



# The Austringer

The Journal of the Welsh Hawking Club

No. 46 2014



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Front Cover photograph: Colin Asquith's goshawk on a Club Field Meet.  
Rear Cover photograph: Goshawk on a frosty morning.

years back when we lost voting rights as representatives for falconry in Wales. A recent change in the IAF's constitution has given us the opportunity to again become affiliated with voting rights. This issue includes an article provided by the IAF President which describes what the AIF is and does.

And, of course, there are the usual stories of hawking exploits, new and old. We are

particularly delighted to include a piece by one of our junior members relating his early experience as a bird of prey keeper.

We would like to thank all contributors and advertisers and especially to thank Martin Jones of Martin Jones Falconry Furniture for sponsoring the Prize Competition.

We hope that you enjoy the magazine and we welcome any comments, positive or negative.

*Mick Cordell and David Ridpath*

## South Wales Region Report for 2013 by Dave Barber



We have had another good year in the South Wales Region. Our monthly meeting attendance continues to grow as does our membership.

As far as the monthly meetings are concerned we started the year with a talk from Neil Forbes on Bird of Prey Health and First Aid; an important subject to all of us and something we have decided we should have every year. You always get something out of them, even if it just pricks your conscience to get a check up!

We have held a couple of quiz nights, not all about falconry but interesting falconry trivia does creep in, such as testing our knowledge of collective nouns like, a wake of buzzards and a kettle of hawks. It does stop the experts getting everything right!

On the subject of what do you do with your catch, we had a very informative talk from June James on a range of recipe options followed up by a practical demonstration and tasting session on a family day out at Roger James' place. Once again we managed to combine this with a range of other activities

including dog training, archery and finishing the evening with a family barbecue.

Thanks also to Dave Jones for his talk on Game Hawking and the various members of the club who have supported the evenings by giving talks, contributing to the annual auction and generously buying raffle tickets.

The theory and demonstration part of the LANTRA, Beginning Falconry Award was completed in the year, now leaving members to complete their workbooks and their practical assessment. Special thanks must go to "Griff" Griffiths and the team at the Welsh Hawking Centre for supporting this. It has also prompted a request from the members to have more practical nights, something we have already planned for the coming year.

Looking forward, our focus will be on more practical and demonstration sessions and at least one club-organised field meet per month during the season.

The awful weather has brought a premature end to the season for many, so here's hoping for a good moult and a good start to next year's season.

## Our Journey (old dog - new tricks!) by Steve Richards

My name is Steve, 6 years ago I joined the Welsh Hawking Club to gain knowledge and experience with birds of prey as I was a complete novice. After getting loads of advice from the members at the Club to be a true falconer, I got myself a young Harris' hawk from Rob Cole and a bitch German wire-haired pointer from Paul Dillon, both well-known and respected members of the club. After hours of reading books, watching DVDs and videos on hawking and how to look after them and even more hours of training my bird, "Lady", I finally entered her on her first season. That was it - I was hooked, yes!!! We started to go to all the shows that had Birds of Prey, every meeting I learned more and more from members at the Club. I then put in for my LANTRA Award and passed. I had often heard about trips to Scotland on week long hunting trips, with the birds, dogs and ferrets. Then at one meeting I was approached by Matt and Daz and told they had a spare place on a Scotland trip so after loads of do's and don'ts and maybe's they said "think about it". I told them "Yes" straight away.

In Scotland it was brilliant. I made loads of mistakes, but learnt and got plenty of advice, help and tuition from Matt, Daz and Alan, which was well appreciated. The camaraderie was really good. The second year trip was even better with more knowledge and experience, on my third trip Matt said why don't you bring the dog as this was always my ambition but Mitzi had by now become a house dog spoilt by the wife and kids as I was spending lots of time with my birds. The lads told me not to worry about her as she would soon learn, as it's in her breed. The first four days she ran around like a banshee, but towards the end of the week



she started to work. After watching the other lads working their dogs and birds together I thought to myself, "That's going to be us next year".

So here we are fourth trip and all raring to go; me fit, Lady entered this season, Mitzi trained FIT!! It was a long trip up to the borders of Scotland with six guys, four Harris' hawks, nine dogs and six ferrets.

Day one, Sunday, was sunny and warm, ferreting in the morning, flying birds in the afternoon 1 rabbit for Lady and 1 for Matt's bird. Mitzi ran around bonkers to start off then she started to work, hunting and pointing. I was quiet chuffed for the first day. Lady was a bit jumpy as she wasn't used to flying around other dogs but she soon settled down. Every day I took Mitzi ferreting in the morning then hunting each afternoon with Lady.

Monday was warm and sunny with loads of hunting, points and flights. Only Lee's bird caught a rabbit.

Tuesday too was warm and sunny and we are now working as a team, me working Mitzi hunting and pointing. Lady caught 4 rabbits for us. Matt had 2.

Wednesday morning was raining but later breezy and sunny - great day hunting. We had 4 again, Matt 1 and Lee had 3. A good day by all.

Again Thursday morning was raining but later breezy and sunny. Now the birds, dogs and us are all fit and raring to go and "YES" we had 3, Matt 5 and Lee 4. What a day - it was brilliant!

On Friday it was windy and raining all day so we just ferreted.

Then on Saturday was the long trip home.

Some days I went off on my own with Mitzi and Lady to hunt on. Whilst reading this you will now what I mean and the feeling I got when hunting. Mitzi hunted hard then went to

## President's Preamble



Welcome to the 45<sup>th</sup> edition of The Austringer.

It is hard to believe that another year has gone already, it seems like only yesterday I was writing this article for last year's edition.

The weather in the first half of the year was kinder to us and we were able to attend the Falconry Fair which was well attended by Club members and overseas visitors alike. The CLA Fair was held at Ragley Hall and will be remembered by all for the sheer heat. The demonstrations in the Falconry Mews were kept to a minimum and most talks were held in the mews to keep the birds in the shade.

We were also able to attend the Falconry Weekend at the International Centre for Birds of Prey and this was most enjoyable. The BBQ afterwards was not to be missed. I think the members who did attend would agree with this.

The Field Meet at Llangollen this year was not so well attended as other years, possibly due to the expense when times are hard for some of us, but was very enjoyable for those that did attend; I won't go into too much detail as I am sure the Field Report will cover this.

The AGM was held and a few positions on the Committee have changed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all outgoing members for all the work they have put into the club and also welcome the new members and hope they will enjoy their time on the Committee.

I think that's enough from me so I will finish by saying "I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at this year's Falconry Fair which is to be held at Chetwynd Park, Shropshire, on 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2014".

*Dave Dimond*

members would train hawks and dogs to work together.

There have been a few changes in the main committee, and again our thanks go to those who stepped down and have served the club so well and left the Club in good hands for the incumbent committee.

Now that the breeding of goshawks is so successful and we have again voted to keep

the Club Breeding Programme going, it would be nice if some of the more exotic species suitable for hunting in this country could be included...what do you all think?

Although there was little interest in having a "Fun-Day" this year, we did arrange some social events, archery, Harris' hawk racing, and game cookery. Of course we mustn't forget the visit from the comedian who attended our Main Region Xmas dinner, and brought some great laughs around the room.

Many of the Club members have participated in the LANTRA Award and this may set a precedent for others to do the same. Although

none of us want to be bogged down in red tape, I think that licensing the falconers themselves rather than have the birds available to anyone, very often with little or no knowledge of hawk keeping is a far better situation.

Anyway, despite a few disgruntled people who have left the Club rather than working to improve it, we now have a thriving and functional Club which should, with work and care, maintain and improve its importance and reputation in the international arena.

*Roger James*

## From the Editors

On 13 October, one of us (DR), having just returned to a cruise ship on the Danube after a tour of Bratislava, received an urgent text message from the other (MC) asking whether he would join him as joint editor for this year's Austringer as the former editor was stepping down at the Club AGM. Once he had recovered from the shock, he thought about it for only a short while before considering that, together, we could make a pretty good fist of it. So, this year the magazine has joint editors. This should spread the workload which has always been a lot for one person to really do justice on a part-time basis. It has to be said that we had both privately criticised previous attempts, so it is perhaps ironic that we now find ourselves in a position to put right what we have seen as earlier faults. We hope that, between us, we can fulfil that promise.



We have included a number of articles by members relating their hawking exploits which we hope you will find a good read. We

also have a good crop of pictures to illustrate them and to embellish the magazine.

On page 14, we are launching a competition for which prizes will be awarded at the Club AGM in September.



In a more serious vein, we have included a report by Jemima Parry-Jones on a Symposium organised by the Hawk Board, hosted at the LANTRA offices in Stoneleigh, the object of which was to increase awareness of the Hawk Board's activities and to seek the opinions of a wide selection of Hawk Board beneficiaries on how it can improve its activities. A paper by Martin Stanley offering suggestions for making the Hawk Board user community more representative is also included in this issue.

Your Committee has decided that the Club will become once more affiliated to the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, known as the IAF. The Club withdrew from that body some

## Chairman's Chatter

It's been a busy old year for the Club and membership seems to be growing! This is without doubt due to the hard work and commitment put into the Club by all the committee members and also by some of the members who have taken time out to help in many ways, such as: manning the stand at various shows, contributing raffle prizes and taking part in demonstrations and talks, etc.

The Field Meet at Llangollen was again a success, and our thanks go to Neil McCann for his superb organisation again and to the land owners who supported our sport. Although individual meets were arranged in the North and South Wales Regions, it would be nice if the Main Region could sort out some more meets local to the area! Again these meets should have a better attendance than has been seen, and it would be nice if more

point and held it. I got into position with Lady - got Mitzi to flush - Lady to slip - Mitzi to stay - brilliant flight by Lady - rabbit dispatched - Mitzi called to me and rewarded with a big hug and pats - Lady gets a full crop. I was buzzing with excitement. I had to take a photo and even 'phoned my wife and told her I was so chuffed. "This is what it's all about - 'whahoo' and me knackered".

Lady had 12 rabbits. Mitzi was 3kgs lighter and now not a homey. Trained by whistle and hand signal, it was not bad for a 6-year-old that has not really done as much as this before.

What a gem she turned out to be!



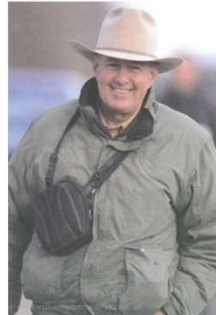
## Silent Bell - An appreciation of Frank Bond 1943 - 2013

From the North American Falconer's Association (NAFA).

