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## WELCOME TO VOWLEY

Now in its fifth year, Vowley has become a fixture for many falconers, a chance to meet up with friends, old and new. It is an event run by falconers, for falconers, and although the general public are of course welcome, this is a specialist event. It is all about participation. None of the hawks and falcons you see here today are for show. All of them are competing in some shape or form and congratulations to all competitors who are prepared to fly in front of critical colleagues.

We are trying to encourage the younger generation and we have some races kindly sponsored especially for them. A few may go on to become falconers (increasingly difficult in this modern world), while others will go away with a much better understanding of managing and flying birds of prey, and their place in the natural world.

By popular request we are putting on a Harris Hawk flat race this year. Despite the calls for it, we have very few entries, so well done those prepared to put their money where their mouth is! Some are standing on the sidelines with a view to entering next year. Be bold! By September your Harris Hawk should be up for a 100-metre sprint.

The Falcon Flat Races are well subscribed this year, with a lot of new entries. We have been very kindly sponsored with generous prizes, which are a big attraction. But I hope that people are entering as much for the sporting enterprise as for the hope of cash prizes.

The Hunt Racing is the highlight of the day with fierce competition from the teams, some of whom represented UK racing in Saudi in December. It is a challenge for the falconer to bring each bird into the best flying condition of strength and skill. It is nerve-wracking for the pilots. It only takes a split second to make a mistake and the race itself has an in-built sporting element. Many a falcon, at the last second, has landed just outside the square and thus incurred penalty points! For breeders, the Hunt Race is a measure of the physical and mental capabilities of each falcon. It is important that we retain all of the characteristics of a good hunting falcon. In the wild about 75% of young falcons do not make it through their first year, the 25% who live go on to breed. The Hunt Race helps us to identify this top 25% and

ensures the breeding pool of falcons are fit for purpose. We are looking for ability in the climb, the stoop, in close pursuit and in footing.

The Hawk Board will be present during the weekend and now is your chance to go and ask those questions that have been bothering you, or that have been kicked around on the online forums. For the first time we will also have representatives from DEFRA and the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) as our guests, with APHA present informally. They welcome the chance to meet up with falconers and gain some understanding of the issues that we face. Jim Collin, who has worked tirelessly on our behalf in the Sustainable Users Network for 25 years, is coming and there will also be representatives of the Falconry Heritage Trust and the British Archives of Falconry.

Dr Tom Dutton is our Race Veterinarian and his team at Great Western Exotics in Swindon specialise in raptors. Ayama are running the timing for the Flat Race and sponsoring some of the prizes. The team from Marshall are operating the GPS and timings for the Hunt Race using their latest equipment. You will also find trade stands for falconry equipment and art and see for yourself the latest developments. Matt Aggett from Wingbeat will be present for sales and repairs of roprey, with plenty of spare parts.

From the social side, we have Honeybrook offering hospitality and we have the Pavilion for invited guests. There are refreshments and meals available, with a BBQ on Saturday evening and plenty of room for the campers. Sadly, owing to avian flu restrictions, we cannot provide housing for raptors, so please make sure that they are safe in your car. Above all, do not show lures or flapping birds that could distract a hawk during its race. We pride ourselves that our birds fly free in the sky. The races are flown on their own terms. That is what falconry is about.

Dr Nick Fox, OBE.



*The participants of the 2022 British Falcon Races*

## TIMETABLE

**Race times may be changed due to rain affecting the laser beams.**

### **Saturday 16th September**

0900: Gates open.

0945: Race briefing.

1000: Ayama Novice Flat Race.

1200: Harris Hawk Flat Race.

1230-1330: Have-a-go rocrow piloting session.

1400: Novice Hunt Race.

1700: Prize-giving.

1900: Falconers BBQ (tickets holders only)

### **Sunday 17th September**

0900: Gates open.

0945: Race briefing.

1000: Ayama Open Flat Race.

1200: Ayama Junior Flat Race

1230-1330: Have-a-go rocrow piloting session.

1400: Open Hunt Race.

1700: Prize-giving.

1800: Gates Close.

## SPONSORS

### THE UNITED FALCONERS FUND

The United Falconers Fund is a newly formed trust to support falconers around the world and provide sponsorship and opportunities for events such as the Vowley Falcon Races.

One key aspect the UFF is keen to support is the development and progression of young falconers and the next generation of children to enter the world of falconry.

As well as providing the main cash prizes for the races, the UFF has also provided a fund to create a Childrens Outdoor Pursuits Day to enable young people to enjoy a hands-on, in-depth experience of falconry and fieldsports



## SPONSORS CONTINUED

### INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSULTANTS LTD

International Wildlife Consultants Ltd (IWC) purchased Vowley as a base for Falcon Racing and Training. With 110 acres, Vowley has three Flat Race courses, two Hunt Race courses and hosts meetings for pilot training and young falconers. IWC Ltd breeds falcons in Wales for export, racing and falconry. Some of the falcons racing here are the hunting falcons from the Northumberland Crow Falcons, and all bred by IWC's Fox Falcons. IWC Ltd also supports conservation programmes on goshawks, red kites, saker falcons, red squirrels, and beavers.



INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CONSULTANTS

### AYAMA

**AYAMA** has been making Telemetry systems for 45 years. In 1993 **AYAMA** launched its specialist telemetry for Falconry and Pigeon Racing in Spain and Europe. For the last 37 years **AYAMA** has been improving, developing, and advancing falconry telemetry, to where we are today with GPS and the soon to be released, Micro GPS.

**AYAMA** have sponsored the winners' trophies this year, as well as providing the cash prizes for the newly developed Harris Hawk race, for which they have developed the timing system, which will be used for the first time at this year's races.



## SPONSORS CONTINUED

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### GREAT WESTERN EXOTICS

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

#### GREAT WESTERN EXOTICS

Great Western Exotics offer an established, specialist-led avian veterinary service. Their team of vets are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year to meet the veterinary need of your bird(s). Located in Swindon with first class hospitalisation, medical, diagnostics and surgical facilities for birds of prey.

Supporting Vowley this weekend is Dr Tom Dutton BVM&S CertAVP(ZM) DipECZM(avian) MRCVS ECZM and RCVS Specialist.



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

#### WINGBEAT

Wingbeat designs, develops and manufactures robotic prey specifically for falcon training and racing. The model being used in the Hunt Race today is constantly evolving as new materials and technology become available to provide ever more exciting flights for both pilot and falcon.

Head to the Wingbeat outlet on site to catch up with the latest in product design, purchase parts or discuss piloting. This year, the stand can be found in the large Wingbeat Barn, adjacent to the main food area.

## PREVIOUS WINNERS

### WINNERS 2019 – Sponsored by Abu Dhabi Falconers Club

#### First Place in the 300 metre Flat Race – Mr Eddy De Mol

Winning time of 16.722 seconds with his Peregrine Falcon 'Dracula'.



#### First Place in the Hunt Race – Safran Falcon Team

Winning time of 1min 46.7sec with their Gyr x Saker falcon 'Ameena'. Falconer Jimmy Robinson, Piloted by Matt Aggett.





## WINNERS 2020 – Sponsored by Dubai Falcon Centre

### First Place in the 400m Flat Race – Mr Gareth Dargue

Winning time of 20.591 seconds with his Gyr x Saker Falcon ‘Casper’.



### First Place in the Hunt Race – Fox Falcon Team

Winning time of 1min 30sec with their Gyr x Peregrine falcon ‘Swallow’. Falconer Dan Clarke. Piloted by Dylan Freeman.



## WINNERS 2021 - Sponsored by NBC Environment

### First Place in the 300m Junior Flat Race - Miss Kirsty Corns

Winning time of 17.400 seconds with her Gyr x Saker Falcon 'Blade'.



