

COUNTRY SPORTS and COUNTRY LIFE



Volume 9 Number 4 Winter 2010 £3.00 / €5.00



www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com

PRE OWNED WATCH COLLECTION

We buy and sell fine quality Swiss watches.
All trade-ins considered



QUEEN'S ARCADE
Belfast BT1 5FE
Tel: 028 9032 9799
shop@lunns.com

1 VICTORIA SQUARE
Belfast BT1 4QG
Tel: 028 9032 5250
victoriasquare@lunns.com

10 SHIPQUAY STREET
Londonderry BT48 6DN
Tel: 028 7137 7877
shipquay@lunns.com

www.lunns.com



Photo Cover: 'A Winter's Day'
Photo: Peter Houston

Contents

3	Contents	80	Simon Everett is in for the 'Long Haul'
4	ROI Comment	84	Philip Lawton goes 'Cruising on the Shannon'
5	Northern Comment	86	FISSTA News & Views
6	Countryside News	92	Tom Stalker looks at a 'Year in the Life of an Estate'
18	Dan Kinney looks at FAC applications	98	Obituary – Gary Clegg
20	Paul Pringle interviews John Gormley	99	Graham Cox reviews Labradors 2010
23	A Room with a Clearview	102	The Redmills IKC Pointer & Setter Championship
26	The Best of Times Worst of Times with John Bourke	106	Glennoo hosts its first retriever trial
30	Keith Mathews Training Video	108	Gundog Musings with Peter Smith
32	Art and Antiques Round Up	112	The further trials and tribulations of Plus Twos
36	Brophy September Safari	116	Johnny Woodlock picks an Autumn Harvest
40	Hunting Roundup	119	Margaret Annett visits Incredible India
44	The Perfect Christmas Present?	123	Anthony O'Halloran remembers when 'Place and History Rhymed'
58	Country Chat with Billy Lewis	126	Frank Brophy visits Mirepeisset
60	Winter and Spring Holiday Feature	128	AJ's Angst
67	NIDIRECT is 'Catch of the Day'		
68	The Blackwater Lodge		
72	Wildlife of the River Suir		
76	The 'Unconsoled' Angler		

Managing Editor: Albert Titterington, **ROI Editor:** Philip Lawton, **NI Editor:** Paul Pringle, **Associate Editor:** Irene Titterington

Sales and Marketing: Paul Robinson

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

Email: countrysportsandcountrylife@btinternet.com a.j.titterington@btinternet.com **URL** <http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com>

ROI Office (Editorial and Advertising) Philip Lawton **Contact:** **Tel:** (01) 8348279 / 087 2472006 **Email:** lawtonICS@hotmail.com

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.

Published in association with Ireland's country sports and country living web portal <http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com>

Country Sports and Country Life

Rol Comment

EU and Animal Welfare

Many fieldsports followers who I have spoken to over the summer months at game fairs and RISE meetings are justifiably concerned at the increasing involvement of politicians in what appears to be an animal rights agenda, rather than what we all espouse - animal welfare. Members of the European Parliament recently convened a meeting at the Sustainable Hunting Intergroup to discuss their concerns about the lack of clarity in relation to the Future Strategy on Animal Welfare. There have been indications that the EU would cover the welfare of wild animals and hunting dogs and FACE invited a number of veterinary experts and representatives from the Commission to voice their views. The Commission representative, Dr. Andrea Gavinelli confirmed clearly that Article 13 of The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU does not confer any general competence to legislate in the domain of animal welfare and, more importantly, no competence for wild animals.

Dr. Winkelmayer, from Austria, presented an overview on the philosophical, ethical and biological aspects of animal welfare concluding that there are no philosophical or metaphysical arguments against the use of animals by humans. Now that would seem to be what we all know as the 'present situation' but, it would appear, that there are EU politicians who want to push an animal rights agenda under cover of animal welfare legislation and the FACE Secretary-General/ Senior Policy Adviser, Yves Lecocq has urged the EU not to legislate in the domain of the welfare of animals beyond what is already in place in EU Treaties. We have seen attempts to extend legislation in the Republic beyond animal welfare in recent times and we need to monitor any future such legislation very carefully if we wish to retain our traditional hunting rights. As Brussels and Strasbourg are not only 'across the water,' but somewhere far away on the other side of the United



Kingdom, some people still don't understand that, like it or not, what happens there does affect our way of life. It's no use saying, as one shooting friend says: "Sure I didn't vote for it." It is a fact of life that the ripples from a stone thrown in the far away Brussels pond will eventually reach our shores and we don't have a good record of spotting such ripples in time! I would urge you all to watch for the next attack and be prepared, through RISE and the other sporting organisations, to put your shoulder to the wheel and, even in these economically difficult times, put your hand in your pocket. There is no such thing as a 'free lunch' – not even if it is a game lunch you hunted yourself.

Another Pheasant Season

Another November First has come and gone and there will be a bird or two on the table but don't forget that the humble pigeon is now on the game list and shouldn't be overlooked. A windy evening provides magnificent sport with pigeons and they make a great meal either fried with a few mushrooms, or baked in a traditional pigeon pie. One word of warning which was drilled into me as a young shooter: don't waste good meat. Any shooter who is too lazy to gather the fallen doesn't deserve to hunt. As a very amateur fly tyer, even a magpie or a fox, which you wouldn't dare put on the cookery list, can provide something. A fox brush looks very stylish as a curtain pull and it's not a bad duster either. Leaving game whether it's a pigeon, pheasant or duck lying uncollected is really more than just a waste of good meat - it gives the Antis exactly the ammunition they are seeking against shooting

Have a safe season and remember that many an accident wasn't an accident at all but the result of carelessness or a disregard for others. The old adage of not shooting where you can't see is well worth remembering and even saying to yourself and your friends every time to sally forth for a shot. A good shot is a safe shot and there is no place for the unsafe on any shoot. I hope you all have a great season, a very Happy Christmas and as prosperous a New Year as times will allow.

Philip Lawton
ROI Editor

Country Sports and Country Life

Comment

The Gormley interview

We have had an exclusive interview with Green Party Leader and Minister for the Environment, John Gormley on a wide range of controversial issues. And what did we make of the man that some people feel is anti-countrysports and anti-rural economy? Well, read what he said and you can judge for yourselves. My personal impression was of a man that is principled (I might not agree with some of them but at least he has some), but is open to logical debate and persuasion provided that such encounters are not hijacked for some quick media points scoring. Some get through the ministerial door, while some who may choose personal attacks may not. But we got a commitment that this door was, in general, very much open to country sports bodies. Now the leg work's been done, now that the Minister is on record as looking forward to such meetings, let's hope that they deliver the goods for country sports in particular, as well as rural Ireland's economy and traditions.

Busy on our behalf

We had a useful working meeting with Lyall Plant Countryside Alliance Ireland's (CAI's) Chief Executive on a number of important issues and, once they had been addressed, the chat turned to that organisation's 'work in progress.' And what a workload it is. Let me give you a flavour.

Apart from dealing with the daily aspects of hunting, shooting and fishing for its members, CAI has its finger on the pulse of many other issues, notably the raft of legislative proposals that are in the pipeline. For example, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill is at Committee Stage and CAI gave evidence in November regarding powers being given to local councils for controlling access for dogs on public land. Work on the NI Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill is ongoing; CAI is involved as a member of the Snaring Working Group; the NI Welfare of Animals Bill is also at Committee stage and following CAI's evidence the committee has indicated to the department that they wish an exemption clause for tail docking regarding working dogs to be taken seriously. On yet another Bill, this time the NI Dogs (Amendment Bill), currently in committee stage, evidence was given by CAI who met with department's policy division to discuss the options on micro chipping and licensing. The committee are now asking the Department to look at either compulsory micro chipping or licensing. CAI are also dealing with clubs and ranges to ensure that unfair and unjust restrictions are not placed on our Target Shooting Sports in the Republic of Ireland, while here they are formulating a working document with other groups to enable young people the opportunity to participate in sporting shooting and remove the discrepancy between UK and NI legislation. And there is work also on the Review of Less Favoured Areas payments, and consultation in the Republic on guidelines for the operation and management of dog breeding establishments. Believe me, that is just the bare bones. To name but few!



Now this is not a CAI/ICS&CL love-in, so why am I blowing CAI's trumpet? Simple, to inform our readers who may not be CAI members and accordingly may not know the issues on which CAI and others are beavering away.

Through the Game Fairs, our magazine and web portal and our advertising in more general consumer media, we reach literally hundreds of thousands of people per year - far in excess of the membership of any of the Irish sporting organisations. We consider that this gives the legitimacy for me to criticise those country sports bodies on the occasions when we feel they have got it wrong. But at the same time we recognise that it is still vital that we all offer them support and if necessary to help redirect their focus.

And that's why we occasionally put in our four penn'orth. But I firmly believe that their work for our sports is crucial and we should not forget that.

Lead shot

Meanwhile, back at the Lead Advisory Group, we find that a Defra-funded study has claimed that 70% of ducks purchased from English game dealers etc had been shot illegally with lead. The study was conducted by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), whilst BASC and the CLA were contracted to survey shooters and shoot providers respectively. These results were then fed back into Defra - 45% of respondents admitted to not always complying with the law.

The survey also showed that many shooters did not believe lead posed a significant problem; there are issues surrounding availability, cost and efficiency of alternatives; there is confusion over the law and the lack of enforcement.

Well, well! On readers' behalf, I carried out a snap survey, a PPNSOP (Paul Pringle's Non Scientific Opinion Poll) with some of the people that shoot duck here in Northern Ireland. The findings were that even shooting at short distances, often at flight ponds, steel shot is as useful as a chocolate fireguard. Wounding occurs with far greater frequency than would be normally expected at similar range using lead. Only the horrendously expensive Bismuth gave a similar result to lead. Now that was able to be bought by just one of my shooting companions, the rest not being able to raise a second mortgage to indulge themselves with such expensive purchases, or indeed find a local shop that sold it. No one had an opportunity to buy any of the other alternatives - laughingly described by some would be lead-banners - as readily available. Hence the description of my findings as Non Scientific, but you get my drift. On the steel front, they were not happy bunnies.

But maybe all is not lost. The LAG has suffered a setback because Defra announced that it has withdrawn the secretariat due to budget restraints. Does this mean that Defra does not see the Lead Ammunition Group as a priority? As CA in England said: "Defra's decision is totally understandable when things are placed into perspective in the world of environmental health. The Group looks set to continue but any findings must be based on proportionate risk assessment rather than the unpleasant political scaremongering we have been seeing from people who do not like shooting."

As I have said before, the status quo on lead must remain in the absence of incontrovertible, peer-reviewed UK evidence of relevant, serious problems affecting human health and the environment. And not as a result of rolling over by a quango.

Paul Pringle
Northern Editor

Brian Wilson MLA introduces anti Hunting Bill in the Assembly

The detail of The Green Party's Hunting Bill as introduced in the Northern Ireland Assembly by Brian Wilson MLA, on 16 November 2010 (Bill 5/10) can be viewed on

www.niassembly.gov.uk/legislation/primary/2010/niabill5_10_efm.htm

In these present economically difficult times and with the police facing a very serious 'dissident' threat (not to mention other worldwide terrorist threats), it really does demonstrate how out of touch with reality animal rights zealots such as Mr Wilson are, that they would tie up Assembly time on potentially divisive legislation that the majority of NI citizens neither want nor need. If the Bill were to go through it would threaten rural jobs and the diversion of already scarce police resources from dealing with serious offences and security threats.

Under Point 57. Financial Implications the Bill states: "While there will be costs associated with enforcement, the Police Service of Northern Ireland already has a responsibility to investigate wildlife crimes. Therefore it is not envisaged that the Bill will give rise to significant additional expenditure."

It would appear Mr Wilson's opinion here differs quite radically from the government in England which has had the experience of dealing with the Hunting Act currently in force there. The government's opinion of the Act: "The Act has not been a demonstrable success. It is an unnecessary drain on police resources and there have been a few prosecutions. We will put forward a motion before the House of Commons on whether the Act should be repealed and, if the motion is carried, bring forward legislation in due course."

The fact that Mr Wilson should try to drive this unpopular and unnecessary legislation through the Assembly against the backdrop of the likely repeal of the Act in Britain, demonstrates quite clearly how out of touch with the real needs and concerns of the Northern Ireland electorate, Mr Wilson really is and how prejudiced his actions are.

In the coalition government's programme for government there is the clear intention to repeal the Act i.e. "Coalition: our programme for government page 18 states: "We will bring forward a motion on a free

vote enabling the House of Commons to express its view on the repeal of the Hunting Act."

Mr Wilson on his blog seeks to support his Bill by claiming there have been few jobs lost through the hunting ban in England and Wales – does he not realise that this is because most hunts were 'marking time' until the Act would be repealed? If the Act stays in force in Britain or be made law in NI, there would ultimately be significant job losses both in hunting and the many associated trades.

He also uses statistics from GB and isolated accidental incidents to try to justify tabling the Bill but most significantly gives no report of his own consultation process – perhaps the result of this showed that those in favour of a hunting bill in NI were in the minority?

Lyall Plant, Chief Executive of Countryside Alliance Ireland commented: "Mr Wilson has stated that hunting is not morally acceptable in a civilised society. This statement clearly demonstrates his ignorance of the true role of hunting in wildlife management and animal welfare. Hunting with dogs can be regarded as 'natural' for both hound and quarry and, crucially, does not involve the possibility of wounding. To deprive wildlife of the natural and most humane method of control must therefore itself be morally indefensible. Mr Wilson has moved the focus from the act of hunting to a blatant example of political prejudice which does nothing for the welfare or conservation of the species it claims to 'protect'."

The Countryside Alliance in GB produced a Case for Repeal, which gives a clear, concise and powerful argument for the repeal of the Hunting Act, and sets out why the Act is flawed and why it believes repeal is inevitable. The Countryside Alliance also set up an online petition for people to join in support of the repeal. For more information visit: <http://www.repeal.org.uk>

We trust the voters in North Down in the next assembly elections will take a very hard look at Mr Wilson's apparent priorities at a time when their jobs and security is threatened and take the very obvious and logical decision to repeal his mandate!

The 2010 Irish Kennel Club Championship Stake for Retrievers

The 2010 Irish Kennel Club Championship Stake for Retrievers will take place on Tuesday the 28th and Wednesday 29th December 2010 at Dromoland Castle Estate, Co. Clare and Lough Cutra Castle Estate, Gort, Co. Galway. The first day, Tuesday 28th December will be held at Dromoland Castle Estate and the second day will be held at Lough Cutra Castle Estate, Gort, Co. Galway. The Championship Committee wish to express our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Don Walshe and Dromoland Game Sports for hosting the 2010 Championship.

The Head Quarters for the 2010 Championship will be the West County Hotel in Ennis Co. Clare. A special rate has been negotiated with the Hotel for those attending the Championship. A package of two nights bed & breakfast plus two evening dinners at a cost of €150.00c pps. For those seeking single rooms a nightly supplement of €25.00c will apply. Competitors, supporters and spectators are advised to book early to secure their accommodation. Please quote booking reference number: W 52666 when booking your accommodation for the Championship. Phone Louise at 065 6823000.

The Judges for the 2010 I.K.C. Retriever Championship will be Mr. Tom Counihan, Co. Kerry, Mr. Michael Redmond, Co. Wexford, Mr. Nigel Carville, Co. Armagh, and Mr. Damian Newman, Co. Down.

Massbrook Pet Foods Ltd, under Richard and Jon Binley continue to

be the main sponsor of the IKC Retriever Championship. Their commitment and loyalty over many years sponsoring both Retriever and Spaniel Championships as well as Club Field Trials is much appreciated by the Championship Committee and all gundog enthusiasts.

The Championship Committee would also like to express its thanks to the Irish Country Sports and Country Life magazine for its support over the years and particularly to Mr. Albert Titterington for his sponsorship of major prizes.

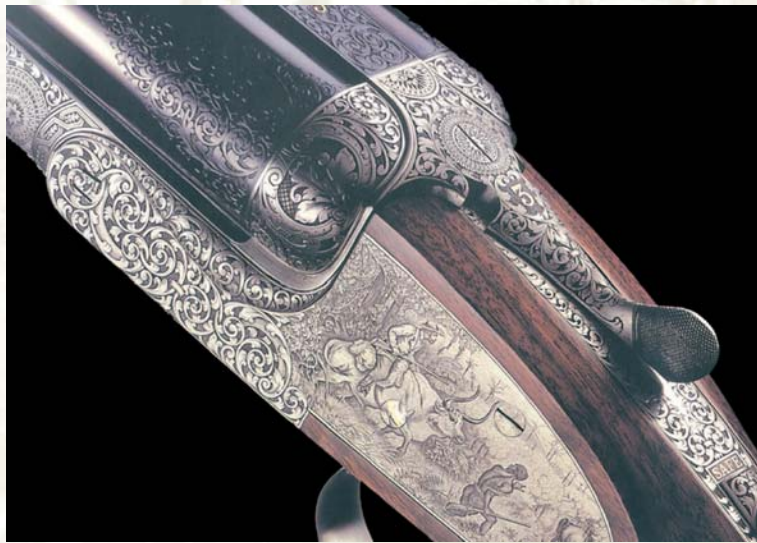
We look forward to seeing all of you at the West County Hotel on the eve of the Championship, where a full briefing will take place at 9 p.m.

For any novice or aspiring gundog handlers out there wishing to witness the best Retrievers in the country in action, then the I.K.C. Retriever Championship is the place to be on the 28th and 29th December 2010. Anybody new to the sport or requiring further information about the Championship can contact me after 8 p.m. on 059 8633718.

John T. Malone
Vice-chairman,
I.K.C.Championship Committee for Retrievers.

GREAT GAME FAIRS of IRELAND

In 2010 the Great Game Fairs of Ireland further consolidated their position as indisputably Ireland's premier country sports events and in 2011 they will be even better!



30th April and 1st May 2011

In the tradition of the best County Down Fairs...

**The Ballywalter Game & Country Living Fair,
Ballywalter Estate, Co. Down**

www.ballywaltergamefair.com

25th and 26th June 2011

Ireland's largest Game Fair.....

The Irish Game Fair, Shanes Castle, Co Antrim

www.irishgamefair.com

27th and 28th August 2011

The ROI's premier Game or Country Fair....

**The Irish Game and Country Fair, Birr Castle,
Birr, Co. Offaly**

www.irishgameandcountryfair.com

**See the 2010 Great Game Fairs of Ireland on
www.fieldsportschannel.tv**

For Further details of the Fairs :

T: 028 (from ROI 048) 44839167/44615416

E: irishgamefair@btinternet.com

www.irishgamefair.com

www.irishgameandcountryfair.com

Ireland's REAL Game Fairs

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE SOCIETY LTD - CHARITY DRAG HUNT

On Saturday 16th October the Irish Draught Horse Society Ltd., ably supported by the County Down Hounds held a charity drag hunt/cross country ride in aid of Newry Hospice and the Irish Draught Horse Society at the home farm of Derek and Anne Martin at Castlevennon Katesbridge, Co Down and surrounding neighbours farms.

A brilliant blue sky and excellent conditions underfoot lent to the perfect start to what proved to be a fun day for all who participated. The meet at 12.30pm started with a stirrup cup of hot port or spiced apple juice for the 120 odd riders who took part which included all age groups from young children to senior citizens. It was good to see that many were mounted on Irish Draughts, including our Vice Chairman Derek on his nineteen year old gelding and our Secretary on a four year old filly.

They got off at a cracking pace on the first drag and although the field was staggered everyone was able to take advantage of the excellent lay-out of good safe fences which gave the option of a lower fence or a way around for those on their first outing or on a young horse. It was particularly gratifying to see so many young people on ponies flying the fences with panache showing the adults how it should be done.

The first drag skirted Derek's home farm, taking in hedges, poles, drop fences with fast paces in between, after which both horses and riders were given a breather before setting off again across the main road and once again taking to the country where the huntsman gave time for the followers to gather up. They then set off crossing a stone bridge and galloped along the side of the River Bann where they encountered further mixed obstacles of ditches, poles and gorse hedges then out across another road, cantered up a long lane into stubble fields with more fences bringing them eventually to the half-way stage at Martin's out-farm Tann Valley.

Riders here took another welcome break where they were served refreshments by the Committee of freshly pressed apple juice courtesy of Helen Troughton of Armagh Cider Company, and soft drinks and shortbread. The horses who had been out for over one and a half hours coped very well, due in part to the superb ground conditions and



Derek Martin, host and Vice Chairman of the IDHS Ltd and daughter Kathryn lead off the second drag - both on Irish Draughts.

seemed keen to be off again for the final stage at a more sedate pace taking in a few more fences before hacking home by road to Derek's home farm. The ride in total covered approximately five miles with over fifty fences. Everyone appeared to have a brilliant day with riders singing the praises of Derek's good safe course which saw a few tumbles but no horse or rider seriously injured.

The Irish Draught Horse Society Ltd would like to convey wholehearted thanks to our Vice Chairman Derek and family and their very generous farming neighbours for giving their time and their ground to make this event a memorable day for all. Thank also to St Johns Ambulance without whose presence this event could not have taken place, the P.S.N.I. for traffic control, Dr Robert Logan who gave freely of his valuable time for our charitable cause (and also for his skills as a waiter), everyone who assisted at fences, road crossings etc allowing the day to run smoothly and safely. For the generosity of those who, while not participating, made donations, we extend our thanks and for adding colour and excitement and a realistic touch to our day the Master, huntsmen and hounds of the County Down Hounds. Last but not least, thanks to Jim and Carol Prime for the superb photography on the day. (If you were there your photograph may be on his web-site at www.prime-photography.com)

We are all looking forward eagerly to next year's event.

Barry & Jackie Marsh
Secretaries
Irish Draught Horse Society Ltd
Mobile 07703221898

The 35th IKC Spaniel Championship

The 35th IKC Spaniel Championship will be held on December 30th & 31st, 2010 on Ballynatray Estate, Youghal, Co.Cork, by very kind permission of Mr. Henry Gwyn-Jones (estate owner) and Mr. Martin O'Riordan, (Headkeeper).

The Championship will again be sponsored by Connolly's Red Mills, Goresbridge, Co.Kilkenny. This is the third year that Connolly's Red Mills have sponsored the Spaniel Championship and the Championship committee are indebted to the Connolly family for their continued support.

Judges for the Championship will be Mr. Wm Megaughin from

Ballymena, Northern Ireland and Mr. Mark Clifford, from Grantham, England. Both gentlemen have immense experience in judging and competing. Mark has been a frequent competitor over the last number of years. Referee will be Mr. Dermot Cahill from Cobh, Co.Cork.

The headquarters for the event will be the Middleton Park Hotel, Middleton, Co.Cork. (Tel: 00353 21 4635100)

Entry details and all other information can be obtained from the Championship Secretary, Sean Beausang on 087-9674959 and 021-4613664.

Countryside Alliance Ireland News



This past year has been a testing one for country sports throughout Ireland. The last few months in particular have seen many challenges and we, together with our members and supporters have not wasted a single moment in making our feelings known to our local councillors, politicians and government Ministers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their unswerving support over the past year; we have faced these challenges together and indeed will continue to do so.

We are delighted that Alice Barnard, Chief Executive of Countryside Alliance has contributed to our column in this edition and she outlines some of the key issues we have been working on.



Alice Barnard, Chief Executive, Countryside Alliance

A message from Alice Barnard

Being appointed Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance is such a great privilege and is an opportunity to lead an organisation about which I am passionate. I am enormously proud of the community which the Alliance represents. We all share common ground; be it a passion for country sports or simply the countryside and the rural way of life. Countryside Alliance Ireland, led by Lyall Plant, is uniquely positioned to address the current challenges facing rural communities and the threats to country sports, assisted by the political, media and campaigning teams in our London head office.

The threat to country sports in Ireland is very real. We have seen a ban on the Ward Union Hunt passed by the Irish Government, and an increasingly vociferous and well organised anti hunting lobby in the Republic.

In Northern Ireland, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill was recently amended at Consideration Stage to ban competitive coursing, and further threats to country sports are expected when the Bill reaches Further Consideration Stage.

The Welfare of Animals Bill is currently having its Committee Stage and evidence has been given in favour of ensuring an exemption for the docking of working dogs. There are also concerns about restrictions on dogs on land to which the public has access under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill, and the possible introduction of compulsory licensing of dogs and micro chipping under the Dogs (Amendment) Bill both of which are currently in Committee in the Northern Irish Assembly.

These challenges have brought together passionate supporters of country sports in Northern Ireland and the Republic, who have been holding meetings throughout Ireland and we have seen a concerted and sustained lobby of parliamentarians and assembly members. This is vital as country sports supporters must be visible, determined and

united if they are to succeed. The Countryside Alliance and the Countryside Alliance Ireland exist to champion people, their livelihoods and their liberties.

Our work in Ireland reaches far beyond influencing the political agenda. Bringing attuned people together, such as at the recent Irish Red Grouse Association meeting in Portlaoise, was a result of a directive passed by the Board of Countryside Alliance Ireland and was very welcome. The meeting brought likeminded organisations together to participate in a programme that will deliver positive conservation efforts through membership participation, to increase Red Grouse numbers and its habitat in Ireland.

Casting for Recovery UK & Ireland, which takes women with breast cancer fly fishing, has seen retreats at Brookhall trout fishery in County Antrim and Mount Falcon in County Mayo. Our wide ranging projects aim to encourage people from all walks of life to engage and love the countryside and they are fundamental to achieving our wider objectives.

Our core campaigning work is as tenacious as ever. I am very much looking forward to the challenges ahead and working with our team in Ireland and their amazing army of members and supporters in taking forward an organisation which is as wide ranging in its campaigning work as the people it represents.



The late Jerry Desmond

It was with great regret that we learned about the tragic passing of Jerry Desmond, a great advocate for country sports and in particular, coursing in Ireland.

Jerry was born and bred in Cork before relocating to Clonmel, where he lived overlooking the famous track which became a huge part of his everyday life. Jerry's love of the sport was of no surprise as both his grandfather and father were both keen coursers, Jerry's father being a founder member of the Clogheen Club. Coursing was definitely in his blood.

In addition to his love of coursing, Jerry proved himself to be a valuable asset to the sport in Ireland. A former Board member of Countryside Alliance Ireland, Jerry was the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club (ICC) for over 20 years, and ran the Powerstown Park racecourse, which was owned by the ICC. Jerry wholeheartedly supported the ICC and firmly believed coursing to be essential to maintain a healthy hare population and a vibrant and sustainable countryside. He supported many sports and was a member of the National Hunt Steeplechase Committee of the Turf Club.

Jerry Desmond had the unswerving support of his family behind him and we offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, Cora, his children Abbie, Róisín, Billy and Ronan and all his family and friends.

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Working for the Future of Grouse in Ireland

The Irish Red Grouse Association held its meeting at the Maldron Hotel Portlaoise on 3 November 2010. This meeting was as a result of a directive passed by the Board of Countryside Alliance Ireland to invite like minded organisations to participate in a program that would deliver positive conservation efforts through membership participation to increase Red Grouse numbers and its habitat in Ireland.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Countryside Alliance Ireland, IFA Countryside, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Red Setter and Pointer Clubs of Ireland. It was formally agreed that this group needed to have a name that would reflect its remit and it was unanimously decided that the group should be named The Irish Red Grouse Association. A decision was also made to formally invite representatives from Coillte and Bord na Móna who have responsibility for large areas of quality land suitable for conservation and moorland management.

Over the past number of years Red Grouse numbers have gradually declined in Ireland. There are many different factors which have contributed to this decline and many of these factors have already been identified by the new Association and will form an important driving factor behind their action plan. Contrary to general opinion field sports play an important role in conservation and habitat management and will play an important role in delivering the Associations objectives.

Draft terms of reference for the association were discussed and

these will be ratified at the next meeting to be held in Portlaoise on the 24 November 2010. The aim of The Irish Red Grouse Association is to promote active moorland management with an overall objective to increase the numbers of Irish Red Grouse. A number of sites have already been identified that would benefit from support and advice from the Association.

Vincent Flannelly who is an elected board member of Countryside Alliance Ireland and the association's interim chairman said: "The establishment of this association has demonstrated that together we are stronger and we can deliver a better future for our grouse and their habitat."

James Fitzharris and Douglas Butler representing IFA Countryside said: "We are delighted to be part of this effort to improve the habitat and increase grouse numbers in Ireland. As part of the Irish Farmers Association, it is important to obtain the buy in of the landowners and assist them in the many Agri schemes that are available to them."

Patsy McCarthy and Tom Dunne representing the Field Trial community said: "Pointers and Setters have a very important role to play in delivering an accurate count for grouse. We are fully committed to support this initiative and look forward to a long and productive relationship."

On behalf of The Irish Red Grouse Association by Lyall Plant, Chief Executive, CAI.

Angling Ireland back in larger format



The Angling Ireland Show is once again combining with Holiday World on the 21st to 23rd January 2011 to bring the best of both Shows to visitors and to ensure that they get value for money.

The Angling Ireland Show is taking a larger area on the ground floor along with the balcony. The Casting Demonstration area will be back & will be on the front balcony with Charles Jardine, Hywel Morgan & Stevie Munn among those who will be demonstrating their well honed skills. To cater for the Fly Tyers, Lawrence Finney, Gary Bell,

Joe Stiitt, Arthur Greenwood & Gerry Taggart will be among those showing us how it should be done.

Among the Equipment Exhibitors will be Sands Marine, Wickford Angling, Otter Tackle, Ultimate Fishing Supplies, Celtic Flycraft, Flood Marine Services & many others – all offering amazing deals for Anglers during these challenging times.

Entrance fees also reflect the value for money ethos that the combined Shows are endeavouring to bring to the public.

Covering three halls & the balcony The

Holiday World/Angling Ireland and Caravan & Camping Shows should satisfy the needs of most Anglers. Whether they want to sit & watch the Casting & Fly Tying Demonstrations, book a fishing or other holiday, rent or buy a motorhome, get camping gear for their next fishing trip, it's all here under one roof.

There will also be Prize Draws throughout the three days of the Show, taking place at the Casting Pool on the front balcony, so why not see if your luck is in. For further details see: www.angling-ireland-show.info

Holiday World / Angling Ireland Show 2011

At the King's Hall, Balmoral, Belfast, BT9 6GW
From Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd January 2011

Fri 21st: 1pm — 9pm, Sat 22nd: 11am — 5.30pm, Sun 23rd: 11am — 5.30pm

Adults: £6.00, OAP's: £4.00, Students: £3.00, Family*: £12.00 (2 adults & up to 4 children*)

Discounts for Pre-Booked Club Bookings* (phone or e-mail for Club discounts)

2 for 1 discount vouchers available in most local papers

Demos by *TOP FLYTE* Anglers.

Excellent Range of Tackle & Trade
Stands. For The Game, Coarse & Sea
Angler

Theatre Talks + Question & Answer
Sessions.

Indoor Casting Demo Area

Outdoor Casting Demo Area

Competitions & Prize Draws

Charles Jardine

Ranked as one of the finest Fly
Fishermen of his generation. Professional
Game Angling Instructor in Fly tying & Fly
Casting, Angling Writer.



Hywell Morgan

Presenter of programmes on Fishing for
Discovery Realtime, Horse & Country TV &
guest on SKY TV's "Tight Lines".



Stevie Munn

Home grown talent Stevie Munn member of
the Hardy Greys Academy & APGAI Fly
Casting instructor & pro guide. Profes-
sional Game Angling Instructor in fly tying
with APGAI Ireland. Angling Writer.



Fly Tying Demonstrations & Lessons

Including- Joe Stitt, Arthur Greenwood, Pat Mulholland,
Gerry Taggart, Lawrence Finney, Gary Bell, Andrew Baird, plus others.

www.angling-ireland-show.info

sales@angling-ireland-show.info / (+44) 02890 020304 / (+44) 07776106799

IRELAND ANGLING EXPO 2011

Mara Media invite you to join us at the National Show centre in Swords, Co Dublin for the 11th IRELAND ANGLING SHOW Weekend of the 12th and 13th of February.

IRELAND ANGLING 2011 will cover all aspects of Sea Angling, Game and Coarse fishing with activities and demonstrations to suit both expert and novice alike. New to the show will be French firm SCATRI who will be letting people practice their angling skills on a range of fishing simulators.

The Fly Tying Gallery will host a selection of some of the greatest tyers in the world, from the USA and throughout Europe and will be available to advise and instruct on all aspects of tying salmon, trout and other flies.

Matt Hayes is welcomed back to the show and will be presenting and sharing his vast experience of fishing throughout the world.

Hywel Morgan, world casting champion, and presenter on fishing for Discovery Realtime, Horse and Country TV and Sky TV's Tightlines will be demonstrating and available for tuition and advice on casting techniques. Stevie Munn, Hardy Greys Academy and APGAI instructor and pro guide will be available throughout the weekend to demonstrate his expertise and Mary Gavan Hughes

and many more from the Sea Angling fraternity will also be there in person to help with rigs, queries and presentations.

A huge selection of Tackle and trade stands will offer products to suit every budget

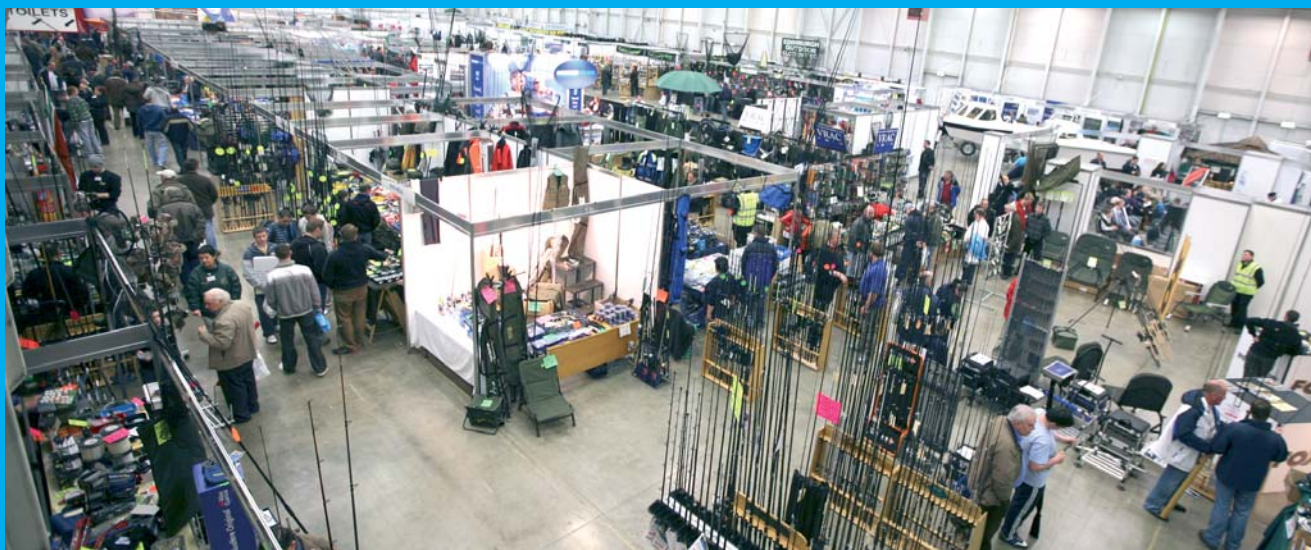
Workshops and Rig Clinics will give a real "hands on" interactive experience for those who want to learn from the experts.

The Dublin Angling Initiative will have a designated Youth Zone to cater for the young fishermen.

A fantastic selection of suppliers and their products will be exhibiting and catering for every requirement an angler could need.

Mara media, are delighted to bring together some of the Finest Angling talent in the world for the Ireland Angling show and promise a weekend of value and fun for all Angling enthusiasts. Grace McDermott (Sales Manager) said, she was delighted with the response to last years event and as anyone who attended the 2010 show will know we intend to build on the success of this event to cement its status as Ireland's National Angling event.

For more information: www.irelandanglingexpo.ie or contact Grace (074) 9548936 / grace@maramedia.ie, or Hugh (074) 548935 / hugh@maramedia.ie



Wild Deer Association highlight Deer Killing at Night

From Damian Hannigan, Secretary of the Wild Deer Association of Ireland comes a newspaper report in the Nationalist Newspaper of seven men being arrested over the last three weeks for the suspected illegal killing of deer at night.

Inspector Martin Walker is reported as stating that shooting the deer at night was entirely illegal and amounted to cruelty to animals and as saying "This is not in keeping with the wildlife act and gardaí have now mounted checkpoints, there will be intensive patrolling of the area and these people will be brought before the courts."

The newspaper reports that the first arrests were made outside Hacketstown when gardaí were forced into chasing three local men two from Tullow and one from Carlow town. Gardaí reportedly discovered a rifle in the back of their vehicle, along with a high-powered torch and the carcasses of three freshly shot deer

A similar incident was reported in Blessington when two Dublin men were found with the bodies of two dead deer followed by another in

Baltinglass when gardaí stopped a van and discovered a rifle and the slaughtered carcasses of eight deer. Among the eight were five stags, two hinds and one calf.

In a statement Damian Hannigan said "The Wild Deer Association of Ireland who have been actively campaigning against the illegal taking of deer (poaching) unreservedly condemn this mindless and dangerous activity. We call upon the authorities to pursue and prosecute more vigorously those who participate in illegal activities throughout the country. There is widespread concern that poaching is at epidemic levels and the impact this will have on Ireland's wild deer.

We would also like to congratulate Insp Martin Walker and the members of An Garda Síochána for their excellent work in combating and detecting this suspected illegal activity."

Damian Hannigan Secretary Wild Deer Association of Ireland PO Box 31 Midleton Co. Cork 087 2496987 www.wilddeerireland.com

 **Ireland**
Angling 2011

mara 
media



Ireland's National Angling Show



Introducing To The Show:

- Rigbuilding Workshop
- International Fly Tying Gallery
- Casting Demonstration And Tuition
- Interactive Youth Zone
- Scatri Fishing Simulator



12th - 13th February 2011
National Show Centre, Dublin
www.irelandanglingexpo.ie

Muntjac in Ireland - Roadshow

Report by Dave McCullough

Dr Jamie Dick is a specialist in Invasive Species at Queens University's School of Biology and Biochemistry in Belfast. On 13 October, he presented the results of his research into the emergence of a wild Muntjac deer population in Ireland to an audience at QUB, which included academics, government agency representatives, deer welfare and hunting groups.

Dr Dick's presentation revealed many confirmed and anecdotal sightings of Muntjac deer throughout the north and south of Ireland. He also reported on evidence of the adverse impact that Muntjac are having in the Thetford area of England, where the Barking deer, as the Muntjac is also known, has existed in large numbers for 20 years. This species tends to concentrate its feeding on the forest understorey and Dr Dick showed a number of slides which illustrated the severity of the impact of high densities of this deer, claiming that the habitat damage had also adversely affected the bird life in the Thetford area. His presentation was a warning that there was an opportunity to prevent such damage being visited upon Ireland and that action was needed now.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session and a wide ranging discussion, which included methods of control including controversial night shooting, the deliberate release of Muntjac, the motivation of those who do so and the need for forestry design to change to accommodate deer control strategies. The main conclusions were that the likely main cause of the establishment of a wild Muntjac population was the result of deliberate release rather than escape and that serious damage to the environment and wildlife habitat will result if their proliferation is left unchecked. They can start breeding at only 5 months old and immediate action is required if the Muntjac numbers are to be controlled.

Action needed

Dr Dick went on to report that he had sought opinion from biologist

Norma Chapman, the author of many papers and publications on the 'indigenous' Muntjac population. Ms Chapman's comment was that Ireland is where GB was some 20 years ago, and that immediate action was required to check the spread of the Muntjac to protect the environment.

Dr Dick concluded the discussion with a statement that approaches were being made to the appropriate government departments and agencies to encourage legislation changes to include the Muntjac in the list of invasive species and to make provision for stringent control measures to curb their spread. He also made an appeal for all sightings of Muntjac to be reported to the School of medical Biology and this can be done via a dedicated website www.invasivespecies.com/sightings or to mfreemano2@qub.ac.uk



Illegal Fishing in Lough Neagh

Michael Martin of Mile's Flybox sent us this interesting information gleaned from the Assembly records.

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps his Department is taking to prevent illegal fishing in Lough Neagh (AQW 87/11) and this was the response from the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

'My Department assumed direct responsibility for the enforcement of fisheries protection legislation in the DCAL jurisdiction on 1 June 2009. Since then DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers (FPO's) have been organised into teams in 4 operational areas covering Northern, South Eastern and South Western areas and a unit was established to focus on the enforcement of fisheries legislation on Lough Neagh.

'Under the management of Senior Fisheries Officers, FPO's carry out regular patrols on land and water on and around Lough Neagh and its tributaries. The Lough Neagh unit, augmented by other protection staff as required, patrol Lough Neagh using a number of craft including the Fisheries Protection Vessel Vigilare based at the Derrycrow boat house on the southern shore of Lough Neagh. A total of 61 boat patrols were carried out on Lough Neagh from 1 June 2009 to 31 March 2010.

'Intelligence led operations are carried out to detect breaches of fisheries legislation. All illegal fishing gear/catches are seized and from 1 June 2009 to 31 March 2010 a total of 8,500m of illegal nets were seized in operations on Lough Neagh. Any persons found to be acting illegally are reported with a view to prosecution. DCAL FPO's also carry out regular inspections at commercial dealers, fish retail outlets, hotels and restaurants to ensure that all fish being sold have been legally caught.'

Gilbert Irvine and Dog Transport Boxes to the Rescue

A local success story in terms of providing quality products to the canine world is DT – Dog Transport boxes from Portadown. And deservedly so, because when a UK manufacturer of dog boxes failed to deliver a prize box that he had sponsored at the Irish Game & Country Fair at Birr, Gilbert immediately stepped into the breach and offered to provide the winner with a custom made box.

This resulted in some very happy people – firstly the dog owner who was delighted at the service offered by Gilbert and secondly our directorial team at Birr who have always tried to ensure that winners actually get the prizes advertised.

However from talking to a number of dog owners who have purchased Gilbert's products, our experience is not unique, this is a company that really does believe in quality products and satisfied customers.

We suggest to try them for yourselves: see www.dogtransportboxes.co.uk

The British Shooting Show 2011

See you at "The BIG One" – Now the largest retail shooting show in Europe!

The British Shooting Show has grown from a modest 45,000 sq ft in its first year to a magnificent 150,000 sq ft for the third event at Newark. It is now the largest retail shooting and gun show in Europe!

Gunmakers Halls – A veritable shooting MEGASTORE!