Our friend Frank Bond passed away on Christmas day. In our falconry family we have not only lost a friend, but we have lost a giant in the global falconry community.

Frank Bond was a champion of falconry across the globe unlike any other. He was a supremely effective advocate for our sport in arenas as diverse as local city councils, state legislatures, the U.S. federal government, and international negotiations. He worked comfortably in the rarefied atmospheres of national politics and international diplomacy, but always remained firmly grounded in the day-to-day realities of falconry, biology, and sportsmanship.

Frank was incessantly upbeat, chronically well prepared, permanently poised, unfalteringly



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## My Tiercel's First Rabbit by Lyn Palmer



"Goss", my first goshawk, was one of the first batch of goshawks which Mr. John Buckner imported from Hungary.

It started life being trapped as a 'brancher' by Janos Bagura and Kalo Andras, the official trappers and hawk ringers of the Hungarian Nature Conservancy and the Ornithological Institute. I was lucky to meet them when I went to Scotland with Mr. John Buckner's hunting holiday in September, 1984.

When John first told me my licence had been granted to import a bird of prey, I was 'over the moon'. I have always wanted to own a goshawk but never had the opportunity to get one until these were imported.

I could hardly wait until the quarantine time was over; when the day came I went to John's house to collect the bird. It looked beautiful, not a feather broken or out of place. John advised me to renew the jesses as soon as I got home, as they were a bit twisted where the bird had been bating on the screen-perch.

I started to man the bird straight away, walking everywhere with him on my fist. He was quite mad at first but I came round to my way of thinking after about a week. It fed off the first straight away and the next stage was to reduce his weight. He was soon flying to me on a creance and in about three weeks I had him flying free.

The next stage was to enter him at quarry. As I do not own a dog, I was invited to go out hawking with my mate Joey Dean. If it wasn't for Joey I don't think I would have got Goss killing; he having the experience with goshawks and me with my first gos.

I entered Goss a few times at rabbits. He flew at them but just could not bind to them; they would kick him off as he was only a small tiercel (flying weight 1lb 2ozs).

The final day came. I went with Joey to his land where he hunts at Cefin Mabley, near Cardiff. Straight away the Springer spaniels picked up some scent and Joey decided to slip first. A rabbit bolted and Joey slipped "Dona" his big German gos, who caught it immediately.

It was then my turn to slip. The springers picked up more scent in the root of an oak tree, so we introduced the ferret. Suddenly, out bolted a rabbit. I slipped Goss and this time he bound to the rabbit, which dragged him right into a bramble bush, but Goss held tightly. I had to crawl on my hands and knees to recover both bird and rabbit from the bush. I managed to scramble out, kill the rabbit and reward Goss with the biggest crop of warm meat he had ever eaten.

Joey came up to me, shook my hand and said "congratulations 'bloke", on your first kill with a gos.



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cordis), and possessed of a rare grace that put both presidents and apprentices at their ease. Best of all, these traits were contagious. The level of civil discourse always rose a few notches whenever Frank was in the room.

He served the North American Falconers Association as General Counsel for decades, capably advising presidents and directors on an endless array of complex issues. As its President, Frank led the International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey to new heights of global advocacy for the sport he loved, cementing valuable relationships among falconers worldwide. He was directly responsible for UNESCO's recognition of falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. He also served the Peregrine Fund on its Board of Directors.

## Chasing the Vale Rabbit by Kim Humphrey.

This season was the first time I flew a female goshawk. Bellatrix is a full imprint and 4 years old. She came from Colin Asquith at the end of 2012 with the intention of breeding. She laid 3 eggs last year and stood for me but alas my inexperience meant none of the eggs were fertile. So I left the male in an aviary for the first time in 10 years and took Bellatrix out to terrorise the local rabbit population.

Unfortunately although there are hundreds of rabbits near me the ones I can get at are few in number, something I am sure most of you are used to! Nevertheless some very good flights were had and of course the ones that got away were huge! She's not one of the huge hawks, flying at around 2lb 7oz (I work in old money), but that's plenty big enough in my book. She was a joy to fly and largely well behaved except for one time she let me down.

She disappeared one day and after an hour of muttering about goshawks I tracked her down in the back garden of a large house in the

Frank was a true gentleman. He was generous with his time and knowledge with world leaders and beginning falconers alike. He touched thousands of falconers with his easy charm and obvious expertise in many subjects. Frank's death leaves a terrible void in our family.

We will miss our friend Frank in a myriad of ways, for even though he often worked at national and international levels, he affected each of us individually, and uniquely.

The NAFA Board and Officers send their deepest sympathy to his family and his thousands of friends around the world.

The wonderful British weather has destroyed most of the flying at the start of this year. Flying in gale force winds is never to be recommended but such is life. I hope to breed from her this year and fly one of her offspring, but if not I will happily fly her again.

Good luck to all breeders out there and I hope a good season is ahead for all no matter what you are flying.

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## Reminiscences of Thrumpster Moor, Scotland by Ian Blantern

Back in the early 1980's the chances of flying grouse and rabbits in abundance was a dream, at least it was for me. It was during this time, John Buckner took over renting Thrumpster Moor, an estate just outside Wick and owned by Lady Jessamine Harmsworth who died in 1994. The estate is still run by her daughter Isla MacLeod. Lady Harmsworth was an old school friend of the Queen Mother who then owned nearby Castle of Mey. It was on one occasion, while we were there, that the Queen Mother was a tea time guest of Lady Harmsworth for the occasion of her birthday. John Buckner, Lawrence Workman and Dougy Morgans were also invited, whilst the likes of us hawking mortals were kept at bay by security staff.



John "Buck" Buckner ran the operation as a private sporting venture outside the umbrella of the Welsh Hawking Club. Nevertheless, most making the long journey were mainly members of the WHC and because of the popularity and increasing numbers, additional locations required for accommodation were found around the area by John. John just couldn't turn anyone down. The 'Big House' as Thrumpster House became known, had some accommodation attached in the form of small cottages and outhouses which it has to be said were fairly basic, but this was the hub of the sporting operation run by John. In addition, there was Loch Cottage, a mile down the road and as the name implies, it was on the edge of the Loch of Yarrows and although not luxury living, was, for me, the jewel in the crown, an

absolute delight, so much so that it was always well booked and reserved in advance each year. In addition to this, there was a large sporting lodge called Leamore at Backass, some considerable distance away that would accommodate something like fourteen people in relative luxury and this was to be our destination during our first few visits to Thrumpster. This luxury was not to be a particularly special privilege because, along with Mark and Ruth Williams we were expected to cook, entertain and look after the various foreign falconers and visiting friends of John Buckner who was such a master of delegation. Leamore became the base for many traditional Scottish evenings each year when, to impress our visitors, we would hold traditional haggis evenings complete with a fully dressed piper to pipe in the haggis.

This then was the setting of our many visits over a period approaching nine or ten years, when, it must be remembered, acquiring well stocked hunting land was not easy and the chances of getting on a grouse moor was more or less non-existent, yet in everyone's eyes, to be able to achieve this easily and cheaply was a real luxury. Of course, there had to be a price to pay for this luxury and it was the small question of getting there. Back in the 80's, only a small part of the journey was possible by motorway and the A9 was then, little more than a basic two lane A-road, with little in the way of filling stations or facilities. It was certainly not tourist friendly and sleeping in the car on route became normal for the first few years. It was then that Jane put her foot down demanding a bed and a pillow for the night. That resulted in us finding bed & breakfast in Inverness, run by a local couple who have since become very good friends through our many journey breaks there.

Breaking down on this part of the journey was not to be recommended as happened on two occasions. During one, in 1989 when it was just Mark Williams and I, we broke down big time in Dornoch with a broken valve on my Land Rover. Luckily for me, Mark had his AA membership card and even more luckily for Ruth and Jane, they had wisely on this

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occasion, stayed at home! As a result, our journey to Wick was a very relaxed one, sitting in the back of a breakdown recovery vehicle. Mark had smooth-talked the driver into taking us in the first instance, all the way to Wick and then back again to drop off the Land Rover to the main agent dealer in Inverness for repair, a round trip for him of some three and a half hours. Bear in mind that we were loaded to the gunwales with dogs and birds together with all our personal gear and Mark's arsenal of guns. Painfully, I seem to remember the repair bill came to something like £1,200 for what was known as a new short engine replacement. It was something of a memorable – and expensive – journey.

That then sets the scene for some very happy and fruitful hunting experiences in Thrumpster. It became a pilgrimage for falconers from both home and abroad. As the years went by this ever increasing number was made up, not just from UK falconry clubs, but also from the many clubs abroad with whom John Buckner, Lawrence Workman and Dougy Morgans had made contact with during the many overseas invitations they had received. In addition there were non-flying guests as well as two others who would have been lucky enough to win one of the main WHC raffle ticket prizes. Tickets were sold during the many game fairs and club meetings throughout the year and this became a large source of income for the club in those days.

To be fair, all the accommodation was very acceptable, the locations were in idyllic settings,



the company was always warm and friendly and quarry was in abundance, although working the moors for grouse was challenging. The undernourished heather in some areas made for long and hard walking. In the early years, only a handful of falconers took falcons, but as the years went by more and more took up the challenge of longwing flying. This was a double challenge mainly because the moor was not well managed and heather burning

was virtually non-existent. Any grouse found was mainly by way of chance or through a lot of hard work and persistence by Purdy, Brian Lewis's German short-haired pointer. The only heather burning that had occurred appears to have been carried out on one occasion by way of mismanagement, it burnt uncontrollably for weeks. Although the surface burning had been extinguished, the underlying peat had caught fire and smouldered away for a long period thereafter. Fox control did not exist either, except by me when I ran over one while returning to Loch Cottage late one evening!

Brian Lewis with his GSP was one of the first I met to be flying falcons on the moor and I spent many hours in the company of Brian who was one of the nicest people you could meet and whose enthusiasm and humour could not be equalled. He came from Hereford and often came with his falconer and WHC friend, John Whitmore and occasionally with Alastair, his son. He flew the same falcon for many years, which was to his credit, because he never flew with telemetry which at the time was becoming modestly available price-wise. He also cooked one of the meanest English breakfasts for everyone each morning, spurning the numerous offers of help although in return, we all did our share of washing and clearing up. For as long as I can remember, Brian had always been resident in Loch Cottage and after a few years we luckily managed to stay there as well. This was helped by the fact that, by then, Leamore had almost been destroyed by fire, a situation aided by being miles from any neighbours and even more miles away from the nearest fire station.