## WINNERS 2021 - Sponsored by International Wildlife Consultants Ltd

### First Place in the 400m Novice Flat Race - Mr Gareth Dargue

Winning time of 21.900 seconds with his Gyr x Saker Falcon 'Khaleesi'.



### First Place in the 400m Open Flat Race - NBC Environment

Winning time of 20.900 seconds with their Gyr x Peregrine Falcon 'Gamora'.



### First Place in the Open Hunt Race – Fox Falcons

A time of 2mins 03sec with their Gyr x Saker falcon 'Slipstream'. Falconer Bryan Goodman, Piloted by Dylan Freeman.



### First Place in the Novice Hunt Race – Pitsford Falcons

A time of 2mins 20sec with their Gyr falcon 'Thelma'. Falconer Mike Hewlett, Piloted by James Dumayne.



## WINNERS 2022 – Sponsored Orkin Pest Control

### Place in the 400m Junior Flat Race – Miss Macey Colquhoun

A Winning time of 24.297 seconds with her 7/8<sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker ‘Geronimo’



## 2022 – Sponsored by Mr Abdulaziz Almoosa

### First Place in the 400m Novice Flat Race – Ms Sofia Munoz

Winning time of 22.390 seconds with her Gyr Falcon ‘Dante’.



### First Place in the 400m Open Flat Race – Mr Gareth Dargue

Winning time of 21.760 seconds with his Gyr x Saker Falcon ‘Lily’.



### First Place in the Open Hunt Race – Pitsford Falcons

A time of 2mins 01sec with their Gyr falcon 'Thelma'. Falconer Mike Hewlett, Piloted by James Dumayne.



### First Place in the Novice Hunt Race – Fox Falcons

A time of 1min 59sec with their 7/8<sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker falcon 'Flicker'. Falconer Tom Spink, Piloted by Bryan Goodman



## CORPORATE HOSPITALITY

### HONEYBROOK



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

Honeybrook have chosen to host and entertain clients and friends by inviting them to the British Falcon Races.

Started over 25 years ago by CEO Nick Havemann-Mart's need for a quality and nutritious source of food for his falcons, Honeybrook has grown to become one of the world's premium falconry and reptile companies. Honeybrook are a family company owned and run by professionals for the benefit of enthusiasts.



*Hospitality tents and spectators line the edge of the Hunt Race arena, eagerly awaiting the next spectacular flight.*

*Photo Credit – Stuart Grimwood*

## TRADE EXHIBITORS



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

### SILVER FOX FALCONRY

Mark Parker has been making bespoke falconry equipment and teaching falconry in a professional capacity for over 22 years and is highly regarded within the Bird of Prey community as one of the best and most experienced falconry instructors in the UK.

Mark is well known for his hand made wooden block perches and lure handles.

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### INDEPENDENT BIRD REGISTER



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

The Independent Bird Register was first formed in 1994 following the de-registration of birds of prey by DEFRA.

It is the only register of its kind in the UK which records thousands of ring numbers and details of birds and bird keepers.

The register is owned and run by Barbara (Babs) Royle who dedicates her time 24/7 to help reunite lost and found birds of prey, owls and other birds wearing a ring.

To date, the IBR has reunited 9,220 birds and will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in 2024.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### MARSHALL RADIO TELEMETRY



Marshall designs and supplies premium GPS long-range tracking and recovery equipment to hunters, parrot free-fliers, rocketry, and competitors around the world. Choose Marshall falconry transmitters, dog tracking collars and direction-finding receivers and you will have the most carefully engineered and reliable tracking system available.

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### AYAMA



**AYAMA** has been making Telemetry systems for 45 years. In 1993 **AYAMA** launched its specialist telemetry for Falconry and Pigeon Racing in Spain and Europe. For the last 37 years **AYAMA** has been improving, developing, and advancing falconry telemetry, to where they are today with GPS and the soon to be released, Micro GPS.

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



### FORBES FALCONRY



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

Forbes Falconry prides itself in selling the finest in falconry equipment. They also seek to bring new and innovative products to the UK market and promote some of the best of British.

The equipment that you buy for your bird must be reliable and of the highest quality. Forbes Falconry is looking to do just that.

All products are hand crafted and at an affordable price. Whether it be the quality of a Keith Wakefield vest, the innovation behind Babayaga anklets or the reliability of Tinyloc. Forbes Falconry has it for you



**The Falconry Heritage Trust**

[www.falconryheritage.org](http://www.falconryheritage.org)

### FALCONRY HERITAGE TRUST

The Falconry Heritage Trust provides a portal for the world's falconers and other interested parties to access aspects of the sport's rich heritage by linking existing physical archives, including international private and public collections, through the medium of an electronic archive. FHT hopes that whatever your background or interest in the sport, you may find something of value through the archive to deepen your knowledge, understanding and passion for falconry.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### UB FALCONRY



*[www.ubfalconry.net/](http://www.ubfalconry.net/)*

UB Falconry UK have got over 114 years of glove making history. Chester Jefferies in Gillingham was founded in 1936 and Mark Pearce closed his doors in June 2022. Mark was a good friend he passed his knowledge onto Calvin Crossman; this knowledge was handed down by his grandfather.

They are making fitted falconry gloves, some of the first falconry gloves ever made with silk linings. As well as making gloves they are the only falconry bell maker left making falconry bells in the UK. Their swivels are made in house from stainless and come in 6 sizes. UB Falconry currently supply across the UK, Europe and have ventured into the Middle Eastern market.

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### CHARMAINE CLARKE ARTIST



**CHARMAINE RACHEL ART**  
CANINE RAPTOR WILDLIFE

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

Charmaine is a canine, wildlife and most importantly a raptor fine artist who specialises in the medium of colour pencil. She is known worldwide for detailed and realistic falconry artwork. Since 2018 she has pursued her passion and has been featured in various magazines, TV shows, radio stations and book covers. She shares a love of raptors and wildlife alike, and often accepts the challenge to create bespoke pieces of artwork for her clients.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### FEMALE FALCONERS CLUB



The female falconers club was formed to connect female falconers across the UK. As well as having a large online community, we run training events, socials and field meets that are inclusive to all skill levels and abilities. We are open to women of all ages, who work with birds of prey and are active in all areas of falconry. This includes hunting, display flying, education, breeding birds of prey and raptor conservation programs. The Club allows us to share our passion and enthusiasm for our falconry birds, the countryside, and the future of wild raptors worldwide whilst also promoting good practice.

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### CHRIS PAYNE

Chris Payne started making falconry furniture more than 23 years ago, at the end of the last century. In 2008, Chris started his own business, specialising in bespoke falconry gloves with a mission statement to make the best product possible, using the highest quality materials.

This is still true today, with the results that his gloves are in exclusive shops in Mayfair, are the choice of Middle east Royalty, and a deserved reputation for being some of the best in the world.

As well as the bespoke gloves, there is also a full standard range, which start at a competitive price. Every glove is made in the UK by a single craftsman.

*Payne's*  
Bespoke Falconry Gloves

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### THE IDENTITY STORE

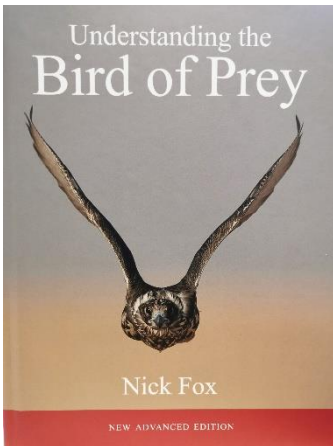


The Identity Store aims to be the premier source of different types of performance leather for falconers worldwide. Our leathers are carefully selected, combining value, strength, durability, and consistency.