In the main Gunmakers Halls visitors will see gun and accessory displays from the most prestigious manufacturers, distributors and retailers, with many thousands of shotguns, rifles and airguns on display and for sale. Add to this, a huge and comprehensive array of trade stands including, decoying, wildfowling, clayshooting, hunting, plus shooting associations and clubs etc and you've got a veritable shooting megastore! It's a great opportunity to talk to manufacturers, handle and evaluate the latest models, and check out new developments and exciting innovations from the gun and shooting accessory industries. Plus make great savings by looking out for the many "Show only" offers throughout the exhibition.

And there's more...

There's a special focus rifles at the 2011 show, covering everything from - hunting, stalking, safari and target shooting. Factory and specialist rifle suppliers, custom rifle builders, accessory suppliers, scopes & optics and ammunition & reloading specialists. Make sure you also visit The Airgun City Arena packed with top manufacturers

and retailers plus 50 metre and 10 metre rifle & pistol shooting ranges. The Arms Heritage area will have displays of classic and antique sporting & military arms such as the seriously impressive Lovat Society collection of sniper rifles plus plenty of trade stands. The BASC Gamekeeping Hall is back for its second year showing a range of gamekeeping services & equipment. The Gundog Area will feature suppliers of working dog accessories, a gundog clinic, training demonstrations and scurries.

The British Shooting Show is also hosting the Fly Fishing show in a special arena

The flyfishing arena will include famous flyfishing manufacturers and top retail shops and flytying rows demonstrated by some of the best international names in the business. See all the latest flyfishing gear for the new 2011 season and try out new rods, reels and lines from, Hardy, Greys, Wychwood, Sonik and more.

If you're into flytying, come and have a chat with some of the most famous names in the business. Learn new tricks and see new flytying materials as the experts use them. Ask them all the questions you have ever wanted to know the answers to. Learn how to tie flies for Saltwater, Pike, Salmon, Trout and Grayling. It's a truly international line up - not to be missed.

The third British Shooting Show will be held at Newark Showground, Newark, Notts, NG24 2NY (UK) on the 26th – 27th February 2011. Open 8.30am – 16.30pm on both days. Advanced ticket sales & accommodation information can be found on the show website: www.theshootingshow.co.uk Or telephone + 44 (0) 1472 241439



NARGC AND THE LAOIS HUNT HOST GAME LUNCH FOR EUROPEAN HUNTERS' DAY



The NARGC and the Laois Hunt came together to host a Game BBQ to launch and celebrate the first European Hunters' Day on the feast of St Hubert, the patron saint of hunters, on November 3rd at Abbeyleix Manor Hotel. The occasion attracted some 250 hunting folk from the world of game shooting, fox hunting, mounted and foot packs, falconry, deer hunters, fishermen etc. See a pictorial flavour of the celebrations overleaf:







Is it time to do away with shotgun applications?

I am not in a good mood. There is nothing I hate more than filling out forms whether it be requests from the Inland Revenue or some other irritating source. But I have to say that the application forms for the grant of a new Northern Ireland firearms certificate take the biscuit. Never mind that the fee for renewal has gone up from 25p annually since I started shooting to a ridiculous £50 for the current three-year term, it is the sheer drudgery of answering pages of questions which, I would submit, does little to increase the safety of the people of the Province, that is so annoying.

When the first savage hike in fees occurred some years ago I objected in my weekly column in the News Letter. But it made little difference. The thought occurred to me that someone was engaged in a little bit of empire building but, even if that is not so, the paper work involved seems to me and a whole lot of others to be a complete waste of time.

I got my first firearms licence about 60 years ago and all I had to do was call into the barracks in Cushendall and make my application direct to the sergeant on duty. On payment of the 25p fee I walked out with my new licence. It is quite beside the point that the sergeant at the time was the famous Dan Connell. He and his friends shot a lot of pheasants on our farm in Layde. It was the time when farmers were obliged to plough and till a stated percentage of their arable land. Our percentage was 40 acres and you can guess that in some bad harvest weather there was often a lot of grain, potatoes, cabbage and turnips left on the ground until well on in the winter for all the work of planting and harvesting had to be done by horse power and hand. There was not a tractor in sight then.

The good old days

Birds of all description, especially pheasants and pigeons, made the most of nature's bounty and I can still see Dan Connell, Paddy Lynn, Danny and Eddie O'Loan and Henry Andy McNeill – all excellent shots – making the most of their good fortune in areas where the corn had fallen flat and was unable to be harvested. Except by the use of the scythe. They were the good old days when a farmer regarded shooters as their friends and wouldn't think of asking them to go easy while tramping through the oats for they might come in handy if a stray fox appeared among their lambs.

After covering himself in glory rescuing a girl from the

Glenariffe waterfall, Sergeant Connell was involved in a controversial incident in Derry when a prisoner made his escape over the wall without a shot being fired. It may have been that the sergeant, who spoke with a rich southern accent, could not be understood by the prisoner when he was called upon to halt. Remember that that was a time when the Northern Ireland authorities did not like to see prisoners escape. Whatever the reason, we did not see Sergeant Connell again in Cushendall for a long time if ever.

In those days long ago the Cushendall station was manned by a Catholic sergeant and two Protestant constables - Constable McIvor and Constable Johnston. Together with the Parish Priest, Canon Richard O'Rawe, they kept the peace in the neighbourhood in a way that many would like to see again and there was never much work to be done in the local courthouse.

Commonsense prevailed

Now all this is by the way except that the point is that commonsense prevailed in Cushendall and elsewhere at that time. Would anyone think for a minute that if Sergeant Connell and his two constables were in charge now there would be a demand for a £50 licence fee and endless pages of form filling?

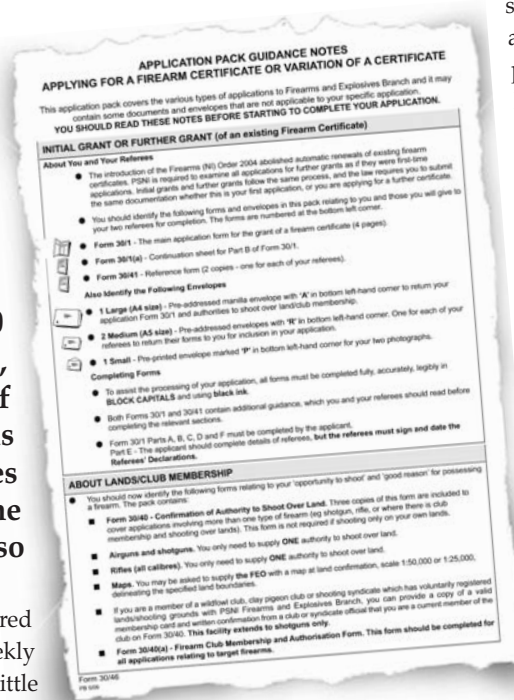
I am writing this article on the very day that Chancellor George Osborne is making his major speech about taming the runaway waste and overspend in Britain. Am I being unfair in saying that the form filling and fee demanded by the PSNI before legitimising one's shotgun permit is a classic example of where it has all gone wrong throughout these islands over the years?

Was not the procedure where a person made his or her application for grant, renewal or variation of a permit directly in person across the table from a resident sergeant, a better way to conduct affairs than the present long drawn out expensive method? At least the sergeant would know what kind of character he was granting a licence to.

And, incidentally, many shooters of integrity and experience often ask me why so many people of questionable intent manage to get hold of so many high powered rifles. I know lots of good men who do an excellent job shooting foxes and other predators for farmers and poultry keepers but I am afraid I have heard of a few who use their rifles on bigger and smaller targets.

And those people who shoot hares and steal deer to order don't have any right whatsoever to shoot anything on the lands which they plunder. As I say, a wee bit of common sense all round wouldn't go amiss.

Perhaps it is time we had a bonfire of the shotgun applications in Northern Ireland.



NEW
JUMBO HALL CONCEPT
All themed areas now in two
massive hall - See website for details...

THE SHOW THAT *EVERYONE'S* TALKING ABOUT...

**3rd Fantastic
Year**

The **BIG** one

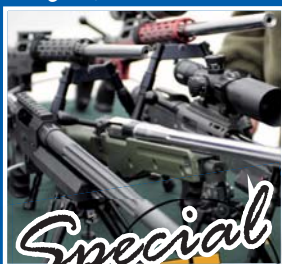
Europe's Largest Retail Shooting & Gun Show

GUNMAKER'S HALLS

**Massive 150,000 sq ft indoor and weatherproof
arena with 1000's of guns on show and for sale**

Save £££
On special show only offers...

Sporting & competition shotguns, field, target & tactical rifles, optics,
ammunition, accessories and much, much more... A real shooting MEGASTORE!



Special
**Rifle
FOCUS
2011**



Even more to do, more to see and more to buy!



Look out for the stands which display the "Rifle Focus 2011" logo
and you'll be sure not to miss anything of interest.

- Hunting & Stalking • Pest control & lamping • Safaris • Sporting
& Tactical rifles • Ammunition & reloading • UK Target Shooting
- Scopes & optics • Clubs & associations etc etc...

ARMS HERITAGE SHOW

GAMEKEEPING HALL

CLAY SHOOTING LINE



GUNDOGS & SCURRIES

AIRGUN CITY ARENA

The BIG airgun experience...



- Top brand manufacturers
- Major national retailers • A huge range
of optics and accessories • 10 & 50 meter air
rifle range • Manufacturers 'try before you buy'
ranges • ATEO airgun tuition • Save £££'s on show
only offers • Clubs, associations & much, more...



**MORE
ENTRY GATES
FOR FAST ACCESS**

**SHOW
NOW OPEN
8.30 AM**

ADVANCED TICKETS - SAVE MONEY and
get priority parking with all advance
ticket purchases. Buy online or phone

Pay on the day prices (Under 8yrs - Free)

One day tickets:
Adult - £15.00. 8 to 15yrs - £7.00

Two day tickets:
Adult - £25.00. 8 to 15yrs - £10.00

SHOW TIME
Now 8.30 to 4.30 Both days

Main show sponsor.



Officially supported by the



**The BRITISH
SHOOTING
& Countryman Show**

26th & 27th FEBRUARY 2011

NEWARK SHOWGROUND - NEWARK - NOTTS - NG24 2NY

Email - info@shownews.co.uk Tel +44 (0) 1472 241439

www.theshootingshow.co.uk

JOHN GORMLEY - GREEN PARTY LEADER AND ROI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

When we received an invitation to an exclusive interview John Gormley, the Republic of Ireland's Environment Minister and Green Party Leader, for Ireland's leading hunting, shooting, fishing and country lifestyle magazine, we took soundings from the NARGC, FISSTA, CAI and others about what points we should put to him on behalf of the Irish country sports community. Des Crofton, NARGC and Noel Carr, FISSTA were particularly helpful in supplying material that led to a robust but cordial exchange of views.

From the outset, the Minister was keen to stress that in his opinion, there should be a total co-alignment between those in the green movement and those interested in preserving the countryside. "There should not be an artificial divide, exploited here for political purposes; my party is not anti rural. Many in our party are anglers, one minister is a stalker; our focus is on animal welfare rather than animal rights."

ICS&CL: There is a perception that you have an open door policy for animal welfare groups and refuse to meet the representatives of the country sports bodies.

John Gormley: A lot is down to political opportunism. There was some bias before we entered government, it might relate to animal rights activists or it might reflect fines for farmers regarding water pollution unfairly laid at our door. Animal welfare concerns contained in programme for government are limited. Yes we want animal welfare legislation - yet to appear on the statute books - one issue limited in its scope referred to a stag hunt which is continuing as a drag hunt something that I recommended in the first place. The dog breeding establishment legislation I inherited - this is not anti rural or an attack on hunting - but perception is more powerful than reality in politics. I did not introduce the dog breeding legislation it had been in abeyance for some time and the main focus was to prevent puppy farming.

ICS&CL: Why did you not recognise that in effect you were equating hunt kennels with puppy farming?

John Gormley: You cannot make exception for different breeds of dogs the impact on hunting kennels

is not extreme, they will not be subject to fees. I looked at all the issues fairly, there was a conspiracy theory that this was a Trojan Horse to close hunt kennels and stop hunting nothing could be further from the truth.

ICS&CL: There is wide concern regarding damage to native fish salmon and sea trout fish stocks by fish farming. What is being done to address the issues?

John Gormley: As much as we can. There are interdepartmental differences, for example the Agriculture Department feels that we are being too strict with licensing, particularly near SACs and SPAs. The fish farming industry would claim that we are stopping job creation; my Department has National Parks and Wildlife - the experts - and we have entered dialogue to see can we get proper regulations to see that fish farming does not have an adverse impact.

ICS&CL: What were the welfare grounds that you considered before imposing the ban on stag hunting?

John Gormley: Our advice from vets was that deer considered that they were being hunted by a pack of dogs - literally running for their life. They could not realise that they would be recaptured safely. We put forward a compromise for the deer to be released, recaptured and dogs follow the scent. They took me to court and refused so we had no other option. I had anecdotal evidence of fear of public safety, there had been a case of deer causing a danger at Kildalkey school, so for welfare and for public safety reasons the decision to ban was taken.

ICS&CL: This was obviously a legal and well regulated activity. If this decision was taken on the basis of care and concern for the deer population it appears inconsistent with the indications that there would appear to be fairly uncontrolled hunting of deer - poaching and out of season section 42 licences and lamping licences and that seems is stark contrast to controlled hunting.

John Gormley: I have given out more deer hunting licences than ever before: 4,000 in 2009 compared to around 3,200 in 2007. As well we issued licences to shoot deer causing crop damage and in fact the number of deer legally shot has increased from 21,000 in 2006/7 to over 31,000 in 2008/9 season reflecting the population in the State of around 300,000. We have a problem with deer numbers and we manage that problem. I want to hear from readers of this magazine



magazine for evidence of deer shooting outside the proper procedures and animal welfare standards to be brought forward by readers.

ICS&CL: We hear much anecdotal evidence that there is 'almost authorised' poaching including in forestry. We find that inconsistent with government policy.

John Gormley: I say again that I want any evidence of this to be made known to me or my staff.

The Minister also stated to one of his advisors that the things that he was hearing today 'were important and should be looked at closely.'

ICS&CL: Can you say why there is no commencement date for Section 36 of the Wildlife Act 2000 controlling tourist shooting of migratory birds such as snipe, woodcock and wildfowl? The perception is that unofficial guides, some linked to hotels, and indeed some of your own wildlife wardens and forestry officials are complicit in facilitating such shooting in effect shooting migratory birds for profit? People in Ireland object mightily to shooting of large numbers of these birds, including woodcock shot commercially and sold in Ireland. The order that you have already on the books would go some way to dealing with the problem.

John Gormley: We need to note these concerns and investigate the matters fully. I need to know this. I want to know the details and I want this information - even anonymously.

ICS&CL: Do you fully appreciate the economic, social and environmental contribution made by country sports to rural life? People find Ireland an attractive place to come for these pursuits.

John Gormley: Yes I am very aware. People come for heritage reasons and for reasons such as fishing.

ICS&CL: But are you working with field sports bodies to help further promotion?

John Gormley: I would very much welcome getting a dialogue going.

ICS&CL: There is perception that you have an open door policy for animal welfare groups yet others have written asking for a meeting without success.

John Gormley: I make a point of outreach where I can and have made a point of contacting people.

ICS&CL: We must point out that Ireland's leading shooting body, the NARGC had requested a meeting which was yet to be granted.

John Gormley: I have absolutely no problem meeting NARGC. The only record on file my staff has been able to find to date is a representation from NARGC regarding the Grey Partridge Project. However I have met NARGC officials, including at a recent visit to the Grey Partridge project in Co Offaly, which my department funds. My staff, both permanent officials and political advisers have met NARGC representatives, including on the issue of the Dog Breeding establishments Bill.

ICS&CL: Why have you not met with RISE?

John Gormley: "I am always happy to meet groups, even those who disagree with some of my policies, and have always done that, both in opposition and in Government. I believe in the politics of engagement, but that has to be on the basis of mutual respect. Unfortunately for whatever reasons, RISE's campaign was one not based on any foundation of respect. Its supporters and representatives continued to make a series of false claims, that that the Greens policy was opposed to shooting and angling, which is simply not true. RISE supporters also went to extreme lengths. For example, cars outside a church belonging to people attending a religious service organised by Mary White TD were covered with leaflets saying Greens RIP. In another instance eggs were pelted at cars. I respect the right to protest, but if I had agreed to meet RISE while its supporters continued to make these unfounded allegations and use such tactics, I would have been giving legitimacy to the campaign and the tactics. It was not something I felt I could do.

ICS&CL: Are you saying in effect that leaders of country sports organisations seeking to meet with you are 'pushing at an open door'?

JG Here the Minister responded by saying that he was very keen to meet with country sports bodies but drew the line at any that sought to 'hijack' possible meetings or their outcomes which had an already agreed agenda in place.

ICS&CL: What can you do help or assist those in gun clubs fishing clubs involved in conservation?

John Gormley: We have worked with gun clubs on the grey partridge project and that worked extremely well to preserve a species; there are also red kite and golden eagle projects that have involved people who participate in fieldsports.

ICS&CL: Organisations such as FISSTA are concerned that there was no condemnation of the actions of animal rights activists such as release of mink in Donegal to cause untold damage to indigenous wildlife.

John Gormley: That incident was disgraceful.

ICS&CL: But there was no official condemnation by you.

John Gormley: Yes there was. And I say again, regardless of who released them I condemn them unequivocally. Any illegal activity I condemn. It is entirely counter productive to animal welfare.

ICS&CL: Would you consider proscribing groups such as the ALF?

John Gormley: That irresponsible release does untold environmental damage. But experience shows that proscription would only get a name change of an organisation.

ICS&CL: Regarding commonality of legislation on

the island of Ireland there are some controversial measures are being proposed for Northern Ireland. For example, regarding legislation to ban tail docking would you be in favour of exemptions for working dogs?

John Gormley: Tail docking - it's not my department and would be addressed - if it is to be addressed - in forthcoming legislation, but nothing has yet been stated unequivocally on that. If that were the case for exemptions we would look at it from an animal welfare perspective. I think that if tails were to be docked it should be done by experts.

ICS&CL: But why would you consider a ban if there is no EU Directive?

John Gormley: I have always said that on the environment and animal welfare, we should not necessarily wait for Europe.

ICS&CL: And on coursing?

John Gormley: Personally, to be honest, I do not like coursing. I have no problem with shooting or fishing, it's vital for our tourist industry.

ICS&CL: But is coursing not vital for the greyhound industry?

John Gormley: I would have my doubts - the industry is doing well. I think the hare population is doing well but we need updated information. Coursing is going to continue because its not in programme for government but, personally, I don't like it.

The Minister finished by saying: I grew up on the banks of the Shannon, going fishing. I see a total appreciation of nature by anglers; they want to see the best water quality; they want to ensure that we preserve species; they understand fully what it is to be a guardian for future generations. That is something that I would like to talk to more anglers about.

My focus is on preserving the species rather than individual animals. I distinguish between animal welfare and animal rights, which is something most people will identify with. Deer shooting makes sense; it's a cycle of nature; I differ from some on hare coursing. If animals are shot, eaten, part of the cycle, then to me that's a green philosophy.

Conclusion: We left feeling that the Minister was open to persuasion on a number of issues to well prepared and soundly based arguments. Having had the commitment from him that his door was as open to the representatives of country sports as it was to animal welfare groups, we would suggest that our representatives stop 'pushing at an open door' and walk through it to put the very good factual case that country sports are good for the economy and the environment and are an essential part of Irish rural life. Editor.

A Room with a Clearview -

with colder weather upon us ICS&CL visits County Down Stoves & Flues to talk to proprietor David Campbell about one way of keeping extra warm this Winter.



David Campbell: over 20 years as a registered chimney technician.

County Down Stoves & Flues has just completed its exclusive showroom for all to see, and the flue and stove displays are all up and in full working order. Now you can visit their Downshire Tea Rooms for some lunch or just a tea or coffee with homemade scones in front of live Clearview stoves. They are so confident in what they sell, they have up to three live Clearview stoves lit every day. But over to David now to tell readers why if you want a woodburning stove, you should seriously consider a Clearview stove.

"For the last two years, hundreds of new Clearview stoves have been supplied and fitted by County Down Stoves and Flues. We take pride in correctly advising, selecting the stove, through to the final installation of the products, and love to hear from our clients when they call in to tell us all about their new stove. Often companies are too quick to get you out of the door with a product, and something as simple as pride in what people do is sadly being forgotten.

"Made in Shropshire, UK, as opposed to mass produced in China, the Clearview products are famous for their fantastic clean window on the fire. Unlike other single glazed stoves, which give blackened glass, the

magical flame is always assured with Clearview due to a double-glazing panel. Air wash features tend to be a big selling point on stoves, but all too often don't work well unless the stove is burning rapidly, which results in higher fuel consumption. As one of the most efficient stoves in the world, you can rest assured that once the installation is complete, you will have years of trouble free use, and controlled fuel consumption.

The stove is so well designed and manufactured, their clean burn abilities led them to become the first stove in the world

approved to burn wood in smoke controlled areas throughout the UK and Ireland, which is something you should check if you are considering other brands. Not only is it a good idea to choose a stove suited to these areas, but even in areas not covered by the Clean Air act, it is better for the environment if you purchase such a stove.

"Combustion air is required for many stoves nowadays, especially as homes are striving to be more airtight. It is a requirement to have permanent ventilation serving a stove with an output greater than 5KW. With a Clearview, one of the features of the stove is the fact that this air can be ducted directly to the stove rather than just into the room from outside, which



Clearview 650

leads to draughts etc even when the stove is not lit, similar to the Baxi open fire of yesteryear, which can still be found being used today.

Finally, if a boiler is required for the stove, Clearview have put some thought into this also. They are one of the few stoves that have a boiler that is removable. In the event of a leak, many stoves would be rendered useless and will need completely replaced. With the Clearview range, the boiler can be removed to facilitate repair or replacement, ensuring the main investment of the stove itself is safe. Simple engineering is often the best and some of the unique features in a Clearview are second to none"

David Campbell is Chairman and an instructor for the Northern Ireland Association of Chimney Sweeps (NIACS) and is a technical advisor to Building Control. With over 20 years as a registered chimney technician, he has worked with most of the stoves on the market from the cheap and cheerful pig iron specimens to high-end Scandinavian models, yet for nearly 30 years, Clearview have proved themselves time and time again as one of the best British manufactured stoves. Combine this with the fact that at County Down Stoves and Flues, we are



Clearview 750 low canopy

official stockists and installers for Docherty Chimney Group products, a leading manufacturer in the UK of flue materials that carry a 20 year warranty, the installation is a finished job for many years to come.

Clearview users often claim the stove was one of the best products they have bought, come and see what all the fuss is about in our unique showroom at the Downshire Tea Rooms, 8 Main Street, Dundrum. BT33 0LU

For further information visit:

www.countydownstovesandflues.co.uk or email:

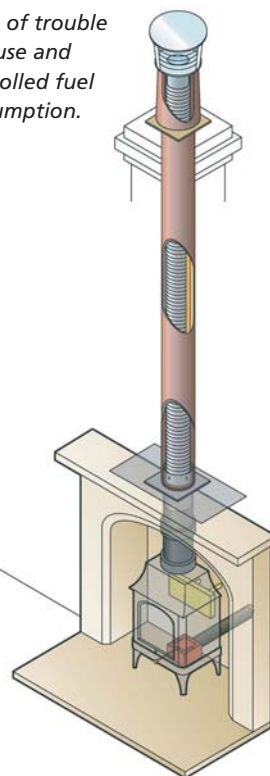
info@countydownstovesandflues.co.uk

or Tel: 028 43751555



Clearview 500 low canopy

Years of trouble free use and controlled fuel consumption.





COUNTY DOWN & STOVES & FLUES



Clearview Stoves are one of the best quality UK manufactured stoves, exclusively on live display at one of the most informative showrooms in the Province. David Campbell is Chairman of the N.I Assoc. Of Chimney Sweeps, runs training courses for chimney technicians throughout Ireland & gives seminars for building control. We have 20 years experience in the solid fuel industry, and offer a full installation service.

We're not just box movers !!!



THE HOME OF CLEARVIEW STOVES IN N. IRELAND
The Downshire Tea Rooms. 8 Main Street, Dundrum. BT33 0LU
Tel: 028 437 51555 Fax: 028 437 51565
www.countydownstovesandflues.co.uk



The best of times, the worst of times...

In more ways than one, the past year has been momentous. Not alone in game shooting terms for yours truly (which I will come to anon), but in other ways as well. But first, if I might begin towards the 'tail' end of last year with what turned out to be another shaggy dog story, so to speak. The saga began with what started as an innocuous enough telephone conversation that I had with my brother which went something along the following lines. "No need to worry, he'll be fine," he said, referring to a new dog he wanted me to take. Now usually when a shooting man, much less a close relative, offers you a dog it generally means trouble. After all, why would a seasoned shooting man, as my brother is, part with a good dog? "I don't think so," I said, "anyway I have enough dogs here," "besides, he's a Springer spaniel and probably stone mad." "Believe it or not," he said, "the dog is a great hunter and very obedient." "I'll give you a trial before you decide." "Fair enough" I said, half hoping he might forget the matter and hang on to the dog himself.

He didn't of course, and arrived here the following weekend with the beast in tow. Reluctantly we set off to where I knew there was a chance of meeting a couple of wily old birds that had slipped the noose on more than one occasion. On the way, he told me that the dog had come to him from a workmate who had gone to Australia. He also assured me that much time and energy had gone into this dog in the past year and that he was quite promising. The reason he was now parting with the dog was that he was

causing bother with his own dogs in the pen. We headed for some fairly decent cover and surprisingly I was pleasantly surprised. Not alone did the little dog take this in his stride but he never strayed any further than gunshot away at all times. Hunting the thickest of cover he produced a couple of woodcock, one of which we shot so at least he wasn't gun-shy.

On the return, I deliberately made for some virtually impenetrable home grown jungle that again seemed to pose no problems, with briars and brambles parting like the proverbial Red Sea before Moses. Suddenly, up tore a wily old cock pheasant twenty yards in front screaming as he departed. Being the nearest, I fired and he fell cleanly to a single shot, where else of course, but into some ferocious briars and blackthorns. Hardly had the bird touched the ground than the Springer retrieved to hand, which finally clinched the deal so to speak. So, never having had a Springer spaniel before, for better or worse, I now found myself the proud owner.



Max walks on water.



Pictured outside the Dail: Bernard Phelan, Pat O'Sullivan, Anthony O'Halloran, Ken Morbin, Mattie Mc Grath TD, Douglas Butler and John Bourke.

The end of December, just before Christmas, with its frosty nights and crisp days, was the stuff of picture postcards and sheer joy to the rough shooter. For a change, I decided to try the streams and rivers in the area in the hopes of flushing a duck or two. And, as I hadn't managed to shoot a right and left at teal in years, I was eager to try my luck. Amazingly, I did so not once but twice, and bagged a couple of mallard to boot during December, all retrieved by Max (no relation to Mad Max). Could the season get even better, I wondered?

The best of the woodcock shooting

As it turned out, January proved to be the coldest for years, with temperatures plummeting during the first couple of weeks to the virtually unheard of -17C. This was bad news and resulted in a shooting ban being imposed countrywide, the first of its kind in almost thirty years. Unfortunately for us, this also coincided with the best of the woodcock shooting round here. Still, with the ground frozen solid, the only decent thing to

do, even before a mandatory ban was called, was to cease all shooting anyway. Sadly, for scores of small songbirds, the month of January, coming as it did after a bitter December, would prove to be the last straw. Despite everyone's best efforts in providing food and water, many perished from starvation during the worst of the three week cold spell. But reliving rains came with about twelve days of January to go and the ban was lifted on a Monday leaving just two outings remaining in the season. Jack and I decided upon the woodcock beginning the following weekend.

Last season will forever be remembered as being the best for woodcock since, I would say 1998. And, although woodcock require frost free conditions to probe for their staple diet of earth worms, in cold weather they tend to congregate in glens or around sheltered streams. In our area, the latter is more often than not the case and this makes them just that bit harder to flush. However, that was then, this was now. Unbeknownst to Jack and I as we set off on Sunday, January 27th, we were about to have a red letter day. Hunting hazels, gorse and birch thickets that normally take a lot of hunting, Max and Jack's wire-haired German produced bird after bird. In all, we must have encountered up to thirty woodcock, twenty-four of which managed to show us a clean pair of heels, but the day was rewarded with six in the bag for a memorable day's sport. As the season ended, we could happily look forward with renewed confidence to the following September, or so we thought.

For all the fond memories that 2009-10 provided, as the year progressed, latent threats to our sport surfaced



The morning's bag of 'Pinks'.

courtesy of the Green Party. In May, a huge kerfuffle erupted with the implementation of a ban on Stag hunting. Now as you may be aware, this was a minority sport with only one such hunt in the country domiciled in Co. Meath. Thinking that no one would notice however, the Green Party decided to flex its muscles and ban the Ward Union. Needless to state, all hell broke loose when it was realised that it would only be a matter of time before all branches of field sports would come under attack from the Greens. Protests were mounted countrywide and a furious campaign aimed at influencing rural TDs was also initiated by R.I.S.E. (Rural Ireland Says Enough). But the interesting thing was that, although the Green Party only numbered six TDs, because of political wheeler dealing, it was able to exact a high price for its support with the major Party in government, Fianna Fail. The result was, that although Green Party eventually won the day and Stag hunting was banned, there was such a furore that the Greens would be well advised to steer clear of such blatant interference again.

Grouse - by special invitation - then it's the geese!

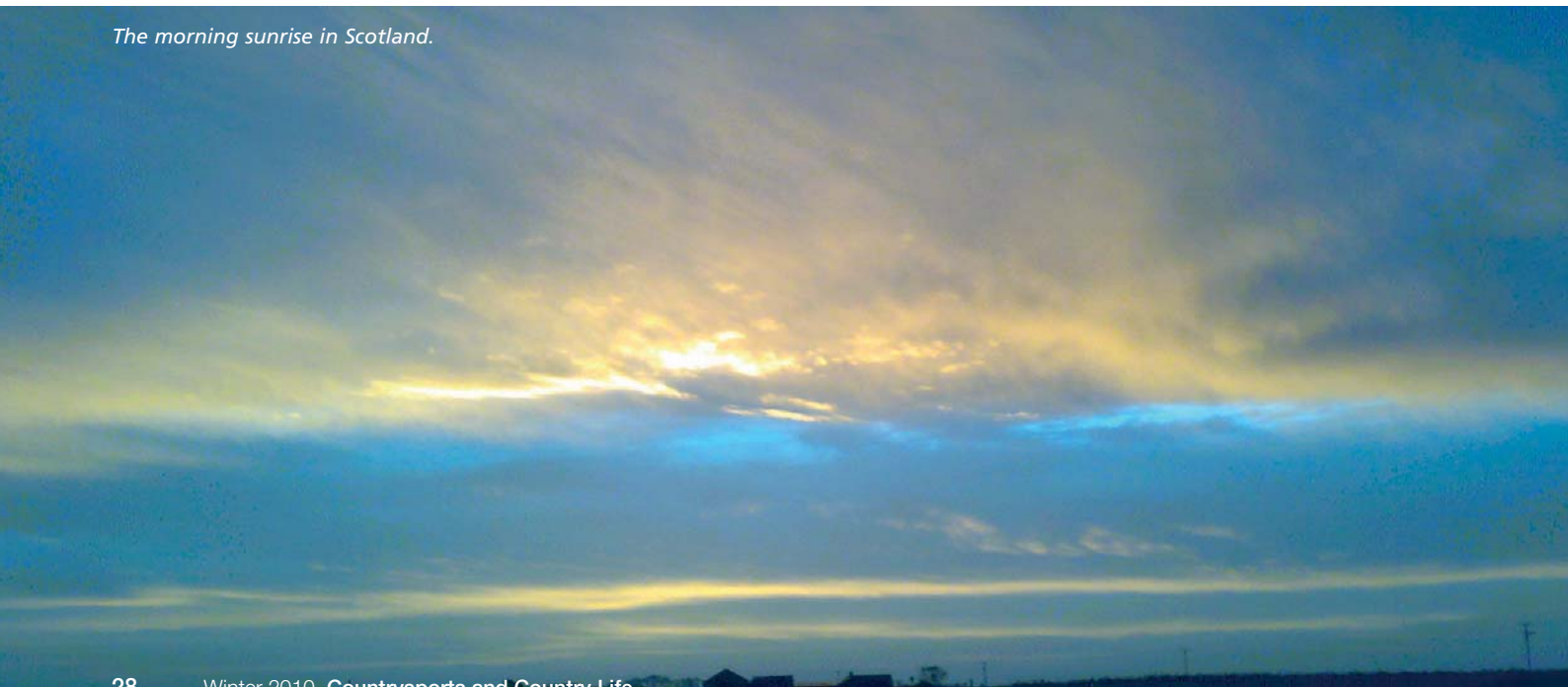
Finally, let me finish on a happy note. The start of the 'new year' in September began with the grouse. This time, the venue was Co. Wicklow by special invitation, and I literally got off to a flyer. Three of us managed to bag a bird each in surroundings straight from James Herriot country as we savoured the sense of occasion that the opening of yet another season brings. Apart from the obvious thrill of being out again with dog and gun, it was indeed heartening to encounter twenty five grouse in a little over four hours. Just imagine what an intensive predator control programme and some decent heather burning might achieve in other parts of the

country where grouse are also present. Anyway, that was my only outing this year on the grouse but, as always, the hills provided some cherished memories for the year ahead. As we exited September though, another new challenge awaited.

Having long threatened to sample goose shooting in Scotland, this October I finally did so. On Saturday October 2nd, shortly after 1am, thirteen of us boarded two minibuses headed for Banff in northern Scotland. Travelling first to the port of Larne, a three and a half hour trip in itself, and then to Cairnryan on the 7.30am sailing was something of an ordeal but, if that was bad, another six hour journey still lay ahead. Having finally arrived in the beautiful little seaside town of Portsoy sometime after 4pm on Sunday evening after traversing half of Scotland, it was showers all round, dinner, and then to bed for a 4am start on the Monday. Never having experienced the thrill of goose shooting before, this was an experience I was determined to savour. To say that the three day experience was something special would be the understatement of the decade, made all the more memorable by our brilliant guides Robbie and Colin, and also by the ambience and hospitality of the Station Hotel, Portsoy. Three great days shooting had produced some brilliant sport, wonderful scenery and fond memories. One can't help but wonder what the rest of the year will bring.

As the curtain finally comes down on 2010, one could certainly say the year has been nothing, if not eventful. By the time you read this however, Christmas will be upon us once again and all field sports will be at their peak so, in time honoured fashion, I will conclude with that ancient Gaelic salute and in so doing, I will wish you all tremendous sport and a Happy and peaceful Christmas. 'Go mbeirmid beo don am seo cheanna,' or if you prefer, 'May we all be alive this time next year.'

The morning sunrise in Scotland.



DUBLINS LARGEST GUN SHOP



New Centrefire Rifles

Steyr Mann.Pro Hunter.223+Rings+T8 €1490
Steyr Mann.SSG P1.308+Kahles 6X42+case €1950
CZ 550 Deluxe 30-06+metal floorplate €1075
Sako 75 Varminter Wood/Blue.243 +rings
€1490
Sako 75 Hunter .243 €1500 CASH
Remington 700 Syn/Sless.25-06 €1075
Tikka T3 Tactical.223- 20"Brl. €1895
Browning X-bolt .223 synthetic €945

Special Stalking Package

Browning A –Bolt Composite

+ Rings + Bushnell Legend Scope 4-12 x 40

€995 Cash Only – No Trade-ins

Second Hand Centrefire Rifles

CZ 527 .223+scope VGC €795
CZ 527 .223+rings Clean Gun €740
Sako 75 Hunter .243 Wood/Blue VGC €1590
Mauser 66 .270+Kaps8x56 VGC €1750
Sako 75 Finn-lite 6.5x55 Excel. Cond. €1690
Steyr Mann.Classic 30-06+rings & bases
€1290
Steyr Mann. Pro Hunter 6.5x55 Clean Gun
€1175
Remington Seven .260 + rings Clean Gun €750



Remington 700 17 Rem. + Swift Scope like new €790
Ruger M77 Target/Laminate .243 + rings + bi-pod Excel. €790
Rossi Lever Action .357/38 Mint €540
Winchester Stealth H/B .22/250+T8 €500
Remington BDL 700 .223 VGC €695
SAKO.222 VGC little use €500
Heym 21.243+Moderator Excel.Cond. €1695
Blaser R93.243"off-roader"+moderator VGC
€1695
Browning X-Bolt.243 Synthetic like new! €795

Military Rifles

Lee Enfield No.4 Mk.1 good bores €650
SMLE Lithgow Excel.Cond. like new €895
Sporterised SMLE +6X42 S&B Scope €600
Swedish Mauser M96 6.5x55 VGC €495
Norinco M14.308 semi-auto NEW €895

AFRICAN -BIG GAME-CONTINENTAL RIFLES

Browning C25 O/U 8X57JRS mint cond. €2750
Winchester M70 .375 H&H Super Express + Leupold Scope €1250
Sako Finnbear .375 H&H fired little €750
Triebel Custom-Made(German) .375 NEW + rings €4995
Ruger M77 Express.300Win.Mag.+rings very nice €1750

Rimfire Rifles-New

CZ 452 Std..22 €495
CZ Style .22 €495
CZ American 17HMR €540

CZ American 17 HMR LH €540
GSG-5 semi-auto.22 scarce €790

RIMFIRE RIFLES-SECONDHAND

TO MANY TO MENTION PLEASE RING!

New Shotguns

SHOTGUNS-NEW

Webley&Scott 12g O/U 28"Game €890
Webley&Scott 12g D/B 28"Game €1590
Webley&Scott 12g O/U 30"Sporter €895
Browning Citori 16g O/U 26"Game €1390
Browning Citori 20g O/U 28" Game €1590
Browning Esprit 12g O/U 28"Game €1495
Fabarm Gama 12g O/U 28"Game MC €1350
Fabarm Gama 11 12g O/U 28"Game MC
€1475
FinnClassic 12g O/U 28"Game MC €1175
Lumar Scirocco 20g O/U 28"Game €650
A.Y.A. No.2 20g D/B Round Action Game 28" €4500
Miroku Mk.70 12g O/U 30"Game MC €1495

Shotguns - Second Hand

SKB semi-auto 12g VGC €750
Reno D/B 12g N/E €200
Miroku Mk.70 12g O/U 28"Game MC €1290
Ruger Red Label 12g O/U 26"Game €1175
Browning 425 12g O/U Sporter 30"MC
€1575
Browning 325 Sporter 12g O/U €690
Miroku Mk.38 12g Trap 30"MC €1695
Perazzi Italia Trap-Gun 32" VGC €1495
Lanber Semi-suto mint! €690
Beretta 686 Sporter excel. wood €1495
Browning Cynergy "Black Ice" 32" brls excel. cond. €1895

English Shotguns

Carr Bros.12g D/B Sidelock 30"(cased) €3750
T.Blanch 12g D/B Sidelock 30"Superb €4250
Holland&Holland 12g D/B Sidelock 30" €3800
J.Lang 12g D/B Sidelock Jones U/L 30" €1650
Wallace Bros.12g Boxlock 26" Nice Wood €750
C.Hinton 12g Boxlock 28"Self-Opener €795
Greener 12g Boxlock 30" Nice Gun €1000



FULL RANGE OF RIMFIRE, CENTREFIRE & SHOTGUN AMMO. ALSO SCOPES, BINOCULARS, CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

'Calmness Leads to Reward' Reviewed

'Calmness Leads to Reward' the holistic approach to dog training and behaviour is an amazing new DVD aimed at helping dog owners train their pets effectively.

In a fun-filled masterclass, Keith Mathews - the internationally acclaimed Dog Guru - has set a new standard for canine training today.

The DVD is really amazing - like a breath of fresh air it really is 'training made easy' for everyone, even for a first time owner. By watching this there really is no excuse for having a badly behaved dog.

Packed with down to earth training advice, the video shows exactly why Keith is now recognised internationally as a unique talent. And why his methods can work where others may have failed.

You are shown in simple language, in simple stages, how to use Keith's very own training methods to achieve success with your dog.

From the moment the DVD opens, you realise that this is not merely a 'how to do it' video. You watch enthralled from the opening scene, like watching the very best movie at the cinema. Filmed by Image Media Films - arguably the leading Irish market leaders and among the best in the business for sheer quality - the High Definition story unfolds. In this case, it's like watching a western.

Keith puts on his boots, the signature hat is donned. Cue music. And with a single word to his international award winning labrador - he steps out!

You are about to learn dog training Guru-style!

Throughout the DVD, filmed live in front of a public audience at Belfast's Odyssey Arena and in real life situations throughout the country, we switch from 'talk' to 'practical.'

Problems are diagnosed, remedies are prescribed. We see that by using Keith's methods it's easy, and more to the point - it works!

Keith's style is another eyeopener. Booted and cowboy hatted, he makes the film his own by adding a special brand of charisma, fun and of course, sheer knowledge and skill, as he takes us through a series of stages.

All aspects of dog training and behaviour, including walking on the lead, sit and recall are covered. Keith delves into the evolution of the dog and discusses the importance of choosing the right dog for you. We learn

how to establish boundaries and get tips on feeding and how to manage your dog within the home.

Problem behaviours such as aggression, jumping up, fear phobias and separation anxiety are also addressed.

It covers dog choice and how dogs think and how controlling our emotions has a desired affect on a dog's behaviour. We examine how dogs think in terms of protecting its owner, we look at beneficial interactions through grooming, the importance of correct diet and controlling a dog's space and territory. Finally Keith shows us how dogs benefit from mental stimulation and he sums up the crucial importance of a consistent approach.

What is more important, he makes it simple. Anyone can do it. Well, anyone who has watched this DVD.

Having watched it twice, I can only conclude that it's a unique opportunity to benefit from the 20 years of study and practical experience that Keith shares on screen in just over 1 hour 53 minutes.

His reputation is already internationally recognised. This DVD is your chance to learn his secrets and be hugely entertained into the bargain. In my view - if you are a dog owner or want to be then 'Calmness Leads to Reward' is unmissable!