Club member Gordon Baston, was one of the first people I met who had managed to catch a grouse and amazingly after just half an hour of venturing on the moor. You would normally be lucky to see a covey during a morning let alone catch one of them. Anyway, the rule was always that any game caught, of whatever nature, had to be returned to 'Buck' for building up his personal larder and when Gordon was asked for the grouse, to be told that he had fed his bird up on it, 'Buck' went ballistic – such were the rules of the day. John was a very accomplished cook and although he kept most of the various forms of game killed, very few of us returned home without

at least taking a brace of grouse. He organised a food processing plant back at the hub for freezing all the catches. This was for taking back home to Wales for converting into all kinds of culinary delights.

Those who were into field sports had the chances of shooting grouse, hare and deer, together with the occasional sea fishing trips and trout fishing in nearby Lochs Hempriggs and Brickgoe. I think this was what made Thrumpster such a special place in that there was something for everyone and all within such easy reach.

Fox control did not exist, except by me when I ran over one while returning to Loch Cottage late one evening!

When I say rabbits were in abundance, it is difficult to illustrate just how abundant they were. Through practice you soon learnt the best areas to go and there were many and if you were not careful, it would be necessary to return to base very quickly, either with an exhausted hawk or with too heavy a bag of rabbits; it was just heaven for an un-entered hawk. A dog for this sort of hunting was never a particular requirement as walking the lowland areas of the moors it was difficult to avoid stepping on a rabbit. With a little experience they could easily be seen, nesting in tussocks of grass which allowed you to set up a fair slip. In most instances, it was much better to leave an easy slip for a more challenging one, such were the number of opportunities available. The other advantage of the terrain was that there were very few obstacles in the form of fences or burrows, allowing long open chases. Another unusual sight was seeing the occasional black rabbit, although according to 'Buck' it was not considered good practice to catch one (I did), but I never understood why – superstition perhaps.

Looking back over Jane's copious notes, we were normally in Wick around mid August, or on a couple of occasions, early September and on the whole we were always lucky enough to enjoy good weather. The area around Wick is generally flat and open and when out on the moor you could always anticipate approaching bad weather and take cover. Bad weather would pass through quickly and very few days

were totally written off. It's been very useful to me that Jane, following in her father's footsteps of keeping amazingly detailed notes, has kept a log of all our visits. Details such as the time we left Bristol, where we stopped for a break on route, where we stayed in Wick and with whom, what dogs and birds were taken and lots of other trivial details that are interesting to look back on. This coupled with all the photographs taken over the years have been brilliant reminders of some of the best hawking that could be had, together with the many different friends we made.

Things are changing so fast these days with advances in travel and communication thus making the availability and access to land, with an ever increasing population, even more difficult. Added to which, we have increased commercialism introduced by sporting estates made necessary to survive. I believe I have been privileged to have enjoyed some of the cheapest and best times in falconry through our many visits to Thrumpster.

In pursuing hawking in Wick, it enabled me to visit the Orkneys and see the amazing Nissen huts converted into a highly ornate, Catholic chapel by Italian wartime prisoners held there.



I killed my first grouse, I saw puffins for the first time in burrows on the cliffs above Sarslet, we drank in Camps bar in Wick, one of the roughest pubs in Scotland, but where the landlord Ken and his locals treated WHC members like royalty. On one of our many excursions, we visited Dunnet Head the most northerly point of the UK and witnessed the power of the sea raging through the notorious Pentland Firth. Oh! And I forgot, we celebrated our silver wedding there in 1993 during which, a party was laid on for us by John Buckner. Buck also introduced me to Old Putney, an excellent whiskey distilled in Wick, the most northerly mainland distillery.

All this was possible through our annual visits

to Thrumpster Estate. Happy Memories...



## Game Recipes by June James

When Mick Cordell approached me at one of the Welsh Hawking Club meetings and said: "Thank you for offering to do a cookery demonstration at the Club", I knew that Roger had volunteered me for something. But how was I supposed to do a cookery demonstration with no cooking facilities? So I gave a chat at the South Wales Region and then did the actual cooking at our Fun Day, where the samples we offered seemed to go down rather well. Thank you to Martin Cox for his superb pigeon pike.

To go back a little, when I first met Roger I had no idea what game was, and this was made very apparent, very shortly after moving in with him. It was my turn to cook supper, and being just seventeen and very unworried, I looked in the fridge and the cupboards but came up with no ideas. When Roger came home after a long afternoon shift he asked what was for dinner. My reply was: "There is no food here we will have to go to the chip shop!" He promptly took me to the freezer opened the lid and said "There is pheasant, partridge, grouse, trout, salmon. What more do you need?" My reply was: "There is no proper food, such as beef burgers or fish fingers, so what do I cook?" So started my journey with cooking game. Roger had a very good goshawk and later, a

superb peregrine falcon, both of whom supplied us with copious amounts of duck, pheasant and rabbit. This forced me into learning how to cook the rewards these birds delivered.

I must confess, I don't really like rabbit, so I tend to use very strong flavours to disguise the meat. Pheasant must be treated very gently if cooked for too long it can be very tough, and having like most game, no natural fat, it needs wrapping in bacon or covering in cream. Yum!



Duck is my favourite, and with a combination of port & ginger, you cannot go wrong! If you are a little wary of tackling game, don't be. Have a go. There is no better feeling than catching, cooking, and eating the results of a good day's hawking.

Here are a few well-tried and favourite recipes. I hope you enjoy them.

### DUCK WITH PORT & BRANDY (serves 4)

4 duck breasts  
4 tbsp red current jelly  
½ tsp ground ginger  
LARGE, yes, LARGE, glass port  
2 tbsp brandy

Pre-heat oven to 190°C. Prick duck breasts all over, and marinate in the port, brandy and ginger, (skin side up) for at least 2 hours. Dry off the duck breasts and place in roasting tin, and cook for approximately 45 minutes. When breasts are cooked, transfer to warm serving plate. Add port marinade to the juices in the roasting tin, deglaze, and then simmer for 5-10 minutes and pour over duck breasts and you're ready to serve!

### PHEASANT NORMANDY (serves 4)

4 pheasant breasts  
½ pint double cream  
1 tbsp. olive oil  
¾ pint good quality DRY cider  
4 tbsp. brandy  
2 tbsp. butter

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Heat oil and butter in large casserole dish, add pheasant breasts and cook until a nice golden brown. Add the brandy, ignite (flambe), wait until flames die and add cider and simmer for 5 minutes.



Then stir in the cream. Pop on a lid and cook for approx 40 minutes.

### RABBIT IN CIDER (serves 4)

4 rabbit portions  
2 tbsp plain flour  
2 tbsp butter  
1 tbsp vegetable oil  
10 baby onions  
4 rashers streaky bacon (chopped)

¾ pint DRY cider  
3 carrots (chopped)  
2 parsnips (chopped)  
1 sprig fresh rosemary  
salt & ground black pepper

Pre-heat oven to 160°C. Season flour and coat the rabbit portions. Heat butter and oil in a large casserole dish, add onions and bacon and fry for 5-6 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon and put to one side. Fry seasoned rabbit portions in oil left in dish until brown all over.

Bon appétit!

## Prize Limerick Competition

Back in 2007, the WHC Main Region held a Game Supper at which Martin Jones of Martin Jones Falconry Furniture ([www.falconryonline.com](http://www.falconryonline.com)) was the guest speaker. He set the members a competition: to complete ten limericks, of which he had set the first two lines. In the event, the competition was cancelled due to there being only one contestant.

Martin has kindly permitted us to re-open that competition to all Austringer readers. He offers a hand built hawking glove to the author of the set often Limericks voted best by the members present at the Club AGM at Llangollen on September 2014. There will also be a secondary prize for the individual limerick voted best overall. Send your entries to the Club Secretary, Dave Barber at [d.m.barber@talk21.com](mailto:d.m.barber@talk21.com) before that date or bring them along to the AGM.

The starting lines for the ten poems are:-

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) There was a young falconer from Tring<br>Put a kestrel up on the wing<br>...<br>...                 | 6) A vulture is no use to hunt.<br>To fly one's a bit of a stunt.<br>...<br>...           |
| 2) There was an imprinted gyrfalcon from Dubai<br>Who was kept in a mew for A.I.<br>...<br>...         | 7) We all like to fly a good hawk<br>Except when it's started to squawk<br>...<br>...     |
| 3) A stunning jack merlin called Bobby<br>Fell madly in love with a hobby.<br>...<br>...               | 8) To the falconer's utter despair<br>Many hawking dogs course a good hare.<br>...<br>... |
| 4) When falconers attend a field meet<br>They must look where they tread with their feet<br>...<br>... | 9) Some say flying a falcon at grouse<br>Can cost you the price of a house.<br>...<br>... |
| 5) There once was a large golden eagle<br>Who dined rather well on a beagle.<br>...<br>...             | 10) Radio tracking is good<br>For finding lost hawks in a wood<br>...<br>...              |

We look forward to some entertaining entries. Good luck!

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## Where it all Started by John Parkinson

I can always remember as a very young lad watching the barn owl fly the night skies from my bedroom window. Their gracefulness and beauty amazed me. I read books, watched films and documentaries and went to as many shows as I could with my Dad. I learnt a lot about owls and other birds of prey. At the age of nine after much discussion Dad agreed I was ready to get my first bird of prey, a three-week-old barn owl. Together we built an aviary and a bird box. Dad bought me my first glove. I was so excited.



When we went to pick him up I was amazed at how small and delicate he was, he was placed into my two hands and he nuzzled down. I named him "Rusty".

I think the first month was the hardest because I had to keep him warm and healthy. I fed him every four hours (didn't reckon much to the night feeds, but it had to be done). I remember having to cut the food up very small and feed him with plastic tweezers. I had to weigh him regularly to ensure he was gaining weight. Mum was taught how to feed him whilst I went to school (she wouldn't let me stay at home).

Early one morning after feeding him and having our usual chat, he started to tap his foot, then all of a sudden he cast his first

pellet, although I knew what to expect, it was still pretty daunting. I dissected it and found little bones and fluff.

