind to whoever has been, and now are, party to this decision which we record consistently in this column.

### IFI - Salmon Conservation Fund.

"Inland Fisheries Ireland opened the Salmon Conservation Fund (SCF) to applications from 3rd parties in 2011. The Salmon Conservation Fund has been available to undertake conservation and enhancement works only, funding for angling access projects

has never been provided from this fund. There is no match funding requirement for Salmon Conservation Fund projects. Since 2011, the fund has been undersubscribed. Details of all of the projects funded under the scheme are available on the IFI website (<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Salmon-Conservation-Fund/>).

Inland Fisheries Ireland recognises the difficulty community and voluntary organisations have in meeting governance requirements associated with grant aided projects. In this regard project officers have been appointed to work with such groups to enable them to deliver on projects. A key element of the National Strategy for Angling Development (NSAD) is to build capacity and improve governance across the sector, appointing these project officers is a significant step in realising this goal and also addressing the issues and challenges raised by stakeholders at a series of regional meetings held in 2017. To safeguard the resource Inland Fisheries Ireland is required to comply with best practice in both the environmental and financial areas, thus appropriate insurance is also required for projects. Many projects have acquired the necessary insurance and other requirements and have moved into the delivery phase."

### Noel Carr's Response:

Our Federation has campaigned against the National Strategy for Angling Development (NSAD) after our submissions and objections lodged during the consultation period went unheeded after the launch in Athlone in November 2015. From our submission of January 4th 2016 we flagged the failures of the strategy in that marketing and especially the omission of qualified product development of our waters to be enhanced.

"While the IFI staff may claim to have as much as "over 50 years of angling marketing, promotion and product development experience..... have angling experience in excess of 140 years" the very basics of marketing have been omitted from the strategy. We cite product development and in particular the omission that about only 50 of the 194 salmon rivers are open to taking a fish by angling in 2016 as publicised by the Minister last week.



This is the simple measuring stick of progress by which all IFI plans and strategies will be assessed by us the clients and to date the failure graph is falling off a cliff. The omission to designate or include Irish brown trout in the Annex 1 or 11 species list of the EU Habitats directive is indeed another lost opportunity to ensure the game angling fisheries have EU recognition and protection. The failure to introduce an angling standardisation of the fisheries as per the recent development of an environmental green label similar to Origin Green in the food sector is an initiative that could reclassify and enhance the foreign angling visit to our Irish rivers in a coherent fashion that would increase revenue to over a billion by 2017. “

FISSTA received little if any constructive response except to accuse us of being very negative to what was a budgetary proposal seeking €25m extra over five years without outlining a plan or projections to indicate achievement of success or failure in our opinion, what has followed has been a dismantling of the key elements of the IFI management resource that has undermined the product and producers in the angling sector from building on the massive €800m contribution to our economy which the TDI study confirmed. Through a series of slash decisions by management death is starting to show from the 1,000 cuts we are now suffering from. We have been accused of scaremongering and responsible for the online campaign which anglers like Denis Moss have conducted. While we have acknowledged their campaign we in FISSTA have been too busy lobbying to change through our own tried and trusted methods which never involved online campaigns to date but may in the future avail of if deemed necessary.

Finally, we got clear confirmation of the IFI policy change in a letter from Minister Sean Kyne to his ministerial colleague Ms.Helen McEntee when he responded to her letter complaining of serious mismanagement errors.

“To make the best of the resources available, to assist with the wide range of new projects approved nationwide, IFI undertake an enabling and supervisory role in projects rather than resource intensive design and delivery. IFI recognises the key role angling clubs and other stakeholder organisations play in the area of fisheries development. The NSAD aims to engage stakeholders and maximise the use of

volunteerism where it is of benefit to habitat and fisheries development.

... It is not a case that IFI have ceased working with the OPW. In recent weeks, IFI and OPW have signed an agreement .. to build on existing good practices.....

This news that IFI are in “enabling and supervisory role” rather than resource intensive design and delivery” which is civil servant speak for what anglers like Dennis Moss aptly describes as leaving vital stream conservation projects in the hands of members of the public (volunteers and stakeholders) with no experience. This confirms the failure to replace highly respected and professional project designers who sadly are no longer on the IFI staff. Anglers have vast experience in delivering projects but only under the remit of a design lead by the funding authority, be it IFI or OPW. Without professional coordination, we are as the well intentioned volunteers we are going to do damage instead of improvements to our already depleted freshwater fisheries.

When anglers first lost OPW funding in 2016, IFI had practically withdrawn from working with the OPW with a result that the OPW fisheries enhancement budget was not spent and the impasse continued to such a degree that in-stream OPW funding was cut from their projected expenditure for 2018 costing our anglers an estimated €7m. and lost generations of wild salmon and other species to those rivers under plan.

### **IFI - Fermoy Weir Bye-law**

*“The Fermoy weir byelaw relates to a very specific area 10 metres downstream of Fermoy weir where salmon gather waiting to run upstream. Due to problems with the integrity of the weir structure and the fish pass further upstream, salmon have had difficulty in recent years moving upstream and can be vulnerable to inappropriate exploitation in the pool that has been created at the weir breach. The bye-law is extremely localised and will not have the drastic impacts suggested by the author. The bye-law also prohibits fishing from the weir itself or standing on the weir with a mounted rod. As the statutory authority for the management of wild salmon, Inland Fisheries Ireland have recognised a specific area where salmon are vulnerable to excess exploitation and have moved to protect them, which is in keeping with IFI’s conservation focus”.*

### **Noel Carr’s Response:**

The public consultation processes on IFI instigated by laws are a matter of serious concern as our submissions and objections are published but then ignored rendering the entire process a farce from our point of view. We cite three examples all of which attracted a lot of public criticism from some sections of communities who took a different view.

1. The Fermoy Weir byelaw was introduced after the Minister admitted on the Dail record there was no need for to introduce the bye-law and close down angling in part in that area which limited their fishing indefinitely. See source <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2018-07-04/29/#s33> which Minister Kyne TD states:

“As the Deputy (Pat Buckley TD) is no doubt aware, a by-law was recently signed relating to catch and release and fly fishing only, downstream from the weir, within 10 m. Seven signs have been erected to notify the public of the new by-law. These were erected yesterday. Staff are monitoring daily all activity relating to the Fermoy weir, both with regard to water levels and angler presence. Fish stocks are under stress with the low water levels and high temperatures of water. We are told that there is a satisfactory flow of water going over the weir at one of the breaches in the south bank of the weir in the proximity of the mill race. IFI is confident that, at present, the situation is okay in the event of any fish running or migrating upriver. I was presented with some photographs taken today, showing that there is sufficient water for fish to get up. The consensus is that if fish were to arrive now that temperatures have dropped slightly, passage across the weir in Fermoy would be possible”. It was due to the lobbying of another local club that the minister introduced this bye law.

2. Following several objections and submissions to the public consultations to the Glen lough trolling ban were lodged to on 22nd July 2016 but ignored as Minister Kyne signed it in 2017 despite assurances it would not be happen.
3. The go ahead to drain water from a Galway public water supply and salmonid lake to supply a salmon farm disease treatment scheme was granted planning permission after our local stakeholder colleagues in GBASC complained of the illegal pipeline constructed with any respect to



environmental or planning laws. Now that this supply has been commandeered, there is new planning applications for an entirely new desalination plant in Killary Harbour so that more freshwater can be provided for not the local people but for the treatment of Amoebic Gill Disease in the local fish farming sector.

## **IFI - Revision of Bye Law 806**

*"The consultation for this bye-law amendment has now closed and no outcome will be decided until all relevant submissions have been assessed. The amendment to bye-law 806 of 2006, which is currently on the statute book, is to specifically address a weakness in existing byelaws which make it extremely difficult to stop the illegal transfer of live fish to a different water body. The proposed new amendment is to prohibit the possession of live fish by anyone away from the water body where the fish were taken. The proposed amendment means that once a fisherman moved the fish away from the water body the fish 'taken' had to be dead. This amendment will assist in eliminating the introduction of live fish into different water bodies. The proposed amendment has nothing to do with prohibiting the removal of artificially introduced species from a water body."*

## **Noel Carr's Response**

FISSTA are concerned that this proposed bye law 806. 2006 has very serious legislative impacts for the sustainability of our wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout in Irish waters along with other species such as our Wild Brown Trout.

We have already raised such concerns at the last NASCO meeting in USA in June as more state resources and investment are diverted into conserving non-native fish stocks to the detriment of our native salmonid and wild brown trout species in many of our waters that are unique to Ireland.

We have already opposed and raised awareness in our campaign on the threats to our salmonid and Wild Brown Trout waters could be threatened by the continued unlawful introduction of non-native coarse fish species into those waters and then misinterpreting the scientists advice that may then claim them as an indigenous stock. We advise the Minister to completely reject any proposals as intended in this byelaw. FISSTA opposes the Byelaw 806,

2006 as it erodes our salmonid habitat which our economy depends so heavily on now and for future years to come.