**For more information visit
www.keiththedogguru.com
to buy your copy.**

Schöffel Countrywear



Clarke's
of ENNISKILLEN

Schöffel Countrywear available at Clarke's of Enniskillen
East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh,
Northern Ireland Tel: 02866327388
www.schoffel.co.uk

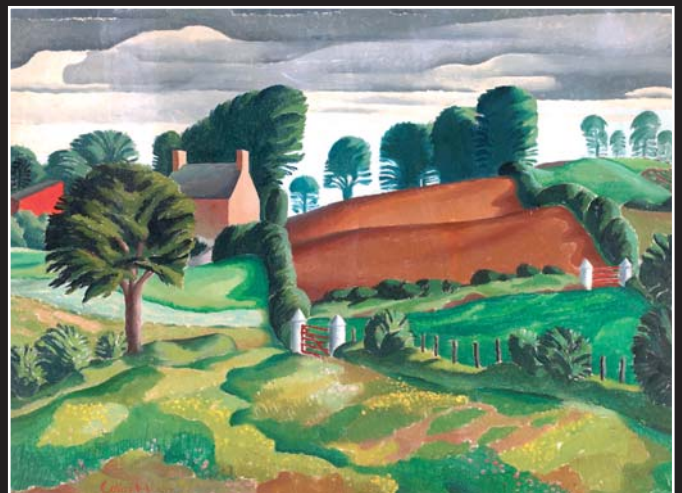
Schöffel
Countrywear

Art and Antiques

Harvey Cammell of Bonhams says the art world is oiled by the inevitable three 'D's': death, divorce and debt. If this is really so, then the circumstances in which many find themselves in during the present economic climate must bode well for auction houses. Without doubt debts, be they household, social or even recreational affect us all and those with something to sell can do little better than put their disposable assets under the gavel to relieve them of current financial pressures. According to Cammell there was a noticeable softening in the prices paid for Modern British art this year, perhaps down as much as 20% overall. But, in March and June, Modern British sales at Bonhams saw an improved selling rate on last year, with premiums paid for the best names. English furniture too saw a softening in the lower end of the market with such items as long-case clocks selling for under £1,000 which is about half their value a decade ago. But the top end of the clock market has gone the other way with prices outstripping estimates and watches, which have emerged as a serious collecting category over the past ten years, revealed a strong market this year. "Our sale in June sold 85% by value with a focus on wrist watches of exceptional condition," he adds. "Items of exceptional quality, rarity and provenance are the art market equivalent of a gilt-edged security," he stresses. "The fact that the world record for a work of art has been broken not once but twice this year - six years after the last world record - tells us something about the state of the world's super rich."

Sporting guns et al

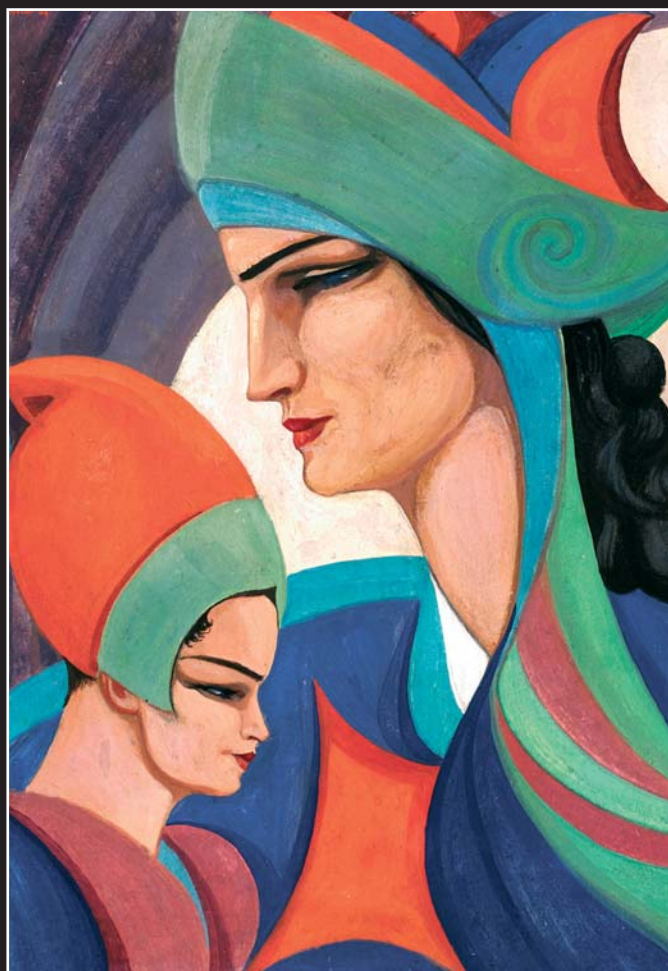
The influence of such wealthy buyers was seen this year, when classic motor cars, sporting guns, wine, whiskey and watches came to market. With sporting guns, the auction market says Cammell has benefitted in some respects by current demand exceeding supply for vintage quality shotguns by makers such as Holland & Holland and Purdy in the £20,000 plus category. But there was an enormous deficit in the overall value of the art market caused by a severe loss of confidence last year in Contemporary art. This was brought about by new money buyers putting their feet very sharply on the brakes causing the price bubble to burst. We have, of course, been here before says Cammell who reminds us of the last great recession at the beginning of the 1990s when the art market saw a dramatic collapse of the impressionist market which had become overheated by intense speculation from new money buyers. Of course we have to consider the effect of the 'fire-sale' clearances of single owner collections which at times have been the meat and drink of the auction scene. When they do occur - some would like to have them on a more regular basis than has been seen in recent years - they bring a new life to the sales scene and an important financial transfusion when times are difficult.



Colin Middleton MBE RHA (1910-1983) *Coastal Landscape with Trees and Cottage*, sold for €32,400 at Whyte's

Ross's

According to Daniel Clarke of Ross's in Belfast the Irish picture market has remained quite buoyant during the year. "People see art as somewhere to invest money in while at the same time continuing to appreciate their paintings hanging on the wall," he adds. "I think people see it as something that provides value for their money." He admits there has been a realignment in prices during the past year or so, something which has been



Harry Kernoff RHA *Byzantine Madonna*, sold for €8,880 at Whyte's.

recognised by both buyers and sellers. "There is a much more stable price scene at present and this is something which everyone has come to accept." As far as the antique market is concerned there has not been any great change throughout the year but there is a shortage of quality antiques which has helped the scene. "Silver and gold are at all time highs so that part of the market is really buoyant. "All-in-all I think people realise there is still value in buying and selling at auction and long may that continue."



Robert Gregory *Coastal Landscape at Ballyvelehan, Galway Bay* sold for €8,400 at Whyte's.

At Ross's most recent Irish art sale a William Conor, 'The Gossips', an oil on board sold for £17,500 while a John B Vallely oil, 'Heading for the finish' brought in a commendable £15,000. The popularity of Cecil Maguire was shown by the £10,000 paid for his oil, 'Duart Ban Leom' while Colin Middleton's 'The seventh wave' a fine oil made £8,500. Other leading prices included: William Scott, abstract £8,000; Dan O'Neill, 'Collage Kerry, an oil £7,800; James Humbert Craig, oil, £6,000; George Campbell, oil, £5,000; Louis le Brocquy, limited edition lithograph £3,000, Colin Davidson, £3,000, Hector McDonnell, £3,000; Charles McAuley, £2,600; Brian Ballard £2,500.

Down in Dublin

Dublin-based Whyte's early October art sale brought in a reasonably good autumn harvest, considering all the doom and gloom which is around. And at the end of the event they were able to report gross sales of around €350,000 while selling 60% of lots by volume. The main attraction was an 1899 sketch book of Jack Butler Yeats which had been broken up and framed individually, with tempting estimates of €200 to €1,000. The 40 lots were expected to bring a total of €18,000 to €24,000. With spirited bidding from the room, the telephone, the auctioneer's book of absentee bidders and buyers on the internet from such diverse locations as Barbados, Saudi Arabia and Lisnagry, the total was driven to €58,000 gross including buyer's commission and VAT.

The highest price paid was €2,760 for a sketch of the artist's dog Hooligan in a boat, and the lowest was €250 for a sketch of a window box and half door, the latter much to the relief of auctioneer Ian Whyte who was worried that no-one would get a Yeats for the advertised "from €200" the way things were going. "Estimates go out the window when collectors perceive quality and fresh to market pictures" he says. "This is a buyer's

market and it is the buyer who decides the prices now, whether high or low, according to their experience and sense of good value."

The following are the other more important results from the sale: (prices include buyers' commission and VAT - pre-sale estimates are in brackets)

Colin Middleton MBE RHA (1910-1983) *Coastal Landscape with Trees and Cottage*, 1937 €32,400 (€15,000-€20,000)

Robert Gregory (1881-1918) *Coastal Landscape at Ballyvelehan, Galway Bay* €8,400 (€6,000-€8,000)

Walter Frederick Osborne RHA

ROI (1859-1903) Village Street Scene €6,960 (€4,000-€6,000)

Harry Kernoff RHA (1900-1974) Byzantine Madonna, 1934 €8,880 (€6,000-€8,000)

Gerard Dillon (1916-1971) Dressed Up €9,600 (€8,000-€10,000)

John Behan RHA (b.1938) Bull, 1998 €8,880 (€8000-12000)

Louis le Brocqy HRHA (b.1916) Study of Federico Garcia Lorca, 1977 €9,600 (€8,000-€12,000)

Seán Keating PRHA HRA HRSA (1889-1977) Jocose, Bellicose, Lachrymose, 1973 €9,240 (€8,000-€10,000)

The following are also notable results as they exceeded the top estimates expected

Walter Chetwood Aiken (1866-1899) Interior of a Church in Brittany €3,120 (€1,500-€2,000)

Sarah Henrietta Purser HRHA (1848-1943) Seated Lady Playing Chess, c.1895 €2,640 (€1,500-€2,000)

Sean O'Sullivan RHA (1906-1964) Portrait Of Martin Paidin Macdonagh €1,200 (€500-€700)

Harry Kernoff RHA (1900-1974) Self Portrait In Tin Hat, 1940 €1,920 (€800-€1,200)

Patrick Pye RHA (b.1929) Bouquet, 1991 €1,560 (€600-€800)

Ivan Sutton (b.1944) Going To Mass, Roundstone, County Galway €4,320 (€2,000-€3,000)

Maurice Canning Wilks RUA ARHA (1910-1984) Windy Sky, Rosses Country, County Donegal €2,760 (€1,800-€2200)

Thomas Ryan PPRHA (b.1929) Tailors' Hall, Dublin, 1972 €960 (€400-€600)

Gerald Davis (1938-2005) Night On The Burren



Gerard Dillon Dressed Up sold for €9,600 at Whyte's.

(diptych), 1972 €960 (€400-600)

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) En Hommage A Picasso - Chateau Mouton Rothschild, Wine Label, printers' proof, 1973 €1,260 (€800-€1,000)

About 40% of lots sold went at or above the top estimates and 72% went at or above the lower estimate.

Paul Henry's fine oil, The Bog Road, which had been the star of a recent BBC Antiques Roadshow was sold in Adams October sale for £72,000 while another, by Nathaniel Hill, Breton Peasants at a Convent Door, an oil on canvas went at £45,000.

Other top prices included: Sean Keating £15,000; Frank McKelvey, £13,500; Colin Middleton, £13,000; Maurice MacGonigal £10,000; Tony O'Malley, £10,000.(prices in Euros).

ADAMS

Adams director David Britton says: "Yes, the market is holding up very well and in our recent sale we sold 78% of the items offered which is as good as one gets."

In their Country Collections sale at Slane Castle Adams sold a George III Irish oval gilt brass bound wine cistern of impressive proportions, the rim cast with shells for 55,000 euro. Another star item was the Empress of Austria's riding whip, c.1875 with ivory simulated cord grip, silver band with the imperial crest and with pommel in the shape of an imperial crown, contained in a glazed mahogany presentation case, the back with a silvered crest plate engraved with the imperial Hapsburg Arms. It came from Rahinstown House, Co. Meath and sold for 37,000 euro. A pair of George I Irish mahogany side chairs, c.1720, each with shell carved top rail above a vase-shaped splat, and drop in seat covered in floral damask, standing on shell capped cabriole supports, with claw and ball feet sold for 28,000 euro.



Seán Keating PRHA HRA HRSA Jocose, Bellicose, Lachrymose sold for €9,240 at Whyte's

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN A VOLVO. THERE'S KNOWING THAT WHEN YOU'VE SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE PLAYING IT SAFE, IT'S TIME TO JUST PLAY. THAT'S WHY THE NEW S60 IS HERE.



THE ALL NEW S60

TO EXPERIENCE THE NEW, NAUGHTY SIDE OF VOLVO, CALL YOUR LOCAL NI DEALER FOR A TEST DRIVE.

Volvo. for life



GREERS OF ANTRIM 62 GREYSTONE ROAD, ANTRIM TEL: 028 9446 3259

S M W BELFAST 19 BOUCHER CRESCENT, BELFAST TEL: 028 9068 6000

FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR THE VOLVO S60 RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 19.5 (14.5) – 39.2 (7.2), EXTRA URBAN 38.7 (7.3) – 67.3 (4.2), COMBINED 28.5 (9.9) – 53.3 (5.3), CO2 EMISSIONS ARE 231 – 139 G/KM.



September Safari

It's difficult to complain about temperatures that fluctuate from 28 to 35 degrees Celsius during the course of the day. Such was the warmth that greeted our arrival in South Africa for the 2010 September Safari. Despite the heat, a sudden squall deluged Johannesburg's Oliver Tambo airport as our flight landed, followed by the rifles going missing, temporarily. Situation normal! Over the years we learned that it is pointless becoming upset when such a glitch occurs – it invariably resolves itself anyway. As it happened, the rifles had arrived safely at the Police office; they were just out of view behind a door. In fact it was one of our lads who spotted them.

The usual routine kicked in that afternoon when following a five-hour drive we arrived at the hunting lodge in Limpopo Province. Suitcases were ignored while rifles were assembled for a session on the adjacent firing range to check their accuracy for the coming week's hunting. My .375 H&H Magnum had not been fired since the last safari in November 2009 due to the Garda condition on my licence (currently being challenged in the High Court) – it can only be

discharged outside the jurisdiction. Fortunately, the bullet's point of impact on a paper target had not moved since last year and despite the ban I was back in business, albeit a little rusty with the bolts longer stroke. Short-stroking a bolt under pressure has resulted in hunters being maimed or killed. Squeezing the trigger when facing a charging and wounded Buffalo, only to hear a loud metallic "click" as the firing pin falls on an empty chamber, may well have been the last sound that some unfortunates ever heard. Thankfully I was not planning to hunt 'dangerous' game on this trip, although every wild animal is dangerous under given circumstances.

The early morning bush-veldt always provides a myriad of interesting sights – evidence of nature going about its business during the hours of darkness. Animal tracks close to the camp indicating that an overnight life and death struggle had taken place between four legged hunter and quarry, others showing that Warthogs had slipped in for a midnight nibble on the lawn. Spectacular sunrises set the background aflame while we dipped hard rusks in steaming coffee. That's when you notice the early morning scent of Africa. Difficult to describe – earthy with a touch of spice springs to mind – it drifts away on the first light breeze of the day.



The Blue Lizard described in the article.

Duiker's remains strewn about

Surprisingly, bush vision returned almost instantly despite the 12 month absence. Movement or anything that looks out of place is picked up immediately and investigated. On day one Professional Hunter Louis and I came across Leopard spoor while trekking through relatively dense undergrowth. A large Tom and his offspring are known to inhabit a high rocky outcrop in the vicinity so we decided that these were probably his tracks. The cat had probably hunted its next meal just before dawn and we could clearly identify the victim's spoor – that of a Duiker. The little antelope had been dragged for some distance before the Leopard picked a spot at which to eat it. Ample evidence of the Duiker's remains was strewn about and even more interesting was the plethora of Hyena tracks. A small pack had probably heard the commotion and descended on the Leopard for their share of the spoils. As cats tend not to stand and fight Hyenas, leopard tracks minus the Duiker



Dave's Blue Wildebeest Bull.

more or less confirmed this. We knew we had disturbed the Hyenas and that they would be back to clear up - bones and all - but shooting them is never considered unless they stray into the Lodge area and are a threat to humans.

On another morning we came across a Blue Lizard - see the accompanying photo. This little fellow lives in trees and is exceedingly difficult to creep up on. Somehow we managed it and photographed him before he changed colour chameleon-like in order to blend in with the tree's bark. Later, Joe, our Tracker spotted an abandoned Ostrich egg. Young female Ostriches usually lay two or three eggs before they get the hang of hatching them. Normally these eggs end up as delicacies for Jackals and we were lucky to get there first. The contents were rancid, but when cleaned up the large shell was used for ornamental purposes. Some afternoons were so hot that it was pointless returning to the bush after lunch. We waited until two hours before dusk, then headed out for a quick look around, mentally promising ourselves an even earlier start the following morning.

The usual quota of Impala and Warthogs were shot for camp rations during the week although a number of trophy animals were also on the menu. I particularly wanted a decent Kudu bull, often ignoring other species that crossed my path as we stalked the bush. Scouring an area known as Kudu Mountain proved a pointless exercise due to the sparse vegetation. The ongoing drought stumped most plant growth enabling Kudu on

the hill to see us in plenty of time and disappear almost while still in sight. They are not known as the Grey Ghosts of the Bush for nothing. As luck would have it we were driving back to camp when we spotted a lone Kudu bull five hundred metres further up the track. Stopping the bakki, Louis and I dropped off and continued an off-road approach on foot. It was only a matter of time before the bull became aware of our presence and slipped away into the bush. We eventually came upon his tracks in the red sandy track and started following them into the undergrowth. Despite not having him in sight it was relatively easy to



The Author with his fine Kudu.

follow his trail and with the breeze in his face it's probable that he was unaware of any pursuit. The breeze also worked for us. On one occasion we caught a fleeting glimpse of the bull at about one hundred metres but the tangle of branches and twigs in between were likely to deflect a shot, so we resumed stalking him. With the gap between us remaining reasonably constant, we halted briefly to discuss another approach.

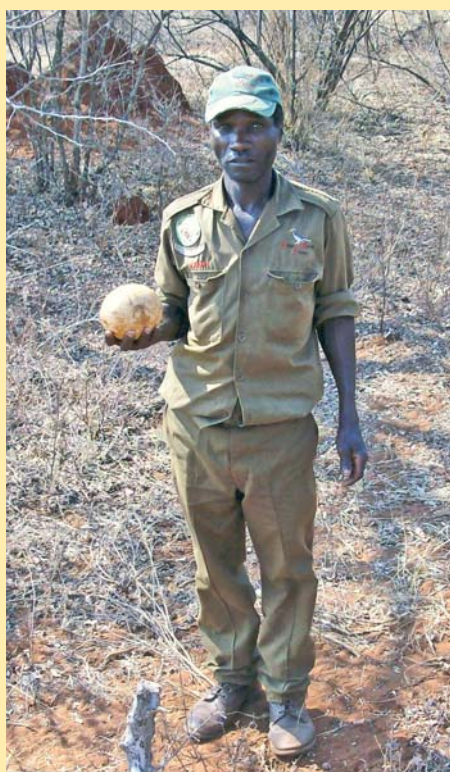
Something ahead had spooked him

To our utter astonishment the Kudu suddenly crashed through the bush running towards us at full tilt. Clearly something up ahead had spooked him although we didn't know what. It occurred to me that no-one would ever believe that a Kudu charged us - I was actually thinking of the tall stories told over dinner - while the distance between us was closing fast. From a kneeling position I watched in fascination as he continued the charge, until when forty metres out he spotted us. The Kudu immediately swung to the right exposing his left side and enabling me to take a snap shoulder shot. We approached the downed bull cautiously but it was all over. Louis reckoned that he was at least eleven years old which is a pretty decent age for a Kudu. Most likely he had been pushed out of the family group because he was past his best, which would explain why he was on

the flat and not Kudu Mountain. The teeth were badly worn and hair on the neck had already begun to slip - he was "going back" as it's called in deer management at home. Loading the Kudu onto the bakkie presented the next problem which we solved with a panga and an axe, cutting a rough road into the bush allowing the vehicle to come as close as possible. The winch completed the job and we headed back down the dusty road to camp. The other lads were out and about in other areas and we kept in touch by radio at all times in case anyone needed more

rifles and pairs of eyes for a follow-up. Thankfully the necessity did not arise - we pride ourselves on clean one-shot kills. Dave, who was hunting with resident P.H. Marius, took a number of trophies including a nice Blue Wildebeest.

As always, at mealtime we speculated about where and what we would hunt the next time. Plans were easily made and quickly abandoned. A plot was hatched to marry off the only single member of our group to a wealthy landowner's daughter or widow - we didn't mind which. So long as vast tracts of land populated by



Tracker Joe with the Ostrich egg.

numerous game species were involved, we didn't much care whom we married him to. Fortunately for him and unfortunately for us, we didn't locate a suitable candidate. The possibility of a Buffalo hunt early next year in south west Zimbabwe also arose and for a few days we took this seriously, until all the costs had been factored in. Between additional flights, road transport, accommodation, bribes and miscellaneous expenses plus trophy fees - the final figure arrived at was astronomical. So much for inexpensive hunting in Zimbabwe! On departure, we booked the Limpopo camp for early next May. Buffalo hunting will have to wait until times get better.

A CLASSIC PERFECTED

SLC 42 HD. CRYSTAL CLEAR, ERGONOMIC AND ROBUST

The lifelike colour reproduction and exceptional transmission of this binocular is attributable to high-performance HD optics, which guarantee an outstanding image quality from dawn till dusk. Its new focusing mechanism for quick, yet precise, adjustment coupled with the time-tested, ergonomically designed thumb rests and depressions for secure and comfortable handling demonstrate an effortless combination of state-of-the-art technology with long-established tradition.



NEW FOCUSING MECHANISM

for extremely quick and precise adjustment

HIGH-PERFORMANCE HD OPTICS

for maximum colour fidelity, perfect contrast and impressive transmission



COMPACT AND ROBUST

thanks to an ergonomically optimised design and lightweight magnesium housing

SEE THE UNSEEN
WWW.SWAROVSKIOPTIK.COM

SWAROVSKI U.K. LTD.
Perrywood Business Park, Salfords
Surrey RH1 5JQ
Tel. 01737-856812, Fax 01737-856885



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



SWAROVSKI
OPTIK



Hunting Roundup

Grallagh Harriers at the Irish Game & Country Fair, Birr Castle.

The East Down Foxhounds

The East Down Foxhounds held their Puppy Show against the backdrop of having again won the two couple class at the National Hound Show at Stradbally, so the quality on display was what we have come to expect at Seaforde. Huntsman Declan Feeney brought forward 31/2 couple of doghounds and 21/2 couple of bitches from five litters for judges, Major Tim Easby of the Hunting Office and Mark Ollard, huntsman to the Island Foxhounds in County Wexford. A large crowd appreciated the decisive judging which resulted in the following awards:

Doghounds

1. Bailey VWH Benedict 06 Planet 04
2. Baritone Sibling of Bailey
3. Linton M&SS Driver 05 Their Lively 06

Bitches

1. Balance Sibling of Bailey
2. Costly M&SS Malvern 04 Their Cobweb 03
3. Bangle Sibling of Bailey

After further deliberation the judges then declared Bailey to be Champion puppy with Balance as Reserve Champion.

Meath Foxhounds

The judges at the Meath Foxhounds' puppy show were Gary Bland MFH and his huntsman David Dukes both from the Zetland Hunt. Kenny Henry brought forward 6 1/2 couple of doghounds and 6 1/2 couple of bitches from five litters for their scrutiny and a large crowd watched appreciatively as the judges went about their work. After due deliberation the following results were announced by Mr Pat Dillon MFH:

Doghounds

1. Mostyn Padlock 08 Martha 06
2. Maverick Sibling of Mostyn
3. Merlin Sibling of Mostyn

Bitches

1. Gravy Haulage 07 Grapefriut 05
- Gracious Sibling of Gravy
3. Molly Sibling of Mostyn

A short period of further deliberation saw Mostyn announced as Champion puppy with Gravy as Reserve Champion.

Louth Foxhounds

The two litters on show at the Louth Foxhounds' puppy show were both sired by Hurworth Prussia 04, who had been drafted in to give the Louths some new blood.

Judges Mr Tosh Kellett MFH, Ballymacad Foxhounds and Richard Markham, huntsman to the Waterford Foxhounds, had 5 couple of doghounds and 2 1/2 couple of bitches placed before them by huntsman Noel McKeever. The judges considered their subjects carefully then announced the following:

Doghounds

1. Lodger Hurworth Prussia Lavish
2. Loader Sibling of Lodger
3. Samson Hurworth Prussia Sparrow



Huntsman Declan Feeney showing hounds to judges Mark Ollard and Tim Easby at the East Down Foxhounds Puppy Show.

WORK. LIFE. BALANCE.

THE SUBARU LEGACY FROM £299 PER MONTH.

Unlike other cars, the new Subaru Legacy couldn't be more different to your average, everyday business choice.

With the world's only Boxer diesel engine harnessed to Subaru's legendary permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system, you are guaranteed a surefooted driving experience, with every mile.

A vast cabin and load space, combined with a five star NCAP safety rating, the Subaru Legacy is worth more than a fleeting glance.

Choose a company car unlike any other. Choose a Subaru Legacy from just £299 per month*.



47 monthly rentals of	£299.00 (plus VAT)
Initial deposit	£2999.99 (plus VAT)
Excess mileage	8.2p per mile (plus VAT)

The Subaru Legacy 2.0D S Tourer manual, non-metallic, non-maintained:
10,000 miles per annum, 4-year contract hire.

CALL IN OR CALL US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Desmond Eastwood Motors Ltd,
197 Moira Road, Lisburn, County Antrim, BT28 2SN.
Tel: 02892 621293



UNCOMMON ENGINEERING
UNCOMMON STABILITY
UNCOMMON ROADHOLDING
UNCOMMON SENSE



Legacy range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 25.0 (11.3) to 37.2 (7.6). Extra urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 53.3 (5.3). Combined from 33.6 (8.4) to 46.3 (6.1). CO₂ emissions from 196 to 161 (g/km).

*Business users only: Further charges may be payable when vehicle is returned depending on condition of vehicle. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s from participating Subaru Dealers for vehicles ordered before 30th September 2010. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other manufacturer offer and subject to availability. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Specification correct at time of publication. Prices quoted and examples shown correct at time of publication (July 2010) and do not take into account any variation to government taxes or charges arising after the date of publication. Subaru Contract Hire provided by Black Horse Limited, 25 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7HN.



David Jukes and Gary Bland, MFH from the Zetland Hunt, judges at the Meath Foxhounds Puppy Show.

Bitches

1. Spicy Sibling of Samson
2. Sassy Sibling of Samson
3. Saucy Sibling of Samson

Spicy was then declared Champion Puppy with Lodger as Reserve Champion.

North Down Foxhounds

At Comber the North Down Foxhounds welcomed Roddy Bailey and Noel Fitzpatrick as judges and a large crowd of onlookers, to their puppy show. Huntsman Tom Haddock brought forward 3 couple of doghounds and 5 1/2 couple of bitches from seven litters. Raymond Mitchell, MFH, welcomed everyone and then the judges worked their way through the new entry before announcing the following results:

Doghounds

1. Gambler Guinness 05 Dapple O3
2. Guardsman Sibling of Gambler
3. Vandal Bedale Hovis 04 South Shrops Vivid 08

Bitches

1. Glisten Sibling of Gambler
2. Vixen Sibling of Vandal
3. Guilty Sibling of Gambler

Glisten was then announced as Champion Puppy with Gambler as Reserve Champion.



Huntsman Tom Haddock showing hounds at the North Down Puppy Show to judges Roddy Bradley and Noel Fitzpatrick.

Mid Antrim

My last puppy show of the season was at the Mid Antrim Hunt kennels at Ballymena. Here, judge Mr Phil McGarry Arthurs had only one litter to consider with 1 1/2 couple of doghounds and 1 1/2 couple of bitches showing a level standard for his consideration. Having deliberated Mr McGarry Arthurs relayed the following decisions:

Doghounds

1. Ally Zetland Landlord 06 Riddle 07
2. Arthur
3. Adam

Bitches

1. Alice Zetland Landlord 06 Riddle 07
2. Annabel
3. Abigail

There was then a novel end to this puppy show when huntsman Hugh Cochrane, now in his sixteenth season hunting these hounds, was presented with a surprise birthday cake to celebrate his 50th birthday. A good finale to the closing season.

Stork news

Ballymacad Foxhounds' amateur whipper-in Mr Bobby Kellett and his wife Cara are celebrating the birth of a baby son, Evan.



Mid Antrim Huntsman Hugh Cochrane showing the new puppy entry.


Sherwood
forest

"From small acorns great forests grow"

Ladies Berkeley
Countrysport Field
Jacket



www.sherwoodforest-uk.com

TEL: +44 (0) 115 942 4265 EMAIL: sales@sherwoodforest-uk.com

Christmas Presents for the country sports man or woman in your life....

Every year we like to suggest the sort of presents we would like to find in our stockings or on our Christmas table.

'Tis the Season to be Jolly...

and why not be jolly with the award winning Cooley Whiskey as the brand collects 10 Gold Medals at IWSC Two Years Running - the latest win brings Cooley's total Gold Medal haul to over 100.



Cooley Distillery, Ireland's only independent Irish whiskey distillery, has matched the record it set in 2009 by winning 10 Gold Medals at the 2010 International Wine & Spirits Competition (IWSC). The results were announced at the IWSC Awards ceremony in London.

IWSC medals are awarded on a strict points system by a panel of international judges. They are the most prestigious honours bestowed to the drinks industry as they are judged solely on the quality of the wine or spirit.

The 2010 IWSC Competition Banquet was held in the Guildhall in London on the 17th November 2010 when specific product and producer trophies were awarded. Cooley Distillery has been named European Distiller of the Year for the last two years and was in the running to make it three in a row.

Cooley Distillery collected a total of 20 medals at the IWSC in 2010 making it by far the most successful Irish whiskey distiller at the IWSC and brings Cooley's overall haul of Gold Medals to over 100 in all International Spirits Competitions.

Jack Teeling, Managing Director of Cooley Distillery, commented, "The latest haul of IWSC Gold Medals brings us over the landmark of 100 Gold Medals in all competitions and justifies our continual investment in innovation and quality. At a time of resurgence in Irish whiskey we are delighted to continue to build on both Ireland's and Cooley's reputation for being a world class producer of whiskey."

List of Gold Medals at the 2010 IWSC

- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Kilbeggan 15 Year Old Blended Irish Whiskey
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Madeira Finish Single Malt
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Connemara Peated Single Malt
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Connemara Cask Strength Peated Single Malt
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Connemara Sherry Finish Peated Single Malt
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Greenore 8 Year Old Single Grain
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Greenore 15 Year Old Single Grain
- Gold Medal & Best in Class, Dún Léire 8 Year Old Single Malt
- Gold Medal, Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Sherry Finish Single Malt
- Gold Medal, Tyrconnell 10 Year Old Port Finish Single Malt

www.cooleywhiskey.com Available in a wide range of outlets or buy on line from www.masterofmalt.com

To see more clearly.....

From Swarovski Optik comes the New SLC HD Binocular. A Classic Perfected. Crystal clear, ergonomic and robust with high performance HD optics and a new focusing mechanism. Light weight due to magnesium housing and fully waterproof. A reliable

ENJOY COOLEY WHISKEY SENSIBLY



COOLEY
DISTILLERY

THE *Gold* STANDARD OF IRELAND



OVER 100 GOLD MEDALS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Cooley Distillery is Ireland's only Independent whiskey distiller. Cooley's Award winning portfolio of Irish whiskeys including Greenore Single Grain, Kilbeggan Irish whiskey, Tyrconnell Single Malt and Connemara Peated Single Malt have won over 100 gold medals over the last 10 years including another record 10 Gold Medals at the 2010 IWSC. Cooley Distillery ensuring the Independent Spirit of Ireland is alive and well.



Visit www.cooleywhiskey.com for further information

companion for all outdoor activities. RRP : 8x42 £1510 and 10x42 £1525. www.swarovskioptik.com or info@swarovskioptik.co.uk.



Wrapping Up Warm - The Best of Barbour's Winter Collection

With colder weather and rainy days, it has never been more important to wrap up warm whether it's out walking the dog, shooting or riding. Barbour's superb winter collection has a wide selection of jackets and knitwear to suit all needs.

New for Autumn Winter 10 is the Down Wax jacket for men and Blizzard Down jacket for ladies. Barbour's signature diamond quilting is filled with luxurious down to create snug waterproof jackets with detachable hoods that are guaranteed to provide essential warmth and comfort.

In Barbour's famous wax cotton is the men's Bristol jacket. Re-engineered in a slimmer fit than Barbour's classic shape, the Bristol is 100% weatherproof with large bellows pockets. It's the perfect companion for watching rugby or a walk with the dog. For ladies, the Beadnell wax jacket is a good all round outdoor jacket. Already a best seller this season, the jacket is both flattering and functional and the Ancient Tartan lining adds a touch of panache.

Designed by Lord James Percy, considered to be one of the best shots of his generation, Barbour's award winning Linhope Endurance 3 in 1 is the ideal men's winter sporting jacket. A top of the range jacket and waistcoat, it can be worn together on colder days or



separately if required. The 3 in 1 delivers everything a gun needs to find his mark in comfort - 100% waterproof, improved diamond cut sleeves for superb articulated movement, large bellows pockets and an easy to grip chunky zip safely concealed for shooting purposes.

For ladies, the Belford jacket, winner of the Best Clothing New Award at the IPC Shooting Awards 2010,

is a stylish, versatile all rounder that is ideal for all sporting activities. Made from a laminated cotton outer with quilted tartan lining, the Belford jacket, has articulated sleeves for freedom of movement and rear vents for equestrian use. The large bellows pockets also make it ideal as a dog walking coat when out on long winter walks.

Chunky knitwear sits alongside finer merino knits in roll necks and V necks. A crescendo of cheerful colours to brighten up the winter months, compliment and co-ordinate outerwear to ensure the wearer looks just as good on the inside as well as the outside.

For stockists please call 0044 (191) 427 4210 or visit www.barbour.com.



Winter Style and Comfort from McBride's – not just one of Northern Ireland's largest retailers of leather & Sheepskins

Family run for over 38 years Mc Bride Fashions, based at the Temple Shopping Centre, Carryduff Road, has built an enviable reputation for supplying high quality leather and sheepskin products at highly competitive prices. Their experience in developing an intimate understanding and knowledge of leather in all its forms from sensual suede to rugged sheepskin is your guarantee that at McBride's customers are offered a unique standard of product range and service.

However McBride's also stock a wide range of country casuals, including the Toggi range, for all kinds of outdoor activity. See www.mcbridesfashions.com.

Thinking of Tweed.... Magee and Kevin & Howlin

Magee

Magee, established in 1866 is a timeless brand with a



Barbour®

www.barbour.com

Stockist enquiries: +44(0)191 427 4210

contemporary Irish twist, specialising in beautifully tailored jackets for men and women.

The company have a fantastic Country Collection catering for all your needs outdoors and in!

The Magee Country Collection includes high-spec shooting coats for men and women, breeks, Cord Trousers, action back shooting jackets, bright country check gilets and of course the Magee Jacket; our oldest and most timeless piece in the collection, still as durable as ever and guaranteed to make you look good while wearing it!

'We add a few special touches to our collections, which make them unique - beautiful quality, fabulous cloths, a timeless but contemporary look and of course - our Irish heritage.'

Garments available on the website www.mageeireland.com and shops in Donegal (+353 (0) 749722660) and Dublin - Wicklow Street - (+353 (0) 16795795)

Kevin & Howlin

In 1936 Jim Kevin along with his partner Michael Howlin founded the Tailors and Outfitters known as, Kevin & Howlin Ltd, at 39 Nassau Street in Dublin, providing top quality clothing and tailoring while specialising in handwoven tweeds. The tweeds are Handwoven in Donegal especially for Kevin & Howlin.

In 1973 due to the redevelopment of the premises - Jim's son, Noel, who had taken over the family firm, at 31 Nassau Street decided to concentrate exclusively on Tweed becoming one of the premier purveyors of tweeds in Ireland.

Contact : Kevin & Howlin 31 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, Ireland Tel: +353-1-6334576 www.kevinandhowlin.com

Some Stylish and Comfortable Winter Footwear....

From Ireland and Dubarry...

The acclaimed *Galway* boot from Dubarry..is. recognised around the world as a genuine classic. At home in the town and in the country, its reputation for combining style and performance is still unsurpassed. Born out of the rich and unique heritage of Ireland, the *Galway* is Dubarry's signature boot.

Created using the finest smooth and crushed leathers, lined with GORE-TEX® and featuring drawstring tops and finger pull, the *Galway* provides comfort and class in equal measure, for men and for women. Available in three colours, Black, Brown and Walnut, Dubarry claim that 'the *Galway* looks just as good with a pair of Dubarry's Alpaca Socks as it does with your jeans. Once worn, nothing else compares.'



Galway

Sizes: 3-13

Colours: Black, Brown, Walnut

Detail: GORE-TEX® insulated lining that wicks moisture away, DryFast-DrySoft™, breathable leather, knee high leather ties, finger pull fitted inside boot and wide entry for ease of fit

To find out more or receive a brochure please call +353 90 9642348 or

Dubarry of Ireland, Ballinasloe, County Galway, Ireland www.dubarry.com

From Le Chameau Stylish new boots and Shooting Gloves

Vatna - RRP £275 **NEW** Updated for 2010, the new Vatna has been re-designed and re-styled for a more



modern look. The boot is now lighter than before and has greater flexibility in the sole unit. The Vatna is a superior quality hunting boot for the discerning country person who demands the best technology available, but wants to sacrifice nothing in terms of style and comfort. The lower part of the boot is made from suede leather while the upper half is made of

Kotkor® fabric, giving the boot a truly elegant look. The Gore-Tex® lining ensures that the boot is 100% waterproof and breathable.

Chasseur Gloves - RRP £50 **NEW** Waterproof and breathable shooting gloves manufactured from Oxford nylon with a warm Thermolite® lining. Featuring index trigger fingers with Velcro® fastening, self-fastening



For full details of Le Chameau's footwear collection and to locate your nearest stockist, please visit www.lechameau.co.uk or call Le Chameau (LLC Ltd) on 01489 557600.



LEATHER

SHEEPSKIN AND COUNTRY CASUALS

**Top Quality and Value
at McBride's, the
Leather Specialists**

**Ladies and Gents Leather
full length Coats,
Jackets, Trousers, Skirts,
Hats Handbags,
Sheepskin Jackets**

Outdoor wear by Toggi, Sherwood,
Target-Dry Kangol, Hunter Boots etc.
Ladies and Gents Coats, Jackets and
Fleeces, Ladies Fashions, and Casual Wear
Sheepskin Rugs, Gloves, Hats etc.

Target-Dry $\frac{3}{4}$ and Full length Raincoats

McBride Fashions

LEATHER AND OUTDOOR WEAR SPECIALISTS

Temple Shopping Centre

88 Carryduff Road, Ballynahinch Tel: (028) 9263 8767

www.mcbridesfashions.com

Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm

KEVIN & HOWLIN

**HANDWOVEN
DONEGAL TWEED**

Since 1936



31 NASSAU STREET, DUBLIN 2, IRELAND.

Tel: 01-6334576 • Fax/Phone: 353-1-6770257

Email: tweed@kevinandhowlin.com

www.kevinandhowlin.com

wrist straps, reinforced palms and neoprene cuffs.



For more Le
Chameau Gift ideas
see www.gmk.co.uk
www.llc-ltd.co.uk

Unique McKillens' Christmas Collection – Just for You

Christmas is getting nearer! The nights are longer and the temperature, as well as the leaves, has fallen. The smells of cinnamon and turkey herald the arrival of our favourite time of the year.

What will you do for shopping? At McKillens of Church Street, Ballymena there is such a variety of merchandise that both the men and the ladies will be spoilt for choice and value.

Winter brings with it a whole new wardrobe of footwear and fashions and McKillens of Ballymena certainly has something to wish for! The styles and colours are beautiful. The fabrics and detail are so luxurious and they are all at McKillens of Ballymena.

This winter, boots are very much in demand with long leg boots very much to the fore. Casual boots are very popular in a variety of leg lengths. Fashions are all about warmth and fabric and many of the collections offer great value for money.

For the men there are new styles in shoes from all the major fashion brands. Whether it is the outdoor life or city chic McKillens of Ballymena has the shoes for you!

In the Christmas Gift Shop on the first floor, there is a wonderful variety to help you choose the right present with exclusive prints of signed originals by renowned local artist – James McKendry. On the ground floor the Handbag Shop is full of temptation for all ages.

McKillens of Ballymena has always been famous for quality and service and this winter is no exception. Why not visit McKillens of Ballymena and treat yourself for Christmas. You never know – you might get more than you wished for! You might even have Christmas lunch or dinner or simply a 'latte' in the Fern Room Restaurant!

One or two stop shopping in Toome...

One of the best selections of hunting, shooting and fishing presents for the sports man or woman can be found in two of the best stocked country stores in

Ireland in the little village of Toome.

McCloy's Guns Unlimited has not only a fantastic range of guns to suit all pockets but a massive range of quality shooting clothing and accessories. With some justification McCloy's claim to be Ireland's largest gun & clothing store and certainly the shop stocks a wide range of brands including Browning, Bettinsoli, Laporte, Laksen, Le Chameau, Toggi, Hunter, Gamebore and many more too numerous to mention

For the last minute stocking filler there are four very special Christmas offers:

Guardian luxury leather gunslip now only £80

Guardian luxury leather cartridge box (250) £100

Boresnakes – variety of calibres £16

Extendable shooting stick "v-top" £20

And for those who wish to shop from the comfort of their own home a new online shop is being launched in December 2010. See www.mcloys.com

Charlie Keenan Countrywear is also based in Toome and is a virtual emporium of all types of outdoor clothing, protective wear and quality army surplus.

The range of clothing includes the value for money Sherwood and Big Bill ranges and with the current wet weather an absolutely fantastic range of footwear including extensive stocks of possibly the most comfortable and convenient to wear Wellington on the market the Muckboot.



One of the classics of this range is *The Derwent*. It has a high leg waterproof neoprene outer with protective rubber foot and ankle cover, lightweight sponge sole and can only be described as very comfortable footwear that functions as a wellington but fits like a boot.

The materials are all very flexible making them easy to put on and take off, and offer the utmost in comfort to the wearer whilst protecting from the worst of the weather providing a warm and dry environment for the feet.