When Rusty was about two months old I took him to my primary school, the kids and nearly all the teachers loved him. My class teacher stayed out of the class room, birds frighten her, she has a phobia of birds flying around, even a cute baby owl. He went into school as a ball of fluff and came out fully feathered, the kids had stroked him so much his entire baby down came off.

Rusty started to feed off the fist and stand up properly. A couple of weeks later he started to do small jumps onto my fist, it felt great. We were finally working together. He progressed very quickly and was soon flying the full length of the creance. Dad decided it was time to fly him free. This was such a memorable moment for me. I unclipped him and put him on a post, I walked away about 6ft. I felt sick - what if he doesn't come to me? I called him, I needn't have worried. He flew straight to my glove. I was so excited and proud. It was pretty amazing. I will always remember that feeling that I got from Rusty's first flight.



On one occasion I noticed that Rusty was not himself; he wouldn't eat and he was holding his head down, I health checked him and found that he had a tick. We sought advice.

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from a vet and a few days later with a lot of TLC the tick dropped off, as time progressed he became much fitter and back to his old self.

My first showing of him was at my school fete. I had him on display and he was great, I think he enjoyed all the attention. Rusty regularly comes into the house, he loves flying around and he often sits on the TV.

On one occasion Mum accidentally let him out. He flew onto the roof tops. We called and called him but he would not come down. He then flew into the nearby woods, he got hit by a sparrow-hawk, he finally came down to safe ground, I checked him over and he was okay.

So that's the ups and downs and the greatest moments I have had, caring, feeding, flying and loving Rusty, my barn owl.

I am now almost 15 and Rusty is still fighting fit, he is still a very big part of my life. I now also fly a female Harris Hawk, but that's another story.

[We'll look forward to that story in next year's Austringer, John - Editors]

## Birds of prey: a lifelong attraction by Colin Woolf

Leading wildlife artist, Colin Woolf, reflects on his abiding passion for birds of prey and exhibits some of his watercolours.

On this page, "Peregrine on rock".  
On page 18, "Peregrine triangle".  
Centre pages, "Eagle over Arnisdale".  
On page 19, "Red Kite".  
On page 22, "Peregrine Preening".

I have always been fascinated by birds of prey. As a child, I remember watching kestrels hovering over our garden in Hampshire; and I have an abiding memory of pressing my face close to the car window on our first trip to Scotland, in the hope of seeing golden eagle!



In the fourth year at school we were asked to give a talk to the class on our favourite subject, and mine was on birds of prey. I had been avidly collecting any books I could find on falconry, and of course I also consumed the books of Thorburn, Lodge and Mavorgardato. It is no secret that a lot of the artists from that era were falconers themselves; at that time, it was one of the few ways they could get really close to the birds so that they could become competent at portraying them on paper.

Living in the countryside, very close to the New Forest, I had ample opportunity to search for raptors in the wild. My first exciting glimpse of a harrier will always be imprinted on my mind. I have always drawn and painted what I saw, and I covered my bedroom wall with head studies of telephoto lens - but this was followed by bitter disappointment at how small the birds were in the image!

all the British birds of prey. I was also a keen photographer, and it wasn't long before I purchased a telephoto lens - but this was followed by bitter disappointment at how small the birds were in the image!

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Looking back, I know I was very fortunate to have so many opportunities to go out and watch wildlife whenever I could. Not being a patient person, the thought of sitting in a hide and waiting for birds to arrive didn't really appeal, so I tended to wander at will, getting to know all the forest paths and short cuts. I remember being horrified when I first found a gamekeeper's gibbet with sparrowhawks and buzzards strung up on it; but this soon turned to fascination and a valuable source of study as I collected their feathers and their skulls, giving a valuable insight into structure and anatomy. I now realise this was very important in my development as an artist.

Having studied science at school, I went on to study animal physiology at Nottingham University; and while I there I released my first limited edition print, which was of a kestrel hovering.

A few years later, I had the good fortune to meet a falconer and this enabled me to get really close to my subjects. I have many friends to whom I am indebted for allowing me to get close and study their birds, and also for imparting their considerable knowledge of plumage and behaviour.

When I lived in North Wales I was a member of a grouse shooting syndicate, and several falconers were invited up to fly their birds on the moors. I owe them a great debt of thanks too, because this gave me a wonderful chance to watch the birds in flight.

On one memorable occasion they were flying a peregrine at grouse when a woodcock was put up, and we had fantastic views as the peregrine tried to catch this beautiful bird. Woodcock, as you may already know, are another of my passions, and to see them both in the same flight was truly memorable. I am happy to say the woodcock escaped - the peregrine was no match for its twisting aerobatics. However, I have still to see a falconer's peregrine catch a grouse.

Owls are not included among the species used for falconry, but they are still birds of prey and they feature very highly in my output as an artist. I never tire of trying to capture their compelling, beautiful expressions and soft delicate plumage.



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Likewise, although it is not a falconry species, the red kite is probably our most beautiful raptor in flight. I enjoyed a close association with the Welsh Kite Trust for many years, and this resulted in a book, 'Red Kite Country', co-authored with wildlife photographer Mike Read. Several months were spent in the valleys of Mid Wales, observing these beautiful subjects at close range and also watching other raptors such as peregrines at the nest.

At this time our home was in Snowdonia, and it wasn't long before I located a peregrine's eyrie in the valley where we lived. Amazingly, with a high-powered telescope this was visible from my studio, and I spent many pleasant hours watching the adult birds teaching the young to fly. This has inspired many paintings and sketches. In my experience, it is only by studying birds in their natural habitat that you can begin to create a reasonable painting.

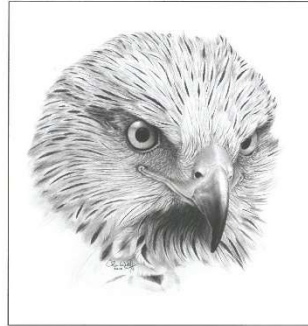
There is a certain element of power in the possession of a large bird of prey such as an eagle or a goshawk, because they are such magnificent predators; but the small falcons are just as pleasurable to watch. Added to this, they spend longer in the air because their meals are smaller and they need to feed more frequently throughout the day - so you have more opportunities to watch them!

Although I am known primarily as an artist who paints native British species I've also painted several foreign raptors, including White-bellied Sea Eagle and Bald Eagle.

Just recently I got very close to a falconer's Lesser Kestrel, and I was stunned at the beauty of its plumage. For an artist, there is no substitute for getting this close to a live bird and studying it in this way.

Over the years, I've noticed that a lot of falconry art is focused on the action of the bird catching its prey... but I have always preferred to paint a bird in its natural habitat, trying to convey the essence and majesty of the species in the landscape.

From studying wild birds as often as I have, I have come to realise that there is a certain look - which I describe as a 'wild' look - that few falconers' birds have. This is something that I always strive to



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capture, to make my paintings a true portrayal of the wild birds of Britain. Taxidermy, and in particular bird of prey taxidermy, has become very popular as an art form. I am sure this is fuelled primarily by a human desire to get close to birds of prey. I am very fortunate to have as my good friend one of Britain's top taxidermists; he specialises in birds of prey, having won the Taxidermy Guild bird trophy eight times. His input is invaluable: as an artist, it is very easy to do a sketch of a bird and put the wing in any position you choose, but a taxidermist must work with the fixed armature of a skeleton, and the bones will only allow the wing to be placed in certain positions. This knowledge, combined with my study of wild birds in flight, has helped me enormously in creating successful paintings.

Regardless of how often I see a bird of prey - whether it's a merlin chasing a pipit, a short-eared owl gliding above moorland or a white-tailed eagle drifting over a loch - the thrill is just the same, and the impulse to recreate what I see on paper is just as strong. I am still observing, still learning, and still enjoying!

#### More information about Colin Woolf, Wildlife Artist

One of the UK's leading wildlife artists, Colin Woolf is based in central Scotland. Hallmarks of his work are richly coloured landscapes, atmospheric skies and soft plumage. Birds of prey feature prominently in his work. Working in pure watercolour, Colin captures the essence of his wildlife subjects and brings them alive. He exhibits regularly at events such as the CIA Game Fair and the Scottish Game Fair, and his paintings hang in collections worldwide. Colin is also known for his skill in painting woodcock with a woodcock's pin-feather, a talent which he demonstrates 'live' at shows and exhibitions.

Contact: Colin Woolf, 2 Blairhill View, Blackridge, West Lothian, EH48 3TR. Tel: 01501 751796. www.wildart.co.uk.



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- Poor Paperwork design and constant changes to the paperwork
- A lack of understanding by those making the legislation
- A lack of understanding from those dealing with the legislation
- A bias from those enforcing the legislation
- A lack of science based reason for legislation
- Poor access to information, the DEFRA website is not good or user friendly
- Frustration at not being listened to when we have problems in complying with the laws, or being asked for information that we consider to be unnecessary

#### Other Problems

- Failure to comply with requirements from raptor keepers
- Illegal taking of wild birds of prey
- Poor Practises by a small minority of raptor keepers thus letting the rest down

#### What the Hawk Board Can't Do

- Anything that requires powers- Such as making sure that falconry practises are a good standard
- That people are not putting birds on the heads of the general public
- That people are flying eagles sensibly
- Change regulations or the law, other than advise and complain
- Force government departments to put forward changes or suggestions to CITES
- Force changes in regulations
- Force changes in Statutory laws
- Force raptor keepers to follow guidelines or advice

#### What the Hawk Board Can Do as an Advisory Body

- Liaise between bird of prey keepers and AHVLA to highlight problems
- Push to have regulations that are not working changed - note that is regulations, not legal statutes, that needs an Act to be changed in parliament
- Speak to the various government departments and advisors with the voice of raptor keepers, if raptor keeper let us know what they need discussing
- Follow up meetings with written examples of problems
- Keep a watching brief on potential and pending legislation that may affect bird of

- prey keeping and falconry - of which there is a huge and increasing amount, particularly from Europe
- Read, understand and answer consultation documents that are released prior to changes in the law or regulations that affect birds of prey keepers and falconers
- Speak to Ministers about problems and how to resolve them
- Liaise with other Groups such as S.U.N. and I.A.F. to give raptor keepers a larger representative stake holder group and therefore more power to change policies and be listened to.