We offer a range of different leathers suitable for different weights of birds for making jesses and anklets, hoods, gauntlets, and perch wraps as well as for general leatherwork.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BIRD OF PREY

-New Advanced Edition



The New Advanced Edition of the classic 1995 *Understanding the Bird of Prey* by Dr Nick Fox, OBE is an essential reference book for raptor enthusiasts. With 554 pages, 360 new photos and 206 technical illustrations, it is suitable both for the general reader and for students. The eleven peer-reviewed chapters include Anatomy, Breeding, Equipment, Behaviour, Training, Hunting Strategies, Hawking, and Ethics. A new section includes the use of robotic prey for training and racing. Each chapter lists its own Further Reading for more detailed study and the book is supported by ten 90-minute Management films.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### JCS LIVESTOCK



#### JCS Livestock

A Division of James Cargo Services Ltd

JCS Livestock is a division of James Cargo Services Ltd, established some 20 years ago dealing with worldwide freight forwarding for all commodities, from live ornamental fish to batteries. At JCS Livestock we have a dedicated team who are proficient in moving livestock safely and humanely around the world. Whether it be a tiger for conservation or your child's pet mouse, we will relocate them safely and with the utmost care. We realise that livestock comes in all shapes and sizes and at JCS Livestock we have handled them all. Whether you are a live tropical fish importer, livestock breeder or pet owner holidaying or relocating abroad, we know how important each animal is to you.

### MATTHEW AGGETT HOODMAKER

Matt is a British hood maker specialising in Indian Arab & Anglo-Indian hoods. His hoods have been well received across many countries due to an emphasis on fit and attention to detail. Matt's work has a distinctive bright style which is achieved by combining modern dyeing techniques with traditional leathercraft methods.



**Matthew Aggett**  
HOODMAKER

Beyond hoods, Matt has come up with many innovative solutions to falconer's problems. Other handmade leather products include hawking phone cases, hood clips and Pocket Link cases, as well as all the usual falconry furniture.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS

### Inside the Wingbeat Barn

Wingbeat Ltd have very kindly sponsored the large barn on site at Vowley to allow artists and exhibitors a chance to exhibit their work over the Racing weekend. Head to the barn to see some spectacular art work as well as the Wingbeat main stand.

Please note, the barn will be closed between 2pm and 4pm during the Vowley Hunt Race to allow exhibitors to enjoy the racing too.



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#### BOX CLEVER



[www.box-cleveruk.co.uk](http://www.box-cleveruk.co.uk)

Here at Box Clever UK, we manufacture raptor travel boxes, weathering's, aviaries, perches, and blocks - as well as dog crates and ferret boxes. Based in Norfolk, UK - our primary aim is to provide falconers with a secure, hygienic environment to transport and house their birds, dogs, and ferrets safely. We specialise in bespoke aviaries and weathering's and can manufacture to your specifications. Whether it be a single aviary for your hunting partner or a block of aviaries for your breeding stock.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### ART BY CERYS



Cerys is a 24-year-old wildlife artist with a particular passion for birds of prey and falconry. Cerys specialises in paint, ink, and pencils across a variety of species.

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### MIKE DONNELLY

Mike started his career as a professional wildlife artist in 1980 after meeting John Fairclough and Nick Fox at a falconry international meet in North Wales in 1978. John sponsored his exhibitions around the UK for two years giving Mike a great boost into the commercial art world. He went on to work in tutoring art & graphics and always worked parallel as a book illustrator, He has illustrated dozens of books and magazines, and gallery artist, becoming internationally renowned when he was recruited by the Mathaf Gallery in London resulting in many celebrity and prominent collectors of his art.

## TRADE EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

### JOHN NAYLOR

John has painted professionally since 1980, using mainly pastels to specialize in British Wildlife. As well as falconry, he has kept many species of birds and animals as he feels that this close interaction with his subject is crucial to the execution of his work.

Previously John has dealt with many leading galleries in the UK but for the past 20 years or so John has staged his own exhibitions, mainly at home in his own gallery

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### COCH - Y BONDDU BOOKS

Coch-y-Bonddu Books are the leading dealers in books on falconry and raptors with over 1000 falconry-related books listed on their website - [anglebooks.com](http://anglebooks.com).



COCH-Y-BONDDU BOOKS



## PRIZES

The record-breaking 2023 prize pot of £30,000 has been generously donated by the United Falconers Fund.. This will be divided between all race categories as shown below. As well as the cash prize, the winner of each race will receive a custom-made winner's trophy as well as other prizes, kindly donated by some of the UK's finest falconry artists and leather craftsman. Prize ceremonies will be held at the end of each days racing. We welcome all to join and celebrate the winners

### HUNT RACE PRIZES

**First place: £4000 and Trophy**

Second place: £1500

Third place: £500

### FLAT RACE PRIZES

**First place: £3000 and Trophy**

Second place: £1500

Third place: £500

### JUNIOR FLAT RACE PRIZES

**First place: £1500 and Trophy**

Second place: £850

Third place: £650

### HARRIS HAWK RACE PRIZES

**First place: £500 and Trophy**

Second place: £350

Third place: £150



*First Place trophies for 2023 - created by Midton. [www.midton.com](http://www.midton.com)*

## THE TEAMS

It is a team effort to produce a racing falcon. Although some of the breeders are private individuals, some are owned by royal families who show a keen interest in the pedigrees and bloodlines. The Owner of each falcon may be a private individual, or a company, or a syndicate. Breeders produce anything from a handful of falcons each year, to several hundred. Most youngstock are shipped out to the Gulf in late summer ready for training. Some of the falcons racing at Vowley are available for purchase while some are cherished private birds.



*Left to right: Roy Lupton, Charlie Butler, Alfie Holder.  
Team Tallyho from the falcon races, 2021. Photo credit Stuart Grimwood*

Once the young falcons are near fledging, they are handled by Falconers who teach them all the basic flying skills and fitness that they need for racing. The earliest young falcons are ready to race by late August.

Pilots are needed for the Hunt Race and they must be experts at flying radio-controlled aircraft. They need good eyesight, fast reactions and nerves of steel. When a falcon is stooping at you at over 200 kph the ground comes up very fast. Many are wrung out after a good flight and need to sit down under a tree for a little while to recover!

While a team can field falcons for several owners, the pilots, like jockeys, can only fly for one team. Some teams here today are fielding up to ten falcons and the competition is intense.

## GENERAL RACING RULES

1. The trainer is the person acting individually or leading a team of people who have trained one or more falcons together throughout the training period.
2. The team is the trainer and support crew who have trained one or more falcons together for a race on behalf of one or more owners.
3. A team cannot include two independent trainers.
4. In the Flat Race the falconer is the team member luring and retrieving the falcon.
5. In the Hunt Race the falconer is the team member slipping and retrieving the falcon.
6. A team can engage one or more pilots but a pilot cannot fly for more than one team in any given race.
7. The owner is the owner of the falcon at the start of the race.
8. An owner can own more than one falcon and a falcon can have multiple owners.
9. The owner of the falcon is the entity who wins the prizes.
10. The breeder is the person or stud that hatched the falcon.
11. The falcon must have a means of attaching a GPS tag supplied by the race management.
12. Each entry on the race card must include: The falcon's name, ring or microchip number, species (including hybrids), gender, age, the falconer's name, the trainer's name, the owner's name and the breeder's name. A wild-caught falcon shall be listed as 'wild-caught' under breeder's

name. For Hunt races, the pilot's name must also be included.