CHARLIE KEENAN



Charlie wears Hoggs Wax Indian Hat £25
and Big Bill waterproof, breathable
cammo parka £85



Tay
This is undoubtedly the best value for money quality neoprene welly on the market at this time, it combines a multitude of features to create a very comfortable, durable and practical field boot. There is a rubber outsole which has been bonded to a blown rubber sponge sole to create a sole unit which is lightweight, durable and 'cushy' underfoot, the firm rubber outer which is extended up the leg of the boot is reinforced in key areas to maintain utmost flexibility and also to provide support for the ankle and fore foot as well as protecting the neoprene inner of the boot from damage caused by the most unforgiving briar bushes and barbed wire. There is a breathable mesh liner in the boot to allow airflow around the foot thus minimising perspiration and in turn maintaining the comfort of the foot of the wearer. Sizes 4-12 Colour Green Price £75/€90



Spey
These 100% waterproof products are made with Breathable Airmesh™ lining and CR-grade foam for additional comfort. The Spey has the same style, fit and sole as the Tay, but features the realtree™ camouflage pattern. The standard 5mm neoprene lining has an additional soft fleece lining throughout, while the toe area has extra Thermo-foam™ for added warmth. CR flex-foam bootie (5mm) with four-way stretch nylon, snag-resistant cover is 100% waterproof, lightweight, flexible, buoyant, and will form to virtually any calf girth. Stretch-fit topline binding snugs calf to keep warmth in and cold out. Additional achilles reinforcement for added protection. Seamless quick-clean rubber overlay. Breathable Airmesh™ lining. Comfort range of 85° F to sub-freezing conditions.



Esk

A state-of-the-art working boot, the Esk has a high rubber covering on the leg and a superb sole tread. Other features include: a highly reinforced toe cap and instep; a removable 'Nitrocel' footbed for additional insulation and cushioning; an anti-shock heel made from MuckBoot's own 'Absorb' open cell polymer; a kick-rim to allow boots to be kicked off without damage; and a rubber Achilles protector to shield the wearer from blows to the back of the ankle. The Esk also has MuckBoots' own 'air-mesh' technology. Thousands of tiny vertical fibres allow air to circulate throughout the internal lining of the boot. When combined with the CR-Foam bootie, it provides an unmatched comfort range of +85°F to -85°F. Colour: Green Size: 4 - 13 Price £75/€90



Trent

A premium but lightweight general-purpose welly with a 5mm cleated field sole for a good all-round grip. Excellent for gardening, the Trent features a special 'Spade Contour' sole to protect the foot when digging. As well as a reinforced toe cap and instep the Trent has a rubber achilles protector, an Absorb (TM) anti-shock heel, a kick rim and a removable Nitrocell (TM) footbed. The leg is covered with a 4-way stretch nylon, snag resistant cover and the boot has an Air Mesh lining for optimal temperature/moisture control and comfort. Colours: Moss Size: 4 to 12 Price £75/€90



Derwent

The Derwent from Muck boot, it has a high leg waterproof neoprene outer with protective rubber foot and ankle cover, lightweight sponge sole and can only be described as very comfortable footwear that functions as a wellington but fits like a boot. The materials are all very flexible and offer the utmost in comfort to the wearer whilst protecting from the worst of the weather providing a warm and dry environment for the feet. Available in sizes 4-12 Price £60/€70



10 Main Street, Toome, Co. Antrim BT41 3SA

Tel: 028 (from RoI 048) 7965 9888 Mobile: 077744 29052

www.charliekeen.com

They are available in sizes 4-12 at a Price of £60/ €70
To see some of Charlie's other products visit
www.charliekeenan.com

Another angle from Blackwater Lodge...

From Ian Powell comes news of Blackwater Christmas Gift vouchers which can be used for fishing – from a day to an early season or complete season syndicate place or exchanged for tuition or tackle. Further details from Ian at info@ireland-salmon-fishing.net www.ireland-salmon-fishing.net

From Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine ...

To celebrate the magazine going online in a readable format and thus becoming the widest circulated Irish country sports publication of all time, we are offering readers who want to retain their traditional hard copy read a truly magnificent Christmas present for themselves or to give to their sporting friends. For just £20/€30 you can purchase a years subscription to the magazine posted out to you AND two tickets (worth £20/€30) to one of the Great Game Fairs of Ireland. We will even throw in a Gift Card!

See www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com for details of this very seasonal offer.

The best present of all...

May we wish all our readers the health to enjoy a very merry Christmas with their families and loved ones and a happy and more prosperous 2011.





McKillens[®]
IRELAND'S LARGEST SHOE STORE

The ideal Christmas Gift
New James McKendry Prints
£199

View our Christmas selection
78-90 Church St. Ballymena

MAGEE

1866



www.mageeireland.com

+44 (0) 2825646211

SHOOT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Entries close 31 January 2011

Northern Ireland's shoots have triumphed in the past but who will win the country's top shoot accolade. Is the trophy set to move 'dwn south' or will the winner have a northern location? But one thing will be certain - just like before - the winner will be the 'best of the best' from the many entries.

This season it could be YOUR shoot that wins this top accolade. And you do not have to 'run' the shoot to make the nomination. You may be a beater, picker-up, gun or simply like to go along to spectate - just get your entry in before the closing date!

The magnificent perpetual trophy is waiting for the shoot that is judged to be Shoot of the Year along with complementary tickets to the Irish Game Fair & Country Lifestyle Festival at Shanes Castle.

Readers throughout Ireland can nominate the shoot that they feel is simply the best. All you need to do is say why you think it merits the award. It might be for the high quality birds, its friendly atmosphere, perhaps for its idyllic surroundings, the skill of the keeper or maybe its team of beaters and pickers up are the best in the business. Or you may think that there are other reasons that make the shoot stand out.

Entries will be judged by a panel comprising Paul Pringle (Chair), Philip Lawton, and Albert Titterington

All you have to do is complete the entry below: I think that (enter name and address of shoot) is the best because:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

You can also use plain paper to explain in full why the Shoot is your Number 1 choice.

Your Name

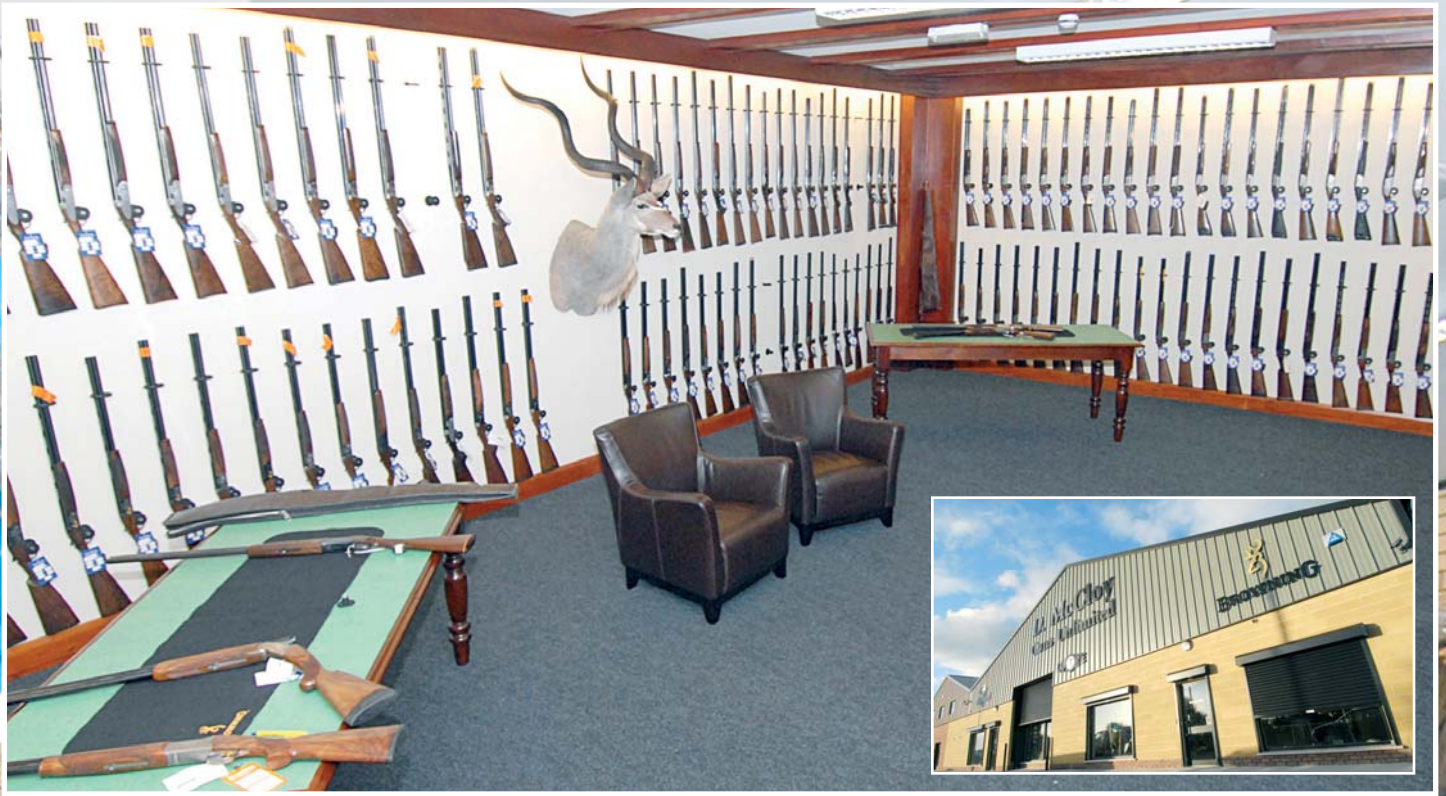
Address

Tel No:

Email:

Please return your completed nomination by 31 January 2011 to: Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd., Cranley Hill, 5b Woodgrange Road, Hollymount, Downpatrick BT30 8JE Or Email your entry by that date to: countrysportsandcountrylife@btinternet.com

The perpetual trophy will be presented to the winning shoot at the Irish Game Fair and Country Lifestyle Festival at Shanes Castle, which will be held on 25th 26th June 2011.



Donal McCloy Guns Unlimited

The background image shows the interior of a store specializing in hunting and outdoor equipment. In the foreground, a wooden display stand holds several pairs of socks. Behind it, various outdoor jackets and trousers are hanging on the wall. A television screen is visible in the background, and a mounted animal head is on the wall to the right.

D McCloy Guns Unlimited

Toome Business Park,

21 Hillhead Road,

Toomebridge,

Co Antrim N Ireland BT41 3SF

Tel 028 (from ROI 048) 79650641 Fax 028 (from ROI 048) 79659033

Email : donalmccloy@mccloys.com

Country Chat

Downsizing decoys, Billy examines the 'Tommy McAneney' effect

At the Ballywalter Game Fair I overheard a young chap asking the price of a single mallard duck decoy. "That's twelve pounds," came the reply. So, how much would you pay for twenty duck decoys, (mallard, teal and widgeon) eighteen pigeon decoys, (shell and whole) eleven rook decoys, camouflage netting, hide poles and carrier bag? Steven the youngest member in our shooting club got the lot for £40. Cleaning out the two store sheds one Saturday back in February, I decided that I had lifted and shifted them for the last time. Alas, I do not have the time for decoying anymore and Goodness knows I have certainly done plenty of that over the years.

Going back to the late 1960s, a weekday in the middle of January, the weather was atrocious. Snow and icy conditions made driving and getting about hazardous, although for myself and friends it made a pleasant change. Driving on the roads was not a problem for us: we were still at school. Needless to say the school bus was late that morning. Eventually it did arrive and we had travelled no more than a mile or so down the road when the driver lost control and the bus careered off the road into a nearby field. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt and although I received a minor cut to my forehead, it didn't stop me hightailing it back home. I told my mum what had happened, as I hurriedly changed out of school uniform and into my shooting clothes for I knew where I was going. In the good old days of the sixties all you really needed was a pair of 'wellies' and access to the fields; the fields were our pathways for getting about.

My friend Raymond who lives in the same little cottage today as he did back then, had, at that time, two shotguns. A single barrelled (hammer) Baikal, which he kindly trusted me with, and a Franchi five shot automatic. As we were going pigeon decoying we took what decoys we possessed, for in those days we relied more on 'building up the picture' than the gadgets and the vehicle load of stuff that they have now.

I made a dash for the hide

The field on that particular morning was only a short walk away, a sloping ten acre field of potato stubble, with a row of mature ash trees running the entire length along the bottom of the field and on that very cold day in January, like our hands and faces, it was blue with pigeons. Raymond chose the corner of the field to build his hide, whilst I put up my hessian net hide about fifty yards or so away, with the ash trees and a low hedge of hawthorn behind me. I put out what decoys I had, some of which were nothing more than plastic piping cut in the



Setting standards: booted and suited with well behaved spaniels.

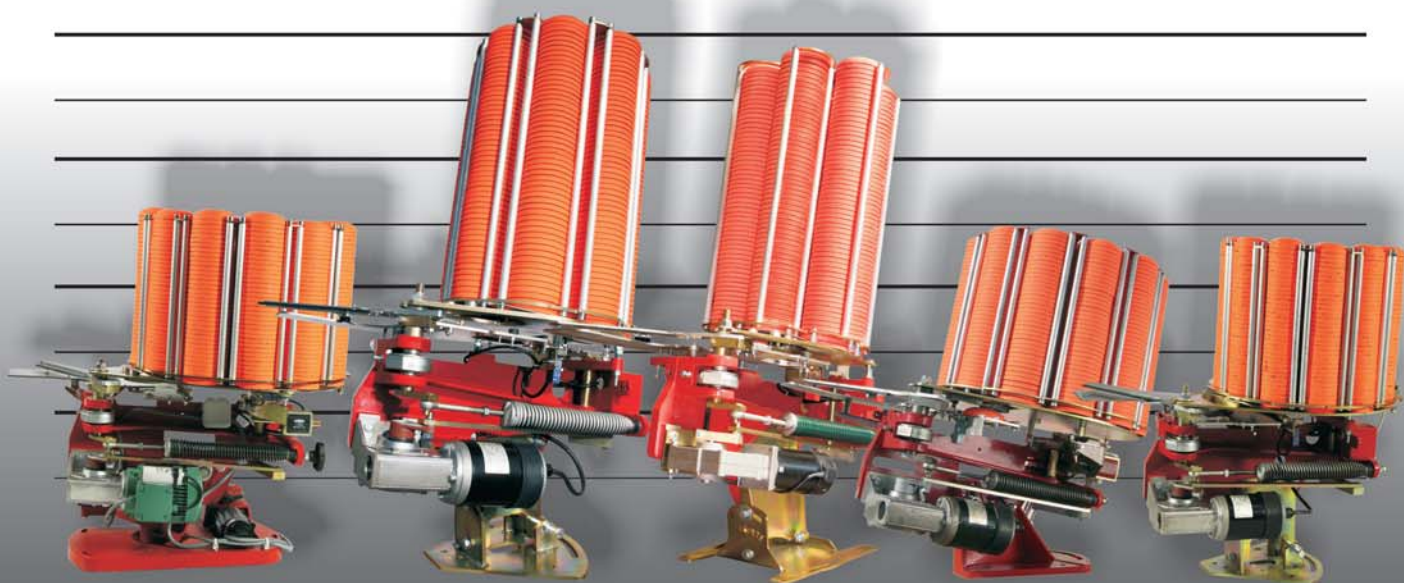
shape of a pigeon with wings attached by an elastic band. Pigeons were coming from all directions and, even as I made a dash back to the hide, there were already pigeons over the decoys.

Despite my best efforts of operating the opening lever, fumbling for a cartridge from within the deep pockets of my green smock-like coat, loading, closing and cocking the hammer back and then taking aim with the thirty-two inch barrel, I was missing more than I shot. On one occasion because my hands were so numb with the cold the hammer slipped from beneath my thumb and the gun went off, but luckily for me it was pointing in the desired direction.

I was even missing pigeons when they were stationary, on the ground and in the trees. Eventually and thankfully they started to concentrate more towards Raymond's decoys and, at his request, I closed up shop and joined him. To be fair, he allowed me every opportunity, but I just could not connect, so the bulk of the bag at the end of the day was really down to him. Unfortunately the final total was not recorded and as we had no dogs we picked up the slain as best as we could. I do recall however that we filled the large sack we had brought along more in hope than expectation.

Decoying pigeon from there onwards became a little more sophisticated as each decade passed and although

80+ GLOBAL COMPETITIONS... ONE BRAND... NO COINCIDENCE



The Usual Suspects

THEY'VE BEEN SEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD...
THEIR FEATURE SET WAS OFTEN COPIED BUT NEVER BEATEN...
EVEN OLYMPIANS FOUGHT AGAINST THEM...

"A masterclass in engineering..." ★★★★★

"Quite simply the best we've ever seen..." ★★★★★

"Nothing but nothing comes close - simply perfect" ★★★★★

**Showing all across the world this year
with special appearances at:**

The World Cup (Acapulco) - The World Cup (UK) - The World Cup (Beijing)
The Commonwealth Games (India) - The Asian Games (China)

When only the best will do.

For more information contact our local distributor Donal McCloy

Telephone: +44 (0)28 7965 0641

Donal McCloy Toome Business Park 21 Hillhead Road Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3SF

the field craft involved is still much the same today as it was then, trying to hoodwink them has certainly become more of a challenge. With the passing of time, I improved in my shooting as I did in my choice of gun, and in the forty or so years that I have had those pigeon decoys, it would be fair to say I decoyed with not a little success.

Skulking behind a clump of gorse

With the duck decoys I have had less success. I shot the odd duck here and there with them, but nothing really memorable springs to mind. I recall using the widgeon decoys on Ardlea shore, a small estuary just off Dundrum bay, the decoys looking the part on the tributary that runs along the bay. We were a picture, the two cousins and me skulking behind a clump of gorse on the old railway embankment that runs the length of the bay. We had the odd shot at duck every now and then, although I don't recall picking up many duck at the end of the evening.

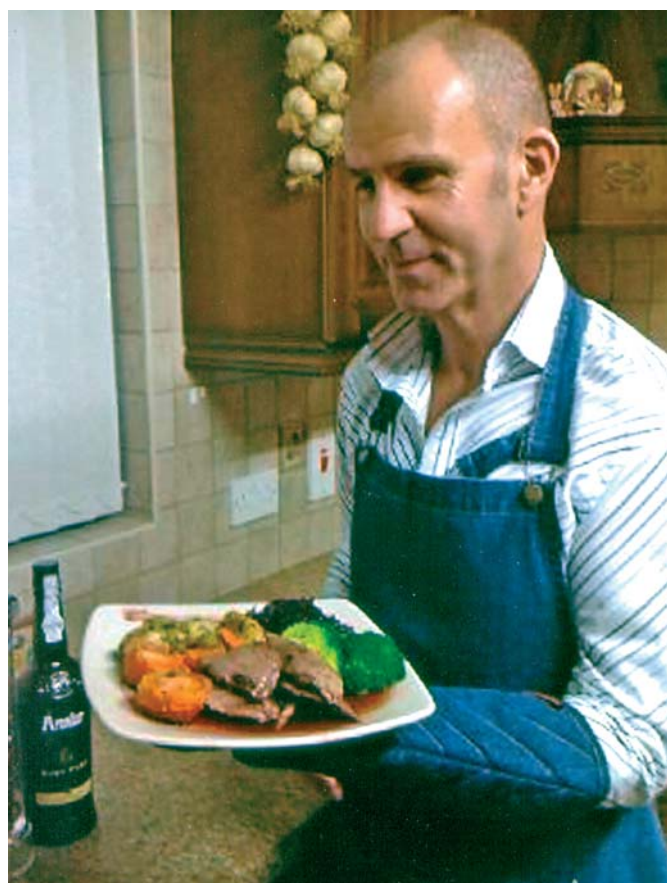
But one particular evening I remember well, for it was freezing beyond words, the sky was crammed with glittering stars, the ground glistening white with heavy frost. And because we had been standing in the one spot for so long, the three of us could hardly move. When we got back to our vehicles we couldn't get the keys into the car locks because the locks had frozen. Numerous times I have used duck decoys on rivers, stubble fields, flooded areas, ponds and incoming tides, but trying to devise an easy and foolproof method for throwing them in and retrieving them out of the water, without getting them all tangled up, took up more time than actually using them.

Now then, if there is one thing above all else that I admire in a person in respect of the hunter/gatherer side of our sport, it is in the bringing to the table and in the eating thereof. And in this regard, readers of this magazine may have seen his picture several times and may even remember the name of Tommy McAneney. I first met Tommy a good fifteen years ago when we were shooting in Scotland, Tommy joining us for the first time on one of our numerous trips to Scotland. Although back then he was a relatively newcomer to the commercial side of the sport, he has been on every trip since with barely a weekend's absence.

The likeable thing about Tommy is the fact that he spares no expense in being aptly prepared and well kitted out to look the part. Turn up on a managed game shoot wearing inappropriate clothing - especially if you are sharing the field and your sport with other nationalities - will not only be frowned upon but also, in some quarters, you may not be invited back. It is true that you should never judge a book by its cover, but in the different fields of the sport, dressing to suit the occasion, grouse shooting for example is not only showing respect to your host, the keeper and the work he does on your behalf, but also, it is having respect for the finest game bird ever to grace your barrels.

'Crawling' to get sport

I remember once being met at the breakfast table in a hotel in Scotland by a fellow gun that had travelled over with us; he was wearing jeans and a tee shirt. We were shooting that day on a family owned grouse moor that I



From field to table show respect for game.

had done a lot of 'crawling' to obtain. "You need to hurry and get changed, we leave in fifteen minutes," I said. "I am changed and ready to go," he replied. He turned up later with a semi automatic! Etiquette, sportsmanship and being part of a team stands true in every sport and the only time you should stand out is those times when you excel.

On another occasion we found ourselves sharing a grouse moor on Blair Atholl estate in Scotland with nine English guns, accompanied by their wives and girlfriends, Scottish dog handlers and five keepers completed the line up. Not only were the five of us - the Irish contingent - well dressed, but we also shot the bulk of the bag.

No such reservations about Tommy turning up in jeans and a tee shirt - it's a suit of tweeds for him and companioned by a well-behaved brace of spaniels. Last year in August on my return from Scotland, Tommy met me to relieve me of the grouse that I had shot on the Glorious Twelfth. One month later in September, he again met me relieving me of nineteen grouse. With the greatest of attention he will dress and prepare each and every bird for the freezer in preparation for the table. Throughout the season and well into the springtime Tommy will have game on the table every weekend. Whether its fur, feather or fin, he will treat it with the respect it deserves, from his attire when obtaining it to the table when consuming it.

Our choice of sport, especially in field sports may not always be meritorious in the eyes of others, but for me, the 'Tommy McAneneys' of this world are what gives the sport its credibility, at the same time maintaining that wee buzz of enthusiasm, just as it did back in those days of hessian net hides and plastic pipe decoys.

Better shooting by definition



*Storm frames with
Ultra 2000 lenses*

See more, save more with prescription shooting glasses direct from Optilabs...

As one of the UK's leading independent prescription eyewear specialists, we design and manufacture sports glasses in our own factory. All we need is your prescription and we'll do the rest.



Optilabs prescription shooting glasses

Our **frames** are lightweight, durable and ergonomically designed for comfort and protection - available in a choice of attractive styles, including Storm (pictured), Panther and Blackbird.

Our **standard, hi-spec polarised lenses** reduce glare for superb definition. They come in a choice of tints to suit your requirements and are available in long distance, bifocal, varifocal and non-prescription.

Our premier lenses, the **Ultra 2000 polarised range**, offer a major advancement in variable tint technology. Ultra 2000 lenses react in all lighting conditions to provide perfect, glare-free vision - not only bright sunlight but challenging low-light too, where other, less advanced lenses struggle. All lenses are UV protected, scratch resistant and water repellent.

Polarised lenses: £153.95

Ultra 2000 lenses: £221.95

(Price includes frames and single vision prescription lenses - bifocal & varifocal lens options also available)

www.optilabs.com

020 8686 5708

CASTLEDILLON *Duck Shoot*

- Quality driven Mallard
- Spectacular drives
- Parties of 8 guns
- Bags can be tailored to suit
- Back-to-back days available
- Individual guns occasionally available
- Accommodation and necessary licenses catered for (if required)



CONTACT: 07779714856 or 07714201578

Brockna Sporting Club

**Top Quality Duck and Partridge
shooting available
September to January**

**Driven and Walk up Pheasant
shooting available
November to January**

**Lunch provided during
or after the shoot day**

**Choice of overnight accommodation
can be arranged within a 15 minute
drive of the shoot grounds**

**All sizes of parties and bag days
catered for**

Contact

Fiach: 0596473279 0876394098

Ciaran: 0871241889

Winter and Spring Holiday Feature

- 'Staycations' can help the Irish economy



Staycations is the new buzz word in the hospitality industry with state tourism bodies and hoteliers hoping to benefit from foreign holidays being more expensive, hassle with security, and delays caused by strikes and even volcanic ash by persuading potential holiday makers to holiday at home. With this issue *Irish Countrysports and Country Life* launches what will be a new regular feature – an exploration of what bargains are to be had in Ireland North and South and the attractions on our doorstep that are often overlooked. For those wanting to venture a little further afield we will also feature what Scotland and the rest of the UK has to offer.

Tourist research has shown that in 2010 more people stayed at home in Ireland for their summer and autumnal short breaks and enjoyed it. We have reports of couples who normally holiday in the US or 'the sun' enjoying a hot tub on the roof of a hotel in Belfast, taking some of the cultural tours around the city and enjoying fine dining and the lively bars. In short they said they really enjoyed themselves and hadn't realised what a fantastic holiday experience could be had 'just down the road.'

Bearing in mind that Belfast is just developing a good range of hospitality and entertainment after years of 'the troubles' – most cities and areas of Ireland could, I am sure boast, at least as good an entertainment experience.

So hoteliers, tourist bodies and visitor attractions tell us what you can offer our readers who wish to support the Irish economy and at least spend some of their holidays at home. And readers share with us any particularly good 'staycations' you can recommend.

A little further afield...

Scotland has long been a Mecca for country sports enthusiasts especially for grouse and goose shooting, stalking and fishing. With Stena offering great hotel and ferry deals and hotels there also seeking 'stay at home' business with fantastic packages, Scotland too offers some very attractive options.

Of course the threat of poor weather can be off putting but if one bases one's holiday break around an activity it can still be a most enjoyable experience. We decided to



The best travel experience on the Irish Sea!



**BOOK
NOW!**

With more fastcraft, more crossings and no baggage restrictions, you can pack more in when you take your car to Britain with the Irish Sea's leading ferry company!

So surf across the Irish Sea and enjoy free WiFi, the kids can meet Curious George, you can take in a movie or simply sit back, relax and enjoy the journey.

That's why more people choose to travel to Britain with Stena Line!



FREE WIFI



FUN FOR KIDS



FREE MOVIES



stenaline.co.uk

Call 08447 70 70 70 or see your travel agent


Stena Line
Making good time™

Conditions apply.

try one of the Scottish special break packages – a special DB&B five day package around a Beer Festival at the Clachaig Inn in Glencoe. As well as sampling all sorts of real ales, and of course malt whiskies there was a good entertainment package laid on of musical entertainment, quizzes etc and of course Glencoe provides excellent scenery and tremendous walking routes. Of course it rained for most of the five days but because we had prepared for that eventuality we still had an enjoyable break.

And the Clachaig's next beer festival is the FebruaryFest which has been extended to last 4 weeks. The full programme of evening entertainment including live music, beer and whisky tastings, lectures and quiz nights is all but complete and accommodation deals are very attractive i.e Any 3 Nights B&B £114 Any 3 Nights Dinner B&B £168 See www.clachaig.com

We also often take a few days in Scotland on either side of a shooting break such as those provided by Angus Game Plus Ltd www.angusgameplus.com and BCS Hunting www.scottishhuntingtours.com. Both these groups can provide not only good sport to suit all pockets but also comfortable accommodation with good food.

Locally instead of early morning travelling to a shoot we often take the opportunity to have a relaxed shooting break by staying overnight before or after the shoot. We have had some excellent sport and a good break with Turlough Coffey on the Wexford Slobs Tel: 00 353 53 9247789 and Damian McElholm from the Glennoo shoot www.glennooshoot.com who can provide a couple of days on partridge and pheasant and good

accommodation in the Blessingbourne Estate or the Valley Hotel in Fivemiletown. Damian also does fishing and stalking breaks. Many of the estates offer either accommodation in the 'big house' or can arrange suitable B&B or hotel accommodation.

And of course some of our own salmon fishing can offer the best available in the UK. In this issue we feature the Blackwater Lodge which we can endorse from personal experience and of course we have in the past featured such gems as Mount Falcon and Ballynahinch Castle.

If you know of a hotel/country house worthy of a feature please let us know.

Mount Falcon Salmon Fishery ...

Shane Maloney from Mount Falcon tells us "The 2010 season ended on a high with a very impressive total of 1069 fish landed from our two miles of water; the best total for some years. We would like to thank our anglers for their commitment to conservation by the returning of 469 salmon. Once again we will be making a donation on their behalf to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation.

The quality of our grilse fishing is improving. With the end of the drift net fishing the average size and numbers are on the up. We will see the return of the first full cycle, after the end of drift netting, next season from the fish that spawned in 2007 (980 fish landed that season) so plenty of encouraging signs for the future.

We will again be offering free salmon fishing to all our guests until the 1st of June 2011 however this must be





ANGUS GAME PLUS LTD

SPORTING HOLIDAYS

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

- GOOSE SHOOTING
- ROUGH SHOOTING
- DUCK SHOOTING

TEL. 079 38214368

01674 660224

www.angusgameplus.co.uk

MOUNT  FALCON

COMPLIMENTARY SALMON FISHING!



1069 salmon and grilse in 2010 !

**2 nights bed and breakfast and 2 days salmon fishing
from €219 per person sharing until 30th May 2011!**

For more information, please contact:

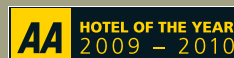
The Hotel on: 00353 (0) 96 74472

or The Fisheries Manager

mobile on: 00353 (0) 87 2831776

Mount Falcon, Foxford Road, Ballina, County Mayo.

Email: info@mountfalconfisheries.com Web: www.mountfalcon.com



Scottish Hunting Tours with BCS SPORTING....a journey to remember



2 day mixed programme

1 walked up day
1 rough day
1 evening duck flight
1 goose flight
3 night's bed and breakfast
in a country hotel
Arrangement fee

Cost - £680 per gun

This is just one of many programmes that we have available. Check out our web site for the full range of sport that we offer, not only in Scotland but England and Ireland also.

We have great pleasure in announcing that our new 30 minute DVD about game shooting in Scotland is now finished. The DVD follows a group of clients who were with us for a 3 day mixed programme. It is action packed and shows a rough shooting day, walked up day, 100 bird driven day, evening duck flight and an evening goose flight. To receive a copy of the DVD, please get in touch.



BCS SPORTING/Barry Stewart

Office – 0044 (0)1738 710266 / Mobile – 0044 (0)7759246731

www.scottishhuntingtours.com - Email – barry@scottishhuntingtours.com



Fishing on the River Maine.

booked in advance. We already have a significant number of bookings (particularly for the fly water) for July and August, so if you are looking to avail of fishing we would ask you to contact us as soon as possible to avoid disappointment."

Further details from: Shane Phone 353 (096) 74472
Email: sales@mountfalcon.com

Wwww.mountfalcon.com

Antrim... Jewel of the Lough and the home of the Irish Game Fair...

Many of our ROI readers make the annual pilgrimage to Shanes Castle and have a short break around the time of the fair. But the Antrim area is a great destination for a short break at any time of the year.

A scenically beautiful area with a number of picturesque towns and villages, Antrim Borough is situated at the north-east corner of the largest fresh-water lake in the British Isles, Lough Neagh. Its central location, just 4 miles from Belfast International Airport and with motorway access to seaports Antrim offers high quality tourist accommodation, superb leisure and retail facilities including the Junction One International Outlet centre and rich tapestry of history.

If bygone times interest you, then you will certainly not be disappointed by the variety of history and culture such as Old Courthouse, Antrim Round Tower & Pogue's Entry Historical Cottage. Why not take the opportunity to hire a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in Antrim and explore the fabulous scenery or why not take to the water and catch the ferry to Ram's Island? This idyllic little isle is located one mile offshore and features a round tower and the ruins of the O'Neills' 19th century summerhouse.

Golfers of all handicaps from throughout the world

keep coming back to enjoy the golf courses situated throughout Antrim Borough. Visitors can also enjoy the ultimate shopping experience and visit Northern Ireland's largest international outlet centre, Junction One, on the edge of Antrim town.

For country sports enthusiasts Ireland's largest Game Fair takes place at Shanes Castle on the 25th & 26th June 2011 see www.irishgamefair.com and another highlight will be the South Antrim Fishing Festival from 21-28 May 2011. There is a wide variety of fisheries and rivers available throughout the two Council areas of Antrim and Newtownabbey offering excellent fishing opportunities including Coarse and Game angling in a range of locations. Features of the Festival will include fishing competitions, culinary & fishing demonstrations from experts, opportunities for novices to learn how to fish, marquees with exhibitions and fish markets.

For further information on accommodation, attractions and activities in Antrim Borough, please contact: Old Courthouse Information Centre, Market Square, Antrim Tel: 028 9442 8331 or email: info@antrim.gov.uk

From the location of one of the Great Game Fairs of Ireland to another – Why not enjoy a short break in Ireland's Shannon Region?

The Shannon Region, nestling in the heart of the beautiful West of Ireland, comprises counties Clare, Limerick, South Offaly, and North Tipperary. A region of great charm and natural beauty, many visitors to the Irish Game and Country Fair, staged annually at Birr Castle have found the area is an ideal destination to enjoy a short break. The Fair takes place on the 27th & 28th August 2011 (see www.irishgameandcountryfair.com) but a warm

Lough Bo Shooting Centre

Clay Pigeon Shooting



- > Private tuition available for the inexperienced shooter
- > Practice sessions for individuals or groups
- > We welcome both male and female – Young and old
- > Shooting Range open 7 days by appointment

For further information or to arrange a practice please contact us
Tel: 071-9165141 Mob 086 8396620



- > Gallery Rifle & Benchrest Rifle Shooting
- > Precision Pistol Target Shooting
- > 25mtr 50mtr and 100mtr Rifle / Pistol Ranges
- > Membership available
- > Shooting Ranges open 7 days by appointment for members
- > **Affiliated to the "NASRPC"**

For further information regarding membership please contact us:
Mob 086 8262654

www.loughbo.ie



Loughs Agency



Promoting the Foyle and Carlingford Catchments

Riverwatch

Aquarium & Visitor Centre

Free Admission

Monday-Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm throughout the Year.

Open on Saturdays 10.00am - 4.00 pm during July and August.

Children from across both catchments taking part in the Loughs Agency Hatchery in the Classroom program

Come and visit our Aquariums in Prehen and get up close to some of the magnificent creatures found in our rivers, loughs and sea shores.

Activity packs available for children of all age groups and learning needs.

Three new aquariums installed representing more of our native fish species.

Large groups can book in advance for talk and tour.

Get your brand new Loughs Agency game, coarse and sea angling guides covering both Foyle and Carlingford catchments.

For further information contact: Loughs Agency
22 Victoria Road
L'Derry
BT472AB

Tel: 02871 342100
ROI: 04871 342100



www.loughs-agency.org



Standard Accessories

Bow and stern rails
Anchor fairlead
Anchor locker
Rubber coaming rail
(Sport and Console model)
Bow storage area
Underfloor storage lockers
Glove box (on Sport)
Helm unit (on Sport and Console model)
360deg swivel seats inc upholstery (on Sport model)
Transom fold out seats inc upholstery
Marine carpet (on Sport model)
2 x fishing rod holders
Gaffe holder
Side storage pockets
Battery and fuel storage
Diving platforms
Auxiliary bracket points

ALL THIS FOR £4995 inc VAT
Book early for a Demo

Specifications

Length	4.9m
External beam	2.0m
Internal Beam	1.65m
Hull Weight	300g
Engine Rating	60hp
Deadrise	18deg
Hull thickness	12mm
Capacity (App max)	6
Warranty (conditions apply)	5 years
CE Cat	C Inshore Waters

The Smartwave XL490 runabout has been designed with a "Robson Series" hull which results in one of the most stable, safe and smoothest riding boats of today. The XL490 is constructed from twin skinned Polyethylene and foam filled using the B.I.F.F foam system so you can be assured it's virtually un-sinkable. A long development program has achieved a strong and extremely robust boat suitable for even the most demanding user. With ample seating and storage for four the XL490 makes an ideal fishing, water sports or family boat.

This boat will make its Irish debut at the Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle on the 26th & 27th June

RLS Boats stockists of Smartwave and Mac Boats throughout Ireland
Ivan Bell

Contact: River Lake and Sea,

58 Coleraine Road, Portrush BT56 8HN

E: info@riverlakesea.com www.riverlakesea.com

Tel: +44 (0) 77 25-144 784 or +44 (0) 28 708 250 67

welcome awaits you in the region at any time of the year.

Superb facilities and amenities are set against a backdrop of great scenic beauty. Activities vary from specially designed walking trails available from www.shannonregiontrails.ie horse riding, cycling, shooting, fishing and watersports. For thrill seekers try the new and exciting Mountain Bike Trail in Ballyhoura or some awe-inspiring wake boarding in Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. Lough Derg, Ireland's largest pleasure lake is a veritable paradise for boating/cruising enthusiasts.

With coastal grandeur, wind swept dunes and relaxing parklands the Shannon Region is a golfers paradise with more than 25 top quality courses, including world rated championship links courses at Lahinch and Doonbeg in Co. Clare. The new Shannon Region SWING Golf Special offers a fantastic deal of playing three golf courses – Ennis, Shannon and Dromoland Castle Hotel golf courses all for just €95.

Limerick, the riverside city at the heart of the Shannon Region, is a modern bustling metropolis where many new hotels, and streetscapes have been added to enhance your enjoyment. A University City, Limerick's revitalised waterfront adds new zest to the centre which has fine restaurants, lively pubs and night life, as well as fantastic sporting venues such as the iconic Thomond Park Rugby Stadium and the new €20 million Limerick Greyhound Stadium. Recently awarded the prestigious accolade of European City of Sport 2011, Limerick has secured a number of unusual sporting events including Strongman Champions League, World Powerlifting Championships, European Duathlon Championships and The World Single Speed Cycling Championships.

Visitors can experience living history at Bunratty

Castle & Folk Park, explore the magical world of Aillwee and Doolin Show Caves or view the world famous Great Telescope at Birr Castle Demesne. The Shannon Region has something to suit everyone from the contrasting landscape of the Golden Vale, to the mystic wonder of the Burren, to the majestic and breathtaking heights of the Cliffs of Moher and its spectacular Visitor Centre.

Accommodation options are available to suit all tastes and budgets, from Irish farmhouse and town and country homes to luxury castle hotels on their own estates, self-catering accommodation by the lake or sea or modern city boutique hotels.

For help in planning your trip visit www.ShortBreaksIreland.ie where you can download a copy of the Shannon Region Discount Card which offers a 25% discount to top attractions and activities throughout the region and great holiday deals. For further information visit the Shannon Development tourism website www.discoverireland.ie/shannonregion or call the Shannon Region holiday hotline +353 61 317522.

Self catering in unique accommodation...

For those who like really special self catering accommodation the Landmark Trust has some extremely attractive and historical properties available for short breaks or longer holidays throughout the year see www.irishlandmark.com or for special offers telephone Irish Landmark at 01-6704733, or email bookings@irishlandmark.com.

Our next feature is on Spring breaks and Summer holidays – so if you have holiday accommodation or can recommend such accommodation we would like to hear from you.



Shannon's Cliffs of Moher.

NIDIRECT IS 'CATCH OF THE DAY'

If you have you a query about Angling in Northern Ireland or you need to purchase a rod licence then nidirect.gov.uk is the one stop shop for all your angling needs.

Getting involved has now been made easier with the addition of fishing information on www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling, as DCAL's Mandy Wilson explains: "nidirect.gov.uk has been designed with the citizen in mind and is laid out in an easy to read user-friendly way. The public can search by county to find out what angling waters are available in Northern Ireland. You can find out at the touch of a button which waters have recently been stocked and what sort of fishing is permitted there. Maps of fishing waters in the public angling estate are also available to view and the necessary permits and licences can be purchased". Angling prices in Northern Ireland start from only £8.00 for three days fishing.

Visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling or contact 028 90515116 for more information.



Angling in Northern Ireland



Photos courtesy of NITB and Paul Nash

Visit our NEW website at

www.nidirect.gov.uk/angling

or Contact: 028 90515116

Northern Ireland's Public Angling Estate offers Over 60 Game and Coarse Waters from only £8.00 for Three Days Fishing *What's stopping you?*

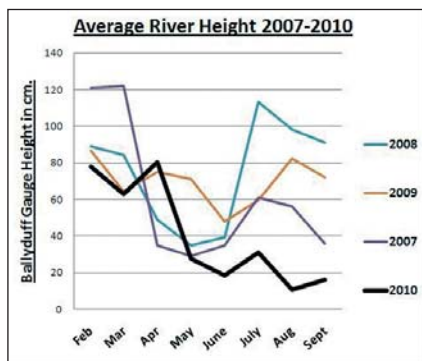
Department of
**Culture, Arts
and Leisure**
www.dcalni.gov.uk

Just Add Water!

In many ways 2010 was a challenging season. Not only did we have to contend with the economic climate, but also the weather one, with one of the worst droughts on record on the Blackwater. Then add a dash of volcanic ash just for good measure!

The Weather

The height of the Blackwater throughout the summer was reckoned to be the lowest for between 50-70 years. Every time bands of rain swept in from the Atlantic towards Ireland they seemed to miraculously divide so that the heavy rain went either north or south of the catchment. The graph below gives the average height by month at Ballyduff for the last four years, & it shows that the level for 2010 was the lowest for this period for every single month except April.

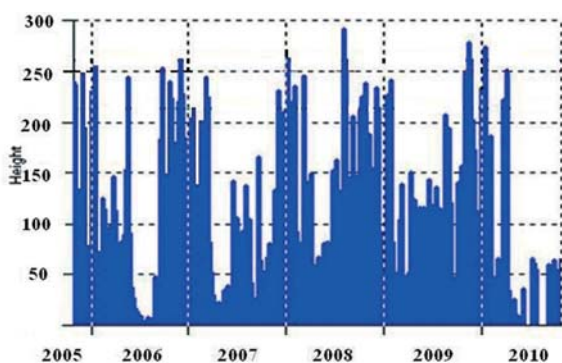


The levels through the summer (June to September) fell to an unprecedented level as can be seen from the table below.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
2004	105	93	87	64	41	34	31	68	75
2005	130	74	56	74	53	40	33	27	37
2006	127	57	76	60	83	42	25	21	61
2007	135	121	122	35	29	35	61	56	36
2008	168	89	84	49	35	39	113	98	91
2009	131	87	64	75	71	48	60	82	72
2010	132	78	63	80	28	18	31	10	16

Height of the Upper Blackwater River for the Last Five Years.