#### What sort of things has the Hawk Board achieved in the past

- Deregulation of non-indigenous birds of prey under the WCA, followed by deregulation of a number of indigenous species. This was done by a combination of suggestions such as the use of CITES AZO documents to form the basis of paper tracing.
- This deregulation has reduced costs to raptor keepers by a substantial amount, although some may not agree with this, just imagine the constantly rising cost of keeping all those birds that are now not regulated.
- Facilitated the system allowing free movement of birds within the EU
- Fought the rising costs of paperwork for birds of prey and are still doing it. We have recently pointed out that as AHVLA has reduced staffing number, then the review on costs needs to be revisited, and indeed that is happening.
- Followed up on questions asked to government departments on a regular basis
- Supported scientific research in grants for veterinary research into illnesses in falconry birds.
- Supported the BFC for Levensham project
- Safeguarded food supplies for birds of prey
- Supported the Grey Partridge project
- Supported BIAZA in the vulture project
- Worked in conjunction with the IWCO for intangible cultural heritage and this is continuing.
- Involved in Invasive Species legislation and Hybrid legislation
- Work with FACE, IAF and the Countryside Alliance

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## What the Hawk Board Does for You

by Jemima Parry Jones

On February 8<sup>th</sup> this year the Hawk Board held an open meeting for anyone to attend, so that they could find out what the Hawk Board does, and importantly what it can't do, and have the chance to voice their opinion, because, contrary to popular belief, the Hawk Board does very much like to hear from, and have constructive comments from, any and all bird of prey keepers and that includes owl keepers as well.

I had hoped that there would be a good interest early on, as soon as the meeting was announced as then, were the take up good, we could have found a larger room, however, many people unfortunately left it to the very last minute to book a place and consequently we could not change the room and so some were not able to come. Let that be a warning!!! We will be running a meeting probably on a yearly basis, possibly once every two years; we will advertise it at least three months prior to the meeting date and it would really help if people would book early so we can get the right sized room for the meeting.

The National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh is a good venue, easy to find and pretty central for most. The LANTRA building made for a good meeting and the £6.00 that everyone paid gave us all a very good lunch. There are larger buildings on the site and with enough warning we can get a larger room than LANTRA has, but we have to know well in advance of the meeting as, unlike the LANTRA room which we did not pay for, we will have to pay for a larger space. We would very much like to thank Lisa in particular and LANTRA in general for the hard work they put in to make the day a success.

The meeting was well attended and looking at the comments that were given afterwards on a comments sheet, everyone generally enjoyed the day and felt that it was very worthwhile, and also said we should do it more often. There were good suggestions for new topics for the next meeting.

We were the only body that government could work with to represent hawk keepers.

We have yet to have a Hawk Board meeting, but the meeting will be on the agenda.

For your interest I have included below what I was speaking about. Bear in mind that it was a PowerPoint presentation and so I would have elaborated on the points as they are there for people to read, but also as a guide to the speaker on what the topic is about.

You will see that I also put in the Objects of the HB, so you can see what we are supposed to be doing. The Hawk Board was originally funded by what was then DOE for the first few years, because we were the only body that government could work with to represent hawk keepers, and by hawk keepers (I do mean everyone who has birds of prey and or owls. So here you are.....)

To encourage those who keep 'hawks' for any purpose to adhere to appropriate and approved Guidelines and Codes of Conduct.

The Objects of The Hawk Board, (hereinafter referred to as 'the Hawk Board') are:-

To liaise between keepers of all Falconiformes, (diurnal birds of prey) and Strigiformes, (all Owls) hereinafter referred to as 'Hawks', the Government and other bodies, in the best long term interests of the 'hawks' and the keepers.

To encourage those who keep 'hawks' for any purpose to adhere to appropriate and approved Guidelines and Codes of Conduct, and to seek to promote increasingly high standards of husbandry and conservation.

To collate scientific evidence to safeguard and promote falconry and the keeping of 'hawks'.

Where do most problems for falconers and raptor keepers come from

What are the problems that we face

- Increasing amounts of legislation from both the UK and even more from Europe

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- Designed and wrote the modules for LANTRA Award Scheme
- Has for many years up until now organised the Game Fair to present falconry to the general public to make it the acceptable face of falconry
- Using the vehicle of the CFF which is under the auspices of the Hawk Board, fund-raised for the protection of falconry and raptor keeping
- Represented falconry at schools, shows, fairs and so on all around the country
- Various members of the Hawk Board have visited clubs and spoken to them on what the Hawk Board is doing, updating them on the current threats, the legal and political situation.
- Responded to the media when adverse publicity has come to the fore
- Countered incorrect and slanderous claims from the media
- Offered written examples of conflicts between various bits of legislation that affect falconers to government departments
- Queried AHVLA and DEFRA on the potential Buzzard Cull and its justification, we were told there was not going to be one!
- Put forward people's individual problems with AHVLA to see if we can help. A Paperwork trail is crucial in this.
- Discuss quarry licensing problems with Natural England - recent one being Herring Gulls on Land fill.
- Advising and training on the use of mouth swabbing for DNA testing of birds, rather than more invasive methods.

#### What has the Hawk Board done in the last couple of years

- Had meetings with the Law Commission and subsequently put forward changes that are needed in wildlife legislation to the Law Society Review (these documents are usually between 50 and 100 pages to go through). On-going
- Put forward suggested changes in the Red Tape Challenge
- Attended numerous meetings with police (PAW), AHVLA, DEFRA, JNCC, SUN, JGL and more
- Funded Sun to go to European Meetings as our representative

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- Attended Chester Forensic Science Conference - The conference has asked for a liaison from the different groups, Hawk Board is now represented
- Worked through Hawk Board members on improving quarry licensing with Natural England
- Fought AHVLA on the changes in granting A10's for Wild Disabled Birds of Prey and got them to agree to be more reasonable. HB has produced guidelines for AHVLA to utilise.
- Have been working on redesigning and upgrading the Hawk Board Website
- Have invited observers on a regular basis to come to Hawk Board meeting to gain a greater understanding of how it works and perhaps find potential new members for the Hawk Board.
- Still arguing the use of the term commercial with birds of prey
- Still arguing the reasons for established a Domestic Breed Category to fit in with CITES
- Still fighting the bans on importing birds of prey from outside the EU due to Avian Influenza
- Have recently pointed out that we believe JNCC is outside its remit - in no uncertain terms.
- Querying the reasons for species being chosen to only be granted Transition A10's rather than Specimen specific - still awaiting an answer
- Questioned AHVLA on announced inspections re the return of unused semi complete A10's. Pointed out that two of the establishments visited with a significant number of officials had in fact returned the said documents recorded delivery six months previously. Because of this query that practise ceased.
- HB has been pushing for paperwork offences with captive bred birds to become a fixed penalty civil offence
- Still discussing how the membership of the Hawk Board could be opened up to other groups
- IAF - New president, who is much more forward looking. HB is now significantly assisting with the costs of the Dods Service which oversees all potential legislation going through Brussels and can pull out all information relating to birds of prey and falconry to act as an early warning system to IAF, FACE and HB.

- Enormous amounts of information are coming through with threats to falconry through invasive species lists, the banning keeping non-domestic animals in captivity by individuals, travel of livestock which includes birds of prey, travel of dogs, hunting and many other aspects that are very worrying and have much bigger lobbies than us in Europe.
- The LANTRA figures and new modules are frequently discussed
- Conducted interviews for the new coordinators position
- Discussed the Eagle Guidelines that the BFC Eagle Group adhere to, as the HB had been contacted with concerns about some eagle flying.
- AHVLA: We have gone through a difficult period in our relationship with AHVLA, we suspect due to the secondment of police to the department, which we felt severely tainted attitudes within not only the Department, but also within their advisors. Meetings were not attended, relationships strained and generally the HB did not have the good working relationship that it had previously and which Stakeholders should have with any government department that is serving them.
- We are pleased to say that this has been addressed by AHVLA and the working relationship between Hawk Board has improved enormously with both sides able to listen and work together to solve problems where possible.

As I said, the meeting did go well, we offered to all that if anyone wanted to attend a Hawk Board meeting as an observer, they would be welcome. Obviously they would have to contact the Coordinator, Rachelle Upton, so she could give them details of where and when and make sure that numbers were limited to a reasonable amount. Actually it is really important that we get some fresh faces interested and understanding what the Hawk Board does as many of the older members are getting close to retiring from the Hawk Board.

We did let everyone who wanted to make comments do so, some may have gone on a little long, however it was important to allow as much as we could, otherwise we risked being blamed for not allowing people to speak. As it was the first meeting for several

years, this had to work, the next one will be more highly regulated and keep to the topics announced prior to the meeting. Having said that, we actually finished earlier than planned, so everyone did have the chance to have their say.

The most crucial thing for the Hawk Board is that there was a lot of interest in looking into how more people could have representation on the Hawk Board. At the moment it is only clubs because other ways had either been tried, or in the case of individuals, it would be very difficult to manage. However there were suggestions from both Hawk Board members and the floor as to how this could be expedited.

There was a lot of interest in looking into how more people could have representation on the Hawk Board.

Martin Standley put forward a proposal for a Hawk Board Affiliation Scheme, which he details in the following Ausstringer article

The thought was that we could have a number of different groups:

- Breeders
- Display, Experience Days, courses and Public Centres
- Commercial users such as Pest Clearance
- Rehabilitators
- Specialists in Owls
- Individuals who did not necessarily want to be in clubs

The suggestions were that each group get together in their own way (this can be an advertised meeting or put on Facebook or the Hawk Board Website) and work out not only how they want to be represented, but – importantly write their own code of conduct.

This would be put in front of the Hawk Board and if agreed, or edited and then agreed by both the specialist group and the Hawk Board, then the group would have an elected (by themselves) member who could come on the Hawk Board. There would be a payment because without funds the Hawk Board cannot function to protect the interests of bird of prey keepers.

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## Proposal for a Hawk Board Affiliation Scheme

by Martyn Standley

The Hawk Board (HB) is said to represent all bird of prey keepers (estimated at 25,000) and yet there are only around 1,800 people (falconers) that are actually affiliated to the Hawk Board.

The Hawk Board have discussed the possibility of introducing additional categories of affiliation other than through affiliated Falconry Clubs.

These proposals are all designed to help raise standards and awareness within the falconry and bird of prey community and to bring more people together under one umbrella organisation.

Please contact the Hawk Board if you would be interested in joining one of the schemes below.

Our outline proposal encompasses five categories.