## **IFI - Gweebarra Fishery**

*"The dispute on the Gweebarra Fishery pertains to the fishing arrangements introduced on the Gweebarra River by the Northern Regional Fisheries Board (now IFI) in 2007 following agreement with stakeholders. Some stakeholders opposed to the agreement were of the view that they had acquired rights to fish freely without permit or other restriction by virtue of fishing in this manner for many years prior to 2007. In December 2012 Ms Justice Laffoy delivered judgment in the high court of the first module of the case of Inland Fisheries Ireland ("IFI") v Peadar O' Baoill and Others.*

*Ms Justice Laffoy's judgement was emphatic in rejecting the defendants' claim and stated "the reality is that the defendants have not established any right, public, or otherwise, to fish in the freshwater part of the Gweebarra River, including the part thereof the subject of this module". Inland Fisheries Ireland succeeded and the defendants failed on all three issues which were the subject of this module."*

## **Noel Carr's response**

IFI conveniently omit the more recent judgements of last year and earlier this year where all the hundreds of summonses were dismissed against prosecuted anglers who for twelve years protested by purchasing a rod license, but refusing to purchase a permit from IFI as they were unable to prove title for the waters they claimed the said permit would cover. The very fact that FISSTA and TAFI anglers under the Donegal Game Anglers Federation support the Rosses Anglers and Fintown Anglers brave fight to reclaim their waters from a cuckoo club constructed by IFI – NRFB staff back in 2006. It has been a very divisive dispute which has split once tight knit communities that are now in continuous turmoil especially during the angling season when visiting anglers scratch their heads and leave to avoid confusion.

## **IFI - engaging with Inland Fisheries Ireland**

*"Inland Fisheries Ireland is committed to improving communications with stakeholders. Participation at the National Inland Fisheries Forum (NIFF) is encouraged and FISSTA is a*

*regular attendee at the Forum. Inland Fisheries Ireland also welcomes submissions and inputs to policy and public consultations. Through the medium of the NIFF, Inland Fisheries Ireland would welcome the opportunity to clarify any issues which FISSTA has in advance of going to into the public domain, to ensure facts are correct."*

## **Noel Carr's response**

The very public dispute between IFI and FISSTA which FISSTA highlight here have come to light from our members feedback in which they demand action from us as we endeavour to do with the help of this column and through our NIFF representation. We are indebted to others like Ciaran O' Kelly and his colleagues in OPW stream areas who have sought justice and accountability from IFI as well. But too often, decisions are made and the die is cast by IFI between NIFF meetings and we then enter into rowback status in our attempts to get IFI to withdraw such decisions.

A good example of this is where IFI have advertised for a position on the Arney river for the Interreg VA catchment care project led by Donegal County Council which claims to be a cross border project to improve ecological quality. There are a few interesting points in the job description. One of their duties would be to get all relevant land permissions and authorisations including local authority planning permissions. Some suspect that apart from the huge delays that this would entail that this is IFI's golden opportunity to gain a precedent through planning, thereby committing all clubs nationwide in the future with a new planning requirement thus transferring liability from IFI back on to the council delaying the whole process of in-stream development. FISSTA are lobbying Donegal and other councils to avoid this pitfall of delay. Incidentally, this new role will work with a hydro morphology team to draw stream improvement plans and manage contractors and review works which they have denied to themselves, OPW and our clubs costing millions of delayed improvements to our waters.

We suspect this new over cautious stance is a result of the insurance review following the massive August 2017 flooding in Mourne and Crana that devastated the entire fisheries at that time. (See rainbow damage report elsewhere in this column)



# NI LEISURE SHOW

SPONSORED BY



CALOR

**2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**Nutt Promotions**

**Eikon Centre | Balmoral Park | Sprucefield | Lisburn**



**CoolFM**

For further information visit: **www.nileisure.com**

T: +44 (0)28 7035 1199 E: [info@NuttTravel.com](mailto:info@NuttTravel.com) f Nutt Travel

Offices in Coleraine, Northern Ireland and York, England.

**DOWNTOWN**  
*Radio*

**COUNTRY**

To book space visit: **www.nileisure.com**  
click on **EXHIBITORS** and submit enquiry form

**blackhorse**

Admission Adults £8/€8 O.A.P.s £5/€5 Children £3/€3 FREE Bus from Lisburn Station

**www.glendapowellguiding.com**

Guided Fishing & Tuition



**www.blackwatersalmonfishery.com**

Prime Salmon Fishing on the famous Munster Blackwater River in Ireland



# DERRY BOY TAKES TOP PRIZE IN IRISH COUNTRY SPORTS WRITER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



Luke at the presentation with Gillian Bingham, High Sheriff of Antrim; Jim Shannon MP; Luke's Dad Emmett; Barry McConnell, Chairman of CAI and Paul Morgan from Coch-y-Bonddu Books.

A 12 year old Derry boy has been crowned 'Young Irish Country Sports Writer of the Year' in a competition aimed at young people under 15 years of age.

Luke McCourt took top honours in a countrywide writing competition launched by Irish Country Sports & Country Life magazine and the Great Game Fairs of Ireland to find Ireland's top young countryside writer.

The judges loved Luke's story of cooking and fishing with his father - none other than Chef Emmet McCourt, a fly fisherman of note, as well as a celebrity chef and author. Topping a huge entry from young would-be writers, talented Luke wrote of learning to flyfish and cooking the catch with Dad.

Now published below for a worldwide audience, young Luke also received two modern country classics

from Paul Morgan, proprietor of Coch-y-Bonddu Books, one of the largest retailers of books on the countryside, a year's membership of CAI, a day's fishing at the Birchwood Fishery, Omagh, a special ruby enhanced bronze trophy and a year's subscription to Irish Country Sports & Country Life.

Here's his story:

## ***Cooking and fishing with the greatest Chef and Daddy in Ireland, by Luke McCourt (age 12)***

*My father is (I would say) the best chef and father in the whole of Ireland and maybe even the whole wide world. My daddy won best culinary travel book in the world in China called Feast or Famine and is planning on writing a second book, not to brag but my daddy is pretty good at winning awards and, as he would say, 'Where Would You Get it!'*

*I have cooked with him many times in the kitchen and have learnt a lot from him and I want to learn more. I can make dinner for our family with his help as he has the largest and sharpest collection of knives I've seen. Some of them purchased in a very old shop in Paris that I helped him to choose whilst on holidays.*

*The signature dishes are his steak with peppercorn sauce, garlic potatoes and healthy spring vegetables to have a balanced meal. Or pan-fried Venison, Parsnip Puree and Blackberry Sauce, which is my favourite too.*

*When I cook with him, he lets me peel the carrots or potatoes, make the meatballs for Spaghetti Meatballs and I cook the meatballs also. Daddy has also taught me how to poach eggs and fry eggs as part of other meals; all cooking suitable for me and some advanced cooking as well.*





Luke fishing.

*The first fish I caught with my own rod was at Drumcrun Fishery in Limavady. It was a rainbow trout weighing 2lb. It was one of the most exciting days I've had. Daddy and I gutted it deboned it, filleted it up and then ate it for dinner with rest of the family. We had it with baby boiled potatoes, green beans and carrots with a very special sauce daddy called a Beurre Noisette, (Nut Brown Butter). It was lovely!*

*We both went up to Drumcrun Fishery in Limavady where he taught me how to cast a fly rod for the first time. He also showed me how to practice casting some other times in the great green field at the top of our street in Daisy Hill Park. Recently he took me up to the North West Angling show in Strabane. He told me he might meet some people and friends up there that he knew so he might have a yarn with them too. Yeah, 'might meet some people' (sarcasm) - everybody seemed to know him there and he was talking to so many people.*

*I was also given more tips how to cast the fly rod at the show by the guides who were on the stands there. They made me feel really relaxed and were great teachers. I also won a certificate at the fair for identifying fish,*

*insects and also for casting.*

*When daddy and I go out fishing, he always tells me to keep quiet and don't throw any stones into the water. He is really stealthy when he fishes and crouches down. I know that a great fisherman is stealthy, quiet, patient and not tempted to throw rocks in the water! He also gets a long throw on his fly line. The biggest fish my daddy caught was a 10lb salmon in the river Lackagh in Donegal, but he mostly fishes for trout now and his biggest brown trout is 5 3/4lb caught on the spent mayfly on Lough Corrib. While I have caught some nice trout they were quite small, and I hope to catch a big fish some day - and maybe be as good a chef as my daddy too. In my opinion, fishing and cooking what you catch really do go hand in hand.*

*Another competition for aspiring young country sports writers will be held in association with the*

2019 Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle, planned for the 29/30 June 2019. Full details in our Winter magazine and on our Facebook Group and Page. Don't miss out!

Hard at work in the kitchen.





# Art & Antiques

In an era bristling with much new technology I do believe we have entered a time of laziness rather than well-earned leisure. And nowhere is that more obvious than on the auction scene, where we can buy and sell at will, practically any hour of the day in any part of the world. But has this new age made us complacent and careless about what we are seeking and what we are actually buying? For I am sure on the wider commercial scene households are acquiring countless items which in the main will gather dust from little labour rather than wear out because of over work.

While usually not given to purchasing frivolous domestic products or unnecessary items for the home, I must say I've been taken in recent times to pursuing items through eBay auctions. In the main I have been quietly content with my purchases and have got satisfactory responses to the few complaints I have had to register.

For years though I have been interested in acquiring Freemasonry memorabilia, particularly officers'



George IV silver dessert set, Sheffield 1829 made €16,500 (ADAMS)

jewels and have been relying on general auctions and jewellers with antique windows as my main way of finding them.