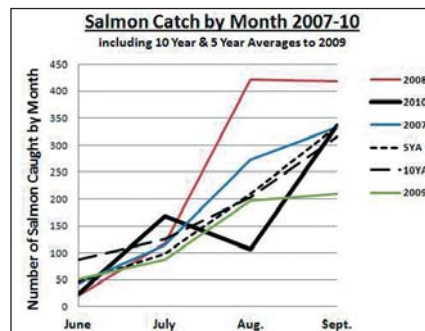
The pattern was consistent both up and down river. The graph below shows the height at Kanturk - which is 70km upstream of the Lodge - for the last five years.



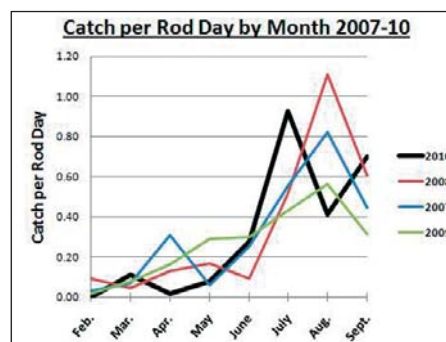
Salmon Catches

The number of salmon caught primarily depends on

the number of people fishing and the rod effort has fallen in the last couple of seasons due to the recession. In spite of this, the number of fish caught in the prime summer and backend months has been quite consistent in 2010 with the exception of August, when the river fell to an extremely low level.



A better perception is gained from looking at salmon caught per rod day, which gives a more accurate picture of the quality of the fishing. The graph below shows that for the second half of the season, June, July & September were all as good of better than the three previous seasons (from the inception of the drift net ban). August - which was by far the best month in the previous three years, once again showed a marked decline.



Given the record low water levels, some of the catch statistics make remarkable reading! The total catch for the season was 652 with an average of 0.5 fish/rod day, which was the second best ever next to our all-time record season of 1992 when 1,511 fish were caught with 0.84 fish/rod day. Of the fish caught, no less than 381 (58%) were released alive. The July total of 169 was the best recorded since we took 264 in 2000, the sixth highest ever & also the best ever Catch/rod day for the month. The two best days saw 23 and 20 fish caught with seven days recording ten or more.

September's catch of 336 (the third highest ever catch/rod day for the month at over 0.5) was remarkable considering that the low water kept the prolific autumn run in the tidal reaches. These fish didn't move into the main river at all until well into the close season at the end of October.

Regarding the percentage of fish taken on the fly, 2010 season had the Second Highest Ever Total for the season. We also recorded the Highest Ever for the months of May & June, the Second Highest for the month of September, the fifth Highest for August and the Eighth

Highest for July.

For the whole season, there were 26 days when 10 or more fish were caught, and five where there were 20 or more taken. The best day of the season was on September 21st when 26 salmon to 16lb. were caught.

Two fish vied for the best of the season at 16lb. Both were released as they were rather coloured. The first was caught on September 16th on spinner at Ballincurrig on the upper river by Denis O'Donnell (Tipperary) and the second on prawn by Ernie Bustard (Northern Ireland) on Lower Kilmurry.

One angler caught the two Best Catches in One Day with eleven on Blackstone on September 21st and seven on the last day of the season on Kilmurry - all on the prawn.

Also notable were the five salmon caught in one day on June 15th. on Kents - all on fly - by Portuguese angler Pedro Granadiero, five more on fly in one day for Terry McDermott (Northern Ireland) on September 8th on Lower Kilmurry & yet another five on fly for Dave McDowell (Northern Ireland) from the Road Pool on Ballinaroone.



Their first salmon.

As always, we were extremely successful in helping the less experienced anglers catch their very First Salmon. Given the river conditions, a remarkable 35 anglers lost their virginity! Yet more remarkable was the fact that - of these - no less than twelve caught their Second Ever the same day, and one even succeeded in catch the Third!

Notable amongst these were the twelve pounder on July 9th. for Dave Cannon from South Africa, the two caught the same day on August 9th by father & son Stephen & Charlie Aulsebrook (UK) gillied by Glenda, and the two caught on successive days (August. 18 & 19th) both on fly for father and son Harald & Jeremy Okorn-Schmidt (Austria) again gillied by Glenda. Then there were the 3 eighteen year old members of the Remold party (Italy) who all caught two each on their first day ever salmon fishing on Sep. 7th! Not to mention another father and son team - Herman and Gijs Willemsen (Holland) who both caught two the same day (Sept. 15th) with Gijs' fish weighing in at 10 & 12½lb!

In fact - since 1990, no less than 852 anglers have managed to catch their First Ever here. Our success rate

was quite good up to 2006, but has improved dramatically since - with the number of anglers catching their first expressed as a percentage of total rod days jumping from 1.5% to between 2.3- 3.3% in the last four years.

	Average 1990-2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of First Salmon	40	40	62	38	35
% of Guest Rod Days	1.5	2.3	3.3	2.5	3.0

Twenty-five years gone - and twenty-five more to come!



Earlier this year, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of me taking over the Blackwater Lodge in 1986. It was an opportunity to reflect on the great times had in the Lodge over that period.

But it was also a timely opportunity to look to the future. In that respect, we have come to the decision that it's in the Lodge's best interests and the interests of our guests that after 25 years at the helm, I now take a back-seat and let Glenda take over the management of the Lodge into the future. Those of you who know her know the passion and honesty she brings to anything to do with salmon fishing. She's young, skilled and highly respected, with a modern vision of what's required and expected in a leading salmon lodge. I have every confidence that she will bring the Lodge in only one direction - forward - to better times, in these, the worst of times.

So from next season onwards, you'll notice Glenda's positive and insightful influence on every aspect of Lodge activities. There'll be some very welcome changes, some of which she has already been working on.

Prices for 2011

In order to counteract the sweeping effects of the current recession, we will be reducing prices for 2011 to ensure that we provide affordable fishing. B&B rates have been slashed by 20%, and fishing rates by between 15 and 50% depending on the month.

Fishing Syndication

We initiated a very limited syndicate scheme in 2010. This will be extended further for 2011 with membership for either the full season at €1,500 or - for those who love the challenge of spring fishing - just €500 for the first four months. This will provide an enticing opportunity for those who are able to fish the Blackwater more often. Contact the Lodge for more information on this.

Fly-Only Sections

In order to better serve the needs of fly anglers, all the Lodge beats will have certain sections to be Fly Only at river heights below a designated water level. More information on this is available on the Lodge website

And so to the future

As I write (November 6) heavy rain has fallen since

late October and I am just getting news of a huge run of fish coming into the Blackwater. The fish counter at Clondulane weir reports 7,500 salmon running through in the eight days from October 27th. The counter only counts a small proportion of the fish that are actually running through as many go directly over the weir rather than up the fish-pass on which it is situated. Most of these are earlier season fish which should anyway have run up earlier in the summer. Many of the prolific autumn salmon run are destined to spawn in the 12 miles or so of the lower river between the tidal limit just below Lismore & Clondulane, so these would not be counted anyway.

All this bodes well for the future of salmon fishing on the Blackwater, and this - together with the recession busting incentives we have planned for 2011 - will hopefully ensure that many more anglers will be able to enjoy the peace, tranquility and superb salmon fishing provided by the Cork Blackwater.

Fact File

Blackwater Lodge & Salmon Fishery

Upper Ballyduff, County Waterford, Ireland

Tel: 00 353 58 60235

Web: www.ireland-salmon-fishing.net

For salmon fishing and holiday enquiries contact Ian
by email: info@ireland-salmon-fishing.net

For Tuition and Education enquiries contact Glenda
by email: glenda@ireland-salmon-fishing.net



WHERE THERE'S MORE TO COUNTRY SPORT THAN SPORT.

You can take the majesty and beauty of the Cork Blackwater for granted. You can take the numbers of glistening salmon as read. You can take the 16 private beats of the Blackwater Lodge as some of the best on the river. But on top of all that there's the comfort of the Blackwater Lodge itself. Now concentrating on the prime months, we're open for residential (Guesthouse B&B) bookings from July 16th, but our self-catering accommodation and waters are open all season. Flick through your 2011 diary and mark a few days on the Cork Blackwater. Contact Ian Powell for info and bookings. Where in the evenings you can put the 'port' back into 'sport'.


BLACKWATER LODGE
GUESTHOUSE & FISHERY

Upper Ballyduff, Co. Waterford, Ireland. Tel: 058 60235

email: info@ireland-salmon-fishing.net Web: ireland-salmon-fishing.net



4500 sq ft of Outdoor Clothing and Equipment.
Stocking a wide range of brands including:



SHIMANO



HIGH QUALITY OPTICS

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

39B CASTLE STREET, PORTADOWN
CRAIGAVON BT62 1BA
TEL: 028 (FROM ROI 048) 3833 9333
E-MAIL:
OUTDOOREXPERIENCE@BTINTERNET.COM
CONVENIENT PARKING JUST OFF M1

Finlay's **ANGLING** Centre

**"The Best stocked tackle Shop
in the Midlands"**



**Everything for the
Coarse, Game &
Sea Angler**

Good selection of Fly Tying materials

*Stockists of Shotgun and
Rifle Ammunition*



Agents for Honda
Outboard Engines and an
extensive range of marine
accessories available



Rathangan Road, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
Tel: (045) 525331 • Fax: (045) 525184 • Mob: (086) 4040809
Email: mafinlay@eircom.net • Web: finlaysanglingcentre.com



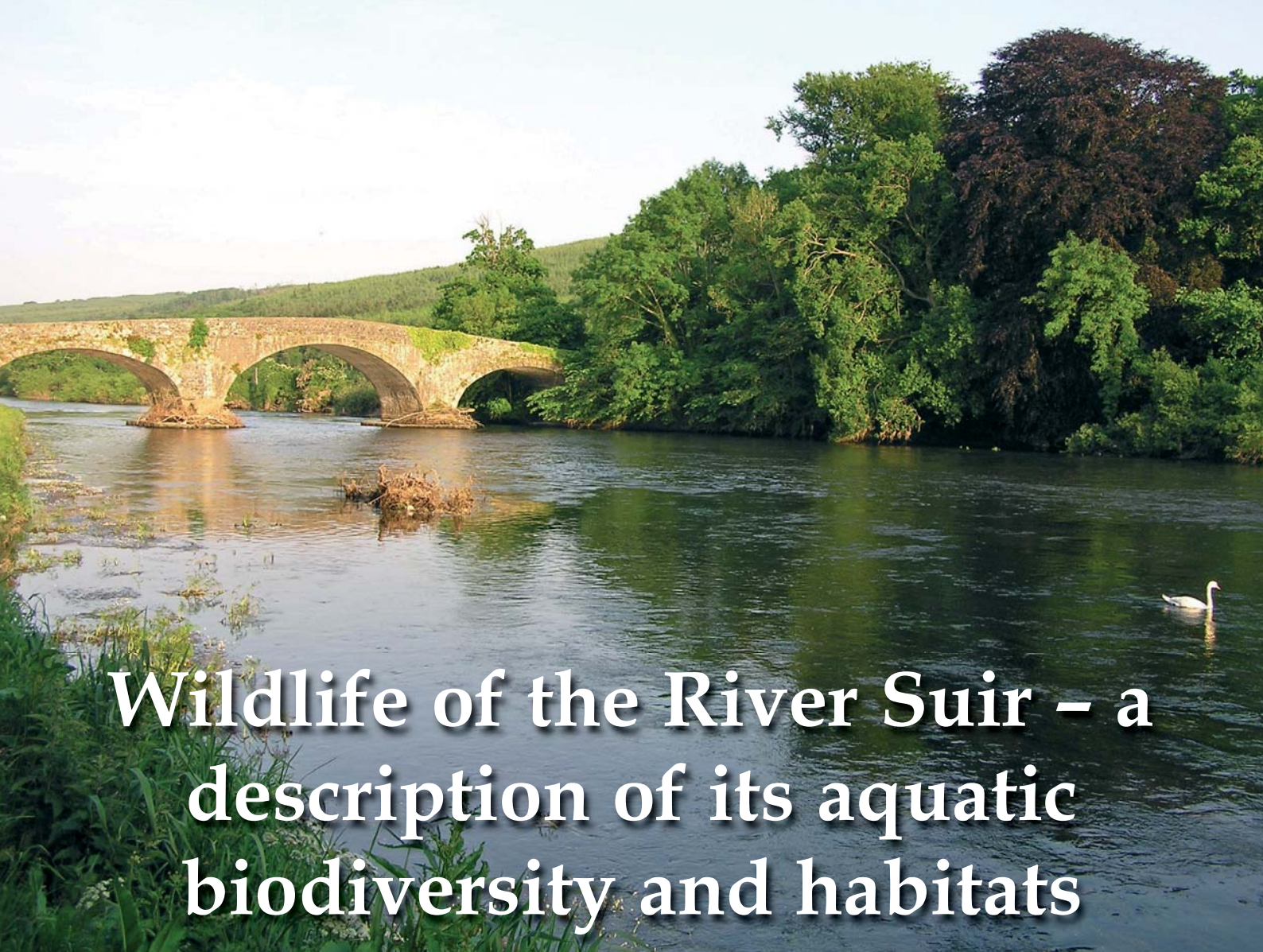
VICTORINOX
Your Companion for Life



0.8371.MWC Dual Pro - Retail Price : €37.95

Distributed by:
Peterson of Dublin-Peterson House-Sallynoggin-Co. Dublin
Tel: 01-2851011 Fax: 01-2856593
Email: sales@peterson.ie Website: www.peterson.ie

Available from Victorinox Stockists Nationwide



River Suir. A majestic river rich in biodiversity and scenery.

The River Suir is one of Ireland's most important salmon and brown trout fishing rivers and at a length of over 184km, is also an important haven for wildlife. Rising in the Devils Bit mountains (about six miles northwest of Templemore town), the river largely flows through County Tipperary but also takes in parts of Kilkenny and Waterford. Commonly known as one of the three sisters, the River Suir is tidal downstream from the town of Carrick-on-Suir all the way to the Waterford estuary, where it meets its sister river the River Barrow. At this stage the River Barrow having been previously joined by the other sister river, the River Nore at New Ross in Co. Wexford.

Biodiversity on the River Suir

What is Biodiversity? Put simply biodiversity is the diversity of life. However, we humans are also living creatures and together with our farm animals, pets and of course wildlife make up the biodiversity of this planet. Biodiversity includes the wide range of plants,

animals, and micro-organisms (bugs) around us and even the places or habitats in which they live. Scientists refer to habitats and the species living within them as ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are necessary to provide clean water and air and productive soil necessary for us to live. Unhealthy ecosystems result in problems that we see on TV every day, for example droughts or certain types of health problems. Even flooding, the effect of which we experience firsthand in Ireland can be the result of an unhealthy ecosystem (e.g. altered drainage patterns due to man-made changes to our landscape) coupled with the effects of climate change.

Habitats on the River Suir

To appreciate the biodiversity importance of the River Suir, as for any river, we must first understand the various habitats that are found along the river as it makes its journey onward to the sea. Rainwater falling in the catchment (area which a river drains) collects into small drains and streams which in turn join up into larger streams which subsequently become tributaries of the River Suir. All of these watercourses provide habitat for plants and animals (such as frogs) and as they



Sea bass often enter the Suir estuary to feed and good specimens can be caught by anglers down river of Waterford City.

less swift and turbulent. The young fish will feed here for another year and then if they are trout may move further downstream where more space and larger food items are available, or in the case of salmon, the fish will prepare for their seaward journey; a process known as smoltification. Here the

increase in size they become home to fish and waterbirds. As these tributaries become larger they become important habitat not only for fish but for mammals that feed on them, including the otter. From a fisheries perspective, the River Suir is viewed primarily in terms of Atlantic salmon and brown trout as these two species of fish are very important for both angling and commercial exploitation. For this reason they are important to the local economy as ultimately tourists who travel to fish on the River Suir also spend money locally.

The River Suir habitat for Atlantic salmon and brown trout can be viewed under three broad categories utilised by the different life stages of the fish:

Spawning habitat: Both Atlantic salmon brown trout spawn in fast running water where there is an ample supply of clean loose gravel. The male and female fish dig nests or “redds” in the gravel to spawn. The fish pair off and the female fish lays her eggs whilst the male fertilises them by releasing milt. The eggs drop down into the spaces between the gravel, where they remain until they hatch a few months later. The water flowing through the gravel spaces brings oxygen to the eggs and removes waste material. The young fish normally hatch out in March or April and remain in the spawning area, feeding on small aquatic animals until they are ready to move downstream to the nursery habitat. Spawning usually takes in the tributary streams although on the River Suir we know that it also occurs in the main channel.

Nursery habitat for young: Nursery habitat for young salmon and trout is usually situated downstream of spawning habitat. The river is now wider and the flow

fish become silvery in colour and develop the ability to survive in saltwater as they make their onward journey to the sea.

Feeding habitat: The main river channel and the larger tributaries such as the River Anner provide the main habitat for adult brown trout, where they feed and take shelter. Returning Adult salmon will often rest in the main channel, this rest period depends on how early they have returned from the sea, as they don’t normally spawn until later in the year close to Christmas.

Biodiversity of the River Suir

The habitats available to wildlife on the River Suir is very rich indeed. Not only can the habitat be viewed in the context of salmon and trout as already described, but can also be seen in the context of other species. This is true not only for under the water, where truly aquatic



In 2010 angling for salmon on the River Suir was by catch and release only, fish were returned alive by anglers, to conserve fish stocks.



Draining of rivers can cause major problems for salmon and trout if the gravel and other important habitat necessary for spawning is removed.

species occur but also along the river banks also known as the riparian habitat. The riparian habitat is the place where the water and dry land meet and includes not only emergent water vegetation, such as rushes and sedges, but also trees and other plants which grow along the river bank. The riparian habitat should form a continuous corridor along the river edge, where animals such as otter can travel in comfort. A habitat that we don't usually think of is "space", in essence the air over the river. Here aquatic invertebrate species, after leaving the water often swarm to find a mate. They subsequently lay their eggs on the surface water, to begin their lifecycle over again. These in turn are important food items for bird such as swallows and even certain bat species, such as the Daubenton bat which can be seen flying over the river at dusk as they feed.

In amongst the rushes and reeds other animals lurk. Water scorpions await their prey but they too may be consumed by larger invertebrates or fish. Crayfish, which occur in sections of the river where calcium levels are higher, forage for food along the river bottom. Pearl mussel, once probably widespread on the river are still known to occur in some tributaries filtering the water as they feed but are now critically endangered. Macroinvertebrate insects such as mayfly larvae feed on algae on the stones lying on the river bed, other invertebrates such as cased caddisfly larvae feed on detritus, shrimps feed on decaying leaves, blackfly larvae known as biting "midges" to most of us filter feed on suspended matter as it floats downstream as so too do some species of caseless caddis larvae. Prowling amongst these are larger invertebrate predators such as Perla larvae (a large stonefly species), dragonfly and damselfly larvae, all with their own preferred river

habitat but with one thing in common, they are predators of the other invertebrate species. Further up the food chain fish feed on these invertebrates, sometimes falling prey to birds such as kingfishers, herons and cormorants or to otters and mink.

Fish species in the River Suir

There are over twenty-two fish species in the freshwater portion of the River Suir. Native species include Atlantic salmon, brown trout, sea lamprey, river lamprey, brook lamprey, eel and rare fish species such as the Twaite shad and the European smelt. Non-native introduced fish species include perch, pike, tench and dace. The latter only appeared in the Suir in recent years. Some of the native fish species are of national and international importance and the river is designated as a Special Area of Conservation to ensure their protection. The further one travels to sea along the estuary the greater the fish species composition becomes as marine species may also be present. It is estimated that over 100 species can occur within the estuary.

Animals of the River Suir

The River Suir is home to a large variety of animals. This animals live in underwater habitats (e.g., fish and aquatic invertebrates), on the water (e.g., pond skaters), along the riparian corridor and river banks (e.g., otters), in woody vegetation out from the river (e.g., numerous bird species) is home to wide range of animal and bird species. Some (e.g., Daubentons bats and swallows) even exploit the space over the water feeding on hatching and emerging aquatic insects. Many birds nest where lush vegetation occurs on the river banks (e.g., Coots, moorhens and mallard duck and swans).

Protection of the biodiversity of our river is something which we can all get involved in. Here is a simple guide to some activities to look out for and if you require further information contact Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Protect and/or establish riparian habitat along watercourses if you are a landowner.

Do not undertake gravel removal from watercourses or land drainage without consulting the Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Check watercourses regularly for pollution especially during high risk periods - silage season, during and after slurry/effluent spreading.

Prevent clean water from entering effluent storage facilities.

Land spreading should only take place during the growing season well away from watercourses and never on waterlogged or frozen ground. Keep abreast of weather forecasts. Seek advice on best practices from your Agricultural advisor.



Inland Fisheries Ireland Clonmel staff Fran Igoe and Jason Moran lead educational field trip to River Suir for children from St. Mary's Christian Brothers School, Clonmel.

If you are an angler you should comply with conservation measures e.g. quotas or catch and release regulations.

Report any incidents of pollution to the local authority and the fisheries authorities.

Do not litter watercourses or adjacent riparian habitat.

Note: Report any illegal fishing or pollution to the Inland Fisheries Ireland or Gardai

This article is based on the "Waterlife of the River Suir," a brochure on the biodiversity of the River Suir produced by SEFO Frank O'Donoghue and Dr. Fran Igoe of Inland Fisheries Ireland, Clonmel.



Over 100 miles long, flowing over limestone and with an abundance of easily wadeable riffles & pools, the River Suir has exceptional fly water for wild brown trout fishing. Add to that an increasing run of good sized salmon and you have one of Ireland's premier game angling destinations. For more information on the River Suir log onto: www.fishinginireland.info/trout/south/suir.htm





The Unconsoled Angler

Don't always listen to machines, they don't always get things right. Sorry to disappoint, but next time your Sat Nav tells you to take the next right, don't assume that those steady, matronly tones means that she knows what she is talking about. That con is one of the oldest in the book. Don't assume that just because she is a microchip with instant recall to a mapping database of Dublin's streets, don't make the mistake I did and assume that she knows better than your own eyes. Places do change. People move things round to confuse you. That metal post was in the middle of the road for a reason. And yes, they were train tracks in the street. But too late to worry now, time for regrets and recrimination later, for now my Landrover was on a head-on collision course with a Dart. My friend, who had cadged a lift over on the ferry with me actually went white. Funny how you remember the details.

It was one of those times when thinking would have been far to much of a luxury. I swung the motor to the right, executed a blind reverse and was quickly gone the way we had come. Fortunately I had got away with it, but this was gambling for idiots. The fact that I had just nearly got us killed by taking the word of a computer over the evidence of my own eyes confirmed that my

decision to leave it all behind and go live the life of a troutbun in Ireland was timely, if not justified. Well, live such a life for a few weeks, at least. That was how I found myself now with my three salukis in the back of my Defender, and packed to the rafters with fly fishing and fly tying gear. Now all I had to do was negotiate it all through the rush hour traffic of Dublin on a baking hot day in May and head west to Galway, where I was to stay with a friend on her farm.

Dublin is easy to find but difficult to leave. The trouble with heavy traffic is the degree of required commitment. It is like living your life in slow motion, then forced to re-live your mistakes again and again. Beside the Liffey now and heading west, and for me, caught between two ideals. On the left of me were the bars where my literary heroes had spent much of their time as mere mortals. On the right was the river, not just any river but the river Liffey. I would be fishing her soon I knew, but not here, but where she was younger, out in the higher ground, closer to where she was first thought of, where the trout that live in her are small and perfect and wild.

'Big sky' to Portumna

Once you do find your way out of Dublin, you soon leave it behind. The new road that links east to west is pristine still. Other traffic soon thinned until it seemed as though my Landrover was the only car on the road as we



Soon the Landrover .was the only car on the road.

span along into a beautiful evening at a steady sixty. More than one person had told me that the sky is bigger in Ireland but I had always put this down to lyrical excess. But it is, the sky really is bigger. And beginning to redden now with hints of gold as we headed west. I think we all have soundtracks for our own lives and the romantic in me loaded Lynyrd Skynyrd's Freebird into my memory and began to play it loud. My friend's farm is just outside Portumna, on the shores of Lough Derg. She lives there with her two girls aged ten and five. This is the Shannon region, better known for it's coarse and pike fishing than catching trout on the fly. That isn't to say that there isn't some good fly fishing to be had, but there seems to be about a two week window of opportunity when they will come up to the top to take mayfly, and I had just missed it. The weather hadn't helped. It had been hot and dry for weeks and the waters were warm and low. I had a couple of barren sessions on the Lough when I thought it time to seek both comfort and solace, and a little local fishing knowledge too.

The thing is about Ireland, everybody has at least two jobs. In Mary's case, she sold fishing tackle, and she sold diesel too, both from the local garage. Mary's mission in life is to organise Portumna. All of it. This requires a lot of energy. Fortunately she's got it. In fact it fairly crackles off her, as though she has been swathed in bri-nylon.

A conversation involving fishing in these parts usually ends with the offer of a boat, and a permission to fish from their lough-side land, which all the locals seem to own. Mary was no exception. She took

out a small notelet and began to draw me a map. The drawings became ever more elaborate as she began the most wonderful stream of consciousness narrative as she drew in the detail of the small landmarks I would pass. She very quickly outgrew the notelet she had started on and expanded onto a newspaper on the counter below. I watched entranced as the map grew ever more complex over the front page of the Irish Times - if James Joyce had drawn cartoons they would have looked like this. Finally, when she had put the finishing touches to a sketch of the old barge I would pass, she handed me the small notelet

from the centre of the whole, with a big beaming smile: "There, you should have no problem with that."

She may as well have handed me the bull's eye from a dartboard - of limited use without the context.

At the end of my first week, I had only three tiny perch to show, all of which had taken my impatiently retrieved fly. The barbecue back at the farm had seen only beef burgers, and those two girls were beginning to give me a hard time. There was clearly more to becoming a troutbun than I had calculated for. My carefully constructed image of Ireland as some kind of piscatorial paradise with wild trout jumping out of every puddle was being severely challenged.

A sip of a rise

Finally the dry weather broke, and the rain when it came was hard and long. By the side of the farm track was a small pond. Once or twice I thought I'd caught



There was the merest sip of a rise.



Photographic evidence of the mighty fish.

sight of a sip of a rise, just out of the corner of my eye. But my friend assured me there were no fish in this pond.

It was after another cloud-burst and I was mending the fence beside the pond when I swore I saw a rise. OK, it could have been gases escaping after the heavy rain - it wouldn't be the first time I'd found myself casting at bubbles - but I had to give it a try. I fetched my gear from the Landrover, hardly ideal given the water, more suited to the Lough as it was. The only flies I could see were tiny midges. My fly patch still held flies from the rivers back home, so I selected a Griffith Gnat, size 20. To my right again, beside the reeds, the shadow of a rise at least, I was sure. I put out a line, searching, the rod incongruously powerful on this small water. Searching cast after cast, a couple of square metres of water, willing a rise, a take from the top, at last a change of luck. But none came. Another rise was it? Further into the corner. Another change of fly, this time to a little GRHE, tied on a 20 again.

The skies were beginning to darken now, and the eldest girl, Jemima, was watching by the fence. Then the rain came, and the winds, whipping up so strong I was struggling to punch out a line. Another rise, I was sure it was! I put out the line again and again, narrowing it down to a square metre, trying to induce a rise by putting it on the water and flicking it off real quick, giving the fish limited opportunity, making it make its move. *Connemara rivers were beginning to call.*



Then the rain began to hammer down, and it was as though the surface of that pond was boiling as the flatness was lost to seamless peaks and troughs. But still I went on casting, but knowing I'd never see a take in this, the only chance I had was to feel it in my fingers. Nothing else mattered in the world right then as the wind drew tears from my eyes, just that patch of water beneath that blue-black sky. And me. The rain eased. The water flattened again. Rings appeared, but they were definitely gases this time. The colour drained from my world, was that all there ever had been? Had I been casting at bubbles again? I turned back to my square metre of water. No, there was something there, I knew it. I put out another fly. It was on the water for no more than a second when there was that quick disturbance you hear as much as see, I lifted in, and the flash of silver skittering on the surface told me there was a fish on. A four inch roach. It had finally fallen to an F Fly, size 22.

As I stood there, wet through to the skin, holding that little fish in the palm of my hand I was actually laughing out loud with the exultation of it all. It is difficult to explain to a ten year old girl that a four inch roach, caught on a nine and a half foot, six weight rod with a 12 foot leader and 4X tippet in conditions like that would probably be one of the most difficult fish I have ever caught. "You've changed my luck," I said. "You call that luck?" she replied. By now my friend and her younger daughter had joined us. I'd enjoyed my time on the farm, I could get used to it. But rivers were beginning to call me now, other rivers, the faster rivers of the Connemara mountains, rivers that would take and reward my soft hackled patterns, it was almost time now and there were other places that I had to see. Oh yeah... too many places I gotta see.

90 YEARS OF INNOVATION: OUR BIRTHDAY, YOUR PRESENT.



NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO from €17,795*

Price includes €1,500 Government Scrappage allowance & Citroën's 90th Anniversary Celebratory offer

- Top Gear Magazine's Family Car of the Year
- Panoramic windscreen
- Compact, hugely spacious



CITROËN C4 HATCHBACK from €17,185*

Price includes €1,500 Government Scrappage allowance & Citroën's 90th Anniversary Celebratory offer

- Front fog lights
- Air conditioning
- Up to 64.2mpg^A



CITROËN C5 SALOON from €22,585*

Price includes €1,500 Government Scrappage allowance & Citroën's 90th Anniversary Celebratory offer

- Cruise control with speed limiter
- Anti-theft alarm
- Air conditioning

CITROËN prefers TOTAL



CITROËN GRAND C4 PICASSO from €25,285*

Price includes €1,500 Government Scrappage allowance & Citroën's 90th Anniversary Celebratory offer

- Ultra versatile with 7 individual seats
- Air conditioning
- Intelligent Traction Control System

SPECIAL 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORY OFFERS

Citroën are celebrating 90 years of innovation at the cutting edge of automotive design and technology and we're inviting you to visit our showroom this month to take advantage of the outstanding value and celebratory offers.

CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE



*PRICE INCLUDES GOVERNMENT'S SCRAPPAGE ALLOWANCE OF €1,500 AND CITROËN'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY OFFER AVAILABLE ON ALL NEW CITROËN VEHICLES ORDERED AND REGISTERED BETWEEN 01/02/10 - 31/03/10. DEALER RELATED CHARGES APPLY. METALLIC/PEARLESCENT PAINT EXTRA. MODELS SHOWN FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE TO IRELAND SPECIFICATION. OFFERS, PRICES AND SPECIFICATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY. PLEASE ASK US FOR DETAILS. ALL MODELS SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY. ^ACOMBINED CYCLE.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE): COMBINED CYCLE (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: CITROËN C5 SALOON 2.0HDi 16V 160HP DPFS 5.6/50.4, 147. LOWEST: CITROËN C4 1.6HDi 16V 90HP 4.4/64.2, 115.



IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

For many people it is only the capture of a very big pike that arouses their interest. For me though, there is more to it than that and I am happy just catching pike in glorious surroundings. A big fish is a bonus of course but I am not fixated by the quest for a monster, thus when the possibility of going for a pike in a high, Lakeland tarn was put forward I didn't hesitate, even though we knew in advance that the likelihood of anything over about 5lbs was remote. The tarn in question was Burnmoor Tarn, high on the slopes leading to Scafell in the highest and steepest part of the Lake District. Over the last 20 or so years many of the tarns have suffered from acid rain, Burnmoor is no different in this respect and in fact suffered very badly. The trout and perch that were present two decades ago have died out due to the insect life succumbing to the toxicity of the water. The pike and minnows though have survived. We thought it would be an interesting exercise to climb to this scenic water and fish it to see how things were improving now the pH of the water is on the rise. Burnmoor tarn is just over 60 acres and so it is ideal to fish from afloat, for us this means from a kayak. That led to the next problem, how to our kayaks up there.

A plan was hatched to haul our loaded kayaks up the fell on trollies and camp for a couple of nights to allow us a couple of days to fish the tarn experimentally and gain an indication of the state of the fish stocks. When we put the idea to someone who knows the terrain well he simply said we were mad, but if we accomplished it then it would be an effort worthy of raising money for a good cause. So that is how the Burnmoor Tarn Trek in aid of Help4Heroes came about.

From the Boot Inn, where we were kindly allowed to leave the car for the couple of days, to Burnmoor tarn is a hike of about 3 miles and a climb in elevation of about 900 feet. We took the old coffin road that runs from Wasdale Head to Boot and passes the eastern end of the tarn. This track was built before the church in Wasdale when corpses had to be transported over the fell on a pack horse to Boot for burial in the churchyard there. It is well defined but very rugged in places. We soon knew



Rocks were replaced by peat bog.

what we had let ourselves in for as we climbed the wooded hill out of Boot. There were boulders the size of footballs forming much of the track and in other places erosion had gouged gullies to deep for the wheels of the kayak carts. In these situations we had to take an end each and carry the kayaks, one at a time, over the obstacles. It made for slow progress.

Our goal lay below us

After a couple of hours we broke out onto the moorland and had easier going for a while, although the rocks were replaced by peat bogs which sucked at the wheels and made the haul just as awkward and tiring with much of our gear stowed inside them and more on our backs. Thankfully there were some moorland streams to quench our thirst from and at one point we even crossed over a small waterfall. Eventually, after five and a half hours of toiling we came over the final crest and saw our goal lying below us, the shimmering waters of Burnmoor Tarn. We had made it.

There is an old house there, built in the 1800s, that is still in use and is sometimes rented out by the owner to people he knows and can trust, mostly religious groups going for the peace and solitude of the place. We pitched camp on a small, flat area within the wall of the grounds. Paul had brought his army poncho to act as a tarp, so we measured the length of this from the wall to the main frame before putting the tent up. The result gave us an extended porch under which to stow our loose gear. I had brought a couple of home made, proper, Cornish pasties and we devoured them whilst soaking up the view across the tarn to the crags of Illgill Head to our west, Slight Side and Sca Fell to our east and Yewbarrow, Scafell Pike and Lingfell to the north. It was some spot to camp whether fishing, kayaking or just walking the

wilds.

Having hauled the kayaks and fishing gear over the fell, we were eager to get on the water and find out what state the fish stocks were in. We had a steep descent to the tarn to find a suitable gap in granite the boulders where we could launch easily, but we were on the water and fishing within ten minutes. The clouds had rolled in and we prepared to get wet, from above. Paul was fishing a rapala lure and I was prospecting with a #8 fly outfit that culminated in an orange Ray's fly. I was drifting across the tarn using a drogue to slow me in the wind while Paul trolled the edge slowly.

After about half an hour, as the light was just beginning to fade, Paul shouted across that he was in. A feisty little pike of about 1.5lbs had attacked his rapala. Having unhooked it, he recast astern of the kayak and paddled on again slowly, within 50 or 75 yards he was in again and another pike of similar size broke the water beside his kayak. It was time for me to move! I paddled over to the area where Paul had found his brace of fish and soon enough, within five or six casts I was into a fish, a similar little beauty that made all the effort worthwhile. As it was now getting dark and we were getting tired it was time to come in and get some rest, ready for the morrow.

Hitting the water with gusto

The morning was simply magical, there were only fluffy white clouds in the sky and it was warm. A slight breeze swirled around us, just enough to keep any midges there may have been confined to the grass and moss. Breakfast was cooked over the Coleman petrol stoves we had brought, boil-in-the-bag army rations are



We were eager to get on the water.



A feisty pike attacked the Rapala.



Safely returned.

brilliant! It saves fuel and the washing up. The water used for heating the meal can then be used for a coffee. We were both expectant after the previous evening and hit the water with gusto. Within the first 20 minutes I had another pike of similar size, they were all like peas in a pod, beautifully marked with golden flanks and big, dark eyes that looked too big for their heads. What they lacked in stature they made up for in spirit, spending quite a bit of time in the air and going absolutely wild. We fished all over the tarn, but the fish were definitely concentrated over one specific area in water about 15 feet deep. The majority were around the 1.5lb mark, but we had a few smaller ones, which showed that they were spawning successfully. We both wondered where the bigger fish were that had created these little ones and wasn't until we came off the water on the second day that we realised that these were "Bonsai" pike, we were catching the mature fish of the tarn, but because of the sparse feeding they were old without getting big. It didn't matter, never was a 1.5lb pike so welcome, the dozen or so we caught were a just reward for the effort of hauling ourselves, camping, kayaking and fishing gear up that rocky path. It was an experience to savour and it will live long in our memories, far more than the 20 pounders I have had from easier waters.

It had been an experience to remember.





- Qualified Auctioneers and Valuers
- Experts in Corporate Recovery
- Liquidation and ON Site Disposal Auctions
- Complete Valuation Service
- Estate Agency including Land Letting
& Investment Property

Clandeboyne Estate, Bangor BT19 1RN

Tel No: (028) 91 852427 Fax No: (028) 91 853937 Mobile No: 07836 339033

Email: james@armstrongauctions.co.uk Website: www.armstrongauctions.co.uk

White 'O' Morn Fishing Shop

21E Market Square, Antrim www.whiteomorn.co.uk



Shannon Cruising



Our six berth Silver Crest cruiser.

Autumn, or to be more precise, October may not seem the best time of year to go cruising on the mighty River Shannon but it has its delights. Pike fishing is often good at this time of year and with fewer boats about, it can be a very relaxing experience. Collecting a cruiser from Barbara, and her

able assistants, at Silverline Cruisers in Banagher is a pleasure as they all know their business and are well able to help the newcomer to cruising. Safe parking for your car is provided, as is an excellent safety video followed by a practical lesson in handling the particular cruiser you have hired. Nothing is

left to chance and you will be reasonably confident to take your boat up or down river, including manoeuvring through bridges and locks.

The best of equipment and mod cons

Cruisers come in several sizes and we had a six berth Silver Crest which was roomy and comfortable. Even for five men in a boat, there are a few basic fittings which are essential and the Silver Crest was well fitted out. The galley with fridge and plenty of storage space was easy to work in and some fine meals were concocted,

Dual controls meant much easier handling for the crew.





Some pike fishing produced fish in fine condition.

from lunches of smoked salmon and cold meats with plenty of brown bread and crackers to some fine dinners. David's fruit compote will be remembered by all who enjoyed it as will the other David's breakfasts which gave us all a great start to each day. The Silver Crest cruiser has a double cabin at the rear with a twin in the bow, which can also be converted to a double, while the main cabin during the day is the living space and pilot's position and changes to another twin or double. There are dual steering positions and the upper one makes handling through locks and narrow channels much easier, even without a bow thruster. Larger cruisers are fitted with bow thrusters, but a little care and patience works well even in tight conditions. The comfort level of these modern cruisers includes hot and cold water, showers and efficient toilets and even central heating – almost too good for five 'lads' having a jolly in a boat!

Added attractions and facilities

Without over extending ourselves and while keeping a close eye on the weather, we managed to travel from Banagher up the Shannon through Athlone and into Lough Ree, which really brings the size of our inland waterways into sharp focus. Spots such as Shannon bridge and the famous monastic site of Clonmacnoise are added attractions well worth a stop for an hour or two

and they provide a safe berth for the night. Facilities at berths differ and the charts provided by the cruise company are the key to planning your trip. Care is needed and those wandering from the marked channels can come to grief, but the Shannon Navigation is well marked and night sailing is not permitted. Lock and bridge charges are modest and efficient engines keep down the cost of diesel.

The fishing

The 'crew' of David and Ross O'Shaughnessy, David and James Wilkinson and the author managed to have three days of enjoyable cruising, some promising pike fishing and the best of food and a most enjoyable meal in the Thyme Restaurant in Athlone – just to give the cooks a rest, of course. Pike fishing is not a speciality of any of us but, with a little advice from a local tackle shop, we managed to catch and release several pike in fine condition. The thrill of even a smallish pike on a spinning rod is memorable and as Ross and his father, David, both managed to land their first ever pike, it will be a trip to be remembered. There are already plans for another sortie next year and, with the experience we gained, the pike had better watch out. Barbara, we'll be back so watch out!

You can contact Silverline Cruisers at The Marina, Banagher, Co. Offaly, telephone 057 915 1112 or by email at info@silverlinecruisers.com. Have a look at their website www.silverlinecruisers.com and you will find it hard to resist the call of the water.

Another pike 'caught and released'.



Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers

Conaidhm na Slat Iascairí Bradáin agus Breac Geal

VISIT US AT www.fissta.com



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

Secretary/PRO: NOEL CARR, Teelin Road, Carrick, Co. Donegal. Tel/Fax 074 9730300. email: dgl1@indigo.ie

FISSTA celebrates establishment of new Inland Fisheries Ireland at their AGM in Athlone

There was an air of great expectations at the FISSTA AGM in Athlone on Sunday 21st November when delegates heard the great news from Chairman John Carroll that he was appointed to the new Inland Fisheries Ireland Board.

The President Josephine Egan read the written welcome from INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND Chairman designate Brendan O' Mahony who congratulated FISSTA on our work in water quality and stocks. He thanked us for our public welcome for IFI.

The NASF message from Chairman Orri Vigfusson commended the work done to date but warned of the impending threats to our wild stocks.

In his report to the meeting, Secretary Noel Carr reviewed the various campaigns and it was agreed to pursue the security of tenure issue and state licenses in the coming year.

The predominant issue was the licensing of commercial nets in the estuary and a plan of action be implemented. Michael Harte from Save Our Seatrout gave the meeting an update on the slow but sure progress to date.

The motions as listed in the agenda were passed unanimously.

The Editor and publishers of the ICS&CL were thanked for the strong support the magazine continues to give to the salmon anglers of Ireland.

F.I.S.S.T.A. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2011

PRESIDENT: MRS. JOSEPHINE EGAN 18 Healy Tce, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Tel. 087 6379388

CHAIRMAN: MR JOHN CARROLL, Kilcassey House, Kilcash, Co. Tippereary. Tel: 052 - 6121123 john@jgskinner.ie

VICE -CHAIRMAN: MR. EDWARD POWER, Ballyhemican, Clarihan, Clonmel, Co Tippereary. Tel. 052 6137782

SECRETARY & PRO: NOEL CARR, Teelin Road, Carrick, Co. Donegal. Tel/Fax 074 9730300. email: dgl1@indigo.ie

ASST.SECRETARY: MR. PAUL LAWTON, 37 Connolly Grn, Ballyphehane, CORK City . 086 8500146 paul.lawton@hotmail.com

TREASURER: MR. DJ O' RIORDAN, 8 Fair Hill, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Tel. 064-31743 riordan12@eircom.net

ASST. TREASURER: MR. RICHARD BEHAL, 68 Arbutus Grove, Deerpark, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Tel/Fax 087 4100691.