1. Display "falconers" including Bird of Prey (BOP) Centres and Experience providers
2. Breeders
3. Landfill Sites/bird control
4. Individual Falconers
5. Rehabilitators

### 1. Display Falconers, Bird of Prey Centres, etc

Develop a BOP Display Team Membership Scheme. First of all we produce a Mandate/Declaration/Code of practice. Items covered within the declaration would include basic, but very necessary topics. For example; Welfare; are the birds tethered at a suitable distance from each other? Do the birds have access to water? Are the birds protected from dogs? Are the transport boxes cleaned out daily and so on? Mandatory use of telemetry. Then we could move onto the display itself which should not be "gimmicks" or involve manoeuvres that are likely to endanger the bird. The narrative accompanying the display, although it should be entertaining, should largely be educational and so on. When we

have developed a satisfactory document, we then ask BOP display teams to sign up to the declaration and agree to be audited. For a nominal signing on fee followed by an annual fee of Exxx, the BOP team then become affiliated to the HB and are permitted to use the HB logo on their websites etc for promotional purposes.

A list of affiliated BOP display teams would be posted on the HB website with a full page colour advert for each with links to Google/other search engines etc to be established.

We then write to as many Game Fair/Country Fair organisers as we can, informing them of the accreditation scheme and urge them to employ BOP display teams that have signed up to our scheme, rather than risk employing others that may not be of the required standard

When we have established a Bop display team list, the members of the list would get to vote in one of their members to be their HB Rep and take a seat on the board, thereby giving them a chance to get involved in decision making as well as being able to bring their concerns or ideas to the table.

This group would also include BOP centres and providers of experience days or similar and the declaration/code of practise mentioned above would be adapted to include these.

BOP display teams and BOP Centres are, to the public, the face of falconry. We should be attempting to raise the standards.

### 2. Breeders

In a similar fashion to the display "falconers" scheme, we set up a breeder category of membership, again with affiliation to the HB and again with their names being listed on the HB website accompanied by a full page colour advert and being linked to search engines. We ask HB affiliated club members to direct

People in each group could have a free web page on the Hawk Board website which as anyone who knows about advertising knows is normally fairly expensive. The group would be self-policing and should a member of the group contravene the codes of conduct that the group itself writes, they would be asked to leave the group and no longer be represented.

All bar the last group in the bullet point list will have the opportunity to be on the Hawk Board and have various advantages in so doing.

The last group listed is the hardest to quantify, but also the group that has in fact benefitted a great deal from the work that the Hawk Board has done – i.e. you are still allowed to keep and fly your birds as long as you keep within the law. And believe me when I tell you that there a huge powers out there, particularly in Europe, who would love to stop you doing it.

As individuals it is, I suspect, much more difficult to get together as a cohesive group, and difficult for us as the Hawk Board to offer you more than we already do now. I would however urge you to consider being affiliated as an individual member to the Hawk Board – paying the same amount as any club member pays which is £5.00, because it is the Hawk Board that keeps your rights going, and without funding it will not be able to do that. You would as anyone is, be welcome to come to a meeting as long as we have the space and know you are coming. £5.00 a year is a tiny amount to protect your ability to be able to keep birds of prey and owls, and the Hawk Board is about the only body that is able to do that now and in the future.

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prospective customers to the list of breeders in the scheme and with over 1800 club falconers being affiliated to the HB, there is a good chance of increasing business opportunities. We develop a declaration in conjunction with breeders and that the breeders sign up to which would contain a set of criteria that should be met by the prospective purchaser before he is sold a hawk. Standard questions would be asked, such as, what experience do you have, if none, who is your mentor (name and contact details required). Is your accommodation suitable, have you undertaken the LANTRA Assessment, do you own Telemetry etc, etc. The breeders themselves would have to declare exactly how any given hawk was reared, its lineage and what diet it was fed on. They would have to agree not to pass hawks onto purchasers without the relevant documentation being in place. We charge the breeder a nominal signing on fee of Exx, followed by Exx annual subscription. From one of their number, they elect a HB Representative who can bring concerns to the table and vote on future HB policy. If by operating this scheme, it stops a hawk falling into the wrong hands and being lost or kept in sub-standard conditions, then it will have been a worthwhile exercise.

### 3. Pest Control/Landfill

In a similar fashion to the above, in conjunction with Pest Control companies, we create a declaration/code of conduct for landfill/pest control operators, covering welfare issues, transportation, off-site accommodation, training and experience of their employees, mandatory use of telemetry etc, etc. Following an audit, they are accepted as an affiliated member and pay their annual fee. Again, we list their company details on the HB website accompanied by an advert and links to search engines.

They would be permitted to use the HB logo on their websites and could use their HB accreditation to demonstrate competence and compliance to potential clients.

### 4. Individual Falconers

By individual falconers, I mean falconers that are not members of a falconry club, perhaps because they prefer to hawk alone or perhaps

because they have tried club membership and decided it is not for them. A code of conduct would be drawn up and signed up to which will cover welfare, mandatory use of telemetry etc. The fee to join would be the same as an affiliated club member at £5.00 per year. What you would be doing by signing up as an individual falconer, is to show your support for better welfare standards, better falconry practices and you would also be helping to fund an organisation that is in place to protect our sport. As in the other previously mentioned categories, the group of individual falconers get to elect one of their number to represent them at HB meetings.

### 5. Rehabilitators

Similarly to our other proposals, we create a Rehabilitators Scheme. Members would write a code of practise for dealing with injured or sick raptors. Items to be included could be general welfare, housing, seeking veterinary advice, administering drugs, general first aid and aftercare, re-homing or releasing back to the wild.

Once again this group would elect a representative to attend Hawk Board meetings to share their experiences or concerns.

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## South Wales Region Field Meet 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014

by David Ridpath

Nine members of the South Wales region met on Mick Cordell's permission land at Ruardean, Gloucestershire, by kind permission of farmer, Mel Thompson. It was a cloudy but dry day though the ground was a little slippery in places after recent heavy rain. The flying contingent consisted of six Harris' hawks and a red-tailed buzzard. Three dogs and four ferrets completed the hunting line-up.

We split into two groups and headed off to separate areas of the ground. The ferrets

provided plenty of flushes – some eight or nine for each group. Some good flights were had and two rabbits were caught – one for each group so honours were shared.

The day ended for most of the group at the Malt Shovel pub in Ruardean, rounding off a good day out.

Sadly, a subsequent meet for goshawks planned for a couple of weeks later had to be cancelled due to forecast bad weather.



Left to right: David Ridpath, Huw Kirby, Ian Warren, Gareth Owen, Steve Richards, Mick Cordell, David Barber, Lewis Jones and Jason Jones.

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## What can we take. When can we take it? by Mick Cordell

How many of us take our hawks and falcons out during the 'flying season' with the certain knowledge that we are doing so within the law? It has been many years now since we had to go to the Post Office in August to buy our 'Game Licence' for the coming season.

Although we no longer need a licence in England or Wales, (in Scotland they are still required but not easy to obtain) we still have to adhere to the legislation set down regarding the 'Open Seasons'

Currently the open seasons are as follows:-  
 Pheasant 1<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> February  
 Partridge 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> February  
 Grouse 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> December  
 Black Grouse 20<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> December  
 Ptarmigan 12<sup>th</sup> August to 10<sup>th</sup> December  
 Moorhen 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Coot 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Snipe 12<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Woodcock 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Woodcock (Scotland) 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Wildfowl (above high water mark) 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 Wildfowl (below high water mark) 1<sup>st</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> February

Hares are protected on moorland and unfenced arable land between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August.

It is illegal to hunt any of the above on a Sunday or on Christmas Day (as if we have nothing to do).

There are also protected species other than game for which a quarry licence must be

obtained, usually from Defra in England and Wales and the Scottish Government Dept in Scotland.

Those of us who hunt protected species must have a current licence stating what quarry is to be taken and the number allowed to be taken. A diary must also be kept as this may be required to be seen by the relevant authority.

There is also the Unprotected Game to be hunted, otherwise known as Vermin which may be hunted at any time:- rabbit, grey squirrel, brown rat, house mouse, mink, wood pigeons, feral pigeons, collared doves, some species of corvids (crows, rooks, jackdaws), starlings plus some species of gulls.

This list does not cover everything that can be hunted with Birds of Prey as it does not include hunting with eagles at fox etc. or any of the deer species that are hunted but covers the majority of quarry we normally hunt as falconers/astringers.

Also we have to remember that although we may hunt a permitted species within the hunting season we also have to obtain permission from the landowner to fly our birds on their land. It will not be of any help to wave a quarry licence at a farmer if you do not have permission on his land.

If in doubt as to the quarry you wish to take give DEFRA a ring, .....by the time you get an answer the season will be over!

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## WHC Annual Field Meet, Oct 2013 by Neil McCann

Unfortunately, circumstances stopped me from attending this year's Club Field Meet at Llangollen, but my thanks go to Andy Povey for stepping in and putting the groups together. The weather was possibly the worst we have seen for many years, but most managed to fly their birds well and catch a fair amount of game.

The groups were as follows:-

**Goshawk group 1**  
 Paul Harman F/L Wed. Bryn-y-pys  
 Tony Watson Thurs. Pen-y-llan  
 Anthony Roberts Fri. Carrog  
 Alan Buckham  
 Bag: 6 Pheasants, 2 Partridge.

**Goshawk group 2**  
 Ian Howarth F/L Wed. Pen-y-llan  
 Mick Kane Thurs. Carrog  
 Jim Entwistle Fri. Bryn-y-pys  
 Ray Smith  
 Bag: 6 Pheasants

**Goshawk group 3**  
 Griff Snr F/L Wed. Bryn-y-pys  
 Griff Jnr Thurs. Carrog  
 Chris Scarrillo Fri. Pen-y-llan  
 Andy Povey  
 Bag: 7 Pheasants

**Goshawk group 4**  
 Peter Dodd F/L Wed. Carrog  
 John Patterson Thurs. Bryn-y-pys  
 Connor Patterson Fri. Pen-y-llan  
 Adrian Watson  
 Bag: 12 Pheasants, 1 Guinea fowl

**Goshawk group 5**  
 Steven Vaughan F/L Wed. Carrog  
 Chris Freason Thurs. Pen-y-llan  
 Dave Fielder Fri. Bryn-y-pys  
 Adrian Watson  
 Bag: 6 Pheasants, 1 Partridge, 1 Rabbit

**Harris Hawk & Redtail group**  
 Wayne Roberts Wed. Pen-y-llan  
 Kris Ulens Thurs. Bryn-y-pys  
 T. Peplow Fri. Carrog  
 David Barber  
 Mark Herbert  
 Bag: 8 Pheasants

Neil McCann

## Snipe Hawking by Tony Adams



As I pulled the curtains back that November morning and saw the smoke from the local quarry blowing to the East, I knew which area of land I would be flying on that day.