Recently however my attention started to focus on the wide ranges of masonic collectibles which are currently being sold on eBay. In truth a real treasure trove of items can be found there, but I have to warn, as at any

auction. The age old caveat, 'buyer beware' applies as much to online as it does to any traditional form of buying in the public domain. Don't get me wrong, it isn't that I haven't been able to pick up the odd bargain. That would be untrue.

## ***So who was at fault?***

But there are several frustrations



Chinese Kesi silk walk hanging, 19th century, sold for €6,000 (ADAMS)





Walter Osborne's 'Counting the Flock' sold for €165,000 (ADAMS)



This Mainie Jellett abstract oil fetched €39,000 (ADAMS)

surrounding online auctions. And in pursuit of my Masonic items I have found one particular frustration to be the way in which some articles are described. When I was first 'caught' I put it down to ignorance on the part of the seller and decided to keep the 'masonic jewel' which I had obtained. When it happened a second time I realised yours truly was at fault for not having checked out the item in the first instance.

At present it would appear there is quite an interest in masonic lots, be they regalia, swords and jewels, from those not connected to Freemasonry itself. But some jewels which are being sold as Masonic and even described as such are in fact in no way associated with Freemasonry.

The first one I picked up, and it was described as being a Masonic jewel, was in fact one relating to another organisation called the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes. On that occasion, I held on to the item but, when it happened a few weeks ago for the second time, I sent it back to the seller who immediately reimbursed me for the amount I had paid at the sale and admitted he did not know the jewel was not of masonic origin. That underlines to me one of the failings of such auctions.

Even though a photograph may be available to view on screen, it does not compensate for the 'hands-on effect' one can experience by being in an auction room. There one can ask a porter to produce the item to allow one to examine it at leisure and then make a value judgment as to whether or not it is what it purports to be. You cannot do that online and there are other frustrations as well.

Most of your typical online auctions run for seven days. And I've even found one item that was being sold over a month. I know you can encounter others of one or three days duration but they are not as common. And that is the main frustration I have.

After years of attending countless sales-houses, where you can go home





Colin Middleton's 'Belfast Street' went under the hammer at €17,000 (ADAMS)

with your purchase that day, it is a bit strange to have to wait a week to achieve fortune or fame. Then there are the last-minute bidders. Now they are not a rare entity at traditional auctions either but online it is a different matter. Here you have people who for six days and fifty-five minutes or so have never registered any interest in an item suddenly coming on the scene with a venom. They are running you and everyone else against the clock and will probably pip you when there are only seconds left of the sale. Not like your old style where an experienced auctioneer will hold his gavel high while extracting the last pound or so from a bevy of eager buyers. Yes, changed days.

Don't get me wrong. I am not knocking progress, far from it, bring it

on, but let us have a bit more professionalism and more accurate descriptions from would-be sellers. If outlets like eBay are to be used to dispose of items then sellers should ensure they do a bit more research on the items they intend selling before parting with them.

Is it laziness on the part of a seller to describe an RAOB jewel has being of Masonic origin, when it is not. Or does such a seller really know it is probably of greater value to sell what purports to be a Masonic lot than describe it as anything else? I wonder.

### AROUND THE SALES.

Dublin was a hub of spring and early summer sales and prices in many cases were good and hopefully this trend will continue during the approaching

autumn and winter months, my favourite sales time of the year.

ADAM's 'At Home' always attracts quality and with that comes fine prices. Their June sale saw a George IV silver dessert set, Sheffield 1829 making €16,500 against a high estimate of €10,000. An extensive Victorian double threaded fiddle pattern dinner service went at the high estimate of €12,000 followed by an Irish marble topped serpentine side table at €8,000 and a set of four George III silver candlesticks, London 1785 at €7,000.

Among other lots at this sale: William IV fiddle pattern over-sized tongs with rat tail bowls, €7,000; fine Chinese Kesi silk walk hanging, 19th century, €6,000; rare Irish Georgian snuff casket, Dublin 1750, €5,200; Russian nephrite letter opener, €3,800; 19th century mahogany framed squat settee, €3,700; two 14k gold and Essex crystal bracelets, €3,400.

In the earlier **Private Treaty Sale**, a Maurice MacGonigal oil sold for €12,000 while a Rory Breslin bronze made €7,000 and a group of six loose opals realised €2,000.

The Maytime **Important Irish Art** sale brought much attention to Walter Osborne's 'Counting the Flock' which at €165,000 exceeded its high estimate; a wonderful painting. A Jack Butler Yeats oil, 'The Belle of Chinatown' realised €108,000 while a Paul Henry, 'A bog in Wicklow' oil changed ownership at €44,000. A Mainie Jellett abstract oil fetched €39,000, another Walter Osborne, €23,000 and a Sir John Lavery, North African scene, €23,000. Colin Middleton's 'Belfast Street' went at €17,000, a Rory Breslin bronze at €14,000; a Nora McGuinness oil, at €14,000 and a Basil Blackshaw at €13,500. All in all not a bad day's work!





For everything necessary for river and competition fishing including barbless hooks, tungsten Beads, nymphing and lake rods, nymphing leaders, Vivarelli fly reels and

**SYNDICATE** Fly Rods

We also offer coaching and casting clinics by a certified casting instructor.

**Contact: Peter Driver Piscari-Fly**

**Tel: +353 87 9787040**

**E: piscarifly@gmail.com**

**www.piscari-fly.com**



**Got a problem with Algae or Blanket Weed?**

Do you want your water to go from



To this?



Algae Control IRE Ltd offers a 100% **NATURAL** way to remove algae and blanket weed from lakes and ponds. No Chemicals are used in our product making it a legal, safe and environmental friendly way to remove algae and blanket weed from lakes, ponds and waterways.

The original natural algae and blanket weed removal product with **FULL E.U. APPROVAL**. Beware of other inferior unapproved copy products which may contain chemicals traces which are banned from all waterways and may result in heavy fines if used as they are not EU approved.

**We are the ONLY SOLE DISTRIBUTORS IN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN IRELAND for this product.**

Tried and Tested in local trout fisheries, club waters, private waters, government waters and ponds with 100% success rate.

Easy application with no mixing or tanks required as we use water soluble bags which are applied straight onto the water surface.

Contact us for a competitive no obligation quote on



Tel: 07876 426997  
07872 182393

Email: [algaecontrol@hotmail.com](mailto:algaecontrol@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.algaecontrolire.co.uk](http://www.algaecontrolire.co.uk)



**Car Tow Boxes**



**TOWBOX V1**

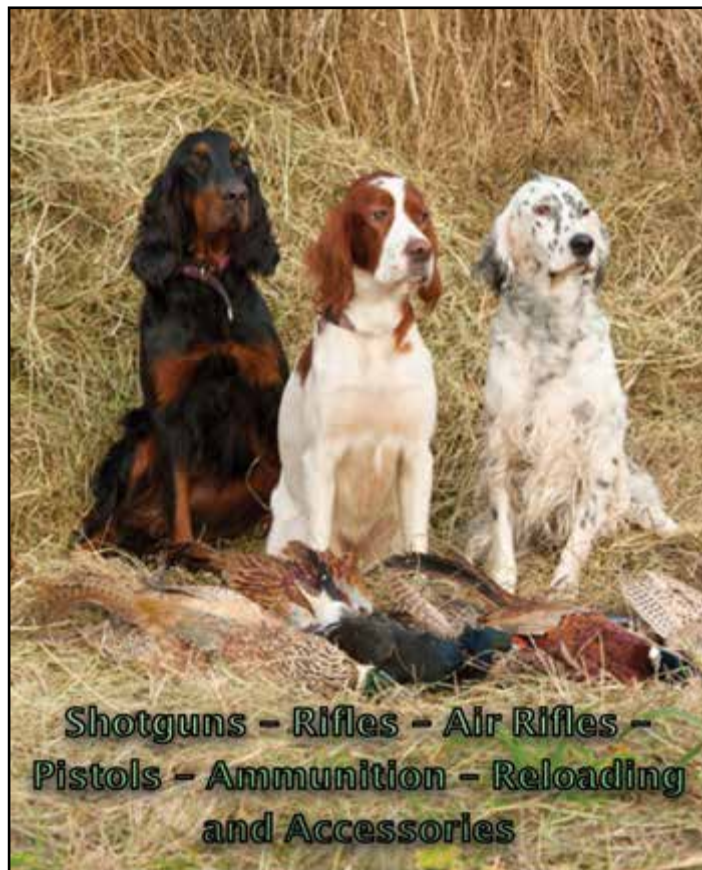
**€695**

**TOWBOX V2**

**€795**



**www.hayesmodular.ie**  
**Mobile 00353 86 3894729.**



**Shotguns - Rifles - Air Rifles -  
Pistols - Ammunition - Reloading  
and Accessories**



**McKERR**  
HOME & GARDEN

44 Union Street, Lurgan, Craigavon, BT66 8EB

Tel: 028 3834 3021

Fax: 028 3832 8580

Web: [www.mckerr.co.uk](http://www.mckerr.co.uk)



# Hunting Roundup

## *Northern Ireland Hound Show*

The NI Masters of Hounds Association show at Gosford Forest Park, run by the HANI, enjoyed excellent weather and witnessed a very high standard of hound, especially in the Bitch classes.