NORTH-WESTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

MR. BRIAN CHARLES MAXWELL, Anahorish, Portnauhy, Leggs, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. max28394@gmail.com

MR. DAVY STINSON, Dreenan Cottage, Dreenan, Boa Island,

Kesh, Co. Fermanagh. Tel: 04868631951 fisherdavy@aol.com

MR. BRIAN HEGARTY, Malinmore, Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal. Tel. 086 6864987 hegartybrian@eircom.net

MR. IAN GUEGAN, Callow, Foxford, Co. Mayo. Tel. 094 9256291 Email: yannfanch@eircom.net

MR. CRISTOPHER EGAN, 21 The Commons, Ballina, Co. Mayo. 087 2974797

MR. ROY MORTIMER, Brimor, Derryronane, Swinford, Co. Mayo. Te:094 9251273 mortimerbrimor@eircom.net

WESTERN RIVER BASIN

MR BILLY SMYTH, 10 Colemans Rd , Shantalla, Galway . Tel: 086 3511628

MR. TOM MORAN, Hurlers Cross, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare. 086 3613868

MR. FRED COFFEY, Upr Market St, Ennis, Co. Clare. Tel: 086 1660061

EASTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT (INCL NEAGH BANN)

MR. DAVID MAGILL, Killiney. Co Dublin . Tel. 087 8173926. davidmagill@eircom.net

SHANNON RIVER BASIN DISTRICT:

MR DAN JOY, Killoccrim, Listowel, Co. Kerry. 068 40310 joy2theworld@eircom.net

MR. KEVIN HANNAN, 16 Pennywell Rd , Limerick . Tel: 086 058 5554 caoimhinhannan@yahoo.co.uk

MR. PADDY GUERIN, KINGFISHER Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. Tel: 087 2922413 paddyguerin@eircom.net

SOUTH-WESTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

MR. MICHAEL O' KEEFE, Bounard West, Gneeveguilla, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Tel: 087 7575664

MR. DONAL O' DOHERTY, Knockanes, Headford, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Tel: 087 9903739 odohertydonal@yahoo.co.uk

MR. OLIVER KELLY, Artigallivan, Headford, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Tel:087 7749331 olliverkly@gmail.com

South - Eastern River Basin District:

MR. PAT O' FLAHERTY, 18 Sheres Park, Glasheen Rd , Cork . Tel: 021 4344668 or 087 2843733

MR. ARTHUR SOBEY, Broad Oaks, Rosebank, Douglas Rd , Cork . Tel: 086 2540541 or 021 489088

Big Blow to Wild Salmon as Escapees (Mink and Farmed Salmon) Plunder their Habitat.

The salmon angling season is now well and truly over with rods and gear packed away for yet another year as we review the overall 2010 season. There are two main records maintained on our fisheries that will measure the quality of the season year in and year out. The first is the catch returns record supplied by the angling members and the second indicator is the number of redds where spawning takes place which the club members count normally during the months of November and December. So with the log book totalled to indicate the overall rod catches that will include the released total as well we now turn to the spawning numbers to obtain the surest indication and confirmation on the number of fish that survived the long migration to and from the North Atlantic to escape the many illegal and legal nets, seal predation at sea, rod and river predation to eventually succeed in clearing a gravelled spawning site to complete the natural objective and reproduce precisely in the spot where they were born four to five years earlier.

After birth, a smolt will migrate out of their river in the second year into the broad Atlantic and that is where we lose most of our fish as sealice from the fish farms infest and eventually kill the weak young smolts. We have led the campaign for many years to end the siting of fish cages at the mouths of salmon rivers but have failed miserably to date, despite our pleas for the industry to meet us half way with on land production units which would avoid the pollution and spread of the killer sealice.

Massive conservation work to do

At the spawning time our clubs have managed to keep man made poaching and predation to a minimum as nets are seized and poachers prosecuted by our water keepers each year in the courts. On the predation side Mother Nature is finding it hard to cope with the upsurge of wild mink which our clubs are trapping during spawning and smolt stage. So while the season for fishing salmon and seatrout is now over there is a



Michael O'Callaghan with his first fish.

massive amount of conservation work being done to ensure the fish keep coming back to their natal rivers to spawn. Those of us who fail in this task know only too well the consequences with little or no fish returning in future years. That is why angling as a sport continues to consume our time long after the season is over as remedial work on water quality must also be maintained. The inherent need not just to survive but to give our offspring the very best chance to flourish is in us all and indeed the salmon is no different and it will turn back at the estuary and go to cleaner water elsewhere if it senses the slightest smell of contaminated water. That is why the state



The excellent Schools Competition Winners in Kerry.

has a special role to protect the salmon from any threat to its reproduction and why we pay a costly €125 license to pay for this privilege. But what really happens in the majority of cases is that the state fishery staff fail to enforce the law throwing the salmon to the mercy of the poacher, predation and polluter with only the local angler and his club to step in voluntarily to stop the abuse of what is a most valuable salmon resource.

A most recent example of this is when the alleged Animal Liberation Front members broke into the Meenavalley mink farm and released a portion of the 33,000 inhabitants into the wild three days before the angling season ended at the end of September. The local Slieve League Angling Club reported the outbreak to the regional Inland Fisheries Ireland staff but to date there has been no apparent response despite them visiting the fishery on three separate occasions to check licenses but not examine the impact of the new furry visitors to our river which was located over the mountain. During that two day period over 6,000 mink were returned to the farm even though there is no evidence only the owners honesty to rely on for this information.

We have also had numerous escapes from the fish cages in our bays but I hasten to add that most was due to staff error rather than sabotage. The escapees follow the returning



A fine Donegal five pounder for Stephen O'Callaghan.



Kerry junior angler Trevor Cremin with angling supremo Robert Gillespie at Birr Irish Game & Country Fair.

salmon to the spawning grounds and interfere with the native salmon to complete the sacred act.

So the salmon and the ground nesting birds have come under threat from escapees from fur farms licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF), and this is the same Department and Minister that licenses fish farms in salmon river systems while the Norwegian companies who own most of the sites are prohibited from doing so in their own country.

Never was there a better reason for to establish the long standing FISSTA proposal for an inter department 'Flying Squad' to provide a fire brigade-type service to trap mink, protect poached rivers, and combat fish farm escapees to limit their impact as the state services are inadequate to deal with this serious impact on our fisheries.

We are campaigning for Government to apply some joined up thinking to introduce closed containment type cages such as the type being grant aided in Denmark by the EU at present. We have asked the Green Party to end fur farming now as a direct response to the damage which animal rights activists have visited on our rivers. Minister Mary White TD, Senator

Home, Field & Stream

Enniskillen

Ireland's Leading Department Store



These are some of the many brands we stock:

BUCK
KNIVES

MAVER

LE CHAMEAU

Barbour



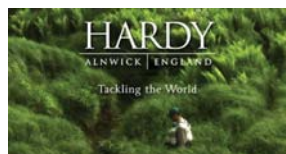
AIGLE

MUSTO

Luger
HIGH QUALITY OPTICS

Deerhunter
OUTDOOR CLOTHING
by Luger

Rapala



Please visit our new and growing online store: www.homefieldandstream.com

18 - 20 Church Street,
Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 7EJ
0044 (0) 2866 322114
sales@homefieldandstream.com



HIGH POWERED RECHARGEABLE TORCHES

NEW

Master Lite Supreme

Rechargeable LED Gunlight

- CREE LED light source
- 250 Lumen light output
- 250m white focused spot beam
- Li-ion rechargeable battery
- 3.5 hours full beam duration
- 4 hours recharge time
- Stock mounting pressure switch
- Unique Dual Mounting Gun Kit 25/30mm
- Dimming facility



Models Available:

- MLS1 Gun Light complete Weight 355g
- ML6 Torch only Weight 265g

Accessories:

- A45 filter set (red, amber and yellow)



Serving the needs of Irish farmers

Contact your local stockist or

STRADBALLY FARM SERVICES LTD.

Stradbally, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8625182 Fax: 057 8625424

email: stradballyfarmservices@eircom.net web: www.stradballyfarmservices.com

Celebrating 25 Years

MCKERR MICA

Hardware Merchants • Gun & Ammunition Dealers
Garden Equipment • Lawnmower Sales & Service

HAYTER
MAKERS OF THE FINEST MOWERS

MORE THAN JUST MOWERS



weber



TANAKA AGENT FOR STRIMMERS, CHAINSAWS, HEADCUTTERS ETC.

LEE RELOADING EQUIPMENT, MTM CASE GUARD STORAGE

McKERR MICA HARDWARE

The guy who owns the store runs the store!

OLD CHURCH HALL, 44 UNION STREET,
LURGAN O28 3834 3021

www.mckerr.co.uk



mica
Local



Dedicated Damien Kelly from Dunmurry is often on the Glen river at dawn despite working into the early hours.

Mark Dearey and Trevor Sargent gave FISSTA a good hearing when they were lobbied on this issue.

Salmon Conservation Fund - 2010 update

During the years 1994 to 2004 the state investment in salmon habitat enhancement type projects averaged about €8m per annum. Since 2006, when our rod license was doubled to €130 average to finance Salmon Conservation Funds there was a major decline in this investment. The revenue generated from the Salmon Conservation Fund is reinvested to promote the recovery of our salmon stocks and habitats taking into account project feasibility, funding availability and value for money considerations.

The fund is being managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. River Basin Districts (RBD's) are implementing projects on the ground. Projects are assessed based on the river's conservation limit status, its water quality (Q-value) and the maximum potential project benefits to the river with funding prioritised for those rivers in most need of rehabilitation.

The 'conservation limit' for a river is the number of spawning salmon required to produce the next generation of salmon. This is developed using a range of scientific indices, i.e. Analysis of salmon fry (Juvenile abundance index) through

catchment wide electrofishing undertaken on selected rivers, rod catch, smolt count, redd count index, and fish counter data.

Project Applications

In 2007 €637,000 was collected and allocated to 34 qualifying projects with works carried out in 2008/2009. In 2008, €697,000 was collected and allocated to 10 qualifying projects.

In 2009, €654,000 was collected and allocated to 11 qualifying projects with works carried out in 2010/2011. Salmon Conservation Funds continue to be collected in 2010 for salmon rehabilitation projects, with funds available for distribution to new projects in early 2011. Download the complete brochure: Salmon Conservation Fund [.pdf, 2 MB]

Sadly, the funds are being directed into paper reports rather than putting more fish back in the rivers as the current allocations of money confirms.

The following are the projects selected for Salmon Conservation Stamp funding in 2010 under the 2009 Fund.

File No Region Name of Project Funds allocated 901 National Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2010 €162,000 923 National Assessment of cormorant and seal predation of fish stocks €72,000 902 ERFB River Glyde Fish Counter €107,000 914 WRFB Boliska River stream enhancement programme €53,000 908 SRFB Colligan River - Bank Protection & Instream Works €22,500 918 NRFB Lackagh Fishery - Salmon Counter €128,500 912 SWRFB Upper Lee scientific research projects €18,000 920 NRFB Eske Fishery (Lowerymore River) €45,000 921 NRFB Glenagannon River €11,500 906 SRFB Installation of Nore Fish Counter €90,000 924 ShRFB Assessment of barriers to migration on the mid and upper Shannon €27,000

Animal rights activists blamed for Donegal mink release - 4 October 2010

Animal rights activists are being blamed for setting 6,000 of the 33,000 mink free from a fur farm in Ardara County Donegal. Gardai have confirmed that a fence on the farm was cut or broken and they are investigating the incident. The search is continuing for the escaped animals with fears being expressed over the threat they pose to the environment especially local salmon stocks. The owner of the mink farm, Connie Anderson, claims the act was deliberate and he's blaming groups who demonstrate for animal rights. Laura Buxton from the National Animal Rights Association is reported to have started on Ocean FM that although she does not know who is responsible - she applauds them. She also reportedly said there will be more incidents like this in future. Noel Carr Secretary of FISSTA declared her comments as irresponsible and completely ignorant to the countryside needs. There was a heated exchange with Des Crofton from the NARGC supporting the FISSTA view the following day on the local northwest radio stations. His press statement below outlines the issues raised.

National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC) Condemns Mink Release

The National Association of Regional Game Councils unequivocally condemns the release of mink in Donegal, apparently by so called animal rights extremists. The release of so many mink will cause untold damage to wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds and waterfowl and to fish stocks. The mink is a voracious killer and will kill far more than it needs to eat to survive. It is an alien species to Ireland which has no place in the Irish countryside. Already, Ireland is overrun with a large population of mink which cause massive damage annually to wildlife and fish stocks. These mink in the wild are the results of unlawful releases over the past 30 years and they create havoc on an ongoing basis for the conservation of native species. There are two issues in particular which such actions highlight. First, the obvious dearth of knowledge concerning wildlife among the animal rights movement and second, it exposes the fact that their fundamentalist agenda is all important to them – even at the expense of the environmental criminal damage they cause.

NARGC for its part has mobilised the gun clubs in Donegal to assist the Wildlife Service and the local fishing and farming interests in trapping the released mink to mitigate the serious damage they will cause to other forms of wildlife. NARGC National Director Des Crofton stated: "This was an environmental crime committed by brainless criminals. It was pathetic to hear the animal rights spokesperson, Laura Buxton on Ocean FM apparently applauding the release as some kind of blow for animal welfare while ignoring the massive slaughter they will now inflict on wildlife, especially birds. Unmoved by the environmental threat which the perpetrators are responsible for, she stated there would be more such incidents. This is not animal welfare, it is crime." It has not escaped notice that almost one week after the attack the Minister for the Environment remained silent on the issue, not even issuing a statement of condemnation. Mr Crofton continued "But I suppose it's difficult for him to issue such a statement when he is about to host a Green Party fund raiser dinner where his party will be supported financially and where it would appear he will be presented with an award by the same people who have allegedly supported this attack on the mink farm." The dinner blurb on the Party website states "...we want to bring together animal welfare campaigners, supporters (sic) and activists to celebrate the occasion."

Congratulations to Birr Fair for the best one yet.

FISSTA really must thanks and compliment the organizers of the Irish Game & Country Fair at Birr Country Fair for what was by far the best fair to date as the huge crowds have proven.

FISSTA attended the 79th Ploughing Championship in Kildare in mid September where 'the young and old, the brave and the bold, their duty to fulfill,' attended the largest farming event in the calendar. It was a great venue for the Govt to

publish a new policy initiative titled Food Harvest 2020 which sees farmers increasing their primary output by €1.5billion and value added by €3bn and increasing their export target to €12bn for the agri-food, fisheries and forestry sector. Minister Smith TD is confident the industry can achieve these ambitious targets if, as the report suggests we all 'Act Smart, Think Green, and actively work in a collaborative fashion to Achieve Growth.' This could be a problem if we try and implement such plans as the Minister stated to all at the Ploughing Show in Kildare.

1100 trade stands on 220 acres of land run by 500 temporary staff, mostly volunteers, that make the event happen year in, year out. 1,000 catering for such a crowd

Not to forget the 300 plough men and women from 23 countries competing in the finals.

A truly remarkable country event that takes almost thousands from rural Ireland to Athy each September.

€2million Celtic Sea Trout Project launched by Minister Conor Lenihan

FISSTA met their many friends when the new INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND had its official launch of the Celtic Sea Trout Project at Coillte's Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow on 23rd Sept 2010. This groundbreaking €2million project, mainly funded by the Wales – Ireland Interreg programme, will see Inland Fisheries Ireland work closely with anglers, fishery owners, netsmen, inshore and offshore marine fishermen and in cooperation across the 6 political and administrative regions with separate jurisdictions over the Irish Sea with the ultimate goal of ensuring sustainable sea trout fisheries.

Sea trout support and sustain important and valuable fisheries throughout the study area and are a unique and potentially valuable indicator of environmental change and the quality of the aquatic environment. The overall project aims are to further the proactive conservation of trout biodiversity and to enable better management of sea trout stocks in their freshwater and marine environments so as to strengthen their social, economic and cultural benefits to local and regional communities. It also aims to promote cooperative working, the effective dissemination of knowledge and a wider general awareness of management needs and options for the conservation and sustainable management of sea trout stocks.

Launching the project Minister Conor Lenihan commented that the Celtic Sea Trout project represents a major step forward to achieving our ultimate goal of maintaining healthy fish stocks that support biodiversity, sustainable fisheries and provide optimum benefits for the general community as a whole.

FISSTA welcomes any new project that will return more fish back to the rivers, however, the jury is still out on how this research can benefit what is a much reduced resource over the years. We shall wait and see what we get for €2m.

The Estate - A Year in the Life

In our last edition we visited the Drumbanagher Estate near Poyntzpass in Co. Armagh to gain an insight into modern keeping by following the springtime activities of Brian Byrne gamekeeper and shoot manager on the estate. In this issue Tom Stalker returns to the estate as the seasons change from Spring to Summer.

When we last visited the Drumbanagher Estate, keeper Brian Byrne had just completed the preparations for the drilling of the numerous cover crops on the estate. In meeting up again in late April for the first of our summer visits, the weather was unseasonably warm for the time of year and the agricultural contractors were already more than half way through the drilling of the previously prepared crop sites.

Brian personally oversees much of the crop drilling to ensure that his very exacting needs are met. That day, Brian was supervising the drilling of one especially large acreage of maize and Brian explained his plan for the drilling. "Maize has been a particularly successful crop here at Drumbanagher. However, the key has been determining the most suitable variety for our needs and the prevailing conditions in this part of Ireland," said Brian. "The variety we use is a medium height variety providing sturdy, long-lasting cover that will benefit the shooting right through the season. The variety used doesn't produce cobs and is intended solely for cover value. I find that the additional feed provided by cob-bearing maize can be counter-productive when it comes to managing and driving the birds. In the absence of cobs I can feed birds into a specific part of the crop to better control the driving and presentation of birds according to conditions on the day. This is simply not possible with cobs on the crop as the birds tend to be too widely distributed throughout the whole crop area."



Bridge maintenance is just one of the many routine tasks.

Pointing out the manoeuvres conducted by the drilling machine Brian commented: "We also use specific drill orientations to help channel the birds to the desired location for flushing and this varies from crop to crop depending on topography and the intended flushing point."

Maize here is always grown under biodegradable plastic to aid rapid germination and vigorous growth and to guard against avian pests after drilling and the estate's burgeoning population of rabbits with the onset of germination. The ground is also selectively treated to ensure weed competition won't adversely affect the crop before it establishes, as maize can be particularly sensitive to weeds due to the fact that they compete for water, light and nutrients.

The other crops grown on the estate including mixtures and monocultures of brassicas, quinoa triticale, artichokes and chicory have already been drilled by the time of this visit. Brian explained: "These kinds of crops can be even more problematic than maize. Seedbed preparation is the key to success with some the very small sizes of seeds involved with the brassicas and quinoa and we expend quite an effort to get this just right for the seed involved. Thereafter protecting the drilled and germinating crops from pests can be a



MAC EOIN GENERAL MERCHANTS LTD BALLYDAVID. CO. KERRY.

TEL: 087 2077019 or 066 9155479

Email: info@maceoinltd.com

www.maceoinltd.com

VISIT OUR NEW WEB SHOP

special offers

special offers



Polyhatch Incubators



Octagon 40 Incubators



Plucking Machines



Game Crates



22 Kg Tube Feeders



Top netting All Sizes Available



Heavy Springs



Feeders & Drinkers



Pliers & Clips



Wing Tags



Ferret & Terrier Sets



MK 4 & 6



Nipple Buckets



Egg washers



Auto Drinkers



Clulite lamps



Blitz



Striker



Lance



Feeders



Mink Traps



Wright Feeders



Pan Feeders

BEST SELECTION OF TRAPS IN IRELAND & U.K. BEST FOR STRENGTH & QUALITY PHONE FOR DETAILS

IRELANDS LARGEST SUPPLIER OF INCUBATORS, TRAPS & GAME EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 20 YEARS

A 6000 SQUARE FOOT WAREHOUSE FULL OF EQUIPMENT. PHONE TO ARRANGE A VISIT.

DELIVERY THROUGHOUT 32 COUNTIES, U.K & MAINLAND EUROPE. OPEN 7 DAYS

Buy 4 warrener dvd's for € 100.00 including delivery..



We will beat any price on equipment where possible.



Game Farm - Co. Donegal

Attention all GUN CLUBS & SHOOTS **FOR TOP QUALITY GAME**

- ◆ Day Old Pheasant and Partridge Chicks
- ◆ Common Ringneck Pheasant Poults 7 weeks
- ◆ Black Neck Pheasant Poults 7 weeks
- ◆ Obscurs Pheasant Poults 7 weeks
- ◆ Red Leg Partridge Poults 10 weeks
- ◆ Grey Partridge Poults 10 weeks
- ◆ 14- 16 week old Pheasants Available
- ◆ **Adult Cock Pheasants Available in October for the 2010 - 2011 Season**
- ◆ Advice available on Pheasant stock and bird management
- ◆ **Adult Red Leg Partridge 16 weeks Available**
- ◆ Pheasants are blood tested and approved

ALL OUR POULTS ARE REGULARLY INSPECTED BY ST. DAVID'S GAME BIRD SERVICES

Tel: 0044 1392 872 932 or go online to www.stdavids-poultryteam.ie

For further details contact Tel/Fax: 00353 (0)74 914 6503

Clive Long 00353 (0)87 257 2341 Richard Long 0044 (0)77 293 09562

See www.pheasantshoot.ie for more info

... FREE DELIVERY of substantial orders throughout Ireland ...

significant task. Left unabated rooks and rabbits can have a devastating effect at various stages of crop growth and it is often necessary to use all manner of tactics to deter them." But he is adamant that the effort of planting and protecting these crops is far outweighed by their benefit to the game birds, songbirds and other wildlife on the estate.

Release pen maintenance

With crops planted attention at this time of year generally turns to release pen maintenance. The estate has a number of quite large and strategically sited release pens. These range in location from elevated woodland sites where pheasants can be fed away to flushing sites and flown back across steep valleys over the guns to their home wood, and other pens in open pond settings for ducks. "The size and position of release pens is a critical point for any shoot. We have a large number of named drives here at Drumbanagher and these are generally in quite elevated positions to show higher birds than is perhaps possible on many shoots. Generally each drive has a particular home wood and the site of the pen has been arrived at with little need for change or improvement over the years, so for us pen maintenance is generally the only necessity."

Pen maintenance includes upkeep of the netting and electric fences, drinking systems, and management of the cover within the pens. Said Brian: "With pheasant pens in woodland areas winter weather can often send boughs crashing through a section of pen completely destroying a fence and on occasion it has been necessary to replace entire sections for this reason. Also, and perhaps inevitably, with the passage of time and despite treatment, fence posts can deteriorate and need

replacement too. Time is spent each spring assessing every metre of fencing to ensure that the pen will be up to the job for the incoming season", says Brian.

"Another critical point of maintenance is the management of the habitat within the pens. I like to ensure that the available cover provides the optimum mix of low, medium and higher roosting cover as well as cover that will provide protection for the poults against the elements. The cover within the pens also needs to be intersperse with sufficient open areas where the birds can dry and sun themselves following rain. Late spring through to early summer is an ideal time conduct this kind of management before growing gets truly under way and chain sawing and strimming are my methods of choice for this."

Crucial access

Brian indicated that he likes to have all of his pens ready well in advance for the arrival of the first birds on the estate. Pens will be completely closed up and electric fences operational at least four weeks before the pens are occupied. Thereafter all that remains to be done is the sanitisation of the drinking systems which include large header tanks with an extensive system of piped drinkers in time for the scheduled arrival of birds. The habitat management within the pens themselves is also extended to the other areas of the estate at this time of year. The estate has a mixture of cover types from established broadleaf and conifer woodlands, areas of re-planted conifers and areas of natural scrub and low cover. When Brian took on the Drumbanagher Estate much time was spent creating access to the areas of cover that would be driven; this included the creation of lanes and pathways for quad bike access and for the

access of beaters and birds alike. He spends a significant amount of time maintaining this access each year. "The location and types of cover in the estate are ideal for presenting challenging driven birds. When I first came at Drumbanagher its potential as a driven shoot was clear to me. However, this potential could only be realised with proper access to the covers. In the early years we spent a lot of effort on clearing access and each year we maintain and continue to improve this access. It's amazing how quickly weeds and bramble will try to re-establish in the cleared areas." Each drive has a network of pathways for beater access and wider feeding and flushing rides for the birds. The



The poults are put in well constructed release pens.



PATRICK PINKER (Game Farm) LTD.

LATTERIDGE LANE, LATTERIDGE, NR IRON ACTON, BRISTOL BS37 9TY

Telephone 01454 228416/228730 Fax 01454 228617

SADDLERY SHOP & COUNTRY CLOTHING 01454 228109



Visit our improved Web Site: www.patrickpinker.com

Or E-mail us at enquiries@patrickpinker.com



WM2E HANGING DRINKER



£9.00

KINGFISHER FEEDER

£18.00



DRINKERS & FEEDERS

6 ltr Kombo Drinker	£5.45
12 ltr Kombo Drinker	£7.65
6 ltr Cylinder Drinker	£17.69
30 Ltr Fountain Drinker	£33.65
Mini Cup Drinker	£6.75

10 kg Picca Feeder	£11.00
FM3 12 kg Feeder	£16.35
FM2 17 kg Feeder	£21.98
Cabela Auto Feeder	£55.00

PEST CONTROL

No 4 Rat Trap	£7.15
No 6 Rat Trap	£8.48
Portatunnel Rat Trap	£17.60
Tunnel Mole Trap	£2.15
Family Rat Trap	£22.21
Poison Hopper	£28.70
Raco Rat Poison 1kg	£13.28
Raco Rat Poison 5kg	£27.13

RACO RAT POISON

Rodenticide bait highly effective and deadly on rats and mice

20 kg sack

£45.16

Bait Stations also available



Large
£7.53
Small
£6.73



BOOKS & DVD'S

Modern Pheasant Rearing	£9.50
Guineafowl Past & Present	£9.00
Duck & Geese at Home	£7.50
Chickens at Home	£7.50
Incubation at Home	£9.00
Modern Free Range	£10.00
Poultry House Construction	£9.50
Making Mobile Hen Houses	£10.00

DVD'S

The Gamekeeper	£13.00
A Season on the Gamefarm	£13.00

Set of both DVD's £24.00

BUY DIRECT

BRISTOL INCUBATORS

**15% DISCOUNT OFF
ALL SETTERS AND
HATCHERS**

OFFER EXCLUDES SH3/1 AND SH 6/2



FEEDERS

SPRING FEEDER
NOZZLE
0.99p



7" PAN FEEDER
£3.50



DEER GUARDS
£2.75



BADGER SPIKES
0.47p



FOLD FLAT FOX TRAP
£90.00



FOLD FLAT TOP ENTRY
LARSEN TRAP
£52.80

RABBIT TRAP
£14.00



SINGLE ENTRY MINK/
SQUIRREL TRAP
£15.99

Also Available

Remodelled S/E Mink/Squirrel for £6.50

PINKER'S ANTI GAME STRAY

£9.00

50 ml Bottle can be mixed with
1ltr corn oil .
Suitable for 1 tonne of feed.
Attracts all game birds
and helps prevent straying

50 kg Galvanised Feeder hopper

From

£24.00



GAME BAGS

GB3 General Usage bag 20"	£19.80
GB4 18" bag with 3 pockets	£31.74
GB5 20" bag with 3 pockets	£36.23

GB7 18" rubber backed canvas bag with net front	£36.23
--	--------

GB8 20" rubber backed canvas bag with 3 pockets	£37.11
--	--------

Cartridge bag (100)	£19.43
Rifle & Shotgun slip from	£23.04

DECOY ACCESSORIES

Pro-Motion Rotary	£73.90
Ultra Light Rotary	£152.17
HypaLite Rotary	£173.04
Extendable Floater	£13.04
Stealth Cammo Net	£26.09
Hypa Flap Pigeons (pr)	£39.13
Full body Pigeon Decoys	£6.95

CARTRIDGE COLLECTORS

Magnetic cartridge
collector
Can collect approx
30 -35 cartridges
at one time



£27.60

Also Available
Telescopic
Cartridge Magnet
£33.41

Pocket Cartridge
Collector **£9.02**

SHOOT DAY ACCESSORIES

Sewellings (85ft approx)	£11.21
Game Despatcher	£14.30
Larder Hooks (per 10)	£10.74
Game carrier (single)	£13.46
Game carrier (double)	£14.86

Gun Stand cards (1 to 10) - 8 sets	£14.30
(1 to 10) - 1 set	£1.85
Hand Tally counter	£8.25
Beaters Flag	£5.26
Beater flag Pole	£2.00

All Prices exclude V.A.T. and delivery unless otherwise stated. Our new carriage prices start from £9.00 plus vat

FREEPHONE ORDER LINE 0800 0854 856
Phone for a catalogue and price list



Taking their first steps outside the release pen.

steep topography makes creating some of these paths and rides a daunting task. However, perseverance and a determination to maximise each drive's potential has resulted in the closely managed covers that the shoot exhibits today.

During our visit the Keeper pointed out one such cover bearing the name of Carrickbrack. This is a very long and steep hillside of low cover bounded by woodland and overlooking a deep valley. From our position some distance away on the opposite side of the valley, a neat grid pattern of numerous pathways is clearly visible across the entire hill face. Brian explained: "The configuration of pathways you can see there allows access to every part of the cover. Additionally, the pathways divide the cover into small blocks, which are ideally sized for harbouring birds and for beating. The network of paths also greatly increases the amount of edging around the cover, which enhances its attractiveness for species like woodcock."

Time to acclimatise

Summer is of course that time of year when birds arrive on the estate. With no rearing programme on the estate all birds are bought in from Bracken Hill Pheasantries Donegal who in turn import a lot of their

produce direct from MacFarlane Pheasant Inc USA. The estate's mallard begin arriving in June and these are closely followed by the first pheasant poults. Brian will have arranged the delivery date of the birds a couple of weeks in advance and the birds always arrive at day break. "I like to give the poults as long as possible to acclimatise to their new surroundings when they first arrive." This is when the long hours are put in with Brian on a constant vigil from dawn to dusk. Brian added: "When the birds arrive they become my main focus, early efforts expended on pen maintenance will provide a high degree of confidence that they are adequately contained and protected for the first portion of their lives. In this way I can constantly monitor the birds from they come down from roosting until they return to roost that night."

While the poults are in the release pens they are fed four times per day. Initially the poults are fed on pellets but as they mature Brian feeds a wheat/pellet mix increasing the wheat to pellet ratio until, by the time the poults are straying from the release pens they are only being fed on wheat. "The key to game bird management is ensuring that poults are healthy and well feathered as they go to wood and that they have suitable habitat, feed and water in the right balance. Thereafter, it's simply a

matter of monitoring them closely in case of the unexpected; that and keeping predators at bay of course."

Next time: Autumn, including.... dogging in, flushing points, house management Drumbanagher Estate Shoot: Driven & semi driven pheasant and duck, 100 bird days to 300+ birds. Contact Brian Byrne 07977253124 or visit www.drumbanaghershoot.co.uk See also www.gunsonpegs.co.uk



(Left) In a short time pheasants roam freely.

BIRD PULLER

From **GAMEKEEP**
SUPPLEMENT

Mixed with your pheasant feed these seductive
spices will stop your pheasants wandering!

Visit our **NEW** website
for more products

£30 +p&p / 5kg tub.

Treats up to 2.5 tonnes

All Major Credit Cards
Accepted



For further information tel:01833 630232 www.gamekeep.co.uk
Mobile:07540 221009 e-mail: birdpuller@gamekeep.co.uk

BridportNets

PURSE NETS

Knotless 1m	£9.50 per 10
Knotless 4ft	£11.50 per 10
6Z Nylon 1m	£11.50 per 10
6Z Nylon 4ft	£13 per 10
10Z Nylon 1m	£14.50 per 10
10Z Nylon 4ft	£17 per 10
12Z Nylon 1m	£17.50 per 10
12Z Nylon 4ft	£20 per 10

HAND BRAIDED PURSE NETS

Spun 1m	£29
Spun 4ft	£31
Hemp 1m	£30
Hemp 4ft	£32
Poly Linen 4ft	£28

STOP NETS

12 yds inc 2 poles	£22 each
18 yds inc 3 poles	£28 each

TWINES

Nylon 6Z 10Z 12Z 16Z	£8
per 0.5kg spool	
3 ply Hemp	£7 per 0.5kg spool
4&5 ply Hemp	£9 per 0.5kg spool
Poly Linen	£15 per 1kg spool
Spun Rabbit	£10 per 0.5kg spool
Spun Fox	£16 per 1kg spool
2mm Braid	£13 per 1kg spool
3mm Braid	£14.50 per 1kg spool

GATE NETS

12ft x 5ft	£7.50
18ft x 5ft	£10.50

LONG NETS (100% BAG)

4Z Nylon 25yds	£27
4Z Nylon 50 yds	£46
4Z Nylon 100 yds	£68
6Z Nylon 25 yds	£34
6Z Nylon 50 yds	£53
6Z Nylon 100 yds	£79
Spun, linen or Hemp	
25 yds	£91
50 yds	£204
100 yds	£375

FOX NETS

16Z Nylon 6ft	£9 each
Spun 6ft	£9.50 each
2m Braid	£11.50 each
3m Braid	£13.50 each

NET MAKING ACCESSORIES

Rabbit Rings 11p each	£10 per 100
Fox Rings	£4 per 10
Hardwood Pegs	£3.50 per 10
6" Needle	£1.50 each
8" Needle	£2 each

U.K. Carriage up to £10 add £2.25, £10 to £30 add £3.50, over £30 add £6
Eire carriage at cost All major credit and debit cards accepted over the phone.
All cheques and post orders made payable to:

Bridport Nets Ltd.

5 Old Timber Yard, West Bay,
Bridport, Dorset DT6 4EL
Tel: 01308 420927
www.bridportnets.co.uk

Atkinson Brothers

Game & Poultry Supplies

Everything for
Game & Poultry Rearing

Check out our Website

www.atkinsonbrothers.com

Tel: **087 619 2004 - 086 817 4809**

Obituary

Gary Clegg



The late Gary Clegg (rt) pictured with Albert Titterington at an earlier Shanes Castle Game Fair.

1989 was a landmark year for Feedwell when its founder James Clegg's younger son Gary joined the firm. He learnt the ropes in the field of production, then progressed into the administrative side of the business and became a most important right hand man to his brother Roger Clegg, the current Managing Director, and was often the 'voice of Feedwell' on the end of a telephone and the 'face of Feedwell' at Dog Shows, Tests and Country Fairs. Gary unfortunately had to retire from the business due to ill-health, and sadly passed away on 22 May 2010.

This is what Roger Clegg wrote regarding his late brother:

Gary was born on 15 July 1958. He attended school at Connor House and from there progressed to Bangor Grammar School, where he entered fully into school life and extra curricular activities. He played the French horn in the School and Ulster schools orchestras and also in the BB band and the Church orchestra. He also competed in rugby, cricket and athletics at school and was school discus throwing champion on at least one occasion.

Gary was very successful academically and went on to train as a PE teacher at Stranmillis College. He entered fully into university life, developing a keen interest in outdoor pursuits, mountaineering and canoeing. His Rugby career developed playing for Kings Scholars and he was after one season in particular voted player of the year by his peers.

When he left Stranmillis he taught at Laurel Hill in Lisburn and joined Bangor RFC where he was a member of a very successful 1st XV, which was quite an achievement, since at that time Bangor were one of the best if not the best Senior

teams in Ireland. Gary was a very competent sailor, he was an extremely useful hand on a boat, had great vision and could anticipate a problem and sort it out quickly.

In 1989 Gary retired from teaching because of his illness and Dad and I welcomed him into the family business. He spent his first year on the factory floor learning how the wheels turned and earning the respect of his fellow workmates with his cheerfulness and willingness to learn. Before too long Gary was coming up with new ideas to make us more efficient and productive. Later, he came into the office to learn how things were done there. Once again he picked up the reins and became a very important member of the team and most certainly my right hand man until his illness forced him to retire.

Gary married Judith in 1986 and then came the further joys of his life - Rachael in 1988, Andrew in 1991 and Charlie in 1993. A dedicated father, but suspecting what might lie ahead, Gary strove to have active family holidays and even as his legs were starting to let him down he took the family skiing determined he could still ski. That was how positive he was.

As Gary's illness progressed so a team of helpers formed as a backup to Judith. Throughout his illness Gary remained positive, he kept his sense of humour and even when speech was very difficult he could express himself with his eyes. As was said of Gary as he continued his fight, 'most people would have given up by now and hung up their boots but Gary is still polishing his.' That epitomised Gary what an example he was to us all.

Finally, the family would like to express their most sincere thanks to all those relations and friends who have been so supportive during Gary's illness and subsequent death.

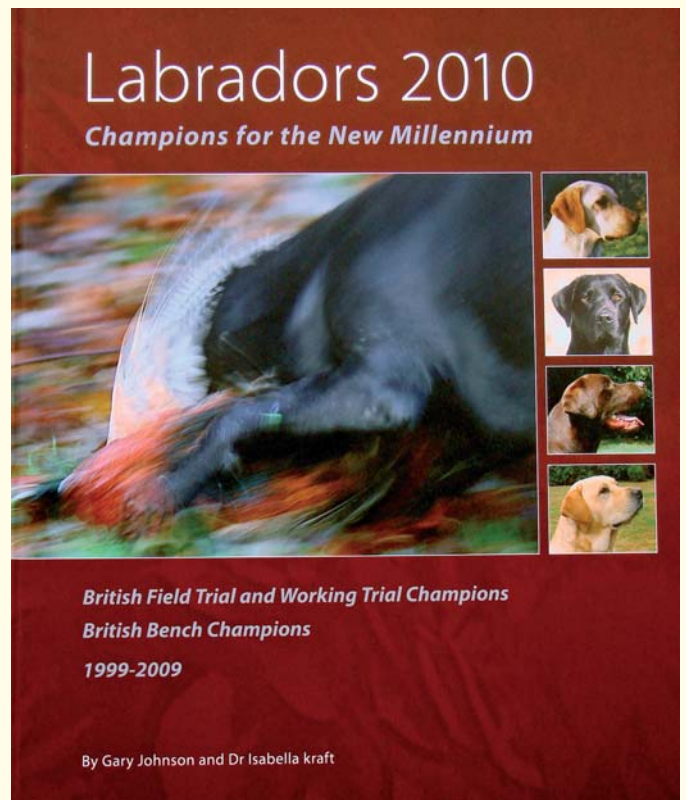
Breeding Will Out - Labrador Champions Vol 3 reviewed

That breeding matters is an article of faith in Ireland. The competence of trainers, handlers and jockeys is vital of course, but breeding is the bedrock. Breeding determines a dog's potential, its trainability. And breeding is all about probabilities. The aim is to maximise the chance that certain desirable characteristics will occur in the progeny of a mating. Chance is never far away - it can never be eliminated - and it is not the only unpredictable element. While there may be time-honoured rules of thumb, successful breeding demands more than their routine application. The exercise of flair and imagination is a necessity and the gift of a 'feel' for the way bloodlines might or might not 'nick' is not given to many. The principle which lies behind line breeding, whether it is working Labradors or racehorses can be characterised as: 'Breed the best to the best and hope for the best.' But its beguiling simplicity conceals the judgement needed to achieve the best consistently.

Gary Johnson and Dr Isabella Kraft have just published their third volume of Labrador Champions, this time covering the period 1999-2009; and the details of the 190 Field Trial Champions (six of which are also Irish Field Trial Champions) - 108 black dogs, 47 black bitches, 20 yellow dogs and 15 yellow bitches - speak with a clear message at a time when breeding practices in the dog world are so often subjected to ill-informed criticism. This invaluable work of reference is effectively a hymn to line-breeding, as Joy Venturi-Rose's fine essay on the development and history of the last decade's FTChs makes clear.

Ease of travel gives prominent sires every chance to consolidate their influence. None has been more significant than David Garbutt's 1991 Retriever Champion FTCh Pocklea Remus. Between 1993 and 2005 dogs sired by him qualified for the IGL Retriever Championship no fewer than 54 times, a figure almost double that achieved by the next most significant Championship sire, FTCh Greenwood Timothy of Holdgate.

Remus, whelped in 1986, was out of Drakeshead Gypsy who David Garbutt had handled to third place in



the 1984 Championship at Stratfield Saye, and by FTCh Haretor Mark of Drakeshead. Both carried lines, on both their sires' and dams' sides to FTCh Swinbrook Tan; himself sir of 15 FTChs and two Championship winners. The influence of Mark and his son Remus is exceptional, but as Joy shows FTCh Aughacasla Sam of Drakeshead has, among others like FTCh Holdgate Willie and Tibeia Tosh, been important too. And he highlights an important strand in the line-breeding story.

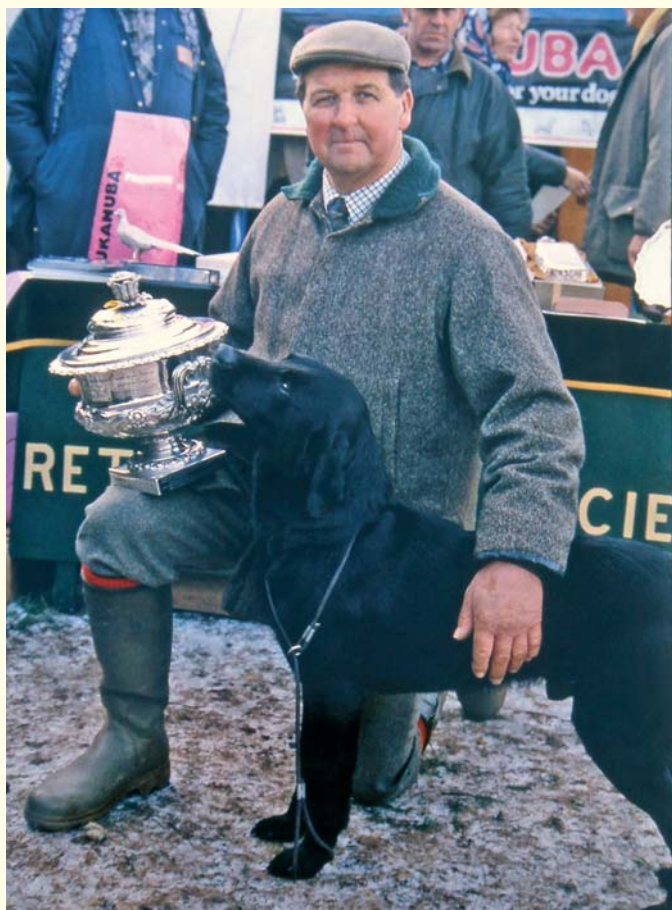
Success over time is critical

Critical to line-breeding success over time is not only the quality of the stock, but also the scope that exists for periodic outcrosses which can freshen and revitalise the line. And so often that broadening element is Irish. FTCh Aughacasla Sam of Drakeshead was, for instance, an Irish import. Sired by Ballyellery Adder and out of Irish FTCh Killerisk Hero he is significant as the sire of Tom Smith's 2001 Retriever Champion FTCh Craighorn Bracken.