13. Open Races are open to falcons only, of any species, gender or ages.
14. The contestants must provide their own insurance for any claims whatsoever against them.
15. The organisers shall not be responsible for any injury or loss to any falcon, howsoever caused.
16. The falcon must carry a non-removable official registered ring or microchip identifying it as the individual described in its legal papers.
17. If offered for sale the falcon must have any legal documents required to make the sale.
18. The owners' racing colours may be displayed on hoods or the uniforms of participants. Pilots and falconers may wear sponsorship liveries, logos or racing colours.
19. The order of flying will be declared one hour before the start of the competition, drawn from a hat by the timekeeper. Wherever possible no two falcons from one team will be flown consecutively.
20. If the weather changes during the course of the competition, no allowance will be made to any competitor except that the timekeeper may decide to temporarily halt the competition or cancel it altogether because conditions are unsafe, for example low fog, storm or heavy rain.
21. The wind strength at two metres must not exceed force 5 i.e. 38km/hr, 24 miles/hour or 10.7 m/s and the temperature must not exceed 28°C.
22. The winner is the falcon with the lowest time score.
23. The timekeepers must have no declared interest in any of the competitors.

24. If the falcon wanders off, the timekeeper will decide whether or not to fly the next falcon.
25. If a lost falcon is still not recovered, the trainer of the next falcon has the right to refuse to fly because of risk to his own falcon. In this case his falcon will be moved to the last position in the flying order.
26. All filming and media rights belong to the organisers of each event.



*All smiles, Keith Talbot after a successful flight in the Hunt Race at Vowley, 2022.*

*Photo credit – Verity Johnson*

## THE FLAT RACE

The Flat Race originated in the Middle East as an extension of training falcons in the desert. The falconer stands in the Starting Box and unhoods the falcon who sees a second falconer swinging a lure or *telwah* made of dried bird wings. As she leaves the starting box, the falcon breaks the first beam and the clock starts. The finish beam is set at 400 metres and the falcon flies low and fast up the course, so close to the ground that she can use 'ground effect' to enhance her wing strokes.

The race is all about timing and only a few thousandths of a second make all the difference between winning and second place. Most of the falcons racing at Vowley are young birds, still developing and yet to reach their full potential, but they give buyers a good indication which ones to snap up and continue racing over the winter in the Gulf.



*Becca Worgan slipping her falcon in the Flat race at Vowley, 2019.*

*Photo credit – Adam Barnard*

# FLAT RACING RULES

## These rules are in addition to the General Racing Rules

1. The flat races can include events for different ages or species of falcon and for different classes of competitors.
2. The race distance is normally 400 metres along a smooth, level track.
3. The start and finish lines are infra-red or radar beam gates connected together to record timings to 0.001 seconds accuracy and screened at 0.01 seconds accuracy.
4. The falcon must pass through both start and finish gates.
5. The start gate is 5 metres wide and the falconer must stand no closer than 5 metres from the beam and no further than 20 metres from the beam.
6. The finish gate is no more than 30 metres wide and 30 metres high at the beam.
7. The falconer can call the falcon using only the lure (telwah) and must stand behind the finish gate.
8. The dress of the falconer can be any type specified by the race organisers.
9. On unhooding the falcon, the falconer must keep his hand static. Attempts to launch the falcon from the hand will disqualify the entry.
10. A falcon which fails to start after two minutes from being unhooded will be disqualified.
11. If a falcon fails to complete the course within three minutes it will be disqualified.
12. If the Falcon wanders off, the Timekeeper will decide whether or not to fly the next Falcon.

## FLAT RACE TIMING



**AYAMA** are returning as the timing partner for the Flat Racing for the 2023 season.

**AYAMA** has been making Telemetry systems for 45 years. In 1993 **AYAMA** launched its specialist telemetry for Falconry and Pigeon Racing in Spain and Europe. For the last 37 years **AYAMA** has been improving, developing and advancing falconry telemetry, to where we are today with GPS.

**AYAMA** offer Telemetry products across several platforms including Wildlife Tracking and Working Dogs. The **AYAMA POINTER and AYAMA POINTER TRACK (GPS)** handsets are small, lightweight, touch screen and wearable, so no need to leave it behind in the car. You can attach it to your belt, falconry vest or simply put it in your pocket. The collapsible Yagi antenna makes this unit very compact, extremely accurate, and with its colour touch screen, it makes it so simple and easy to use.

**AYAMA** has a wide range of transmitters suitable for every requirement, some that last 60+ Days, through to their smallest transmitter that weighs just 2.3gms and is 4 inches long and at the pinnacle is the incredible **SAHARA GPS** Transmitter. The **AYAMA** transmitters are extremely versatile and all offer Leg or Spring Clip mounting.

**AYAMA** successfully sponsors many Sky Trial Events in Europe and are extremely pleased to be sponsoring the Falcon Races in the UK as the official Flat Race timing partner.

The UK distributors of **AYAMA** are Willows Falconry Products, who will be attending in person to ensure the flat race goes without any problems. Follow the QR code on the right to head to their website and see what products you can purchase.



*[www.willowsfalconryproducts.co.uk](http://www.willowsfalconryproducts.co.uk)*



## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES

Name	ANDRASTE		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Dave Ward
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Jacob O'Neil
Ring Number		Falconer	Jacob O'Neil
Sex	Female	Slipping	Lewis O'Neil

Name	BAAEED		
Species	7/8 <sup>TH</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	30FEARDEFALCO W	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Male	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	BIGGY SMALLS		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	008 Suler W	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Female	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	BLONDIE		
Species	Gyr x Barbary	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 234	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Female	Slipping	Neil Scott

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	BLONDIE		
Species	Gyr x Barbary	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 234	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Female	Slipping	Neil Scott

Name	CAVIAR		
Species	7/8 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	65 FEARDEFALCO W	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Female	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	CLEOPATRA		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Isla Rodriguez
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Isla Rodriguez
Ring Number	Magnum23029	Falconer	Isla Rodriguez
Sex	Female	Slipping	Graham Forbes

Name	COCO		
Species	Gyr x Barbary	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONSS 211	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Female	Slipping	Neil Scott

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	DUBAWI		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	129CAFALCONS	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Male	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	FENN		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2018	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	39SILVERBIRCH FALCONS	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Female	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	HADES		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Joe John
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Joe John
Ring Number	011NJS	Falconer	Joe John
Sex	Male	Slipping	Tyler Savid

Name	HAYLEY THE BLONDE		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Paul Queenan
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Paul Queenan
Ring Number	3KLFX	Falconer	Paul Queenan
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gary Wood

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	HEATHER		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GDFALCONS 002	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	LE'FROUGE		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Alfie Holder
Hatch Year	2019	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	123Ghost2019	Falconer	Alfie Holder
Sex	Male	Slipping	Charlie Buttler

Name	LILY		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Gail Carr
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Gail Carr
Ring Number	GD FALCONS UK15X	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	MANUEL		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 212	Falconer	James Coxon
Sex	Male	Slipping	James Forty

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	MATILDA		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GDFALCONS 004	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	MR NICE		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Grant Fear
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Grant Fear
Ring Number	PERFECT25UK	Falconer	Grant Fear
Sex	Male	Slipping	Rahne Sharrock

Name	OOH ME IP		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Derek O'Dowling
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	ROY.L GBR 22W 301	Falconer	Derek O'Dowling
Sex	Male	Slipping	Charlie Buttler

*Grant Fear from FearDeFalco picking up Biggie Smalls in 2022 after their 400m race  
Photo credit - Simon Reynolds*



## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	PEPSI		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	David Cottle
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	David Cottle
Ring Number	2040	Falconer	David Cottle
Sex	Male	Slipping	John Wiley

Name	ROSE		
Species	Peregrine	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GD FALCONS 001	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	SCREECH		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	4 JP Falcons	Falconer	Dave Whittington
Sex	Male	Slipping	John Patterson

Name	SKOROST		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	Kenyon Falcons 01	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Male	Slipping	Gail Carr