Judges Henry Berkeley (the Berkeley) and William Bryer (the Cattistock) were quickly into their stride and in the unentered doghound class Meath Bingo prevailed over South Tyrone Pluto with the Old English dog Louth Richmond in third place.

Bingo and his brother Billy took the couples class over East Down Harlequin and Hackler, with Louth Rival and Ringer in third place. South Tyrone Hardy16 took the entered doghound class ahead of Meath Lancer17, with Ballymacad Rio17 in third place. In the Old English class Louth siblings Racer and Ranger17 finished thus ahead of Killultagh Clifford16. The South Tyrone's Saunter and Sandstone16

bested their kennel mates Ranger and Rambler17 ahead of Louth Racer and Ranger17, in the entered couples class.

In the Stallion Hound class South Tyrone Hardy16 beat kennel mate Baptist16 with Iveagh Bedouin17 coming third. Hardy16 went on to take the Doghound Championship with the unentered Meath Bingo as Reserve Champion.

After lunch, the unentered bitch class was a joy to behold and before I declared the placings the judges asked me to announce how impressed they were by this class. This was very well received by the large crowd and I then gave the following placings - 1 South Tyrone Plasma, 2 Meath Biscuit and 3 Louth Rattle. Plasma and her sibling Plenty then took the unentered couples class ahead of two Meath entries, Biscuit and Bitterness edging their kennel mates Gracious and Greeting into third place. Meath Barmaid15 took the entered bitch class pipping South

Tyrone Pansy15 for first place with East Down Pigtail16 in third place. The Old English bitch class saw Louth Ration17 shade the unentered Ballymacad Pepper and Tynan and Armagh Locket15.

In the couples class the South Tyrone again took the honours with Pansy and Pastry15, ahead of Meath River and Ripple15 with third place going to Iveagh Beatrice and Beauty17. The prestigious two couples class saw another South Tyrone triumph with Padlock, Pansy and Pastry15 joining Benefit14, ahead of Meath Ripple15 Passion14Passive14 and Sandwich12 with Iveagh Beatrice and Beauty17 joining Gadabout and Gaylass14 to take third place. In the Brood Bitch class Meath Barmaid15 shaded South Tyrone Pansy15, who finished second ahead of her kennel mate Banner14. All too soon the day was over, with the Bitch Championship going to Meath Barmaid15 with South Tyrone Plasma17 as Reserve Champion.



South Tyrone Rascal 17 proves 'camera shy' as David Lalor (Show Chairman) presents the Bitch Championship Trophy at the Irish National Hound Show to Whipper In Paul Killians, watched by Whipper In Lloyd Parr and Huntsman Ryan Carvill.



Hunt staff are to be congratulated on the very high standard of hounds on show and the manner in which they were shown in such very warm conditions.

### ***Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association National Hound Show***

Another very hot day in this excellent summer bathed Stradbally Hall, again kindly granted for the show by the Cosby Family for the annual Show, in warm sunshine throughout.

If the weather was good, then so too was the show. David Lalor MFH, as show chairman, had once again put together a very well organised show with a very high standard of hound being exhibited by the nineteen participating packs. The prizes were fairly evenly distributed with the Meath claiming first and second places in the unentered doghound class and the Louth taking the equivalent Old English class. In the unentered couples class the Co Limerick prevailed over the Meath. The unentered doghound Championship was then awarded to Louth Ringer with the



Ballymacad Foxhounds Huntsman Keven Donohue with hounds at the hunt's puppy show.

Reserve Championship going to Meath Bingo.

These two packs then took first and second places in the entered couple of doghound class with the Meath's Lancer and Ladder17 (by Bicester Halifax13)

prevailing over Louth Racer and Ranger17, which were sired by their widely used Randal12. An impressive entered two couples class saw the Carlow Farmers take the red rosette over the Westmeath quartet.



The winners of the two couple of bitches at the Irish National Hound Show (l-r) Whippers In Bally Ferguson and Shane McGilleck, Huntsman Kenny Henry, and his brother John Henry receiving the Evan Williams Perpetual Trophy from Mrs Yvone McClintock.





Liz Brown HANI and HANI secretary Susan Vance present a HANI cheque for £2,700 to Colleen Milligan, Area Fund Raising Manager for the Air Ambulance.

One of the above mentioned quartet, Whacker16 who won the Championship here as an unentered hound, took the stallion hound class for the Westmeaths, ahead of the Kilkenny's Cottesmore Hamish12. The morning concluded with the doghound Championship where Meath Lancer17 edged Kilkenny Harbour17.

After lunch, Tipperary Garlic took the unentered bitch class ahead of Louth Rattle, with Rattle taking the Old English Class. The South Tyrone's then registered their first success, as Plenty and Plasma took the couples class ahead of Limerick Tassle and Tartlet. Plasma then took the unentered bitch Championship with Tipperary Garlic as Reserve Champion.

In the entered couple of bitches class Tipperary Blossom14 and Ample15 edged the Meath's Willing15 and Barmaid15. Arguably the most impressive sight of the day was the entered two couples of bitches class. The ring was filled with quality leaving the judges very impressed and saying so to entries secretary Roddy Bailey. In the event this class, too, saw the Meaths and the Louths battle it out, with the former prevailing over the latter. The brood bitch class saw a win for the West Wicklows, their Hasty15 edging South Tyrone Benefit14.

It is an old saying that 'all good things must come to an end' and sadly this also applies to hound shows. The day ended with the bitch Championship being awarded to South Tyrone Rascal17 and the Reserve Championship to West Wicklow Hasty15.

The organising team are to be congratulated on this excellent show and hunts staff are to be very highly commended on the very high standard of hounds and showing skills in such hot weather.

Hunting Association of Northern Ireland presents a cheque to the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance

HANI presented a cheque, for £2,700, to the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance charity prior to the NI Masters of Hounds Association annual hound show at Markethill, Co Armagh.

Liz Brown made the presentation on behalf of HANI to Colette Milligan, the charity's area fundraising manager.

The amount raised came from the member Hunts, from the Co Cavan based Drumlin Hounds and from the Irish Masters of Harriers Association.

In accepting the cheque, Colette Milligan assured us that the money was very welcome and would be put to very good use.

## ***NIMHA present cheque to Mitre Charity***

The Northern Ireland Masters of Hounds Association have again presented a cheque, in the sum of £1,000, at Balmoral Agricultural Show to the Mitre Charity, which is based at Belfast's Musgrave Park Hospital.

Professor James Nixon and Avril Brown accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity from Craig Caven, representing NIMHA.

Mitre is a charity which specialises in bone rehabilitation and it does a great deal of excellent work with, among others, some local equestrian personalities so it is especially pleasing for the Association to be able to present it with some very much needed funds.

Professor Nixon thanked the Association and assured Craig Caven that the money would be put to very good use.

## ***Hunt Chase honours again go to County Wexford***

The annual Hunt Chase at Balmoral Show, outside Lisburn Co Antrim, was again won by a team from County Wexford but, unlike the previous five years, it was not the Killinick Harriers who emerged victorious but the Wexford Foxhounds.

Generously sponsored by Wilson's Auctions this event remains very popular with the large crowds which attend Northern Ireland's premier agricultural show.

After the East Down Foxhounds' team was judged to be 'the best turned out,' some highly competitive rounds culminated in an equally testing final, between the Wexford Foxhounds and the County Meath based Fingal Harriers A team.

Some highly determined horsemanship saw the Wexford team prevail to continue this county's domination of the event.

The organisers hope that the Killinick's will reappear next year as it would have been good to see them take on their neighbours this time.



# Red stag stalking in Sutherland

For the hard-core and uncompromising stalkers willing to travel the extra mile, the county of Sutherland in the far reaches of the Scottish Highlands, is a must and certainly won't disappoint. This hidden gem, described as the real jewel in the crown of the Highlands is an escape away from it all to beautiful rolling glens, superb salmon rivers, large open spaces and massive blanket bogs holding substantial carbon deposits.

As a stalker passionate about my sport, I'm always willing to put in the extra effort to experience something truly unique and off-the-beaten-track, so

in mid-July this year I set off on a mammoth five-hour journey north from my home in the Scottish Borders. Two hours into the drive, I was passing through classic red deer country in Perthshire, synonymous with the Highlands, yet had another three hours' drive ahead of me to reach my destination, Dunrobin estate.

Situated 50 miles north of Inverness and the Black Isle, you know you've reached the right place when you have the watchful eyes of the 1st Duke of Sutherland looking down on you from the top of Ben Bhraggie. To your right, peering amongst the trees, the

picturesque Dunrobin Castle, the most northerly of Scotland's great houses, which dates to the 1300s, sitting on the edge of the North Sea.

Set in Flow Country, it's described as one of the world's last wild places, a vast expanse of 400,000 hectares of blanket bog, forming a mottled pattern of peat and pools, where you'll find amazing plants, rare birds and be inspired by the peace and space.

Arriving at my destination, I was welcomed by Robbie Rowantree, land manager and headstalker on Gordonbush and hunting guide on the neighbouring estates of Dunrobin, Dalreavoch and Ben Armine, partners of West Highland Hunting. Robbie a highly experienced guide and secretary of the East Sutherland Deer Management Group, is very passionate about deer management and has worked on the estates for the past 29 years. Joined by Megan Rowland, assistant land manager and keen deer stalker, together they're responsible for the habitat management and deer population across the estate.