The two tiercel peregrines loaded up along with Gwen my German wire-haired pointer. We set off for some 'snipe hawking'.

Arriving at the hunting ground, the conditions were perfect for 'waiting on' with the breeze blowing up the slope and also to aid the dog to find the elusive snipe. With the two hawks on the cage, it wasn't too long before Gwen went on point. First to fly was Lew, he's in his fourth season and knows what snipe hawking is all about.

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As usual, he flew straight over Gwen, before starting to climb purposefully. Within a couple of minutes, Lew is high enough. I shout to Gwen 'get 'em up'. I wasn't expecting what happened next – a brace of woodcock flushed from the low damp vegetation, and headed across the moorland, with Lew is hot pursuit. He had about four or five stoops at the one he had singled out before it put into a large patch of rushes.... Lew came back over, so I lured him down.

While we made our way back to the other hawk (which was left back on the cage), Gwen went on point again in the same area.... For a second I thought she could be pointing 'fresh scent', but she was 'locked on' solid, so I un-hooded Lew and cast him off....

As usual he flew straight over the dog, causing her to flinch momentarily. Lew wasn't long reaching his pitch. I gave Gwen the command to flush. To my surprise, out came a third woodcock!!! It's amazing how such a sizeable bird can blend into low vegetation no more than 3 to 4 inches high.

Down came Lew, but he missed it in the stoop, but hooked in behind the woodcock..... To my surprise the woodcock started mounting in fairly wide circles with the tiercel keeping the pressure on. The chase went up, probably up to 200 to 300 feet, before going out over the valley, the tiercel constantly stooping at the woodcock. Within a couple of minutes they were two small specks and then out of sight.

Turning the telemetry on, with a faint signal, I made my way (Gwen at side), along the moor, finally reaching the car. After a while, I could tell by the signal that the bird was stationary and guessed he had either caught it or was sitting on a post..... After a spell of driving around, constantly checking the signal I managed to pinpoint him in a conifer block. I set off on foot with receiver in hand. Within a matter of minutes the signal was really strong and soon led me to the tiercel. Lew was at the base of a Scots pine tree on his woodcock – a scene most suited to an accipiter. He had eaten the head, neck and top part of the breast and stepped up on the glove for a tibit without fuss.

I can only imagine how he caught the woodcock, most likely, that he caught it in the air then was forced to land in the plantation as it seemed too thick to enter, but that's just a guess. From the point to the kill was just over a mile 'as the woodcock flies'.... Three woodcock in the same place – that's a first for me.

Later on in the season, whilst 'snipe hawking' with another club member, Ralph, I came upon another first.



We were out over the festive period; it was fairly windy and overcast day. We were working an area of upland with long tussock grass with the odd boggy patch here and there.

I put Lew up again over Gwen, who was on point, and, on command, Gwen raised the snipe. It flew about 30 ft before Lew swooped and bound to his prey – making it look easy. The momentum and the wind took him to a pile of rocks on the horizon. After discussing the flight Ralph and I made our way towards the tiercel, although out of sight, knowing where he had landed.

In the meantime, Gwen went on point again, we couldn't put the other falcon up for obvious reasons..... so we made our way towards the dog to see what she was pointing.

Whilst looking intently, we heard a 'whoosh' above our heads..... It was Lew who was mounting up again... not knowing what had happened to the snipe he had caught; we proceeded to flush the one in front of us, which again he caught in style!!!!

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The wind and momentum took him to the same pile of rocks of his first kill. On our approach to the rocks Lew was plucking his snipe. We looked for the first snipe. I noticed a small blood stain on a rock and a telltale feather. Nearby, there lay the other snipe gently placed in the corner of two rocks.

## Why Bother with the IAF? by Adrian Lombard, IAF President.

Most falconers desire little else beyond getting out in the field with their hawk, probably a dog and possibly a friend, to hunt quarry and bring the hawk home at the end of the day. Believe me, I am no different. There are a few extras which fall into the "nice to have" category. We like to meet up with friends and talk hawks, dogs and hunting. We have an interest in raptors and in wildlife in general, so we enjoy watching wild raptors hunting and breeding and we often become involved in conservation projects for raptors or the environment. We are also generally aware that there are a few problems on the horizon such as the "Antis", legislation that creates problems for our hawking and conservation issues which stop us getting the hawks we would like or enough quarry. These are day-to-day issues and this is why you have a Club and the Hawk Board. Why then bother with another organization?

The IAF, its full name is The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, is a truly global organization which represents and unites "hunting" Falconers. This organization was started by a group of 8 European falconry nations in 1968 in response to challenges which they recognized were looming on the horizon. In 46 years it has grown dramatically to represent Falconers from 73 nations and includes some 90 different organizations as members. This is an incredible achievement as it serves to unify those who practice the art of falconry around the world and the scope of this representation is not matched by any other hunting organization to my knowledge, and very few conservation bodies. The role of the IAF is defined in its constitution:

- To represent falconry throughout the world. Falconry is the traditional sport of

I suppose this shows the intelligence, understanding and confidence a falcon has with his working partner – willing to leave his meal for a chance of another.

Another memorable day out and the first brace for Lew.....

taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey, it is a hunting art.

- To preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.
- To encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and promote, under scientific guidance, domestic propagation for falconry.
- To develop, maintain and amend national and international laws, treaties and conventions to permit the pursuit and perpetuation of falconry.
- To require the observation of falconry, hunting, conservation and welfare laws, regulations, traditions and culture with regard to the taking, import, export and keeping of birds of prey, the taking of quarry species and the right of access to land in the country concerned.
- To promote and uphold a positive public image of falconry with specialist organisations which regulate or otherwise affect falconry.

Thus the role of the IAF is to promote, support and defend falconry on international and regional levels and to assist member organizations at national level when requested. We address conventions, legislation, regulation and policies that influence falconry and conservation on all these levels. The IAF is represented at all major international conventions, including CBD, CITES, CMS and the Bern Convention. Within CMS Convention on Migratory Species we are particularly active in the Raptors MoU having representation at the Technical Action Group and the Saker Task Force within this. We are also an international NGO member of the IUCN and are particularly active in the Sustainable Use

and Lifestyle (SUL) group of the IUCN. On a regional level, we pay special attention to issues within the European Union. We have a contract with a monitoring agency that provides data to us from the European Union Government and this is scrutinised daily by a specialised group within the IAF. Thus we are able to stay ahead on impending legislation and regulation within Europe. We have provided detailed comment on the Strategic Action Plan for Raptor Conservation within the European Union and we were also able to negotiate significant changes to the falconry section of the Code of Conduct for Hunting with respect to Invasive Alien Species which was produced by the Bern Convention last year.

We recognize the significance of culture, both tangible (paintings, books, and craftwork) and intangible (those skills passed through generations) to falconry. We contributed to the effort, led by the United Arab Emirates, which resulted in the recognition of falconry as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010. We are an Advisory NGO, associated with the Directorate of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. We develop and support this heritage through the celebration of the annual World Falconry Day (16<sup>th</sup> November each year) and through other efforts.

We represent the conservation aspirations of falconers at an international level through the participation in international conservation conventions and bodies as well as by developing a culture of conservation among falconers. We promote the engagement of falconers in conservation projects at international, regional and national level. Our current focus is on Saker conservation as we believe that this represents the most pressing concern to the raptors of falconry interest, but we also promote the conservation of other species including the tree-nesting Peregrines of Europe, Imperial Eagles and, we plan, for the European Lanner.

We believe that falconers should be considered the experts on the welfare issues related to falconry raptors. The IAF intends to represent falconers in this area. To this end we have prepared a general Welfare Statement to guide falconers and to represent

our position on welfare issues. We organized a 2-day veterinary conference on the veterinary aspects of Raptors in conjunction with our AGM in Doha and generously sponsored by our hosts, the Alghanas Association of Qatar. We had presentations by top raptor veterinarians from around the world and was attended by some 70 vets. Further activity of this sort is in planning.

...to promote, support and defend falconry on international and regional levels

You may well be thinking that this is all very well, but what does this actually have to do with you and getting your hawk into the field. Well, issues such as the Code of Conduct for Hunting with respect to Invasive Alien Species would, undoubtedly, have impacted on ordinary falconers. Welfare aspects of the management of falconry raptors will become a significant issue in the months and years ahead. Plans are afoot to establish "positive lists" for companion animals in the EU; which means that some list will say what birds may be kept as "pets" by ordinary people and this could hugely affect falconry.

On a much lighter note, why not be part of this incredible fraternity of falconers, why not contribute to the work being done on behalf of falconry and why not share in the enthusiasm and excitement that goes with participation in the global effort for falconry. The IAF made some significant changes to its constitution at the AGM held in Doha, in January. Votes are no longer held on a purely national level, but each member club with at least 50 members will get at least 1 vote. We have also opened up individual subscriberships (not membership) to the IAF, so that individuals can support the IAF and get specific benefits. We hope that these changes will make our organization more accessible to and more representative of ordinary falconers in the field. I would invite you to visit our website at [www.iaf.org](http://www.iaf.org) to learn more of the IAF. While you are there, examine the IAF Journal of Falconry which can be purchased on line and which can also be included in the membership fee for member organizations. There are plans to involve raptor breeders and others within the structures of the IAF in the future. This can only be done when an office with permanent staff can be established and

plans are afoot to open such an office in Brussels.

The IAF is genuinely an organization run by falconers, working for falconers. Do I still get

## LEDESMA Bird Tracker Set Up Guide For

### Techno-Phobes by Richard Phillips - Not In Spanglish!

Satellite tracking systems are becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to traditional radio tracking systems. But they are tricky to set up, especially for those less experienced with electronic technology. This article provides a step by step guide to setting up the Ledesma system.

A. Put unit on charge (takes 2 hours to fully charge) and insert SIM card. The unit takes a standard SIM card not a micro one and make sure that if you use a pay-as-you-go, that the tariff you are using supports text messaging and data and also make sure your new SIM is not password locked. Try inserting it in an unlocked phone and checking. Try sending a text with this SIM card to say, your phone or your wife's just to make sure it's working. I use a giffgaff SIM as it operates off the O2 network, which is best coverage for me in my area and for £10 a month gives unlimited texts and 1 GB of data).