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	THARNA		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Miles Lucas
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Miles Lucas
Ring Number	21DBFALCONSSW	Falconer	Miles Lucas
Sex	Female	Slipping	Jake Lucas

Name	THE GENTLEMAN		
Species	Gyr x Peregrin	Owner	Jacob O'Neil
Hatch Year	2004	Trainer	Jacob O'Neil
Ring Number		Falconer	Jacob O'Neil
Sex	Male	Slipping	Lewis O'Neil

Name	THE MUTANT		
Species	Gyr x Babary x Saker x Peregrine	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 218	Falconer	James Coxon
Sex	Female	Slipping	James Forty

Name	TRINITY		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Gerard and Gemma
Hatch Year	2019	Trainer	Gerard and Gemma
Ring Number	001-sulter X	Falconer	Gerard Sulter
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gemma Sulter

## OPEN FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	TWENTY QUIDER		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Paul Queenan
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Paul Queenan
Ring Number	16APEX FALCONS	Falconer	Paul Queenan
Sex	Male	Slipping	Gary Wood

Name	ZERO		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Jacob O'Neil
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Jacob O'Neil
Ring Number		Falconer	Jacob O'Neil
Sex	Male	Slipping	Lewis O'Neil

Name	ZULU		
Species	7/8 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4168FOX W	Falconer	Bryan Goodman
Sex	Male	Slipping	Tom Spink



*A Gyr x Saker in flight at the 2022 Races  
Photo credit - Simon Reynolds*



## NOVICE FLAT RACE ENTRIES

Name	ATLAS		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Willows Bird of Prey
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Willows Bird of Prey
Ring Number	24SVEA22	Falconer	Antonio Fowler
Sex	Male	Slipping	Ollie Van de Starre

Name	BLITZ		
Species	Barbary Falcon	Owner	Joe John
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Joe John
Ring Number	024 Falcon Green Raptor	Falconer	Mason Clarke
Sex	Male	Slipping	Joe John

Name	BLONDIE		
Species	Gyr x Barbary	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 234	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Female	Slipping	Neil Scott

Name	COCO		
Species	Gyr x Barbary	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 211	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Female	Slipping	Neil Scott

## NOVICE FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	DARUKA		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Miles Lucas
Hatch Year	2019	Trainer	Miles Lucas
Ring Number	2Mulfalconry19w	Falconer	Miles Lucas
Sex	Female	Slipping	Jake Lucas

Name	FANCY		
Species	Peregrine x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2011	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	962FOX11W	Falconer	Bryan Goodman
Sex	Female	Slipping	Ayesha Al Mansouri

Name	GERRY		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	430 Ghost X 2023	Falconer	Dave Whittingham
Sex	Male	Slipping	John Patterson

Name	HEATHER		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GDFALCONS 002	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

## NOVICE FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	JOOP		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Willows Bird of Prey
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Willows Bird of Prey
Ring Number	25SVEA22	Falconer	Antonio Fowler
Sex	Male	Slipping	Ollie Va de Starre

Name	JUNO		
Species	¾ Gyr x Saker	Owner	Emily Hewes
Hatch Year	2018	Trainer	Emily Hewes
Ring Number	106506W	Falconer	Ben Hewes
Sex	Male	Slipping	Emily Hewes

Name	MANUEL		
Species	Peregrine	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 212	Falconer	James Forty
Sex	Male	Slipping	Neil Scott

Name	MATILDA		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GDFALCONS 004	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

## NOVICE FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	NANGA NANGA		
Species	Peregrine	Owner	Jacob O'Neil
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Jacob O'Neil
Ring Number	150DW	Falconer	Jacob O'Neil
Sex	Female	Slipping	Lewis O'Neil

Name	OHH ME IP		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Derek O'Dowling
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	ROY.L GBR 22W 301	Falconer	Derek O'Dowling
Sex	Male	Slipping	Charlie Buttler

Name	ROSE		
Species	Peregrine	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	GDFALCONS 001	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Female	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	SCREECH		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	4 JP Falcons	Falconer	Dave Whittingham
Sex	Male	Slipping	John Patterson

## NOVICE FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	SKOROST		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Gareth Dargue
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Gareth Dargue
Ring Number	Kenyon Falcons 01	Falconer	Gareth Dargue
Sex	Male	Slipping	Gail Carr

Name	THE MUTANT		
Species	Gyr x Babary x Saker x Peregrine	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	James Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 218	Falconer	James Coxon
Sex	Female	Slipping	James Forty

Name	WINSTON		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	23636W Falcon Mews	Falconer	Dave Whittingham
Sex	Male	Slipping	John Patterson

Name	ZEUS		
Species	Gyr x Prairie x Saker	Owner	Joe John
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Joe John
Ring Number	122	Falconer	Joe John
Sex	Male	Slipping	Tyler Savid

## THE UNITED FALCONERS FUND – CHILDRENS DAY

As part of the overall sponsorship of the British falcon races, the United Falconers Fund has allocated a small portion of the overall prize money to fund a day dedicated to the introduction to field sports for the next generation.

The junior falconers we will see today racing in the Junior Flat race are the future of falconry in the UK and the United Falconers Fund is keen to keep their interest and encourage more to enter the world of field sports.

The UFF will be creating a website, where children will be able to enter a quiz. From all those who enter, 10 children will be picked at random and invited to a specially organised day where they will have chance to learn about the crafts involved, not only in falconry, but other country pursuits. Not only will they get to learn about these fieldcraft, they will also get opportunity to learn how to prepare, clean and cook what game they have caught, lighting the fires of passion that will encourage them to keep pursuing the aspects of country life which unite us all.



*The Wide Eyes Falconry Junior Team with their falcons 2022*

*Photo Credit Verity Johnson*

Last year, Vowley welcomed the children of Wide Eyes Falconry, who in their vivid uniforms, stood out on the day by being extremely polite, helpful, and very organised (especially compared to some more senior falconers!).

## JUNIOR FLAT RACE ENTRIES

The Junior Flat Race is open to under 18-year-olds. The Junior falconer must do the luring and picking up of the falcon unaided by an adult. The prizes are £1500 and a trophy for the winner, second £850 and third £650 generously sponsored by the United Falconer Fund.

Name	APOLLO		
Species	Lanner Falcon	Owner	Zoey Lanksford
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	4yooneek22	Falconer	Zoey
Sex	Male	Slipping	Presley

Name	BARRY ALLEN		
Species	Peregrine x Lugger	Owner	Wide Eyes Falconry
Hatch Year	2013	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	Af40212013005	Falconer	Annabelle
Sex	Male	Slipping	Zoey

Name	BLIZZARD		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Willows Bird of Prey
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Willows Bird of Prey
Ring Number	20y00neek21W	Falconer	Holly Nana
Sex	Female	Slipping	Nick Robertson



*Kristy Corns picking up Blade in the 2022 Junior Race.  
Photo Credit - Verity Johnson*

## JUNIOR FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	DROGON		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Wide Eyes Falconry
Hatch Year	2012	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	IBR61847W	Falconer	Holly
Sex	Female	Slipping	William

Name	MANUEL		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	James Forty
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Owen Forty
Ring Number	FORTY FALCONS 212	Falconer	Owen Forty
Sex	Male	Slipping	James Forty

Name	MOWGLI		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Wide Eyes Falconry
Hatch Year	2018	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	IBR104377W	Falconer	Bradley
Sex	Female	Slipping	Presley

Name	SIMBA		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Miles Lucas
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	William Marcham
Ring Number	1022MCF2023	Falconer	William Marcham
Sex	Male	Slipping	Miles Lucas



## JUNIOR FLAT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	SYRAX		
Species	Saker Falcon	Owner	Wide Eyes Falconry
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	180Ghost2021	Falconer	Mille
Sex	Female	Slipping	Finlay

Name	TORVI		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Wide Eyes Falconry
Hatch Year	2020	Trainer	Wide Eyes Falconry
Ring Number	19Skyhunters12	Falconer	Ellis
Sex	Female	Slipping	Jess

Name	TWENTY QUIDER		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Paul Queenan
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Tom Russell
Ring Number	16 APEXFALCONS	Falconer	Tom Russell
Sex	Male	Slipping	Gary Wood



2023 Junior Race Podium - Sponsored by Orkin  
Photo Credit - Verity Johnson

## WOWLEY IN SAUDI ARABIA



Every year in December, the Saudi Falcons Club hold the largest falcon racing event in the world, The King Abdulaziz Falconry Festival. Falconers from all over the Gulf travel to compete in the highly popular 400m telwah race, with a prize pot of over a staggering £4,500,000!