After introductions, we set off to check the zero of my rifle on Gordonbush. Owned by the Tyser family, they bought the land from Sutherland estates in 1921 and at that time employed 66 members of staff.



One of the groups which we saw along the way.





Taking a quick look before the stalk began.

Certainly to own such a highland sporting estate like this would have required deep pockets.

In the early Victorian and Edwardian times, estates like these in Scotland were purchased for recreation purposes, as a place to bring your friends and family for hunting and fishing and often cost more money to run, than they made. In their heyday, Sutherland estates would have had around 60,000 employees on their books, all recorded by a quill pen, they brought a lot of jobs and investment to these remote places.

In 1979 to generate income, the Tyser family started letting the sport on Gordonbush, nowadays there are up to four stalkers working on the estate and fishing ghillies are brought in when required.

Driving into the estate we passed over the Brora, a river Robbie described as one of the best for salmon fishing in Scotland. It's said when conditions are good there's some serious fun to be had - especially in the spring. Their best week last year produced 70 salmon to six rods.

Exploring further into the estate we passed Struan Lodge, on the northern shore of Loch Brora, a luxury eight-bedroom fishing lodge with impressive Eco credentials, geo-thermal heating, solar panels and built using locally sourced timbers and on the loch spied a

rare black throated diver.

Into the distance we could see two wind farms, Robbie described how in all the time he worked on the estate their biggest development has been their drive towards renewables and better impact management. Learning that the two wind-farms funded projects to remove non-native timber plantations and re-plant native Scots pine and birch.

Following the river, we were led to Dalreavoch Lodge, a late-Victorian sporting lodge and old haunt of Dukes and Earls, set in forested hillside. The lodge accommodates 12 guests and is a very popular stay, for guests trying to bag a Macnab. Roughly 12 parties come

annually to this lodge on the Macnab quest. A fascinating read within the lodge is an old game book dating back to 1922, which originally cost just £12.

Along the way we spotted many deer, the four estates being part of the East Sutherland Deer Management group, a collective of local estates in east Sutherland. In the 250,000 hectares, there is said to be around 15,000 deer, which equates to approximately 14/15 deer per square kilometre. Over the next few years for sustainability, the stag cull on the estates will need to be approx. 200-300, with hope in the future that this figure will drop to 140 stags per year.

## ***Deer management and sustainability***

When managing deer it's important to look at habitat and assess the levels of damage and impacts, to see whether it's sustainable or not. As we were driving, Robbie singled out one particular deer, visibly you could see it wasn't in great shape, quite lean, old and with a poor coat, he described how it's important to remove deer like these, to build a strong herd for the future.

We stopped to zero the rifle in the heart of Gordonbush estate, in the distance we could see the evening light bouncing off Ben Armine lodge, set on heather-clad hills. The walls of the sitting room in Ben Armine are covered



I used his outline to conceal mine.





Calmly and unhurriedly Robbie whispered my instructions.



The stag had a switch head, ideal for the cull plan ahead of the rut.

with historical graffiti, recording triumphs with rod and gun, where prominent historical characters such as Churchill and Wellington stayed. Using my Rigby Highland Stalker rifle, comments were made that this would be the first time a Rigby returned to the estate for almost 100 years.

After three shots lying on the heather, a puff of smoke indicated that my .308 rifle was indeed zeroed, striking a rock at 200 yards and settling any pre-hunt nerves.

Ahead of the morning's stalk, Robbie explained that fieldcraft is extremely important for hunting in Sutherland, where there's not always a lot of cover. A good standard of fitness is required but as always, your guide will assess fitness and experience, prior to the stalk.

I woke the following morning to the dawn chorus at 4.15am. Driving into Golspie Glen on Dunrobin we spotted all three deer species residing on the estate – red, roe and the elusive sika. After a wind check and glass of the hillside, we planned our stalk.

We spotted a group of stags grazing on the other side of the glen, basking in the morning sunshine. Stalking down a line of trees grazed by the deer, we followed tracks to an exposed heather hillside. To obscure our position, we dropped to our hands and knees and sneaked to a vantage point, before commando crawling the final few yards, from where we would take out shot.





Dalreavoch Lodge accommodates up to 12 guests.

### ***I could see three stags in front of me***

Tightly following behind Robbie, I used his outline to conceal mine. Robbie slowly removed the rifle, which was now already half out of its slip into position, before rolling the rifle slip into a rest. Once in position, I was signalled to move forward, slowing creeping up to the rifle, already fixed firmly on the target. With my heart beating fast I could see three stags in front of me, downhill at 200 yards. Calmly and unhurriedly, Robbie whispered instructions, his dulcet tones helped settle my nerves. With my eyes fixed firmly on the scope and Robbie eagerly watching through his binoculars, the stag turned and presented itself, I lined

my crosshairs and took the shot, reloading ready to take another if required.

Shortly after hearing the shot Megan who was waiting patiently joined us for the retrieve. The stag had a switch head and was perfect for the cull plan, ahead of the rut. Together Megan and I dragged the stag, to a point where it could be collected ready for the larder. On average the stags on the estate weigh 15/16 stone, much more than the Scottish average of 13.

I felt a sheer sense of pride in bringing the Rigby Highland Stalker, back to its birth place in the Highlands and using it for the purpose it as designed for. I had a lot of respect for the beast we removed to meet the

estate's habitat management plan, which I knew would provide some excellent venison.

After finishing our stalk, I wanted to learn more about biodiversity work Robbie and Megan were heavily involved in. They explained that managing deer numbers is only one part of an intricate plan, made up by a mixture of art and science. They currently follow the best practice guides and work hand-in-hand with Scottish Natural Heritage, a government funded body which looks after Scotland's nature and landscapes. Following set practices, Robbie and Megan use GPS to locate sites across their estates, which they examine for trampling, browsing, exposed peat and erosion. Land managers and stalkers carrying out these checks, means we can effectively manage and monitor impacts for the future, to protect our environment.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/impacts>

For further information on stalking red stags on Dunrobin Estate, visit:  
<http://westhighland-hunting.co.uk> or email [hunting@westhighland-hunting.co.uk](mailto:hunting@westhighland-hunting.co.uk).



Robbie Rowantree, (centre) land manager and headstalker on Gordonbush is flanked by Ben Armine and Megan Rowland.

### **KIT BOX**

Rigby Highland Stalker rifle in .308  
[www.johnrigbyandco.com](http://www.johnrigbyandco.com)

Hornady American Whitetail  
150-gr ammunition  
[www.edgarbrothers.com](http://www.edgarbrothers.com)

Leica Magnus 1.5-10x42 riflescope  
[www.leica-sportoptics.com](http://www.leica-sportoptics.com)

Leica Geovid 10x42 HD-B  
Edition 2017  
[www.leica-sportoptics.com](http://www.leica-sportoptics.com)

Swazi Tahr XP Anorak  
[www.swazi.co.nz](http://www.swazi.co.nz)

Robinson deer knife  
[www.robinsonhunting.co.uk](http://www.robinsonhunting.co.uk)





Unit 6, Pennybridge Business Park  
Pennybridge Industrial Estate  
Ballymena, Co. Antrim  
BT42 3HB

+44 (0)28 2585 0000



Fishing Tackle | Shooting | Countrywear | Ammunition | Archery | Outdoors

[www.seriouscountrysports.com](http://www.seriouscountrysports.com)

[www.seriousfishing.com](http://www.seriousfishing.com)



# Weever fish, lion's mane jellies and other seaside 'delicacies'

I wrote this article in early summer while we were experiencing a heatwave, so by my reckoning there is distinct possibility that it will be snowing by the time you read it, as our weather continues to be very unpredictable. In fact the only predictable thing about it is that it will continue to be unpredictable! We will suffer continuing extremes as global warming continues, but the information below is worth knowing anyway, even as we slip into autumn.

With all this fine weather and people heading to cool down on our beaches, even later in the season, it may be appropriate to describe some of the possible dangers which you might come across on our beaches. Other places might have the likes of sharks and box jellyfish and sea snakes but we have some of our own 'nasties' which you will not want to meet.

It is worth noting that animals use venom for two purposes, to catch and kill prey items, and for defence. Those that use it to catch food items like jellyfish need it to be very potent

because they cannot risk a small fish struggling for long, as they themselves are delicate and may be damaged. Sea snakes cannot inject venom and wait for it to take effect, as they cannot track a bitten fish in the sea unlike snakes that live on land, hence sea snake venom is one of the most toxic snake venoms there is.

## *If the jellyfish has colour then beware!*

A good rule of thumb with jellyfish is that if they have colour they will sting. The most common jellyfish here is the moon jelly which can have four blue circles in a clear body. They do have stings but our skin is too thick for us to feel them. These can form dense swarms when the conditions are right but are really harmless to us. The lion's mane is the real problem if you should swim into one. These can be huge and the sting is very painful. The best thing I have found is to rub the area with wet sand at the side of the sea. This removes the unfired stinging cells, using anything but seawater to do this can

result in them firing off. Some people are allergic to this venom and need medical attention but most people will just have to deal with the pain using ice or cold packs, and it usually lasts a few hours. With lion's mane another problem can be kids throwing stones at dead ones on the beach, as the tentacles and nematocysts (stinging cells) are viable for some hours after they wash up and can be



Another jelly fish to be aware of on the shore.

splashed about. They still sting. Compass jellies and purple stingers should be treated in the same way.