The vast majority of the FTChs in this volume have these lines in their five generation pedigree and, more often than not, show some degree of line breeding onto these three dogs. The current Retriever Champion, the Duchess of Devonshire's FTCh Roberto Rannaldini of Bolton Abbey is, for instance, by FTCh Pocklea Adder, a son of Remus. His grand-dam on his sire's side, meanwhile, is a daughter of Sam put to Middlegate Dash, a Mark daughter.

Rountree's impact

No-one from the island of Ireland has had more of an impact on the Retriever Championship than Alan



David Garbutt with FTCh Pocklea Remus, winner of the 1991 Retriever Championship and by some considerable margin the pre-eminent sire who has sired no fewer than 54 Championship qualifiers over a 12 year period between 1993 and 2005.

Rountree who, since 1976, has qualified some ten dogs no fewer than 31 times and winning it in 1983 with FTCh Treo's Sequin of Tasco. His FTCh and Irish FTCh Leacross Rinkals is behind numerous successful dogs including FTCh Carnochway Daniel, himself sire of the 1994 Retriever Champion FTCh Black Sabel Sonia. A decade before Rinkals had sired Aiden Daly's 1983 Championship winner FTCh Marie of Cleary. And such influences are still strong, for David Latham's 2003 Championship winning bitch FTCh Drakeshead Deana had Sam as a paternal grandfather and her maternal grandfather is FTCh Raughlin Pete of Drakeshead, himself out of Irish FTCh Raughlin Rose who was a Rinkals daughter.

Joy Venturi-Rose also makes a point of mentioning FTCh and Irish FTCh Theoweir Turramurra Teal as a significant outcross sire. This strong and well made yellow dog sired a number of FTChs, and put to FTCh Croftweit Solo he produced the FTChs Kenue Cedar and Kenue Fir of Leadburn for the two Billy Steels. Dogs from Ireland have proved useful in extending the working Labrador gene pool for many years and their influence has been significant and sustained.

Certainly, the message from this fine book is that excellence is never a matter of pure chance. Informed and systematic breeding is the surest way to produce the



The Duchess of Devonshire and John Halsted with the 2009 Retriever Champion FTCh Roberto Rannaldini of Bolton Abbey. He is by FTCh Pocklea Adder, himself a FTCh Pocklea.

predictability that gives the training process its shape. Periodic outcrossing is clearly vital to the enterprise and the greater prevalence of health testing is a welcome development, though there is a way to go on that score.

The last word is given to John and Sandra Halstead whose own strategy is recounted earlier. They rightly emphasise that the success of a breeding programme can only be assessed retrospectively, by taking the long view and looking over several generations. "None of us," in their words, "know what the future will bring, but with a bit of knowledge and a lot of experience we most certainly can put the odds in our favour." If you hope to breed responsibly and with care this book, which brings all the pedigrees to hand, is invaluable. Labradors 2010 deserves to be on every enthusiast's bookshelf.

Copies are available from Gary Johnson creminolabradors@yahoo.co.uk

The book price is £48.00 plus £5.00 p&p in UK for Irish Republic and Europe add £12.00 p&p

Rest of world add £22.00 p&p



Tom Moran's Int FT Ch Theoweir Turramurra Teal on his way to winning the Irish Retriever Championships at Rademon watched by judges the late Robert O'Farrell and Sam Jennet.

Top Winning Dogs Thrive on **Feedwell**

Dogs such as those owned by Alan Rountree:



Alan C.M. Rountree with Int. FT Ch Waterford Edward of Tasco - 2nd in this year's IKC Championship. Alan's record in the IKC Retriever Championship is unlikely to be equalled, 5 times winner of the Championship, 5 times awarded 2nd place and 3 times awarded 3rd place over a 23 years period from 1976 to 2009

These owners of top field trial, working test and show dogs all consider that by feeding Feedwell products, they get the performance from their dogs that they require.

These are just some of the owners of all types of dogs who use Feedwell regularly and express their satisfaction with well formulated products available at sensible prices.

**Feedwell makes Top Quality Products
and Supports your sport**

Feedwell

Animal Foods Ltd.

The Old Mill, Annsborough, Castlewellan, Co. Down, BT31 9NH

Tel: (028) 4377 8765 Fax: (028) 4377 1420

Email: info@feedwell.com www.feedwell.com



Damian Newman



Laurence Hennessy



Nigel Carville



Tim Crothers



**Winston Kelly's
Glenloch Tyler &
Carraigairt Adam**



John Wilson



52nd Renewal of the Irish Kennel Club Championship for Pointers and Setters

The 2010 Championship, held on 28/29 August, sponsored by RED MILLS had an entry of 49 dogs - one short of the quota. As often happens, six of these could not parade leaving 43 to face a daunting task at two hard days at Kinnitty, before claiming our greatest prize. This year's mix was 18 Irish Red Setters, four Irish Red & White Setters, six Pointers and 18 English Setters. Only Jean Brown made the trip from across the water this year but with a formidable weapon in FTCh The Spitfire, the recent winner of the Kennel Club Championship at Buccleuch Estate, near Lauder, in the Scottish Borders.

To win the Championship there is the not insignificant matter of some hard runs, sometimes three or four on terrain that is spongy and energy sapping, all the while questing for the noble grouse. Speed, precision wide quartering and game finding ability are perquisites, but then these dogs could not even be entered without earlier having exhibiting these traits, some entrants had already achieved awards here. As if these criteria were not daunting enough one also needs the rub of the green to find and produce game to the satisfaction of three discerning Judges. Jim Crotty and Jim Sheridan are no strangers to the Championship while this was Steve Robinson's debut. This son of Geordieland is no stranger here having won the Championship on three consecutive years - a feat that may never be equalled and surely not surpassed. He competes every year and all of his dogs are top class. Even in 2001 when the event had to be restricted to dogs on this island because of the threat of Foot & Mouth disease, he still wanted to come, just to support the Championship. There may even be a move afoot to award him Irish citizenship - well, he does own Irish red setters. The two Jims might complain (but never would!) that they are judging too often and this would be true, but top class athletic judges are required are required and these surely tick all boxes.

There were changes in the Committee hierarchy this year. After three years as Hon. Secretary, Joe McGill bowed out and was replaced at the helm by Aidan - No. 1 son. Judgement on his stewardship should be deferred until he has run eleven!

The mist lifts and its 'first brace down'

At 8.30 am on Saturday, 28th August, 43 numbers went into the hat for the Draw and then the long cavalcade snaked its way up the hill to the running ground. 'The Day Was Fine, The Sun Did Shine' - that is when the mist lifted and the first brace were down at 10.30 am. In recent times, the first few beats adjacent to the road have had a marked absence of game and thus it was. As the Trial moved in across the hill, though, game began to appear in good order. Conditions were excellent with a good breeze which remained steady all day, and the couple of showers which only lasted a few minutes didn't impact.

There was a fairly good showing of birds. However and despite good conditions, the standard of dog work on Day One was not all that high with some handlers experienced difficulty in getting dogs to do both sides of their beat fairly equally.

At the end of the first round there were five dogs with finds, two of those with two finds.

They were: Aidan Dunne's FTCH Jamail Adam (previous championship winner) with two excellent finds and good running. Pat Reape's Ikerrin Swordsman. This dog had good running in very heavy ground with a good find on three grouse. Davie O'Neill's Shinlogue Fionn. Gerard Devine's Lefanta Kira and Christy Davitt's Blackstairs Sioux. There were a number of other dogs with good running that didn't have a chance on game. The whole day went smoothly and the last brace was run by 5.30pm.

No shame in being fired

Although it had waned somewhat in recent years, the

Championship Dinner was a great success. Thirty-two sat down in Kinnitty's Community Centre and outside caterers provided a sumptuous meal. Long-winded speeches have long been outlawed from this venue and a pleasant and relaxing night ensued. The Most Stylish dog of the First Day is presented with a beautiful Duiske Glass by RED MILLS This time the Trophy was presented by John Geoghegan to this year's winner Ger Devine for his dog Lefanta Kira. This pocket sized bitch has no concept of her small size and, as is her forte, took on very heavy ground with gusto and style and had two excellent finds

There was an added award this year - The New Broom, you see - when Edward Flannelly was presented with a lovely trophy by Joe Gaynor to mark his dog's - Silent Seeker of Shannonbally IR&WSD - achievement in winning the IKC's Dog of the Year for 2009, along with a most beautiful stick made by David Walsh of Barntown, Co. Wexford and both were sponsored by Kilgo Steel & Technology. As always, the talk turned to which dogs were doing well and our old friend 'The Talking Dog' appeared once again. Opinions were varied, but this is an acolyte that no one wants as it can be an ill omen for many a dog. However, the scuttlebutt was of one opinion only: that the Hit List; Dogs No Longer Required List; Hopes Cruelly Destroyed List (*Delete any two) would create shock and awe on the morrow. Because the Judges do not consult their notes until morning, no one is safe or, for that matter, fired and competitors gallantly dream on. This uncertainty which, ironically, started in my regime and quite by accident, adds to the suspense of the night. I may now reveal that several attempts of bribery towards me through measures of a certain black beverage always failed because I just did not know - but pretended otherwise with vague promises of trying to influence (corrupt?) the Judges on someone's behalf! This always added to the fun, but not to the 'iffy' competitors who were fearing the worst, but still hoping. There is no shame in being

fired. One winner I remember lasted about two minutes the next year and one must accept the rough with the smooth.

Joy and sorrow

The Meet on Sunday morning in the hall brought joy and sorrow. Only 9 brace were retained and with the Draw completed, it was off to The Cut to begin the second round. Apart from one very heavy shower, conditions were ideal with a good enough showing of grouse. Overall the standard of performance improved considerably on the second day. Some dogs improved their standing with solid performances and other dogs that had been sitting high went crashing out. Pat Reaper's Lisduvogue Prince had an excellent find to top an excellent run on the first day.

Four brace were called for a third round:

1st brace: D.Linton's Craigrua Kansas & Aidan Dunne's Ikerrin Crouch & Hold. Both dogs cast off at speed to the left and had a flush on a single grouse on their first cast. Both eliminated.

2nd Brace; O.Kelly's Lisduvogue Breda & P. Reape's Lisduvogue Aileen. Both dogs had an excellent run with perfect groundwork and minimal handling. Aileen showed her class with an excellent find - breaking her cast and roading forward up the hill with a very high head carriage for about 30 metres before pinning her birds, with perfect manners to wing and shot.

3rd Brace: D.O'Neill's Shinlogue Fionn & P.Reape's Lisduvogue Prince. A short time into the run Prince had a flush on a single bird and eliminated. O.Kelly's Lisduvogue Breda was brought in as she had still time to do. Both dog's had an 'A' run with no birds.

4th Brace: G.Devine's Lefanta Kira & P. Reape's Ikerrin Swordsman. Kira lived dangerously in her second round giving her handler some handling difficulties with her appetite for ground, and followed up in her third run with further control problems and was eliminated. Swordsman survived.



Start of Second Round at The Cut.



Pat Reape receiving one of the many Winner's Trophies from Chairman, James Dalton.

The Judges had seen enough by 2.30 pm so everyone trooped back down the hill to Kinnitty Community Centre where the impressive array of trophies was displayed.

Results

After formalities were observed, the results were declared as follows:

1st: Mr. Pat Reape's IRSB Lisdivogue Aileen – Classification: Excellent. Aileen had three rounds with excellent groundwork, quite handling and a top drawer find and production. She also was awarded best Irish Red Setter and best young Irish Setter and most stylish dog overall.

2nd: Mr. David O'Neill's IRSD Shinlogue Fionn – Classification: Excellent. She had probably the run of the Championship in her Second Round, however, her groundwork in her first run knocked her back to second place.

3rd Mr. Pat Reape's IRSD Ikerrin Swordsman – Classification: Very Good. This dog had a very good first round in heavy heather. Perhaps, his ground treatment on the second day was not as good as that of the dogs above.

After the huge array of trophies were distributed, all three Judges gave their, now customary, views on the running in general and the result in particular and another year's 52nd Renewal was over. This was a most

enjoyable two days with an excellent atmosphere and sporting attitude throughout. The Committee members readily performed even the most menial tasks readily which means that the overall workload is shared. This is most important to ensure the smooth running of the event. What a pity that the Championship seems to collide nearly every year with the Birr Game Fair, just down the road. Still, there was a good gallery, extremely well-behaved, I may say, which made the Control Stewards' task all the easier. A party of five had journeyed from France.

Pat Reape has not come down to earth yet and may not do so for some time. To win is anyone's dream, but to collect Third Place also is memorable. In the Third Round of eight dogs, he had three, but his Lisdivogue Prince had to bow out. Pat had been "dogged" by cruel luck in previous Championships and it is nice to see the wheel come round. His winning bitch Lisdivogue Aileen became a Field Trial Champion automatically while Ikerrin Swordsman, in garnering 3rd place received enough points to have him also become a Field Trial Champion. And what is more, Shinlogue Fionn, Davy O'Neill's red setter also achieved his title with his Second award.

What can one say about RED MILLS? This is their 18th consecutive year of sponsorship and their contribution has been absolutely immense. Each entrant received an array of gifts that could suffice for first prize. Cathal Ryan who did Trojan work behind the scenes in preparing the programme and distributing RED MILLS products was in attendance and their John Geoghegan, although he doesn't run dogs now, made the journey at attend the Dinner. The programme was quite superb and the prize money is staggering. With support like this we are, indeed, well served.



Best Backing Dog Overall was Billy Grace's ESB Capparoe JIP.

put a
spring
in their
step!

Connolly's
RED MILLS
SINCE 1908

LEADER
ENERGY

LEADER
RANGE

Super Premium Dog Food

Connolly's RED MILLS, Goresbridge, Co Kilkenny.
Tel: +353 (0)59 9775800 Email: info@redmills.com
www.redmills.com



MADE IN IRELAND

Wet weather doesn't spoil the first retriever trial at Glennoo

sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine

Almost uniquely amongst Irish hunting, shooting and fishing publications, Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine is committed to putting something back into country sports through sponsorship. We are proud to say that over the years of existence both in its earlier guise of Irish, Hunting Shooting and Fishing and its present form, no other Irish country sports publication has come even close to matching either the range of organisations and sports sponsored by the magazine or the overall amount of money poured back into country sports.

Ducks at Meigh

The first trial the magazine sponsored was at the Bernish View Gun Club's ground at Meigh. Amongst the members of the Bernish view are some very keen and enthusiastic gundog handlers such as Raymond Rocks and Tony Rodgers and over the years they have facilitated a number of trials for both NI and ROI clubs. This year the 4th of September saw the first Open Stake hosted on the ground, organised by the Ulster Golden Retriever Club.

Unfortunately the good weather forecast gave way to torrential rain and the usually high flying ducks decided it was definitely not 'fine weather for ducks' and were difficult to put in the bag.

In spite of some good work by handlers Nigel Carville and Alan Leonard the final 'honours' of the day were taken by James Toal with a judge's eye wipe -so no result on the day.

Partridges and Pheasants at Glennoo

Thursday 28th October saw a new ground opened up for retriever trialling as hosts Damian McEholm and Tom Woods hosted a Novice Retriever Trial organised by the Ulster Golden Retriever Club.

A pleasant drive up to Fivemiletown and a good hearty breakfast for judges and guns in the Valley Hotel gave way to blustery showers on the moor. This was unfortunate as it rather hid the fact that this must be one of the most scenically beautiful shoots in Ireland. Damian and Tom must be congratulated for the investment they have put in to provide good flexible shooting days in both moorland mountain terrain for partridge and a fine forested valley for pheasants.

Certainly the competitors were well tested in line as the birds came slowly but steadily to hand. There was some very good retrieving in very difficult conditions. A final minute partridge drive was enough to finish the trial with a bag of 25 partridge and three placed dogs.

After the awards the weather lifted and the guns enjoyed three very pleasant drives for a bag of 25 birds. Thanks must go to the competitors who stayed behind to pick up for the guns.



Guns At Meigh.



Guns and hosts at Glennoo.



Judges at Glennoo with FT Secretary Joe Johnston.

Results: 1st. Paul Toal's Altiquin Ripple, 2nd. Gary Wilson's Barronstown Apache, 3rd. Philip Turner's Astraglen Fern of Shangarrilyn, **Feedwell Sponsored the dog meal prizes.**



Prize Winners at the UGRC Novice Trial at Glennoo.

Although the weather failed to show off the wild beauty of Glennoo to its best, guns and competitors could see the potential for testing shooting and dog work in this imaginatively organised shoot. I understand Damian had many enquiries for dates into 2011 so if you want to experience something a little bit different why not contact Damian on 078 0809 6472 or info@glennooshoot.com or visit the web site www.glennooshoot.com

eastcoast
dog and gun

Unit 16 Gorey Business Park, Gorey. Co. Wexford Tel: 053 9484305



**Ireland's Newest 10 metre Air Rifle Range
25 metre Rimfire Rifle and Pistol Range
Under Construction**

The Gorey and District Rifle and Pistol Club is now accepting applications for membership. Contact us at the above address by phone or email and we will post an application to you.

This is an N.A.R.G.C. affiliated club.

Here at East Coast Dog & Gun we provide the full range of gunsmithing services to the trade and to our general customers with our 1600sq ft shop which caters for all types of hunters, target shooters.



Business Hours
Tuesday - Saturday
9.30am to 6.00pm

Tel/Fax: +353 53 948305

Email: info@eastcoastdogandgun.ie Web: www.eastcoastdogandgun.ie



FIELD & STREAM

Moy, Co. Tyrone sales@fieldandstream.ie

Tel. 028 8778 9533

Dillon Precision Appointed Stockist



Reloading Specialists
Advice on all reloading
solutions

Courses coming soon

Official Stockist for
SCHMIDT & BENDER

norma
LEE
LEE PRECISION, INC.

GUNDOG MUSINGS FROM BALLYMAC

The Kennel Club has rightly introduced an Education Programme aimed at increasing knowledge of the eponymous Schedule J Field Trial Regulations. Several seminars have been run locally with a combination of cross channel and locally KC approved Tutors. Overall the impact from such seminars has been positive but, and it is a big but, students must realise that attendance and the passing of the exam, is not an automatic passport to Judging Panel appointments. To be fair, it was never intended by Clarges Street to be so. The personal characteristics required of a Judge and practical experience are much more important than theoretical knowledge, the seminar is but one method of increasing knowledge. A nutty professor rarely makes an accomplished practitioner.

One of the unfortunate and unwelcome side affects of the seminars has been the number of competitors who, having been made experts in a day, are prepared to openly challenge judging decisions, whilst effortlessly quoting relevant Schedule J regulations. A squeak, excessive movement, a chase, dog out of control, or a bad mark – these things don't change. It is disappointing that handlers who should know better query eliminating faults and it must stop.

So to a wonderful story about eighty three year old Jimmy Cruikshank, an alert, vibrant and effective A Panel Spaniel Judge. At a recent Trial, Jimmy, having eliminated a competitor, proceeded to write up his book. Aware of a torrent of Schedule J Regulations advancing to his right ear in protest, Jim, without breaking his writing, merely raised his eyes and pronounced firmly and quietly: "Catch yourself on and get lost." That, my readers is the edited version, in the unexpurgated edition an expletive may possibly have been used. Well done Jimmy, proof if ever it were needed that Rules and Regulations mean nothing without a good dose of common sense. Guilty handlers read carefully and digest.

Grasping the 'attire nettle'

The subject of attire has once again raised it's head, as the standard of dress at trials enters a nasty downward spiral. Call me old fashioned if you wish, but I still remember when Field Trial Secretaries would send home competitors who were not wearing a tie. Were that the case today, few trials would take place. There are limits ! Football baseball caps and shirts are not acceptable, and this came from some Judges this year. I know from meetings at the Kennel Club that the subject is under review, but they have a difficult job in producing any

meaningful guidelines which can be effectively policed. Common-sense I am afraid is again in short supply, but this is a subject which must be grasped, however unpalatable the nettle.

Visitors

It was good to see some overseas friends attending and competing in the recent Trials held by the Ulster Retriever Club. Nigel Carville had visitors from America in Gortin and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Equally welcome were Brigita Staflund-Wiberg and her companion from Sweden. Brigita actually competed in both the Novice and Open Stakes with a dog bred by Roger Phillips and gave very creditable performances on ground which must have been alien to handler and dog alike. Brigita was travelling to Limerick and then to Wales where she was not only running, but also listed to judge a couple of Trials. Her visit is to culminate with the IGL Retriever Championship in Sandringham early December. As one prominent judicial wit remarked of her schedule, 'not in the building trade then.'

Horses & hounds

In recent times I have had the pleasure of visiting the North Down Hunt Kennels, and meeting their huntsman Tom Haddock. My early meetings were facilitated by the Hunting correspondent of this august publication Tom Fulford, to whom many thanks. The Kennels are truly magnificent, with thirty couple of hounds being hunted thrice weekly. There are also a number of brood bitches and exemplary terriers, of whom I am a big fan. We have much to learn from our hunting friends, in particular kenneling, nutrition, and fitness are only a start. I look forward to a long and happy relationship with Tom Haddock and the North Down pack.

To everyone the compliments of the season – good hunting, shooting, trialling and a very sporting 2011.

A week of trials

Late October and the whole of November sees the major Field Trials being run, as Clubs entitled to run Open Stakes select their candidates for the major Championships. This is particularly relevant in Retriever sections because of the timing of the IGL Championship, being held this year at Sandringham in early December.

Benvardeen

The week I am about to describe started on Saturday 6th November at Benvardeen Estate just outside Ballymoney. For many years Hugh Montgomery and his syndicate have hosted a Trial for the Ulster Retriever Club, and it is always a very well run event, where the hospitality and conviviality is hopefully matched by good dog work, which is challenging given the superb birds presented by this most sporting of estates.



By Peter Smith

Maighmor Cockers at Stud



Field Trial Winner
(Open FTAW)
Kingcott Abbott
Sire FTCH 2005 Ch Winner
Danderw Druid
Dam FTCH
Norleigh Ceildh

FTAW
Mallowdale Zebedee
Sire FTCH
Dardnell Dealer
Dam FTCH
Mallowdale Olga



Contact Damian Newman
Mob: 07773 012546
Home: 028 44 821522

AT STUD



FIELD TRIAL WINNER

BLUEBERRY SHERBET OF COMMONSHALL

*Hard hunting, stylish, intelligent and athletic
young dog – FTCH bred – Rytex Free!*

GUNDOGS TAKEN FOR TRAINING AND BOARDING

Contact Ronan Gorman on 028 2954 1474
mobile 07542 111542 or
email: ronang@btinternet.com

www.dogtransportboxes.com

+44(0)28 3835 6600



D T Box
dogtransportboxes



Dog transport, Manufacturers of High Quality Transit Boxes,
ideal for transporting working dogs and household pets.
All boxes are individually designed and completely hand
made to the highest standards.



Single Compartment Box
Can be custom made to
suit your vehicle



Double Compartment Box
Available in Black or White

Lightweight industrial grade plastic - Hygienic and easy to clean - Stainless steel doors
Custom built for your vehicle
Keeps your vehicle free from dog odours



E MAIL mark@plasticpromotions.co.uk
PLASTIC PROMOTIONS Ltd. 5 CARN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH, BT63 5WJ

I had the privilege of judging the event, along with Willie Higginson, Danny Nelson, and Simon Park, and I was delighted to see many new names on the sixteen strong card. The first drive at Benvariden is always fairly heavy and as usual we had a good supply of partridge and pheasant. The drive was too sustained for some at my end of the line where we were reduced to four dogs after runs, noise, and a chase occasioned by the unusual appearance of a bolting rabbit. The other end of the line fared little better and after the third round we were reduced to four dogs, which were taken forward to the afternoon.

Post lunch drives at Benvariden are always decisive, and trials are always concluded in the same area of bog, rushes, bramble and deep drains where game finding is tested. One of the remaining dogs was lost at a drive, the remainder being given two retrieves to sort out the final placings.

Results:

- 1st Paul Surgeoner lab d Elnautico Jack
Copperbirch Cronos x Bohasset Rustic Rachel
- 2nd M Smyth lab d Tyrrellison Ruff of Carrickview
- 3rd S McKee lab d Shangarrilyn Topnotch of Drumilt

The winner had an exceptional run, and was most impressive when hunting cover for a running bird. A thoroughly well deserved victory for Paul Surgeoner.

Gortin

Monday 8th November saw me off to Gortin for the Ulster Retriever Club two day Open Qualifying stake, by kind permission of Ivan Wilson. This ground is undoubtedly the premier test for any dogs wishing to compete at the highest level. Whether it be the 'rushy field of death,' or the much revered bog where this trial was held, this is a true test, known to reduce handlers to jelly, and disliked by handlers or dogs who cannot handle the testing conditions. In the truest sense of the spirit of the much maligned KC Schedule J, this is a trial as much like a typical shooting day as it is possible to get.

Twenty-four dogs lined out in the bog full of anticipation, our spaniel handlers at the ready, under the watchful eye of Judges Mark Bettinson, John Boal, Richard Johnston and Alan Leonard. I was the Chief Steward and so had a grandstand view for most of the work, and Ivan Wilson was the as ever attentive Steward of the Beat.

Game came readily to hand, as the expert guns missed very little, with Paul McKenna in particular giving a great display with his twenty bore. The first two rounds at Gortin usually produce an attrition rate more than fifty per cent, and this was to prove no exception. Scenting conditions were good, but in rushes and bracken birds which are moving are only found by the most experienced and persistent.

At the relatively late hour (for a first day at Gortin) of 3.30 pm, stumps were drawn on the first day with nine dogs remaining, whose handlers were, Roy Rankin, Marty Rush, Gary McCutcheon, Alan Rountree, Nigel Carville, Gary Wilson, Davy Tate and Tom Brady.

Back to the same beat for the second day, which again was conducted in brilliant, if cold weather after overnight rain. A very controlled line eased up the bog allowing spaniels to work and produce the game which would test the remaining competitors. At this stage any slight misdemeanour was sufficient for elimination, and after two hours and a total of seven retrieves each, only four

competitors returned unscathed to trial HQ with the hope of an award.

Results:

- 1st A Rountree lab d born 18.5.08 Waterford Galahad of Tasco Endacott Kite of Chisbrook x FTCh Waterford Easter
- 2nd A Rountree Int FTCh Waterford Edward of Tasco
- 3rd G McCutcheon Altiquin Rain of Camgart
COM G Wilson FTCh Snowhill Reilly

This was a bravura performance by Alan Rountree with two dogs in peak condition and trained to perfection, a real credit to their owner. It is not the first time that Alan Rountree has produced a novice dog to top honours in a relatively short timescale. His ability and methods are beyond reproach, and Galahad is but the next in a long line of exceptional Champions to emerge from the Tasco Kennels. All competitors did well, especially the award winners, but unfortunately on this occasion they were eclipsed by a combination at the very top of their game.

Gerard Murdoch and the Committee of the Ulster Retriever Club are to be congratulated in yet again producing an excellent series of Trials. They set an example which few can emulate.

Saintfield

After two days of 4.00 am starts and 500 miles on the Land Rover clock, I could be forgiven for wishing to have a day in the office, but no such luck. Wednesday saw me with my springers and labradors at Saintfield, where a good day's driven shooting was had by all. Under the watchful tutelage of gamekeeper Damien Newman a wonderful tradition is being kept alive at this most sporting of shoots.

Thursday I did get a break, but on Friday I was back at Saintfield for another significant event. A first for Saintfield and a second for the society, the Northern Ireland Working Cocker Club who held a Novice stake by kind permission of Tony Griffith. The trial was judged by Ralph Edwards and Matt Morgan with myself as Chief Steward.

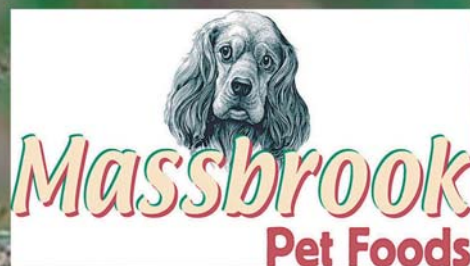
The Cocker Club is doing sterling work in bringing along the breed in Ireland, and it was pleasing that the majority of handlers were not from the mainstream of spaniel trialists. Having a run, competing to the best of their abilities, and hopefully finishing the trial was high on the wish-list of most of these handlers. A very enjoyable day was the result, with people prepared to quickly recognise their own faults, and learn from the experience. These little dogs are a real joy to watch when hunting in full flow, and it is little wonder they have become so popular.

After a run off the results were announced by Chairman Ken Lindsay:

- 1st Mark Stewart csb Ardcaien Amy
FTCh Danderwd Druid x Kingscott Diamond
- 2nd Hugh Houston csb Chyknell Aster
- 3rd Pat Campbell csd William of Warmgill
- 4th Nicky Rodgers csb Megfold Ambleside with Connobenali

COM Paul Murphy csd Oldgang Ginger of Jachshea

This concluded a packed week of trialling which whilst exhausting, was extremely enjoyable. The usual few niggles were far outweighed by the joy of seeing the good dogs easily separate themselves from the ordinary - and that is what Field Trials should be all about.



“The Choice of Champions”

Massbrook Petfoods
For your nearest stockist please contact us on

Sales Office 00353 (0) 94 925 6310

www.massbrook.ie

**To All our customers old & New
Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**



Plus Twos When a right of way goes wrong

The Mullet baby was causing no worse problems than heart burn and was due to appear any day now with Tierney trying to lay off bets as there had been a sudden late rush which caused him to shorten the odds considerably. It was all Purdey's fault as he had casually mentioned that all previous generations of Angelica's family had produced male offspring at the first foaling and he didn't expect this to be any different! Purdey has quite an advanced sense of both humour and devilment and it appears that this was definitely a 'bum steer,' as Angelica alone had a large bevy of sisters and female cousins. Well, there were more pressing matters at Woodless as the twins had reached a stage in their educational careers where it was deemed only right and proper that they should be banished to a boarding school for a bit of the hard life and communal living, but was there any establishment that would take either of them never mind both together?

This was really Mullet's finest hour, as he explained that his favourite aunt had married a member of the teaching profession who had risen to the giddy heights of a headmastership in one of the larger and better Dublin schools which still catered for boarders. It turned out to be the old alma mater of Plus Twos, which would look good as I distinctly remember the very same Headmaster saying, in one of his more benign moods, that the greatest compliment a past pupil could pay the school was to send on their children in due course – he might be sorry yet! He was getting close to retirement but hadn't lost any of his vim or, heaven help him, his love of teaching. Getting them into the same joint would cut down on the difficulties I had

seen myself of transporting multiple cases, trunks, hockey sticks, sports gear and all the rest that travels back and forth to boarding schools at the start and finish of every school term. Mullet offered to speak to his aunt and mention that I was thinking of giving the School two extra pupils for the new term and promised to avoid any mention of their various attacks on him in the pulpit such as the great Christmas Day Shoot when they opened up on him with the toy shotguns provided by the beloved godfather, Derek Whittle, just as he mounted the pulpit to preach about goodwill to all men and that sort of thing. I phoned my old Headmaster a few days later and found him in a mellow mood – much mellower than I ever remember anyway – and in no time at all I had agreed to take him for lunch in Dublin to finalise arrangements for the transfer of the terrible twins to his care for the next six years or so.

That disarming smile we never trusted

When I met him, I found myself transported back to being a schoolboy and scampered to my feet when he came through the door of the rather smart hotel I had been advised by Dixon to use. He looked just the same as I had last seen him about twenty years previously, immaculately dressed in his clerical suit with not a hair out of place and that disarming smile which we never quite trusted. It seemed that the school was now one of the largest co-educational establishments in the country and had every modern convenience from computers to all weather playing pitches, and I could just imagine how the fees would dent Plus Twos' bank balance. Still he seemed delighted at having the twin children of an old boy for what he expected to be the last intake he would see all the way through before



It was all to do with an old right of way.

he retired. I didn't like to suggest that with this pair he might never see retirement!

Lunch went well despite Plus Twos sitting on the edge of his seat from pure nerves in the presence of The Headmaster and I only finally relaxed a little when he produced his pipe and cadged a fill from my store of Erinmore flake with a remark that at least I didn't smoke one of 'those pansy foreign mixtures.' He asked if I remembered a certain old boy who had given him a fill of a certain Dutch brand which he later described as like smoking a mixture of molasses and damp camel. Fortunately I did, and I had also been lucky enough to avoid the offer of any pipe tobacco from him. That was one mistake not to make!

He took down the names (and I managed not to refer to them as Ivan and Sap) and said he would have the Bursar send out all the necessary forms and the equipment lists etc. so we could start getting organised for September. All seemed to be settled and we parted like old friends.

Esso was delighted that I had managed not to cock it up and even congratulated me on my obvious standing with the old chap and having held my nerve. All too soon the Bursar's letter arrived and the cost of the fees was soon surpassed by the cost of the uniforms, sports equipment and all the rest of it that makes up a 'school list' – who thinks up these things? At least Ivan didn't need a lacrosse stick as it wasn't quite that 'St. Trinians,' but Sap might like to try a little kayaking so a life jacket would be appropriate.

I left Esso and Dixon to sort out that side of things and

soon there were piles of blazers, shirts, ties, official socks and the right type of black shoes mingled with rugger jerseys, badminton shorts and skirts, assorted towels, coats and heaven only knows what else building up along one side of my study – I was told it was the only place for it to go!

Dixon did remark that it would have been infinitely easier if Ivan and Sap had been both either boys or girls, as one would only need to pick an item and double the quantity – life would never be that simple in Woodless.

As you can understand, life in Woodless and its environs moved on regardless of the fact the Plus Twos had taken his eye off the ball and as usual I found myself up to my neck in some sort of mire in no time at all.

Delacey and the Lady Barrister

Purdey arrived one balmy July afternoon with the news that Angelica Mullet was about to pass the post and soon we would know the outcome of the various bets that were worrying Tierney but he also had a large legal looking envelope grasped in his mighty hand and he looked like he was trying to squeeze the life out of it. It had arrived at Keane Handy's old place, which we were now renting out, and was addressed to the Representatives of the late Major-General William Josiah Keane-Handy – I always hate that sort of official title stuff as it usually means trouble. Purdey was incandescent and spluttering to such an extent that he dropped the monocle and only managed by sleight of hand to keep it out of the glass of whiskey I had pushed into his

hand to calm him down. It was all to do with an old right of way across what was known as the top meadow in Upper Woodless which Keane-Handy had always insisted was only a pathway and certainly not a bridleway or a green road, no matter what one or two of the local worthies claimed. Now it had raised its ugly head again as the letter from a well known firm of Dublin solicitors spelled it all out in no uncertain terms, along with various threats of court appearances looking for restoration of ancient right and substantial damages. Why must damages always be 'substantial?' Would 'reasonable' not suffice?

Purdey was all for sorting this out with suitably placed alarm guns and even one of the older punt guns suitably camouflaged, but that sort of thing, I explained, can somewhat prejudice a case when it reaches the courts in these days of social conscience and that sort of thing. The only thing was to get old Dury of Slaughter Dury and Slaughter, family solicitors, on the job - and rapidly - as it appeared that we might have to heave up in the local district court sooner rather than later. I hate the expense of long distance phone calls, never mind the difficulty of establishing some sort of audible connection, but needs must! Dury got onto to his Dublin counterparts, McGunshinan, Leary, Hardy and Quirk and they advised instructing a barrister straight away - seemed a bit over egging the cake for a district court appearance but as Mr. Quirk (McGunshinan, Leary and Hardy all being absent in court) put it - 'well, it might be better to have one on board from the start.' That's just the sort of comforting words a chap needs with Purdey well into his second glass of your good whiskey!

Would old Delacey throw a tantrum?

I should have twigged when he rang me back the next day with the news that the barrister would call to discuss the problem as she was in the area. I'm nervous of high powered women having seen what the collection in Woodless can do with their hands tied behind their backs, so I wasn't looking forward to the visit. I don't really care for any modern Portia of the law and certainly not when I was going to be asked about Keane-Handy's affairs which were still largely stored in a battery of presses, sideboards, two safes and his desk which I hadn't got around to clearing yet. When told that she appeared under the name of Áine O'Cleáraigh it didn't help as I could just see old Delacey throwing a tantrum at the affectation of the name

'os Geailge' - he seemed too much of the old school for that sort of thing never mind a female with wig and gown in his court.

When she arrived I was pleasantly surprised as she was a rather pretty young thing with the stride of a well fettled hunter and a jaunty outlook on life in general and, it seemed, Plus Twos in particular. The legal nonsense was soon out of the way and having agreed to stay to dinner, I thought she might like to try the Woodless Elixir which she managed with nothing less than aplomb. I suddenly realised that she must be the lady barrister who was thinking of moving to the Midlands to have the room for a couple of horses when she asked about joining the Woodless Harriers and where there might be a house with a couple of loose boxes and an acre or two. I could see things improving dramatically around the Midland Circuit as well as in the hunting world when this lady took up residence.

She suggested we get into Delacey's presence as soon as possible and with friends at court as they say, we managed the first Tuesday of the month and that's where I really got a surprise as she asked Delacey to hear the matter 'os Geailge' as is the right of every citizen in the Republic of Ireland - I thought he would choke but he replied in the native tongue with a soft West Clare lilt that was a delight to hear though I couldn't understand a word of it. The thought then struck me that I might have to give evidence - and Plus Twos without a word of the old Geailge to him - but Delacey sent for an interpreter so my blushes were saved. The smart solicitors from Dublin may have been well known but they didn't have much of the native tongue either. Her grasp of the language mixed with a bit of Brehon Law soon had them on the run and the case was adjourned giving us some time to find those damn papers in Keane-Hardy's place before we next appeared. That was another good day's fun, but you'll have to wait as we all became a little too relaxed that evening over several bottles of the famous 'Elixir.'

**Plus Twos,
Woodless House,
Woodless Bog,
Co. Westmeath**

BEECHVIEW KENNEL RUNS & TAILOR MADE CAR CAGES

Superior Kennel Runs Catteries and Cages Made to Order

Quality and safety for your animals at a price you can afford

- Box section and Weldmesh Panels, hot dipped galvanised.
- Superior Quality Materials and Workmanship.
- Maintenance Free.
- Individual or Multiple Kennel Runs and Catteries of the highest quality to order.
- Large selection in stock.
- Raised Sleeping Benches, Aviaries, Feeding Bowl Stands and other metal Pet Accessories made to order.
- Dog Guards and Cages for cars and vans tailor made for you.
- Short stay Holding Cages suitable for use in Veterinary Surgeries and Grooming Parlours.

Delivered and Erected FREE within N. Ireland.



Contact Brian Lyons at:

9 LISHEEGAN LANE, BALLYMONEY, Co. ANTRIM

Telephone: (028) 29540183 Mobile: (07887) 746511 Fax: (028) 29541788

WEB Site : beechviewkennelruns.com

Email : home@twynbears.fsnet.co.uk

From Johnny Woodlock

Hedgerow harvest

Did everyone notice how heavy all the wild bushes fruited this autumn? I wonder was this as a result of the bad frosts we had early this year? January and February were very frosty certainly, but the hawthorn bushes and blackberries were laden with fruit in September. Yet it did not seem to be a so-called 'mast year.' Some years the beech trees produce huge quantities of beechmast with most of the usually empty cases, full of sweet nuts, a real treat if you can gather them before the squirrels and pigeons have eaten them all. Anyway I brought a bunch of cub scouts camping in September and we came across lane-ways laden with rose hips, haws, elderberries and of course blackberries. After a fright a few years ago when one cub scout expressed surprise that you could eat blackberries, I resolved to introduce them to some of these tasty hedgerow freebies.

To say they took to them like ducks to water would be an understatement. I was particularly impressed by the way they devoured the elderberries which were very ripe, so often overlooked as edible. I always teach them that if you are not 100% sure you do not eat it. An example of this would be some mushrooms and berries, which may look delicious but are in fact very poisonous. Even so I was relieved that there was not even a stomach pain reported, relieved and surprised because they had really pigged out on the elderberries and blackberries.

You can imagine my surprise when I did a bit of reading a few weeks later to discover that Elderberries are actually 'slightly' poisonous when eaten raw. I did own-up and tell the scouts and leaders and I can only assume that they are only very slightly poisonous when ripe. I got no complaints. Just a small case of embarrassment but that's not lethal anyway!



Blackberries and rose hips waiting for the Woodlock harvest.

More vitamin C than oranges

A few days after the camp I returned to the same lane ways with my son and we collected a load of rose hips and blackberries. I described in an article some time ago how easy it is to produce rose hip syrup. So another larger batch was made up to go on the kids' porridge each morning throughout the winter. Rose hips contain twenty times more vitamin C than oranges and I collected enough to give the other scout leaders a sample, so they might try it next year.

There was a good crop of apples this year too and, having been given a quantity of cooking apples, I resolved to preserve some of these combined with more rose hips in a jelly. A house with kids in it can get through a fair amount of jam in a few months. This jelly has the most amazing colour and tastes as good as it looks.



Berries and apples cooking in the pot.

AT STUD

**English Springer Spaniel F.T.CH.
Kidnais Saxon of Birdrowe**



**Sire. F.T.CH. Claburgh Art
Dam. F.T.CH. Craighaar Classic
Standing at Stud at Birdrowe Kennels**

**Telephone:
028 92621603 or 0772 0404099**



Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



GOVERNMENT NOTICE

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr. John Gormley T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 3 of the European Communities Act 1972 (No. 27 of 1972) for the purpose of giving effect to Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version), and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (as amended by Council Directive 97/62/EC of 27 October 1997, Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 September 2003, Council Directive 2006/105/EC of 20 November 2006, has made the following Regulations:-

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 481 OF 2010 EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) (RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF POISON BAIT) REGULATIONS 2010

These regulations make it an offence for a person to poison any species referred to in Article 1 of the Birds Directive and Annexes IV(a) and V(a) to the Habitats Directive using poisoned or anaesthetic bait that is animal or contains animal substance or other animal derivative except, in accordance with a licence issued by the Minister.

These regulations do not have the purpose of controlling the use of rodenticides within buildings. Copies of the Order may be purchased from the Government Publications Sale Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. The Order may also be downloaded from the Department's website at www.environ.ie or the National Parks and Wildlife Service website at www.npws.ie.