In December 2022, the Saudi Falcons club invited the top 6 Hunt Race teams from the UK to compete in the first ever hunt race to be held outside of the Wowley Races.



The teams all prepared and trained in the UK, with the falcons and first Wowley staff being flown out to Riyadh, eight days before the main races started on the 10th of December. With the falcons acclimatised, it was time to get some last-minute practice and fine tune the Wingbeat Roprey models before the first day of racing.

*Dr Nick Fox OBE, leading the teams out to the Hunt Race Arena at the King Abdulaziz Falconry Festival*

Between the six teams, a total of 18 falcons were exported solely for the purpose of featuring in the Hunt Race. These 18 falcons had all flown at the 2022 British Falcons races at Wowley.

The races consisted of 3 categories which provided each falcon at least two opportunities to qualify for the grand super final.

The race categories were Male falcons, female falcons, and then mixed sex Gyr x Saker falcons. From these 3 races, the top 3 male and females, as well as the top 4 Gyr x Sakers, qualified for the Grand Final. Each team performed admirably and managed to get at least one member into the grand final.

The grand final took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the same day as the King Abdulaziz Falconry Festival.

The race took place in the warm afternoon sunshine, with a delegation of VIPs from the Saudi Falcon Club there to watch the action unfold. All falcons performed spectacularly with some fantastic flights, quick climbs, and tremendous piloting. The delegation from the Saudi Falcon Club were blown away with the action and were very impressed with all the falcons and competitors that had travelled from the UK.



*Henry Selby and Dr Tom Dutton, from Team Tallyho with Dr Nick Fox of Vowley Racing and Hussam Alhuzaimi, CEO of SFC.*

The prize giving ceremony took place in the Saudi Falcon club hall, on the same stage used for the King Abdulaziz Falcon Festival race awards, with most of the teams walking away with one or two trophies. Overall, the trip to Saudi Arabia with the Vowley Racing was a success, with many local Saudi falconers joining the teams during training and racing. Some falconers even tested their best hunting falcons on the model, with cheers and whoops of delight as she bound to the head on her first flight.



*Falconer Tom Spink of Fox Falcons slipping "Flicker", 2022 Novice Hunt Race Champion at the King Abdulaziz Falconry Festival*



*A Local Saudi Falconer after a successful flight with his falcon at the roprey model.*

The Vowley Racing team would like to extend our thanks to the Saudi Falcons Club for allowing us to put on such a great event. We must thank **Mohammad Fouad**, of Marshall Radio Telemetry for joining us from Dubai and supplying the Marshall GPS timing system for the races. A special thanks to **Dr Tom Dutton**, who travelled as our resident vet, providing top quality health care to the falcons, Dr Tom Dutton also made a good stand-in falconer when one of the team

members was unable to attend. **Remy Van Wijk** travelled as part of the Wingbeat support staff, providing on the ground repair and maintenance to all the Roprey models which travelled with the teams. We must also thank **Phil Knowles** at JCS livestock, who made the export of falcons to Saudi Arabia possible and without whom we would have struggled to make the whole thing happen.

And finally, to the teams themselves. Without your constant support and encouragement, the Vowley Races would not be what they are. Every single falconer and pilot were exceptional and ensure the best possible event was held.



*Chris Thorne and Dave Whittingham of DW Racing Falcons*

“The Saudi Hospitality is second to none, their passion and love for falconry is entwined in their upbringing from a very young age and it is very easy to see how many people are involved in the sport. To be invited and to have been able to show them how we are using the roprey on our birds in the UK was an amazing opportunity that I am extremely grateful to have been invited too. Saudi is an amazing place with an amazing culture.”  
Chris Thorne, DW Racing Falcons



Watch the action from Saudi Arabia here, via the Field Sports Channel YouTube

## THE HUNT RACE

The Hunt Race is designed to test the hunting skills of pursuit falcons. Many of the contestants are actual hunting birds, and some are young ones learning their flying skills before being taken hunting. The chase relies on robotic prey flown by skilled pilots controlling them from the ground. The prey is specialist designed by Wingbeat Ltd for falcons.



The falconer and pilot stand inside the 100 x 100 metre landing square, facing the wind for a quick take off. On the first horn the pilot launches the roprey and the falconer unhoods his falcon, which is carrying an altimeter.

*Falconer Matt Price & Pilot Simon Lyddon  
competing in the Hunt race 2020.*

*Photo Credit, Stuart Grimwood*

The pilot must tempt the falcon to chase it high into the sky as quickly as possible and the falcon must have an impressive climb rate. When the falcon reaches 120 metres high (400 feet) the second horn is sounded and the pilot dives immediately closely followed by the falcon in a vertical stoop. As they reach only 30 metres above the ground the third horn is sounded and the pilot pulls out, putting huge G forces onto the model and the falcon. Both are now close to the ground and the falcon is hot onto her prey. But the pilot must evade her attacks for thirty seconds without getting caught. If he succeeds, the fourth horn sounds and the falcon must quickly catch her prey in the air and come down inside the landing square. As they touch down the fifth horn sounds and the clock is stopped.

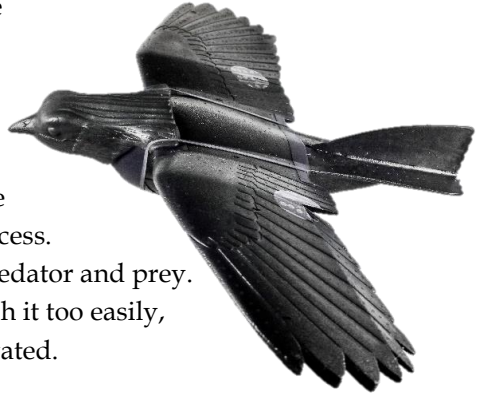
The Hunt Race is designed to be a sporting contest. Things can and do go wrong. There is no guarantee that the best falcon will win on the day. She may be clocking a winning time and then, at the last moment, come down outside the landing square and incur time penalties!

## THE ROPREY

The Hunt Race is only possible due to modern developments in materials technology. The Roprey was designed by Wingbeat Head Designer Remy Van Wijk and Dr Nick Fox, and trialled over six years by the Northumberland Crow Falcons.

For Hunt Racing, contestants must all use the same factory fuselage and wings but are permitted to make any other changes they'd like, and this can aid overall product development for everyone. However, simply fitting a more powerful motor by no means ensures success.

There has to be a fine balance between predator and prey. If the prey is too weak the falcon will catch it too easily, but if it is too strong, she may be demotivated.



Contrary to popular conception, these falcons are not starved. They are fed to full athletic muscle development and are completely free high in the sky. They could fly 400 km in a day and end up in Denmark by evening if they wanted to! But their instinct to chase is strong and they 'lock on' to their prey and seldom take their eyes off it. The prey must be robust and flexible enough to withstand multiple catches and falls from the sky, yet at the same time not be so hard that the falcon could be injured. The wings and body are made from resilient expanded polypropylene and the electric ducted fan motor is hidden in a jet tube deep inside the body where the fan blades cannot contact the falcon. If parts are broken, they are usually repaired easily, or if not, they are replaced. The head and neck are made of soft foam and, on landing, the falcon will 'kill' her prey by biting its neck. Sometimes a titbit of meat is placed there but for experienced falcons this is unnecessary; they will give chase regardless.