## *Weever Fish a 'delicacy' with eyes on top of its head*

We have two species of Weever fish around our coastline, the Greater Weever is the larger and tends to live in deep water so is less of a threat than the Lesser Weever which despite its name causes injury to many people each year. Both species live on, or under the sand on the seabed. They both have eyes on the top of their heads and use poison as a defensive measure to prevent being eaten by other fish. This does not stop them being eaten by people and they are considered an essential ingredient for that famous French classic fish soup Bouillabaisse.

Anglers can get stung as they can mistake the Lesser Weever for a small Whiting and grab it by mistake. The sting is reported to be very painful and leads to swelling and redness in the area, however relief can be got by putting the effected part in water as hot as you can bear (just short of scalding) for a few minutes. A lot of marine venom is neutralised by hot water. I



Lion's mane jellyfish.





Greater Weever fish.

know of one surfer who used a flask of tea to treat his foot after stepping on a Weever. This is the problem with the Lesser Weever, it is most often found on shallow sandy beaches.

Most of our best surfing beaches have Weevers present and anyone going barefoot risks a sting. One of the problems is that you might think you have stood on a sea urchin spine, but later the pain and numbness develops. Another group at risk are anglers as I mentioned already, or by catching one as they will readily take a small bait intended for something else.

The other main risk is when collecting sand eels for bait, as both species favour the same sort of sandy area. The first Lesser Weever I came across was while 'vingling' for sandeels with a notched knife, luckily I flicked it

out of the sand and recognised it rather than slide my hand down to hold it. This particular one was fried up and eaten. Very tasty firm white flesh too. When I caught a Greater Weever while fishing off the Canaries in deep water the Spanish crew went ballistic when they saw me pick it up, Shouting "No! Fuego!" in Spanish. But I lined it up for a photograph.

### **Sharks found around our coasts**

Yes, we have sharks around our coastline including the worlds second biggest, the Basking Shark. In fact we have many species of sharks and sizes from the lesser spotted cat shark (usually known as a dogfish) to the Basking Shark by way of Blues, Porbeagles, Threshers and even Mako

Sharks. I can find no confirmed record of a shark killing or even seriously injuring a person in our waters, although some of the species mentioned above have been confirmed as man-eaters in other countries. If you are going to handle any of these as an angler, you risk losing some skin or such, but no risk if you take care. In fact a diver once told me he never rolls backwards out of a boat. Not since the time he landed on a basking shark. He told me he was still dry when he got back on the boat.

Publishers note: I have come across two of these 'terrors of the deep'. The first was on holiday in the Canaries fishing with my sons. Amongst a good catch of mackerel we caught several Weever fish. The reaction from our 'skipper' was to rush forward and club them. My middle boy caught a big one certainly 2-3 pounds but the skipper was so keen to club it he knocked it off the hook and over the side before we could photograph it. And my contact with the 'lions mane' came a little earlier, as a boy reading "The Adventure Of The Lion's Mane", one of the 12 Sherlock Holmes short stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, In "The Case-Book Of Sherlock Holmes". It is rather unique for being narrated by Holmes himself, instead of by Dr. Watson (who does not appear in the story).



A Lesser Weever fish for comparison.



'Vingling' for sandeels.



Sandeels make good bait to target some species of fish.





# Scattered Shots

Shooting has been there on my shoulder (no pun intended) since I was a child. My earliest memory was of my father, every young boy's (and grown man's if they were honest) hero, coming in the back door on a black, windy and wet evening with two hares over his shoulder and carrying a broken shot gun. Hares aren't shot now but they were then because there was in our area literally no end to them. So much so that they used to run absolute riot on the local football pitch in summer and they were like cats around the house they were so plentiful.

I remember admiring the shot hares hanging in the shed, looking into their glass like staring eye, running my small hands through their fur and looking at every individual shade of brown, russet and almost cream in their coat, and seeing spent shotgun cartridges in the big old wooden barrel bin. I remember thinking how amazing it was that my dad had gone out there in the windy darkness and rain, and shot them both with his gun.

A few days later he beckoned me into the kitchen and undid a large parcel of

foil from the oven and with a knife and fork cut some slices from the dark brown lump of cooked meat within. As I write this now I can still taste it, dark strong and very nice. It's not to everyone's taste and it's not often other than a fresh road kill or being abroad where it is more common in restaurants that I eat it, but every time I do I remember the first. My father ate everything he shot or more likely shot anything he could eat, and if it wasn't edible it wasn't shot, it was as simple as that. When we were young shooting a rook, jackdaw, magpie or even a fox wasn't really heard of because it couldn't be eaten, that's just the way it was.

Shooting means many things to many different people; in its many guises it can take you anywhere, perhaps a warm golden stubble field in search of pigeons, a wet, dark and depressive estuary for wildfowl, or high on a hill for the grouse or stag, or perhaps even an African plain. And not forgetting 'driven' there is much opportunity for a keen or well-heeled gun.

Nowadays if someone were to ask

me do I shoot I would answer; "A bit." But the more I think of it I actually carry a gun quite a lot. In the course of my daily work as a rabbit controller I generally don't shoot much, but probably 30% of the work we do now involves shooting of some description and it is usually night shooting with air guns which works very well on some of our contracts. It is taken care of by David Rogers, who is an outstanding shot, certainly the best I have ever seen and although I usually drive badly and operate the lamp, I do take the occasional shot. And there are times when I have surprised myself and knocked over a rabbit or two when I thought I wouldn't!

On a recent job I had to pull every trick out of the bag and after two weeks of traps, snares, drop nets and night shooting, one area remained, an almost vertical bank, littered with rabbit holes and no easy way to set purse or long nets. I decided to enter the ferrets, stand well back and shoot the rabbits as they exited the warren. It worked well and with the help of my Teckel Rumble we accounted for every one shot.



But aside from many well known shooting sports, there are many I have taken part in which are as much if not more fun as the better known ones! Rat shooting both at night and more so with ferrets is incredibly fast and great sport, as is mink hunting with a terrier or Teckel, although more often I have returned empty handed than not, as a bolting mink is not easily folded! Pheasants are a favourite for me, probably because the eating is as good as the shooting, and for some years when time allowed I was a member of a

small syndicate near home which I thoroughly enjoyed. If one was to draw out an ideal area for a small shoot that would be it. The birds always held well and were in great condition down to Paddy, who had as keen an interest in the rearing and releasing as he did the shooting.

### ***As we walk along I breathe long and deep***

The shoot for me was special and more so as I had the opportunity to shoot and work the lurchers hand in

hand. My bitch Fudge grew up on the shoot and retrieved birds so well she really became part of the team. Early October is beautiful in the correct weather and the shoot is full of hardwood trees as well as interesting plants and birds, and runs along a windy and lovely river. You can smell Autumns as we walk along the lane, springer spaniels (and lurchers) alongside, and guns broken over arms. A passing car will usually give a wave and often one or two neighbours near the shoot would stop looking for a pheasant! Depending on the route we take, we are sometimes in an old wood and as we walk along I breathe long and deep, taking up the smell of the damp wood which is nothing short of fantastic. A spaniel passes, nose down and tail wagging and I brush a giant 'rhubarb' as I leave the wood and the water runs down my neck making me shiver. "Bird up!" someone hollers and a shot rings out. I look up in time to see a beautiful cock pheasant arch over the trees with three beats of his wings, another three beats and a pause and he goes out of sight. It is not often we got a blank day, it did happen, but it didn't matter.

Snipe shooting in the mountains and bogs is among my favourite forms of shooting and I usually employ my .410 which is easier carried for a full day. It makes shooting a little more difficult, but the empty pocket usually far outweighs the full side When I am taking cartridges from my jacket in the evening.

I don't own a rifle and really only have an interest in the larger calibre, but I appreciate them for what they are and the hunting that comes with them. As we go up the calibre, we go up in quarry and for me a double rifle of .500 Nitro Express would be the pinnacle in both respects. For many years as a teenager and up until present day, I read the fantastic works of John 'Pondoro' Taylor, ivory hunter, big game shooter and Irishman. Taylor is sadly very unknown and it is a shame in many ways as not only was he a genuine



The Author with the makings of a Rook Pie.



hunter, great shot and very much a character, but he was also a great writer, a man who could put you in the seat beside him while he eyed up and shot a large crocodile, a raging bull elephant, or a crazed lion before dinner!

My rifle shooting has not been as extensive as my shot gunning adventures, but most have been enjoyable, not least one day I met up with Ronan, a good friend and deer stalker as well as lurcher enthusiast from the south of the country. I left home one morning just after 3.00 am and while the BBC world service droned on the radio and I ate my way through a box of sandwiches 'for lunchtime,' I arrived at my destination in the dark a little after 6.00am and was greeted by my guide and his Bavarian Mountain Hound 'Mo Chara,' before heading off into the breaking dawn in search of a deer.