AT STUD



F.T.CH. CARRAIGAIRT ADAM OF GLENLOCH proven sire of many test and Field Trials winners including INT. F.T.C.H. Glenloch Trojan, winner of the Irish Retriever Championship and top dog 2006 C.L.A. Game Fair. Also at stud **F.T.CH. GLENLOCH TYLER** winner of 5 Field Trials and many other prizes.

Both Adam and Tyler have good hip scores and clear eye certificates.

Also at stud B/W E.S.S. **F.T.A.W. ROUGHBURN SEAL** sire F.T.CH. Kenine Robb-dam F.T.CH. ROUGHBURN JILL.

**For further details contact W. Kelly on
028 9756 3853**

In my honest opinion, anyone who walks in the fields during the autumn has no excuse but to bring a plastic bag and return home with it bulging with the fruits from the hedgerows. Who knows, with the climate acting like it is we might have another bumper crop next year.

Crab apples next

Next trip out however, my son and I loaded up and returned home with crab apples and blackberries. A few pounds of elderberries were also gathered, as I had not used them before in a preserve. Without too much mess we soon had an interesting blackberry and elderberry jelly. The crabapples together with a few cookers provided the necessary pectin to set the jelly. While this jelly tastes great it has an interesting appearance. The elderberries added certain redness to the jelly so it looks almost as if you are putting a large blood clot on your bread. Unfortunately we did not get to visit the few damson trees in my neck of the woods. Again, last year's article had a recipe for damson jam. One of the best! These days there are numerous books available to instruct you how to make the most of these free treats.

As fieldsports people I believe we should encourage young people to value the resources provided by the countryside, and keep alive rural traditions. Besides they are free and taste great.

An afterthought: I really must get some lessons on mushrooms. I am nervous of mushrooms and while I am no mycologist I do like to photograph them. My son is fascinated by their names. I am ashamed to admit that I only know a few with 100% certainty. Maybe that's what I should do for next year and add some to the Woodlock menu. Meanwhile, if you have managed already to harvest some of apples and berries already, here are a couple of recipes that are among my particular favourites. Good gleaning and even better eating!



Juice and jam fit for a King.

Blackberry and Elderberry Jelly/Jam

1kg Blackberries

A cup or two of Elderberries

1 kg of jam making sugar (added pectin).

Method: Wash the Blackberries. Remove the Elderberries from the stalks with a fork so you end up with two cups of berries. Wash them. Put all in a large pot. Add about 800 ml of water to get things started, and bring to the boil. Use 500 ml if making jam. Let simmer for a few minutes until soft. If making jelly, at this stage use a potato masher to pulp the fruit before straining through double muslin or a jelly bag overnight. If making jam, remove from heat to add the sugar, and then boil hard until setting point is reached. Pour into sterilised jars and cap. The strained juice from the pulp should be about 1 lt. so heat this and dissolve sugar before boiling hard for about five minutes at which point setting point should be just right. Pour into sterilised jars.

Remember, everything must be sterilised, scald the muslin and jars with boiling water and dry jars in low oven, add jam or jelly to jars while jars still hot. To check setting point pour a few drops of jam or jelly on a cool plate and leave for thirty seconds, if it sets, you can jar the jam or jelly. If uncertain let it boil a bit longer. There is nothing worse than having to pour runny jam back into the pot to reboil having bottled it.

Crab apple and rose hip jelly

1 kg. Rose hips

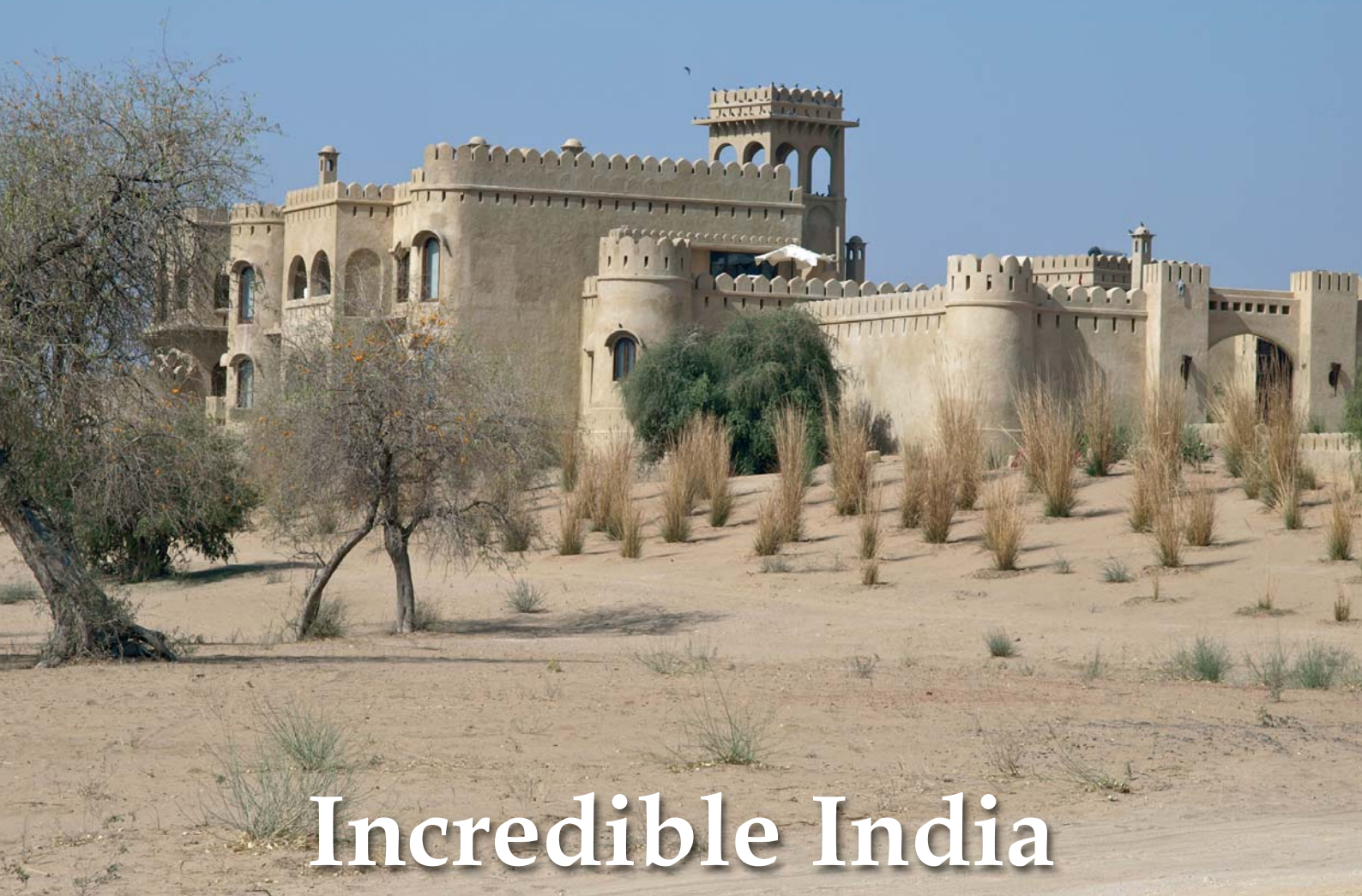
1 kg. Crab apples, or crabs and cooking apples

1 kg. Jam sugar

1 lt. Water

Method: When using rose hips you must remove all the small hairs inside the hips, as they are irritants. This is why they must be strained. Best for jelly or rose hip syrup. Wash all and put hips in food blender and blitz until pulpy. Wash apples and cut into pieces, quarters or so. Do not peel or core. Add all to a large pan or pot. Bring to simmer and let simmer until apples are soft. Strain through double scalded muslin or jelly bag overnight, You should have about 1 lt. of pink juice. Put this back in pan and heat, dissolving sugar in it. Boils until setting point is reached and then pour into warm sterilised jars.

For rose hip syrup omit the apples, use ordinary sugar and do not boil, as you will lose vitamins. Simply heat the strained pulp until sugar is dissolved and bottle in sterilised bottles. The syrup becomes thicker and darker the longer you simmer it but it also becomes less beneficial. This jelly is a good substitute for cranberry jelly at Christmas, and is great with venison.



Incredible India

Most often when we visit foreign lands we only scratch the surface rarely do we see it through the eyes of it's native people. For those interested in animals both wild and tamed this is the journey of a lifetime. The Tilwara Horse, Camel and Cattle Fair takes place in Rajasthan south west of Jodhpur. Fly there through Delhi with Virgin Atlantic and for a little more comfort choose Premium Economy it's well worth it and then continue with local Jet Airways to Jodhpur. Tilwara Fair comes to life every year in the spring with dates being decided by the lunar eclipse and the festival of Holi.

A dried out river bed is transformed into a Bedouin encampment for two weeks and everything enjoys a canvas home for the duration, temperatures can soar to 40 C, it's a sea of tents. In a space occupying the centre of this mobile village a pegged and roped circular arena stands erect and differentiate. It is on this stage that the Marwari Horse Society hosts its most important showing event in the calendar, I guess it's the RDS of India. We were privileged and fortunate to be invited to share this astonishing extravaganza.

The best horses in India are here, they can travel for days and of course in a land where the male is supreme there aren't too many females present. Here 'It's a man's world,' so not only was the colour of our skins a novelty, so was our gender; this simply served to highlight how truly favoured we were to be present. Everyone congregated to renew acquaintances, to share information but most importantly to show off their equine stars. Any of whom one would be delighted to export home.

Like Europe, they have various showing classes - yearling, two year old , etc., brood mare and stallion and this year, there was the Supreme Champion. It is a very methodical process with many judges collaborating to ascertain the winner. For the owners it is such a momentous occasion and so carries huge gravity to be bestowed the victors trophy from His Highness Maharaja Gaj Singh 11 Jodhpur, the society President. This is a gentleman who is absolutely revered and who seeks only to do the best by his people.

While the horse judging takes place, the rest of the fair proceeds, camels adorned with brightly coloured tack and painted with henna are ridden by sometimes dallying to observe all that is taking place in this pegged



Winner of the stallion class.

ring. Just as the judging of the stallion class starts a caravan of green open topped jeeps approach, the sea of

onlookers diverge and out of the melee His Highness is clearly visible. Down he climbs to be greeted by the hierarchy of the society he is here to support and to present the most amazing trophies some the size of a small pony. After the horse races, with the jockeys sitting back on virtually the horse's rump, we say our fairwells and arrive back at Rohet well after dusk.

The Fort 'Mihir Garh.'

Rohet is around two hours from Tilwara and a perfect resting place. The owners breed Marwari Horses, run a stud farm and recently completed building a Fort. Yes, a Fort, 'Mihir Garh.' It is well worth the drive, it arises out of the Thar Desert like a mirage so beguiling and simply perfection. Every room is a suite complete with plunge pool, fastidiously furnished and your every need will be attended. Should you wish you can go for a hack on one of their equine stars. Jodhpur is close by for a little retail therapy but the shop at Rohet offered everything we desired and they were able to produce what ever we asked for.

From Rohet our sojourn in Rajasthan took us to Ranthambhore and to Sher Bagh. a tented camp on the edge of the National Park. Like it's counterpart The Serai in Jaisalmer, Sher Bagh is no ordinary camp but luxury all the way. The tents are campaign in style with complementary decor, have verandahs, en suite bathrooms and are air conditioned.



Mihir Garh



The stylishly romantic interior.

IRELAND'S premier event specialists

Exceptional Solutions for Corporate & Sporting Events,
Weddings, Private Parties, Exhibitions
& Agricultural Shows



- Marquees
- Tableware
- Furniture
- Generators
- Catering Equipment
- Event Electrics & Lighting
- Luxury Toilet Units
- Portable Refrigeration



www.eventus.ie

Galway Road, Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland
T: +353 93 24472 E: info@eventus.ie

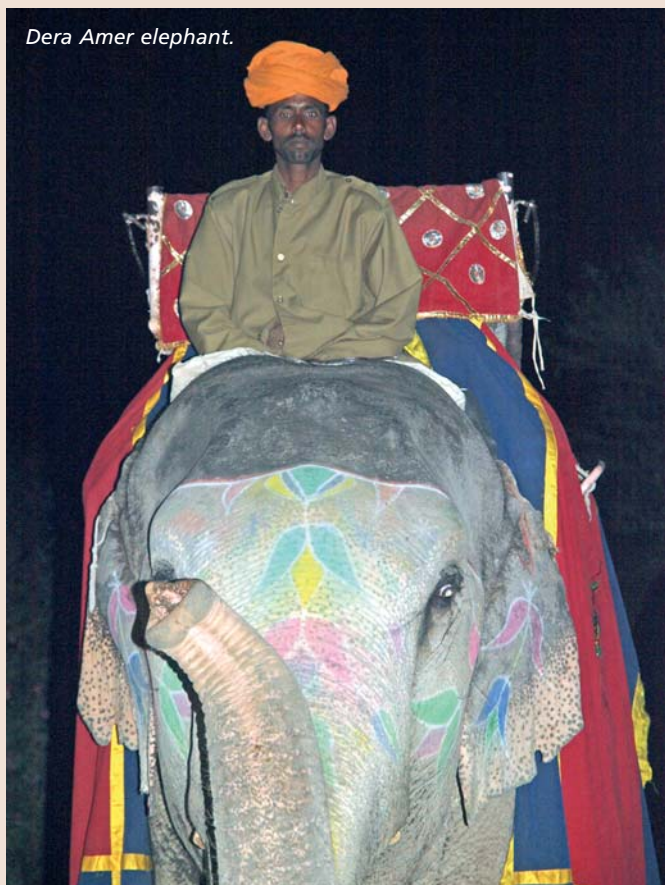


NORTHDOWN
marquees and more

www.northdownmarquees.co.uk

Ballynahinch Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0)28 9081 5535 E: info@northdownmarquees.co.uk

Dera Amer elephant.



Dining tents serve breakfast and lunch while dinner is served alfresco around a camp fire and with a bar under the stars. There is a pool, spa and mud decks discretely located around the perimeter of the camp for those who wish to lie, gaze out into the forest or read a book. Jungle drives leave morning and afternoon and focus on a different area of the park each time, hopefully you will be fortunate to catch a glimpse of the illusive Bengal Tiger, with the largest population in India here this is most probable. But should you not the scenery is majestic. Ranthambhore Fort was one of the most strategically located forts in Northern India allowing the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar to reign supreme in the late 1500s. Pilgrims walk bare footed from the park gates through beautiful forest that provides camouflage for not only the tigers but gazelle, bluebull, monkeys and an abundance of birds, they ascend a ridge to the heart of

Maharajah Sawai Singh's Observatory.



the park and this crenellated citadel is perched on top. It is their penance.

Jaipur - the 'Pink City'

No visit to India's twenty-two princely states would be complete without a sleep over in Jaipur the photogenic 'Pink City' and like the man who's name it bears it incorporates his vision. Maharajah Sawai Singh was a man of many talents. With military supremacy and his borders secure he decided to create a new capital a few miles south of his fortress at Amber. 'The City of Victory' was designed according to ancient Hindu architectural principals. Within protective walls, wide straight streets, harmonious facades and massive gateways surrounding royal palaces. Blocks for shops and houses were allocated to a particular trade.

From the five storied Hawa Mahal, the Palace of the Winds and despite their purdah the maharanis' maids could observe bazaar life and royal processions from behind latticed windows. Surrounded by scholars and artists Jai Singh devoted himself to the study of astronomy in his vast open-air observatory.

Merchants and craftsmen flocked to Jai's City and so the foundations were laid for today's bustling prosperity. On visiting the Amber Fort like many tourists you may ride an elephant to its impressive front gates. While this is a wonderful experience it might be better to get your driver to drop you at the back gates and walk. For a more special, up close and personal encounter visit Dera Amer situated behind the hills of Amber Fort. Here, the local Rajput family will organise an elephant safari into the jungle, visit villages and see farmers at work. They can also arrange Elephant Polo you can spend the day eat and drink or just visit for an evening.

For those who don't do DIY Virgin Holidays offer two escorted vacations to Rajasthan 'The Golden Triangle' featuring Delhi, Agra and Jaipur with a Ranthambhore extension and 'Highlights of India' a 13 night tour visiting Delhi, Agra, Ranthambhore, Jaipur, Udaipur and Mumbai. They do take a lot of pain out of travel and automatically affords you access to The Club House at Heathrow, which is the only way to start your journey.

Virgin fly every day to Delhi....virginatlantic.com
www.virginholidays.com

Jet Airways offer domestic flights 50mins to Jodhpur 45 mins to Jaipur Rohet Garh and Mihir Garh....rohethouse@dateone.in
Sher Bagh....reservations@sujanluxury.com

Jai Mahal Palace in Jaipur or Rambagh Palace for
shere OTT both reservations@tajhotels.com

Shopping Jewels, Cashmere and Carpets
Best to visit Ranthambhore after Jaipur its 8hrs from
Jodhpur by car only 3 ½ hrs from Jaipur Dera
Amer.....www.deraamer.com

When Place and History Rhymed

Fiach arrived into our household in November 1993. A ball of white fluff, he was small enough to fit comfortably on my sister Olive's lap. Hints that I was contemplating buying a new puppy had been met with resistance. Being away in college for much of the year, it was suspected that responsibility for looking after Fiach would fall primarily on my Dad. I was also reminded that we already had a two year old Labrador and an aging Pointer.

However, as a dog -centred household, all my life dogs, but particularly gun dogs, have been our companions. Therefore, I wagered that, once all the family saw this handsome puppy, resistance levels would collapse. So, having purchased Fiach without the family's consent, I arrived home in a hopeful state of mind. Once he relaxed on Olive's lap, no skirmish, let alone a battle developed. Fiach remained with us for the next fifteen years.

As a male English setter, in the Irish context, Fiach's *raison d'être* was to find and locate two game bird species: pheasant and grouse. The front right leg raised, the paw slightly curled, the tail pointed upwards, the head tilted in the bird's direction and the motionless slightly crouched body-these were the perfect ingredients of Fiach's set. Add the sheer intensity on his face, an occasional quiver on his spine, the release of pent up energy when he rushes forward to flush a wily cock pheasant and it is easy to understand why hunters remain devoted to dogs like Fiach for life.

Fiach was the best setter to enter our household. With an excellent nose combined with a strong and determined personality, in his heyday his levels of fitness were unsurpassed by few dogs in our small village. To the end he remained handsome and proud. Tolerating, rather than seeking, affection, he was a pre-modern macho English setter. 'Leave me alone' his body language would say. Perhaps, Fiach always knew that he was brilliant.

The Irish poet Seamus Heaney once wrote that sometimes 'hope and history rhyme'. Borrowing from Heaney, I believe that occasionally in our hunting lives 'place and history rhyme'. Man, time, dog, quarry species and, crucially, place merge into a single experience.

Place and history rhymed for Fiach and me one beautiful September day whilst pursuing Red Grouse. Elusive and crafty, it takes a fit and wise setter to locate this most noble of game birds. Along with the Woodcock, a Grouse, just one grouse in the bag let alone a brace, constitutes la crème de la crème for the discerning Irish hunter.

Our grouse patch is a place of beauty. Nestled between two hills the silver glow of an ice-age lake radiates. The sound of a swollen stream or a lonely raven overhead disturbs those moments of near total silence. On a good day one encounters mountain hares, golden plovers, kestrels and snipe.

From on high the patchwork quilt of the valleys below can be observed. Meandering rivers flow through golden stubble fields. In the near distance, a nineteenth century monastery seems curiously out of place in this mountain landscape. In the far distance, the Irish coast glimmers. And there is the truly unique Irish sky. As if in perpetual motion, its identity changes a thousand times per day.

A good friend, Douglas Butler, and I had been hunting this mountain paradise for several hours on a September day in the mid 1990s. Fiach, in his prime at this stage was ranging well ahead, thoroughly covering the vast open spaces. It was a typical mid-September day on the hills. A light breeze disturbed the heather from its slumber, perfect conditions for an enthusiastic bird dog. In good spirits, Douglas and I eagerly approached favourite plateaus, turf banks and stony patches with anticipation.

Suddenly, Fiach froze. But, as usual, he was at least 250 metres ahead near the top of a steep hill. Proceeding in his direction, I struggled to get my breath. As I approached Fiach, I heard the whirr of grouse just metres ahead. 'Not possible!' I said.

Literally, I crouched until I was inches behind Fiach's tail. Raising my head just above the level of his head, I peered forward. Just over the brow of the hill was a stony patch. Heart beating, hands sweating, the whirr became more intense. Raising my head a little further, I spied six grouse heads.

One is not meant to get this close to this most wary of game birds. This episode probably lasted no more than ninety seconds. But in what seemed like an eternity, it remains firmly etched in my memory. Surreal in its character, it was as if time was momentarily suspended.

Readers are no doubt wondering whether the grouse were ever flushed. Fiach remained rock solid on the set. Herculean like, Douglas arrived on the scene breathless but focused on the task at hand. I, on the other hand, was so mesmerised by the moment that bagging a bird became an afterthought.

As I encouraged Fiach to move forward, the grouse seemed momentarily dazed, very momentarily. Exploding from the rocks, the covey veered right. Fumbling awkwardly with my twenty bore side by side, I swung and discharged two shots more in hope than in confidence. Predictably, I missed clean.

Thirty metres ahead, though, feathers were settling on the soft heather. Despite the ordeal of a lengthy climb, Douglas had managed to gather himself long enough to ensure that honour was retained. An old cock grouse dressed in his spectacular reddish-brown plumage entered the game bag. Bidding our mountain heaven farewell on that September day, I knew that Fiach had provided me with a truly special moment.

On Opening Day, November 1st 2007 Fiach enjoyed less than one hour's hunting. His sole companion was my Dad, Patrick O' Halloran. An 82- year- old Irishman accompanied by a fourteen- year -old English setter (86 in human years!) in pursuit of cock pheasants. I wonder if Fiach glanced toward the imposing presence of our mountains and remembered times past when place and history rhymed.

And Anthony reviews....

Wild Duck and their Pursuit by Dr. Douglas Butler

Tipperary based gamehunter, biologist, teacher and farmer Dr. Douglas Butler has recently completed his second book with Merlin Unwin publishers. Titled, *Wild Duck and their Pursuit*, the book is testament to the

author's passion for and expertise in his subject. Butler's first book with Merlin Unwin, *Rough Shooting in Ireland* was very well received in game hunting circles.

An avid game shooter for almost sixty years, Butler is a rarity in the hunting world. This is because he integrates his roles as hunter and scientist

with such ease. Educated at Cambridge University, University College Dublin and University College Cork, the author brings unrivalled knowledge and experience to bear on his project.

Consisting of fifteen chapters, the book explores such topics as migration, duck mortality, habitat creation, predator control, release methods and hunting regulations. Whilst the primary regional focus of the book is Ireland, it adopts a comparative dimension, by incorporating aspects of duck biology/hunting further afield most notably North America and Britain.

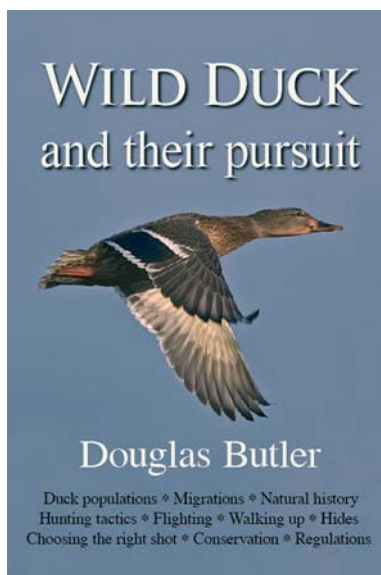
There are chapters on the various forms of duck hunting including flighting at dawn, dusk and under the moonlight. The book is full of interesting facts. The average life expectancy of the mallard duck is a mere 1.2 years. North America hosts a total mallard population of nine million and a total duck population of almost thirty two million! And, there are no less than 140 species of duck, geese and swans on earth at present.

Ducks hunters will find much practical advice on how to improve their skills in this book. Weather conditions, camouflage clothing, duck decoys, walking up, and retrieving are all addressed. Readers will smile more than once as they encounter amusing incidents throughout the book. Unsurprisingly, readers will find that Butler is a passionate advocate of responsible hunting. What will strike readers most perhaps, is the sheer amount of time the author has spent in wild and remote places. While others sleep, Butler is in September stubble fields at 5 am waiting to bag early season mallard with his sons Rupert and Paul.

The author is not slow to 'take aim' at those who seek to undermine rural Ireland's way of life. He notes that throughout a long life time spent in wild and isolated places he has never met a birdwatcher. He questions why the bird watching community enjoy such credence in officialdom. And, Butler the biologist does not shy away from questioning poorly researched scientific papers from whatever source.

Wild Duck and their Pursuit is a 'must read' for duck hunters, in particular. Ornithologists and conservationists will also learn a lot from this book. In overall terms, the book can be accurately described as a thoroughly comprehensive text which is at once erudite and accessible. Rumour has it that Butler is currently working on a third book. As such, it is too early to declare whether *Wild Duck and their Pursuit* constitutes his magnum opus. Clearly, though Butler latest writing foray deserves a wide audience.

Dr Anthony O' Halloran is a political scientist and author. A native of County Tipperary he is a keen game hunter and pro-hunting advocate.



STUART HALL ESTATE

Place Available for Syndicate
Membership 2010/2011 Season

**Walked up
days also
available
Pheasant,
Duck and
Partridge
Poult, day
olds and
ex-layers
for sale**

Contact: 07811 566610

www.gameshootinghi.com

Willie Edgar



International gundog handler, judge and trainer is now taking bookings for training all breeds of dogs both for competition and as shooting companions.

Willie will also assist in sourcing suitable pups, trained and part trained dogs.

At Stud Liver & White ESSD – powerful hunting dog with a superb and rather unique pedigree.

Dog Food also supplied.

All dogs trained the natural way.

**Contact Willie on 07531 189101 or 028
(from ROI 048) 30839302**

*Donal
McCloy*
Guns Unlimited

MAIN DISTRIBUTOR FOR BETTINSOLI

T: +44(0)28 7965 0641

F: +44(0)28 7965 9033

M: 0044 77203 52022

E: donalmccloy@mccloys.com

Toome Business Park, 21 Hillhead Road,
Toomebridge, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 3SF

Mirepeisset - A haven for cuisine, art and wines

Prior to last March I had never heard of the village of Mirepeisset in France's Languedoc-Roussillon region. In fact, if the football world cup had been held anywhere other than South Africa, it's probable that I would never ever have heard of the place. Our little hunting group had unanimously decided to postpone our plans for the usual May safari due to the excessive costs involved in flights to/from and accommodation throughout South Africa. The gap in the calendar was quickly seized upon by you-know-who and I was reminded that this would be an ideal opportunity to take the car to France for a long overdue leisurely drive to the Mediterranean. There comes a time in life when one has to capitulate and this was it. Despite agreeing to keep out of the travel plans, it did cross my mind that perhaps a rifle and pistol could be ensconced in the car boot on the off-chance that a bit of Boar hunting or target shooting might accidentally be stumbled across. The French authorities are quite adult, indeed civilised about all of this, provided a written invitation to participate is secured, a trigger lock is fitted to the pistol and a current EU Firearms Pass is carried. Unfortunately the Sanglier season was over and my contact in Pau Pistol Club was at sea somewhere on an oil rig, so the firearms were relegated to the usual secure holiday storage.



Vine roots ready for disposal.



La Souqueto in the centre of Mirepeisset.

Following much research and consultation, with whom, I have no idea, the plan was presented. We were driving from Cherbourg via Bordeaux to Mirepeisset, a tiny medieval village close to the Canal du Midi. Our host was to be a Dutch lady, Petra Carter, who lived in Ireland long enough to consider herself Irish and now runs a B&B where she also conducts art and cookery classes. Although my other half is highly accomplished in both of these areas, the whole thing sounded like a bit of a death sentence to me. Stoically, it was off to France!

Petra Carter is the proud owner of La Souqueto (little vine), a charming house in the centre of Mirepeisset, from whence she runs her courses. Food workshops and hands-on art classes are ongoing with participants coming from within France and many European countries. The Languedoc-Roussillon region is one of the still affordable places left in France despite its proximity to Provence and vicinity to the Mediterranean. The village is surrounded by endless vines that seem to reach the horizon. Wine-making is king here and this is reflected in almost all facets of business life. To put it another way, it is a typical French rural backwater where time almost stands still. Commerce in the village revolves around a single shop and a restaurant La Taverne, in which the proprietor Stephan takes the orders and serves the drinks while keeping an eye on steaks over the open fire. We noticed the Patron refuelling the fire with what turned out to be vine roots – a novel method of adding to a steak's flavour. Europe's wine lake has adversely affected France's overall vineyard production and Mirepeisset has not escaped its effects. An EU "set-aside" programme has been implemented which



A typical village house.

results in vines being dug up and disposed of to reduce wine production levels. A novel solution to the disposal problem is burning the excess roots and where better than under a rack on which steaks are being cooked. A decent meal for two including a bottle of local wine can be had for €40 in La Taverne. Local wines, mainly Vin du Pays, are superb particularly the smooth reds.

We discovered a major vineyard

Mirepeisset, 'the place to see the fish' is a hub for the network of narrow roads on which to explore the surrounding countryside. Cathar strongholds, medieval villages and walks along the Canal du Midi feature among the sights to see while Carcassonne's walled city or the Roman town of Narbonne are both short drives away. In the latter's city centre close to the cathedral we discovered a little shop that stocks mainly wooden toys. An elderly bespectacled gentleman reminiscent of Father Christmas gift wrapped our grandchildren's presents as he told us about the chain of hotels he had managed in Africa once upon a time. Beyond Narbonne on the road to the coastal town of Narbonne Plage we discovered a major vineyard - Chateau L'Hospitalet - run by former French Rugby International and Stade Francaise player, Gerard Bertrand. Not only was he a top class wing three-quarter, he runs a

top class vineyard with excellent facilities for the visiting wine aficionado. All members of staff speak English which is a major bonus for those whose French vocabulary is not up to the mark. Bertrand's superior wines are available for all to taste, apart from the unlucky driver. One particular red, a blend of Syrah, Cabernet and Merlot caught our attention and a few boxes ended up in the car boot. So too did an elegant white Coteaux du Languedoc aptly named after the massif which overlooks the property, La Clape. It's definitely an eyebrow raiser presenting friends with a gift from France - a bottle of La Clape.

Yes, Mirepeisset is the kind of village in which the rest of the world becomes more or less irrelevant. Along a short tree-lined river walk to the Canal du Midi's Porte Minervoise, schoolchildren race by on bicycles, clutching fishing rods, hoping to land supper. Local gossips perch on seats opposite La Taverne watching comings and goings which are few and far apart at the best of times. This monotony was relieved once or twice by the riveting spectacle of an Irish registered right-hand drive car completing a three-point turn to exit the car park into the square, then having to reverse and do it all again when a local voiture happened to approach from a narrow street. Cars crawl at a snail's pace unless of course one is trying to keep up with Petra Carter's pace in her twenty-eight year old Citroen out on the main road. Mirepeisset is definitely worth a visit and a few overnight stays if you happen to be driving in the region. Petra's cookery and art workshops are a must for individuals or groups that want to get away for a weekend or mid-week break to sharpen their culinary or artistic skills. She even takes on beginners! Carcassonne with its direct flights from Dublin is only a convenient 20 minute drive away. Petra arranges collection from the airport for those who don't wish to hire a car and drive. As we prepared to take our leave and head further south following our 4-night stay, definite signals were emerging of a plot to get yet another beginner into an apron. While I intend to return to Mirepeisset next year for some Boar shooting with the local lads, they won't get me into an apron until hell freezes over.

For more information visit www.petracarter.com



The art class was underway.



Some of the wine produced by Chateau L'Hospitalet.



I must be going soft because it is largely plaudits all round on a number of issues:

The VOICE of the Irish Countryside

A big plaudit to our team from the magazine and our designer and webmaster for helping to take Irish Countrysports and Country Life to new levels of readership for an Irish country sports and lifestyle magazine. Of course the magazine has been for nearly 10 years not only Ireland's best quality hunting, shooting and fishing magazine but its largest circulation one. Now its readership and influence will be taken to new levels through a new readable version going online on our portal www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com.

Together with our record breaking Game Fair attendances in 2010, our existing portal traffic and our high profile in other consumer media it is no wonder that country sports enthusiasts, advertisers and even politicians recognise that our company has a massive role to play in the defence and promotion of our sports and the rural way of life in Ireland as one of the most important voices for country sports in Ireland.

Is being GREEN inconsistent with being involved in hunting, shooting and fishing?

When we were invited to interview John Gormley, the leader of Ireland's Greens and the Minister for the Environment in the ROI, we

AJ's Angst

delivering personal plaudits and brickbats to the world of country sports and life.

welcomed the chance to put the many of the concerns of country sports people directly into the heart of government.

We have always put forward the point that country sports people do more practical work in terms of habitat conservation and preservation than a number of the animal welfare organisations and animal rights fanatics. We were pleased that in a robustly cordial interview with Mr Gormley he appreciated that there could and should be common ground between conservationists and country sports groupings.

We were also pleased to hear that our perception of him having an 'open door' for animal welfare groups and a closed one for country sports bodies may be only a perception. He has claimed that country sports bodies wanting to meet with him are 'pushing at an open door.' Having had this commitment from home I trust the various bodies will take the opportunity to put their case directly to him.

Working with country sports bodies and organisations

We have always had excellent working relationships with the main country sports organisations and many clubs North and South and we have not only made available the facility of meeting the public and country sports enthusiasts at our fairs and through the pages of our magazine but also provided substantial sponsorship to help in their work.

The fact that we are in touch with so many people, and them with us, gives us a unique insight into what concerns including their perception that sometimes the country sports bodies are not reflecting their interests or doing enough to prevent restrictive legislation. In these circumstances we take these concerns to the bodies involved and of course reserve the right to voice our readers concerns publicly if we are not reassured by the answers.

We have voiced what we consider to be constructive criticism of some aspects of the

work of some of the organisations in recent magazines. We consider that this may have generated useful debate and certainly it would appear an upturn in lobbying activity in Northern Ireland. And of course we always offer the right of reply. To enhance this over the Summer and Autumn we decided to take a pro active role in meeting several bodies, representative of organisations, clubs and politicians.



We have met with CAI twice - initially Philip Lawton and I met with Lyall Plant and Bert Carlisle and more recently Paul Pringle and I met with Lyall and Ashley Graham. Our discussions were wide ranging and I think very constructive. We were briefed on some of the current CAI activity we discussed and agreed areas where we could work more closely with CAI to further the country sports cause.

We did put the point that we felt it was important that as far as possible country sports organisations and interests should try to get the widest consensus possible on future promotional and lobbying strategies and that we were willing to play a very prominent role in facilitating this.

Exemptions for working dogs from tail docking legislation

We commend the work of CAI and BASC and of course our good friend Jim Shannon, MP and others, on making submissions on behalf of working gundogs to the committee looking at this issue. However when I received a call from Barrie Wade the Chairman of the National Working Terrier Federation of England and Wales, I realised that perhaps the case for any exemption to include terriers may not have been made as strongly as it could have been.

Barrie had made out a very well argued case and with his permission I sent this to various

members of the committee together with my own comments on the proposed legislation. I thank Francie Molloy, MLA for his response: "Thank you for submission. Yes, I agree that there are other dogs that should be included. I have never seen a terrier with a long tail. They are working dogs and should be exempt. The committee voted to exclude this clause completely as the Dept were not proposing any exemptions."

Game is good to eat

The **Game to Eat** and **Game On** campaigns organised by CAI and BASC respectively, serve a number of useful purposes including creating a market for game, introducing the concept of shooting (like farmers) producing food for the table and excellent quality food at that.



Sharman McConkey and Irene Titterington at one of the Cuan's Game evenings.

BASC locally have played a very impressive part in BASC's National Taste of Game Fortnight having involved politicians Edwin Poots, MLA, and Jim Shannon, MP in the publicity campaign and encouraged a number of restaurants to stage special game evenings. Restaurants involved included The Pheasant in Annahilt; The Cuan, Strangford; The Wildfowler Inn, Greyabbey; The Plough, Hillsborough and The Tannery, Moira.

We enjoyed one of the evenings at the Cuan where Peter and Caroline McErlean provided a superb meal for a 'sell out' crowd of highly appreciative diners. For those who missed it the menu was as follows:

STARTERS

Homemade Hunters Broth - A selection of Pheasant, Boar, Partridge and Duck.

Slow Roasted and brought together in a Rich Tomato Based Soup

Wild Boar Terrine - Served on a Wild Mushroom Purée Topped with a Rocket Salad

Rabbit – rabbit held together in a lime and ginger jelly.

Woodpigeon - Pan seared breast of woodpigeon served on an oven roasted Portobello mushroom Drizzled over with a blue cheese dressing

MAINS

Roast Bird in a bird in a bird - Portavo Pheasant, Partridge and Woodpigeon

Served with Autumn Roasted Vegetables with a Rosemary and Redcurrant Sauce

Monasterboice Co. Louth Wild Boar-Cooked three ways Roasted Belly, Braised Boar Head and Marinated fillet with a sweet apple jelly jam

Roast Loin of Finnebrogue Venison-Served on a sweet Potato Mash with juniper berry and Port Sauce

Pan Seared Breast of Lissara Farm Duck - Accompanied by a Roast Pumpkin Purée and a sweet Plum and Red wine Sauce

Plus choice of sweets and tea and coffee – all for the very reasonable price of £26.95.

A new Angling Event



Mike Shanks from Irish Angler was one of the experts tying flies.

We were pleased to accept an invitation to the inaugural Irish Fly Fair staged at the Galway Bay Hotel, on the 12th & 13th November. The event

had attracted a good range of exhibitors, a fantastic range of international fly tyers and an attendance of over two thousand enthusiasts game angler. Hugh Bonner, Stevie Munn and Grace McDermott are to be congratulated on the successful organisation of an event which must have a place in next year's calendar.



The Irish Countrysports and Country Life stand at the fair.

Sadness at the passing of two giants in the field sports world

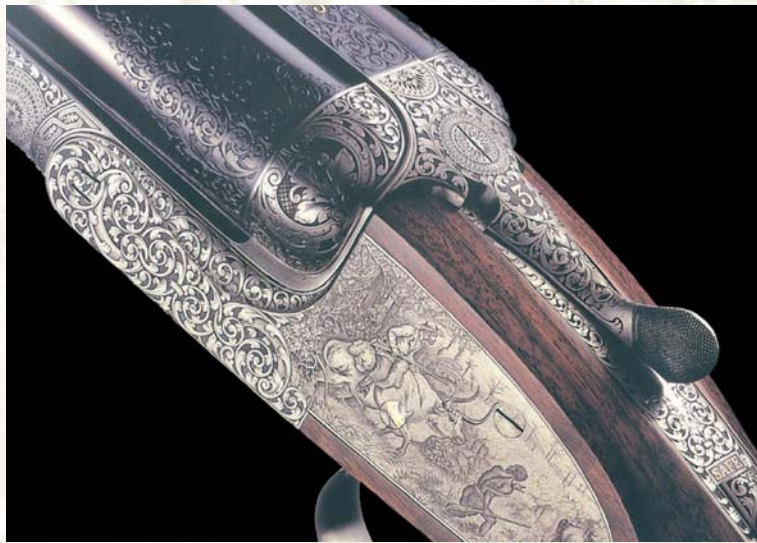
It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of two of the best known personalities in Irish country sports – Jerry Desmond and Billy Nelson. We carry a short obituary on Jerry in the CAI news. His passing will be felt by all in the coursing and racing communities.

Billy was amongst generation of shooters who 'cut their teeth' on all aspects of the sport. In some ways he can be credited with helping open up shooting and particularly driven game shooting to much wider participation. He also did much to promote gundog trials by making ground available wherever possible.

I admired him not only for his undoubted contribution to developing shooting in Ireland but as a man of strong views and forthright expression. He will be missed.

GREAT GAME FAIRS of IRELAND

In 2010 the Great Game Fairs of Ireland further consolidated their position as indisputably Ireland's premier country sports events and in 2011 they will be even better!



30th April and 1st May 2011

In the tradition of the best County Down Fairs...

**The Ballywalter Game & Country Living Fair,
Ballywalter Estate, Co. Down**

www.ballywaltergamefair.com

25th and 26th June 2011

Ireland's largest Game Fair....

The Irish Game Fair, Shanes Castle, Co Antrim

www.irishgamefair.com

27th and 28th August 2011

The ROI's premier Game or Country Fair....

**The Irish Game and Country Fair, Birr Castle,
Birr, Co. Offaly**

www.irishgameandcountryfair.com

**See the 2010 Great Game Fairs of Ireland on
www.fieldsportschannel.tv**

For Further details of the Fairs :

T: 028 (from ROI 048) 44839167/44615416

E: irishgamefair@btinternet.com

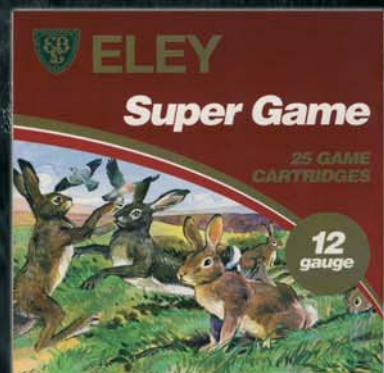
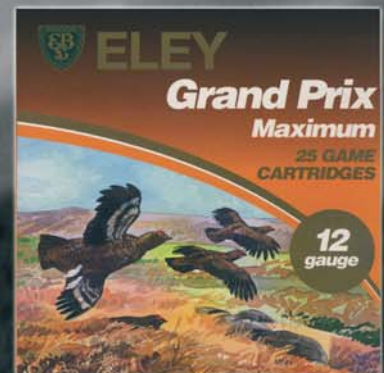
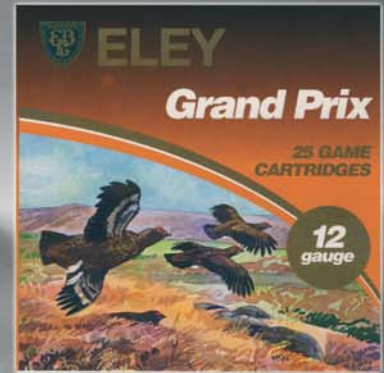
www.irishgamefair.com www.irishgameandcountryfair.com

Read all about the Game Fairs and all Irish hunting, shooting and fishing in the Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine available in your newsagents or online at www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com



Stand out this season with Eley game Cartridges

New look same exceptional results



ARDEE SPORTS COMPANY

Sole Ireland Distributors

Tel: 041 685 3711 Fax: 041 685 3072

Web: www.ardeesports.com