Although developed initially for training falcons, these robotic birds can be designed as many species, such as duck or crows. They can even become Peregrines or Goshawks and used to humanely chase seagulls away from airfields and landfill sites.

# HUNT RACING RULES

**These rules are in addition to the General Racing Rules and apply to the Hunt Races**

1. Any qualifying falcon may be entered into 'Open classes.'
2. The pilot is on the same side as the falcon and can be an in-house pilot or a freelance pilot, the same as jockeys in a horse race.
3. The pilot can fly for more than one falcon in the same team.
4. The pilot can fly for more than one team in qualifying races, but not in finals.
5. The Roprey is supplied by the pilot or the trainer, not by the competition organisers. The wings, fuselage and tail of the model must be unmodified factory models supplied by Wingbeat.  
The motors, electronic controls, batteries, heads and airbrake springs can be modified from factory issue. The transmitter can be any model. Any feathers added to the model must be non-detachable and must not extend more than 5 cm beyond the end of the tail.  
No modification will be allowed if, in the opinion of the judges, the model risks injury to the falcon or spectators.
6. The model Roprey can carry any number of logos.
7. In the event that the model malfunctions for any reason, this is the fault of the competitor, not the organiser.
8. If the falcon wanders off and the pilot runs out of battery and is forced to land, the falcon is declared 'Lost' and is disqualified.  
The timekeeper will then consult the GPS location of the falcon and decide whether or not to fly the next falcon.
9. In the event of any cheating, irregularity or uncertainty the timekeeper's decision will be final.

10. The standard landing square is 100 x 100 metres marked out by corner posts and white tape 30 cm above ground level so that the falcon cannot go underneath.
11. The falcon must be fitted with a standardised GPS tag with a barometric altimeter transmitting the height reading down to the timekeeper in real time.
12. The classes will be 120, 200, 300, 400 and 500 metres altitude for the top height.
13. The model can be any colour but only one size in each class. So, the 120, 200, 300 and 400 metre competitions will usually be the standard V2 size model, and the 400 and 500 metre classes will usually be the larger V1 Robara model.
14. The model can include an altimeter allowing the pilot to know the height of the model.
15. Only the falconer, the pilot and the timekeeper are allowed inside the landing square.
16. The competition starts with the falconer and the pilot standing inside the landing square facing the wind. They can be any distance apart.
17. The pilot can be in any position in relation to the falcon as long as both are within the landing square.
18. The braces on the falcon's hood can be open but the hood must be on, with the falconer's free hand at his side. When the falconer and the pilot are ready to slip, they must both raise their hands to signal to the timekeeper.
19. Once both hands have been raised, the timekeeper sounds the start horn and the clock starts. The pilot launches the Roprey and the falcon is unhooded.



20. In the event that the pilot has a mis-launch, one more attempt is permitted provided that the falcon has not left the falconer's fist. Once the falcon is in the air the flight is underway and cannot be repeated. In the event of a mis-launch, the clock continues running from the initial horn time.
21. The pilot can do anything he likes to encourage the falcon to reach the top height as quickly as possible and use any part of the sky, including outside the landing square.
22. When the falcon reaches the top height, the timekeeper sounds the second horn.
23. The pilot must then immediately dive to encourage the falcon back down as fast as possible. When the falcon has descended past 30 metres altitude the timekeeper sounds the third horn.
24. At this point there is a break of 30 seconds during which time the Roprey can do anything it likes but must not get caught. The reason for this is to reduce the risk of the falcon being injured by hitting the Roprey in a hard stoop, and to provide spectators with the excitement of an aerial combat at close quarters, demonstrating the flying skills of the falcon.
25. After 30 seconds the timekeeper sounds the fourth horn and continues the time clock. The falcon must catch the Roprey in the air in the shortest time possible after the fourth bell.  
The fifth horn sounds at the moment the falcon touches the ground holding the Roprey. This is the finish.
26. The winner is the falcon with the shortest total time between the first (start) horn and the fifth (finish) horn. The logged time includes the mandatory 30 second chase period between the third and fourth horns.
27. If at any time the falcon touches the prey but does not bind to it, the hunt can continue.

28. If the falcon catches the prey and keeps hold of it before the third horn, the falcon is disqualified.
29. If the falcon catches the prey between the third and fourth horns and lands with it before the fourth horn, it incurs time points equivalent to the number of dogfight seconds left times ten.
30. All parts of the model must be clear of the ground at the moment that the falcon catches it.
31. The pilot may use the airbrake.
32. If the Roprey hits the ground without the falcon having touched it, the falcon is disqualified.
33. If the falcon hits the Roprey to the ground but does not bind to it, the clock continues until the falcon has landed on the Roprey on the ground.
34. The decision as to whether or not the falcon is holding the Roprey on landing is made by the timekeeper who may consult action replay footage.
35. If the falcon carries the Roprey and lands outside the landing square, the falcon incurs 30 seconds time faults.
36. If the landing of the falcon with the Roprey on the ground outside the landing square cannot be seen by the timekeeper the landing time shall be determined from the GPS recording.

## HUNT RACE TIMING



**Marshall Radio Telemetry** are the timing partner once again for the Hunt Racing for the 2023 season.

**Marshall** designs and supplies premium GPS long-range tracking and recovery equipment to hunters, parrot free fliers, rocketry, and competitors around the world. Choose **Marshall** falconry transmitters, dog tracking collars and direction-finding receivers and you'll have the most carefully engineered and reliable tracking system available.

Quality in telemetry to **Marshall** means three things: reliability, range, and ease of use. Each of these is important in getting your bird back after the hunt. Your birds are valuable not just in terms of money but also in terms of the time spent training and the emotional investment you have in them. **Marshall** understands that when your bird is lost, suddenly nothing but the best is acceptable.

**Marshall Radio Telemetry** builds its transmitters and receivers to the highest technical standards and tests them in the most demanding conditions. They are confident enough that they back them up with a three-year warranty!

You can have confidence that the Marshall system is the best, most carefully designed and engineered tracking system you will find anywhere.



[www.marshallradio.com/uk](http://www.marshallradio.com/uk)



## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES

Name	ACE		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Eugene Husband
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Eugene Husband
Ring Number	11HULME-V	Falconer	Tracey Husband
Sex	Male	Pilot	Eugene Husband

Name	ALPHA		
Species	13/16 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4169FOX W	Falconer	Tom Spink
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	BECCA		
Species	Gyr x New Zealand	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2020	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4009FOX W	Falconer	Tom Spink
Sex	Female	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	BEEF GYRKIN		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Richard James
Hatch Year	2021	Trainer	Richard James
Ring Number	63 Ghost W 2021	Falconer	Richard James
Sex	Male	Pilot	Dylan Freeman

## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	DADDIES DISAPPOINTMENT		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Alfie Holder
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	300ROY.LGBR22W	Falconer	Henry Selby
Sex	Female	Pilot	Alfie Holder

Name	DELTA		
Species	15/16 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4171FOX W	Falconer	Alfred Hamilton James
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	DOBBIES SOCK BO JENKINS		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	414ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	FANCY		
Species	Peregrine x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2011	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	962FOX11W	Falconer	James Dumayne
Sex	Female	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	FLAMENCO		
Species	Peregrine x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2013	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	1373FOX13X	Falconer	James Dumayne
Sex	Female	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	ICE SPY		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	GYRBREEDERUK1672	Falconer	Alfie Holder
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	ISLA		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Dave Whittingham
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Dave Whittingham
Ring Number	12 Fen Falcons	Falconer	Julie Whittingham
Sex	Female	Pilot	Dave Whittingham