I remember checking my watch which read 7.10 and thinking not long now, but little did I know that it would be another 14 miles and 8 hours before I would squeeze the rifle trigger and the day would be over. Ronan and I walked and walked, and walked a little more, with Mo Chara heading us all the way and dipping off here and there in search of a scent. We were not having any luck at all, then we lost the dog after lunchtime and decided to call it a day. I unloaded the rifle and both Ronan and I talked a little louder, quietness no longer required. Ronan cupped his hands on his cheeks and bellowed the dogs name several times. I really had a great day, Ronan was a fountain of knowledge and he worked his dog as it would have been in its homeland.

### ***The .308 rang out and the fallow fell***

I had given up: no deer and no dog. The rifle was still on my shoulder and as we stood in the wood and talked, a hare lolloped past, stopped for a look and kept on going. Ronan shouted for the

dog again, before offering to look for the dog alone. I told him I would stay and as he began to tell me a story he went quiet. "There is a Deer behind you, don't move and load the rifle." I did as I was asked. "Turn around slowly and take a shot from your shoulder, there is no time for sticks." The .308 rang out and the fallow fell. Ronan and I approached it 'and I won't lie, I felt a certain amount of sadness at the animals death, but I knew it wasn't in vain and every scrap would go to good use. We took a moment, gave the deer its last meal and Ronan shook my hand and Mo Chara appeared at our side. It was a special moment, Ronan and his dog worked very hard and the animal was killed clean and outright with absolutely no suffering and I genuinely used every scrap including the pelt.

Richard Jeffries, in his classic 'The Amateur Poacher' wrote in a way that many of us will relate to, in that going for a walk was simply going for a walk and for the countryman held no great interest. However, should that same walker have a shotgun over his arm that same walk takes on a different tone. Now, while he may not shoot anything, or even fire a shot, that walk is improved tenfold by the simple act of having the gun present; the actual shooting is irrelevant in many ways. I

don't think many of you will disagree that you have had many a walk with your gun and despite returning home empty handed you had a thoroughly satisfying and enjoyable walk; a dog usually makes this even better.

Shotguns have always held my interest and I have always found something special about .410s, 20 bores, 12 bores, 16 bores, goose guns and muzzle loaders, I like them all. I like the simplicity and straight forward no nonsense German models and the fine detail, engraving and scrolling on Best English Guns. I have a certain liking for side by sides, especially Damascus, and just recently my neighbour Jonny arrived one evening with such a gun under his arm. A side by side Damascus 30" barrel sidelock, and although in need of a little TLC it was a lovely gun. He reckoned it was around 60 years old, I thought it was a little more. However, after an email and some photos of the proof marks to Christopher Symonds, it was dated around 120 years old! My neighbour had intended to scrap the old gun, but after speaking with Christopher it was saved and is now on the shelf for a full restoration this winter and I do very much look forward to taking it to the estuary, a rabbit warren or a snipe bog before the season ends and taking a few 'scattered shots.' Have a good season.



A mixed bag at the end of the day.





# A 'chip of the old block' – Kyle Wallis Produces a superb clay shooting performance at the 40th Anniversary ALL IRELAND Game Fair clay shooting competitions



Clay Pigeon Director: Kenny Thomas with Kyle Wallis and David Marshall winners of the special anniversary trophies.

**K**yle Wallis followed in his father Davy's footsteps by putting in a superb performance at the clay pigeon shooting at the Shanes Castle Fair. Over the years ex Clay Shooting Director Davy Wallace was seldom 'out of the results' shooting at the fair. This year Kyle stepped up to win Classified High Gun on Sunday and Overall High Gun over the two days.

As befits the premier country sports event in Ireland, he took away one of the best arrays of top prizes on offer in Ireland this year including two quality shotguns (Sponsored



Kenny Thomas with Ladies High Gun Suzanne Martin.

by Donal Mc Cloy and Ardee Sports), cash prizes and a handsome antique pheasant enhanced by a semi-precious 'ruby' stone.

Winner of the unclassified on Sunday was Connor McDonnell who also won a Cogswell & Harrison Shotgun sponsored by Ardee Sports.

Winner of the other Bronze pheasant on the Saturday was David Marshall

Lady's high gun was Suzanne Martin

Veteran's High Gun was S. Gorman

Compact High Gun winning £200 was P. Brown

Thanks go to our Clay Pigeon Shooting Director Kenny Thomas and his team and to Duncan Grisedale Promatic ([www.promatic.co.uk](http://www.promatic.co.uk)) for his invaluable assistance in supplying traps.



Duncan Grisedale from Promatic suppliers of the traps for the 40th Anniversary Irish Game Fair.



# The Intriguing and Little-Known Story of Whaling in Ireland

Early 20th Century chart of the Inishkea islands and Rusheen.

**T**he story of whaling in Ireland is an intriguing if little-known tale of our fishing and natural history. It's a much more complex and involved story than many people realise and is an important part of our fishing history. On a recent visit to the Irish Fly Fishing and Game Shooting Museum near Durrow, County Laois its owner, Walter Phelan, drew my attention to the subject and I was immediately very interested. Walter has an incredible collection of hunting memorabilia and artefacts and he kindly lent me a number of his books on the subject of whaling and the sun-fish. He also has a number of 19th Century whaling harpoons hanging on the walls of his museum which vividly bring to life the reality of what hunting these enormous creatures must have been like.

To begin with, a couple of intriguing bits of history. 700 "great whales" (as they were referred to) were killed in commercial operations off County Mayo between 1908 and 1914. Secondly, the first ever recorded use of a harpoon gun in the world was in Donegal Bay. Its inventor used it to kill fin whales in the mid 18th century. (The

technology of these early harpoon guns was far from perfect and it would be many more years before much better models were invented).

One of the whaling books which Walter lent me stated that, 'there have been all sorts of amateurish efforts in catching the smaller species of whale around Ireland and the driving ashore of pilot whales on the south coast seems to have been of fairly frequent occurrence in the nineteenth century at least.' The same book pointed out that at the time of writing, in the 1980s, it was terrible that some whale species, on a global level, had been brought almost to the verge of extinction by overfishing. The writer (James Fairley) pointed out that these near-extinction situations could have been avoided by the proper application of science which would have resulted in stocks being cropped without reducing overall numbers. He then went on to write the next couple of very important sentences, which bear direct relevance to this present article: "The consequent and quite justified outrage of many conservation bodies has unfortunately resulted in it being considered almost mandatory to turn

any popular publication on whales into a ritual condemnation of whaling. I need hardly add that I have felt no obligation to conform to this requirement."

Fairley's book is the definitive text about the history of whaling in Ireland. He tracked down a lot of obscure written material which would never have seen the light of day if it wasn't for him. For example he discovered a little-known book published by a clergyman in 1739 which contained a number of passages talking about attempts being made to start up a whale fishery in the Northwest. Whales used to gather in large numbers during the summer off the west coast of Ireland, particularly fin whales. Tragically, their numbers were vastly reduced during a period of hunting carnage in the twentieth century. Writing in 1739, Rev William Henry, said these whales (who were rorquals, along with a few nordcapers) fed on herrings, with the result that there were large numbers of herring cast-offs on the coast.

## *The hunting of the 'sun fish'*

Rev Henry also wrote one of the earliest accounts of hunting the 'sun





Lars Christensen (left) and a whale at Rusheen, probably in early summer 1908. The man flensing is Pat Riley who later worked at the Blacksod Company's station on Belmullet.

fish,' which is the basking shark. He described the hunting of basking sharks off Killybegs, County Donegal: "They

are taken in the hot season in the months of June and July, in this manner. As they sleep on the surface of the sea,

they are discovered by their fin, which being extended above the water, resembles the sail of a boat. They lye in this posture, till the fishermen, making up to them, strike them with their harpoon irons. Whereupon they dart down to the bottom and rolling on the ground, work the harpoon deeper into the wound. Then being irritated, they rise again to the surface and shoot away with an incredible velocity dragging the boat after them...and they bear away to sea sometimes for leagues; til at last dying, they float on the surface till the fishermen come along their side, and cut out the liver, which affords several barrels of oyl. In this dangerous war with these smaller leviathans, it is necessary to have 100 fathoms of small cord fixt to the end of the harpoon, to give it play: and for a man to stand by the gunnell of the boat, with an hatchet, to cut the rope in case of any stop of its running off, or the fish's merging too suddenly; either of which accidents might overset the boat."

Fairley tells us that in the 1730s it was common knowledge that whales were to be found abundantly each spring in Donegal Bay. A number of attempts were made to make a living from whaling in the region, including a venture by two men in Killybegs, but they proved unsuccessful. One whaler blamed the rough seas for the difficulty of the venture. "In these seas," he said, "the water was always rough...so that the harpooner can take no aim." Fairley says the probable reason for their failure was their techniques weren't adequate. Aspirations of selling Irish whale oil to foreign markets therefore came to naught for many years.

Whaling in the 18th Century could be very hazardous. In Donegal Bay some men hunted baleen whales with harpoons but they could only operate in shallow, relatively sheltered water not far from shore, because marking with a buoy and waiting for the sunken leviathan to rise after being harpooned would have been impossible out in the Atlantic. In 1763 five whales were struck in Donegal Bay though three





The administration building at Rusheen (probably early summer 1908)

were lost “by the baddness of the ropes”. The oil was extracted and sold for 310 pounds.

In the 1770s, a whaling business operating out of Killybegs did tolerably well for a while, killing sufficient whales each year to make a living. However, the venture came to a dramatic end when their boat was smashed to pieces by the tail of one of the leviathans they were chasing. Two men died in the incident and the others swam to shore and safety. The boat was owned by Thomas Nesbitt, the man who is credited with inventing the harpoon gun. Nesbitt was in the boat when the whale struck and he swam to safety. He lived on until 1801 when he died aged 79 years. He is buried in Inver, County Donegal.

“Thomas Nesbitt's whale fishery,” comments Fairley, “was not just the only one in Irish waters in the eighteenth century that can be taken seriously, it was the only purely Irish concern to have had any success in professional whaling. The next Irish whaling stations were not to appear for over 130 years and would then be managed exclusively by Norwegians.”

### ***World whaling expansion began towards the end of the 18th Century***

In the nineteenth century American whaling ships from New England scoured the oceans for whales, hunting sperm whales in the tropics or chasing right whales in the Arctic or Antarctic. It's unlikely they fished in Irish waters. Fairley says an examination of several hundred New England ships' log books showed that the nearest kills were at least 400 miles away. The New England industry began to decline in the 1840s and 1850s. The last ships stopped whaling in 1925. British and European whaling was also a significant industry during the 19th Century, with a lot of activity taking place in the south Atlantic.

In October 1907 a Scottish solicitor arrived at Burtonport on the west coast of Donegal and it soon transpired that he was representing two Norwegians who wanted to start a whaling venture in the region. Things moved quickly and in January 1908 the Arranmore Whaling Company was established, which proposed to oversee a whaling station on the Donegal island of Arranmore.

The two Norwegians were Erling Lund from Oslo and Lars Christensen from Tonsberg. Lund was a ship-owner and deeply involved in whaling. Christensen was a timber exporter and this was his first venture into whaling. However, many people in Donegal opposed the venture with many fearful of the adverse affect the proposed business might have on the livelihood of fishermen in the area. A legal enquiry was held and planning permission for the Arranmore station was denied. A couple of weeks later it was announced that the station would instead be built at South Inishkea, an island off County Mayo. The construction of the station buildings on South Inishkea went ahead almost at once. They were constructed on the tidal islet of Rusheen on the east coast of the island. Rusheen was about four and a half acres in area. They built a well-equipped and well-appointed station which included a 400 foot pier, wooden slipway, cooperage, forge, steam winches, bone crunching mill, steam boilers, sheds and an administration building. It was constructed during the Spring of 1908.

The whaling station in Inishkea



operated for just six years and I'm afraid to say it didn't do very well. In its second year, in 1909, its two steam whaling-steamers caught 102 whales, which was a very respectable number and should have resulted in a profit but somehow it made a loss. Fairley explains that the venture was "plagued by circumstance and a wayward and extortionate workforce ashore." He said it also suffered from "indifferent management." Christensen was described as being a "practical man" but not a good businessman. When he had worked as a timber-exporter in Norway he was given contracts to build houses, but unfortunately he tended to quarrel with his clients and even sued some of them, losing every case. He was also fond of playing poker, which might have been problematic.

All the whale kills were within a seventy-mile radius of Rusheen, at an average distance of about forty miles from the base. The artist Paul Henry visited the station sometime in the first two seasons and said the boats never went far from land. A calm sea was a prerequisite for catching. Because of poor weather, operations were very

intermittent in 1908. The whales caught included Blue, Fin, Humpback, Sei, Right and Sperm. The most common whale was Fin, followed by Blue. Fin whales and Blue whales are the second largest and largest animals on Earth. One writer described the Fin as "the greyhound of the sea...for its beautiful, slender body is built like a racing yacht and the animal can surpass the speed of the fastest ocean steamship." The average sized Fin whale is 60 to 65 feet in length, while the average sized Blue whale is about 85 to 95 feet.

### ***The locals' pigs were making the best of it***

About thirty men from South Inishkea were employed in the station. The foreman and time-keeper was a man called O'Donnell and he was referred to as the "King" of the island. The south islanders refused to countenance employing the inhabitants of the north island. A visitor said O'Donnell's house had floorboards, whereas all the others had floors of beaten earth. Fairley says the workers were capricious in that they could work very hard but were also frequently

indolent and wouldn't do their jobs properly. When an inspector came to the station at the end of August in 1909 he found "a regular shambles with ten whales moored to the buoy, three to the pier, one on the bottom of the slip and a further two or three on the flensing plane, half disposed of." The inspector also noted that some limited pollution was occurring, with blood being allowed to run into the sea and a good deal of blubber fragments lying on the beach of Rusheen and on the shore of the main island opposite. "The locals' pigs were making the best of it," comments Fairley, "and this seems to have been the normal state of affairs. When Paul Henry visited the islands he remarked principally on the ready availability of poteen, the whaling station, the pigs and the smell."

While the situation at the whaling station was often far from ideal it was a different story for the whaling-steamers. The writer of an article in *The Irish Times* in 1909 described his experience of a whaling excursion in one of the steamers. The writer said the ships were well-appointed and well-run. The writer excellently and very interestingly

The Erling steaming into Rusheen with a whale on tow to starboard. The boat has a harpoon gun and crow's nest.

(Photo by Rev. Spotswood Green)







Whales at the mooring buoy (September 1911)

describes the hunting and capture of three whales by the steamer, and how the Norwegian captain operated the harpoon gun. One of the whales, he writes, "as he dived, delivered a tremendous blow of his tail at the vessel's bow, and happily struck short." About 10am another whale is spotted - "When some 60 miles out, the vessel then being on the edge of the Atlantic deep water, the look-out man in the barrel-shaped crow's nest, fixed securely to the starboard of the mast, boomed out the word "Goon", and indicated the direction by a gesture. "Goon" was called through the brass tube, the engines responded instantly, and the vessel ploughed through the Atlantic at her best." After the 1913 season it was decided by the company's shareholders that it wasn't worth proceeding and the station was closed. The Arranmore Whaling Company officially ceased to exist on January 4th, 1915.

A couple of years beforehand the Blacksod Whaling Company was set up on the Mayo mainland (on the eastern side of the Belmullet peninsula). This was a happier enterprise. The location for the station was better, and the relations with local labour were excellent. Most people in the area were very happy to have this source of employment. The manager Lorentz Bruun was also good at his job who was "always on the alert in maintaining efficiency and cleanliness, and whose policy was one of constant

improvement." Blacksod was more efficient than Rusheen, with the steamers catching more whales and the factory producing more from each carcass. The carcasses yielded oil (put into barrels), manure (put into bags), bone meal, cattle food, and whalebone.

Fishing stopped during World War One but Captain Bruun restarted the Blacksod enterprise after the war. Often whales were caught as far as the Rockall bank, over 250 miles out in the Atlantic. 1920 was a record season with 125 whales caught. Production at the factory that year was 3,995 barrels of oil, 298 tonnes of manure and about 12 tons of whalebone. However, surprisingly, and for one reason or another, the station made financial losses and couldn't get out of the red. In February 1923 a large part of the station was burned down. Captain Bruun died on Christmas Day

1924 and with him went a lot of the driving force behind the station. The company dragged on until November 1932 when it was finally wound up.

The Whale Fisheries Act was introduced by the government in 1937. Under this, the hunting of all whale species, including dolphins and porpoises, was totally banned within the fisheries limits of the State, i.e. out to 200 miles from the coast. In 1991 Ireland declared its waters a whale and dolphin sanctuary, the first European sanctuary within the fishery limits of an entire country.

Finally, it's worth leaving the last word to Herman Melville and a famous extract from "Moby Dick." Melville described beautifully some of the emotions which run through the veins of men. No doubt many of the men employed on whalers in Irish waters over the years felt similar emotions. They mightn't have expressed them but they no doubt felt them. As Melville wrote, "Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet...I quietly take to the ship. There is nothing surprising in this. If they but knew it, almost all the men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings towards the ocean with me."



Rusheen pier with the Arranmore Whaling Co.'s steamers Erling and Rusheen. Each vessel has a harpoon gun and crow's nest and there are whales moored in the middle distance.



## ENGAGING YOUR DOG'S POTENTIAL FOR ALL ACTIVITIES



### Engage Chicken

- Suitable for very active dogs
- 25% Protein
- 30% Meat



### Engage Salmon & Rice

- Slow release formula for very active dogs
- 24% Protein
- 28% Meat
- Hypoallergenic characteristics
- Glucosamine and Chondroitin



### Engage Mother & Puppy

- Suitable for puppies from 4 weeks old
- Suitable for bitches from 3rd trimester through to weaning period
- 29% Protein      • 39% Meat



### Engage Beef

- Suitable for dogs in light work
- 20% Protein
- 25% Meat



### Engage Duck & Rice

- Slow release formula for active dogs
- 22% Protein
- 26% Meat
- Hypoallergenic characteristics
- Glucosamine and Chondroitin

## ENGAGE YOUR PARTNERSHIP

For more information about  
our Engage Dog Food,  
contact our Pet Nutritionist:

[www.redmills.ie](http://www.redmills.ie)  
[info@redmills.ie](mailto:info@redmills.ie)

IRELAND T: 059 97 75800  
UK T: 01386 552 066







ARDEE SPORTS COMPANY

[www.ardeesports.com](http://www.ardeesports.com)



**For all your hunting needs this shooting season,  
visit [ardeesports.com](http://ardeesports.com)**