Name	MEDUSA		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Joe John
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Joe John
Ring Number	215 Falcon Green	Falconer	Tyler Savid
Sex	Female	Pilot	Joe John

## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	MO THE SPLENDID CROW		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	GYRBREEDER1656	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	NOT AS GOOD AS MY SISTER		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	419ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Alfie Holder
Sex	Female	Pilot	Henry Selby

Name	PAN		
Species	15/16 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4098FOX W	Falconer	James Dumayne
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	PARACHUTING GECKO		
Species	Gyr x Red Nape	Owner	Mike Hewlett
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	94PitsfordfalconsW	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Henry Selby

## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	SCREECH		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	4 JP Falcons	Falconer	John Patterson
Sex	Male	Pilot	Dave Whittingham

Name	SLIPSTREAM		
Species	7/8 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2014	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	1242FOX14W	Falconer	Tom Spink
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	STINGRAY		
Species	Peregrine x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2013	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	1345FOX14W	Falconer	James Dumayne
Sex	Female	Pilot	Bryan Goodman



*Pilot John Dickson and Falconer Anthony Rawlings slipping "Rolo" in the 2022 Hunt Race*

*Photo Credit - Stuart Grimwood*



## OPEN HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	SUHAIL		
Species	Gyr x Red Nape	Owner	Dylan Freeman
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Dylan Freeman
Ring Number	87 PitsfordfalconsW	Falconer	Richard James
Sex	Male	Pilot	Dylan Freeman

Name	SWALLOW		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2014	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	1282FOX14W	Falconer	Alfred Hamilton James
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	WASP		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Keith Talbot
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Keith Talbot
Ring Number	415ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Catriona Talbot
Sex	Male	Pilot	Keith Talbot

Name	WINSTON		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	23636W Falcon Mews	Falconer	John Patterson
Sex	Male	Pilot	Dave Whittingham

## NOVICE HUNT RACE ENTRIES

Name	ACE		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Eugene Husband
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Eugene Husband
Ring Number	11HULME-V	Falconer	Tracey Husband
Sex	Male	Pilot	Eugene Husband

Name	ALPHA		
Species	13/16 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4169FOX W	Falconer	Tom Spink
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	CHAOS		
Species	Gyr x New Zealand	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Helen Nakielny
Ring Number	4201FOX W	Falconer	Helen Nakielny
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	DADDIES DISAPPOINTMENT		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Alfie Holder
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	300ROY.LGBR22W	Falconer	Henry Selby
Sex	Female	Pilot	Alfie Holder

## NOVICE HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	DELTA		
Species	15/16 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4171FOX W	Falconer	Alfred Hamilton James
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

Name	DOBBIES SOCK BO JENKINS		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	414ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	ICE SPY		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	GYRBREEDERUK167 2	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	ISLA		
Species	Peregrine Falcon	Owner	Dave Whittingham
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Dave Whittingham
Ring Number	12 Fen Falcons	Falconer	Julie Whittingham
Sex	Female	Pilot	Dave Whittingham

## NOVICE HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	JOOP		
Species	Gyr x Peregrine	Owner	Willows Bird of Prey
Hatch Year	2022	Trainer	Willows Bird of Prey
Ring Number	25SVEA22	Falconer	Nick robertson
Sex	Female	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	MO THE SPLENDID CROW		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	GYRBREEDER1656	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Roy Lupton

Name	NEMO		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Telfyn Beddoe
Hatch Year	2020	Trainer	Telfyn Beddoe
Ring Number	IBR111586X	Falconer	Telfyn Beddoe
Sex	Female	Pilot	Gerald Aitken

Name	NOT AS GOOD AS MY SISTER		
Species	Gyr x Saker	Owner	Roy Lupton
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	419ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Alfie Holder
Sex	Female	Pilot	Henry Selby

## NOVICE HUNT RACE ENTRIES CONTINUED

Name	WASP		
Species	Peregrine x Gyr x Saker	Owner	Keith Talbot
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	415ROY.LGBR23W	Falconer	Catriona Talbot
Sex	Male	Pilot	Keith Talbot

Name	WINSTON		
Species	Gyr Falcon	Owner	John Patterson
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	JP Falcons
Ring Number	23636W Falcon Mews	Falconer	John Patterson
Sex	Male	Pilot	Dave Whittingham

Name	PARACHUTING GECKO		
Species	Gyr x Red Nape	Owner	Mike Hewlett
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Team Tallyho
Ring Number	94PitsfordfalconsW	Falconer	Charlie T.B Dobbins
Sex	Male	Pilot	Henry Selby

Name	ZULU		
Species	7/8 <sup>th</sup> Gyr x Saker	Owner	Dr Nick Fox
Hatch Year	2023	Trainer	Fox Falcons
Ring Number	4168FOX W	Falconer	James Dumayne
Sex	Male	Pilot	Bryan Goodman

## THE STOOP CHALLENGE

The Stoop Challenge is for the fastest stoop speed recorded in any Hunt Race. The falcon's stoop from 120 metres (400 feet) achieving speeds of 200 kph. The falcon must complete the hunt race in order to qualify for the fastest stoop.

The prize is a bottle of Champagne kindly donated by International Wildlife Consultants Ltd.



*Bryan Goodman and Tom Spink of Fox Falcons after winning the 2022 Stoop Challenge with their Gyr x Saker clocking an impressive 184kph*

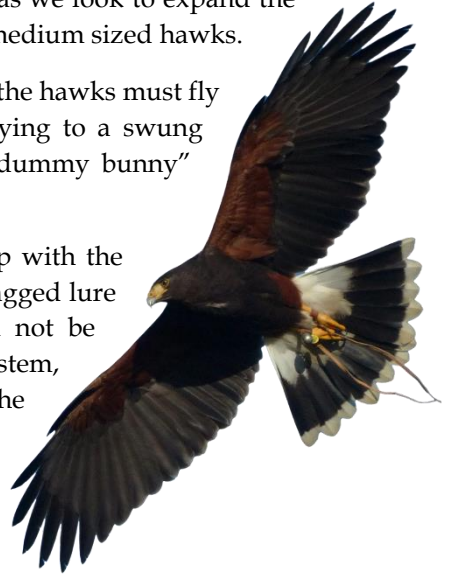
Photo Credit - Verity Johnson

## THE HARRIS HAWK RACE

New for 2023 is the Harris Hawk Race, a short 100m sprint for one of the UK's most commonly kept birds of prey. The ever-versatile Harris Hawk can be found in many mews up and down the country and as we look to expand the British Falcon Races, a race solely for these medium sized hawks.

In similar fashion to the flat race for falcons, the hawks must fly straight down the course but instead of flying to a swung "telwah" or lure, they will be chasing a "dummy bunny" pulled by the BullX Lure machine.

Ayama have once again stepped up to help with the timing of this new race, as the use of the dragged lure machine means the usual laser gates will not be possible. As well as providing the timing system, the team at Ayama have also sponsored the trophy and cash prizes for the hawk race.



### HARRIS HAWK RACE ENTRIES

Name	PLAN B		
Species	Harris Hawk	Owner	Clive Stancer
Hatch Year	2019	Trainer	Clive Stancer
Ring Number	IBR110214	Falconer	Angie Stancer
Sex	Female	Slipping	Clive Stancer

Name	SAXON		
Species	Harris Hawk	Owner	Jo Daffin
Hatch Year	2019	Trainer	Jo Daffin
Ring Number	IBR58736W	Falconer	Tara Page
Sex	Male	Slipping	Jo Daffin