B. Go to the Apple App Store on your phone (iPhone users) and download the Ledesma bird tracker app (type in 'bird tracker' in the app site search box, looks like a magnifying glass, because if you type in Ledesma it won't find it).

C. When downloaded it's time to set up your unit. It really is quite straightforward - honestly!  
1. Go to add bird.  
2. Enter name of your bird or whatever you like in the name box.  
3. Enter phone number remembering to drop the '0' and add '+44' instead. This is the SIM card number you are using in the unit NOT your mobile phone number. Make sure you put the '+' sign in front of the 44 e.g. 07774 561567 will become +44774 561567.

time to fly my hawk? My dog is asking the same question. We will see what the new season brings!

4. Now tap on your birds name and it will go to the main menu.
5. Tap on configuration.
6. Tap on assign phone number 1.
7. Enter your mobile phone number, remembering once again to drop the '0' and add +44.
8. Make sure your unit is outside (so as to get a signal) and your mobile has a signal.
9. Tap on 'set up'. This will now send a text to your unit and update it with all your settings. If all is OK within a couple of minutes you will get a text back confirming updates.
10. Go back and tap 'Locate bird' and press send. If all is well you will get a text back with the position of your tracker. Just tap on the blue part of the text and your phone will go to Google maps and - hey presto - there's your bird.
11. You can now play around with the other settings in the configuration and alerts menu e.g. time zone, low battery warning, height/speed warning etc. Just remember to tap set up when finished and this will send another text to your unit thereby updating it.
10. Have a beer or large nip of something - you are good to go!

#### SETTING UP FOR TRACE-ORANGE.

- A. On your computer, go to <http://gps-trace.com>
- B. Go to registration.
- C. Read terms of agreement and tick 'I agree'.
- D. Fill in the registration form, creating a log-in name, password and email address.
- E. Press 'create account'. You should now see a message saying successful account activation.
- F. Either stay logged in or re-log in on the main trace-orange home page with your user name and password.
- G. You should now be in the main trace-orange home page.

H. Open settings (top of page), choose time zone and daylight saving time, amend and press OK.

I. In settings menu, open up 'maps' tab, next to general settings tab and change to Microsoft Virtual Earth. There is no option for Google maps here. BEFORE YOU GO ANY FURTHER YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT IS THE IMEI NUMBER OF YOUR UNIT.

- A. Making sure your SIM card is installed, your unit is on, it's outside and your mobile has a signal, go to the Ledesma app on your phone, tap on your bird's name, tap on configuration, tap on query IMEI and press send. You will get a message back with a long number on it...WRITE IT DOWN.
- B. Go back to trace-orange on your computer and in top left hand corner of the page it says 'ACTIVATE', click on this.
- C. Device name - I use my bird's name, same as on the iPhone app or it can be your name of your device e.g. Rogers Ledesma.
- D. Device type (you must choose Ledesma)
- E. Unique ID (this is the long number you just wrote down from your mobile phone)
- F. Enter the phone number of the SIM card installed in your unit, you must do the same as on your phone...DROP THE '0' AND ADD +44.
- G. Leave the "Device access password" blank
- H. Press OK to finish the device registration. You are good to go!!!

Have another beer or nip of something, trip over the dog, cuss the cat, which the missus off somewhere.....you are all done!

FOR THE GPS SIDE OF YOUR UNIT TO WORK YOU MUST GO ONTO YOUR LEDESMA APP ON YOUR PHONE, CLICK ON NAME, CLICK ON CONFIGURATION, CLICK ON GPRS SETTINGS AND CLICK ON ACTIVATE.....you should then see your device on trace-orange.....woohoo!

ALSO REMEMBER AT THE END OF THE DAY, FOLLOW THE ABOVE STEPS AND DE-ACTIVATE THE GPRS BEFORE REMOVING THE SIM CARD.

If you are struggling I can try to help, phone Rich on either 01672 851879 (answering machine) or 07900 432591.



In the picture, the green object is a wooden dummy used to accustom the bird to the unit.

## Notes for your 2014 diary

Welsh Hawking Club Field Meet, Bryn Howel Hotel, Llangollen, North Wales  
22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
with the Club Annual General Meeting to be held on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
(see WHC website for further details in due course).

The Club will be represented at:  
British Falconry and Raptor Fair at Chetwyn Park, Shropshire, May 4th/5th  
Falconry Weekend at the International Bird of Prey Centre, Newent, Glos., August 30th/31st  
Midland Game Fair at Weston Park, Shropshire, 20th/21st September

## Welsh Hawking Club Officers

**President**  
Dave Dimond

**Vice Presidents**  
Jemima Parry-Jones, Ian Blantem,  
Terry Large, Nick Havemann-Mart  
and Mike Clowes

**Chairman**  
Roger James

**Vice Chairman**  
Bryan Patterson

**Secretary and press/publicity officer**  
David Barber

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary**  
Jean Dimond

**Austringer editors**  
Mick Cordell and David Rudpath

**Field Officer**  
Neil McCann

**Breeding Officer**  
Colin Asquith

**Legal officer**  
Tom Jones

**Education officer**  
"Griff" Griffiths, Jr

**Webmaster**  
Roger James

**Honorary members**  
Dr Nick Fox, Lyn Havemann-Mart,  
Janos Toth, Diana Durman-Walters,  
Harry Robinson, Roger James and Jim  
Chick.

All enquiries should in the first instance be made to the Secretary, David Barber, Mobile: 07785 762373, e-mail: [davidbarber@welshhawkingclub.co.uk](mailto:davidbarber@welshhawkingclub.co.uk)



## Constitution and Rules Of the Welsh Hawking Club

(Revised 2012)

### Name and Objectives

The name of the club shall be **The Welsh Hawking Club**

The objective of the club shall be:-  
The promotion of Falconry,  
The provision of advice and information for members and other interested parties.  
The promotion and maintenance of the club 'Code of Conduct' amongst its members.

### Constitution

The club shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and other committee members as agreed and elected at an AGM. Each of these members are entitled to attend the committee meetings and to one vote, except the Chairman who does not have a vote. However, in the event of a vote resulting in a tie the Chairman shall then have the casting vote

Only full members are eligible for election to office. The officers and the committee will conduct the business of the club (hereafter referred to simply as the committee), which will meet at such times as it thinks fit. A quorum for a meeting shall be five members.

Anyone who holds a current conviction under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, The Animal Welfare Act, Cotes or any other offences to a living animal will not be accepted for membership until any ban enforced by a court of law has been spent. They will then be accepted at the discretion of the committee.

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### Elections

All members of the committee will be elected individually, annually at the AGM.

During the year should any committee member fail to attend committee meetings regularly then he or she may be asked to give an explanation. If the reason is of insufficient justification, the committee member may be asked to stand down from their post and another member co-opted to fill the position.

### Membership

Members of the club will be approved by the committee.

No person will be accepted for membership without completing a membership application form declaring if he or she has had any convictions under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, Cotes or The Animal Welfare Act. The membership form will state that if an applicant declares a past conviction then a committee member will contact them to discuss the offence and conviction, the committee member will then report back to the main committee for a decision if the application would be approved or not.

The annual subscription rate shall be determined at the AGM each year.

Any member whose subscription is more than eight weeks overdue after the end of May shall cease to be a member, but will be eligible for approval as an associate member and will pay the full joining fee as appropriate.

Should the committee have any reason to believe that a member has acted in a manner injurious to Falconry or the club then the member may be required to furnish a written explanation to the Secretary for the consideration of the committee or to appear in person before the committee. The member can claim a personal hearing if preferred. The Secretary must give the member at least 14 days notice of the committee's requirements. Should the member refuse to comply, the committee may terminate the membership. They may also terminate the membership

should they decide that the member has acted in a way harmful to Falconry and/or the WHC.

Any member wishing to dispose of a bird obtained through the clubs' breeding project must first offer the bird back to the club at the purchase price.

Only full members are eligible to vote on club affairs.

Proxy and postal votes are not permitted, however email votes are permitted within the committee to ensure the smooth running of the club.

Associate members wishing to obtain full membership may apply in writing to the Secretary for the consideration of the committee. Prior to applying the applicant should normally have completed at least 12 months membership. The applicant must normally have successfully trained and hunted with a bird of prey witnessed by a full member.

All members will be strongly encouraged to complete the LANTRA award beginning with the falconry award during the first 12 months of membership. The WHC will assist with training at regional level.

The WHC will offer junior membership to those in full time education. Junior members will be entitled to attend social and field meetings but not vote on club matters or stand for office. This membership will be offered at 50% discount of full club membership.

### Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the main Field Meeting each year.

Meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or in their absence one of the other officers as appropriate.

### Alteration to Rules

Rules may only be altered by a vote taken at the AGM or at an EGM. Notices of motions for the AGM or EGM shall be sent to the Secretary in writing to arrive at least 6 weeks

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prior to these meetings. Any member wishing to call an EGM shall inform the Secretary in writing stating the reason for such a meeting. 20 full members must countersign the application.

### Code of Conduct

The well being of all birds of prey both domestic and wild together with the continuation of Falconry must be the aim of all members.

Falconry is the flying of trained birds of prey and owls at suitable quarry found in a natural state. No action must bring this into disrepute.

Every hawk must be properly manned and equipped.

Every endeavour must be made to recover a lost bird.

All birds flown free must have news jesses removed. All birds must wear a working transmitter and it is strongly advised that it is wearing at least one bell. In the case of un-entered or aggressive hawks, eagles, hybrids, exotics etc, special care must be taken when flown free.

Relevant quarry licences must be obtained where applicable.

Permission must be obtained before entering upon ground and it must be ascertained whether another falconer already has permission in which case his/her permission must also be sought. Due respect must be given to landowners and their property.

The club considers that fox, deer and mink are unsuitable quarry for hunting with birds in particular with more than two hounds. (In Scotland it is illegal to kill deer by any other means than shooting).

### Regions

To provide social and educational meetings for members living locally, although any club member will be welcome to attend.

- To arrange local field meetings which the main club field meeting rules will govern.
- To be made open to all club members.
- To arrange fund raising to assist with paying for speakers and field meets.
- To promote falconry and the WHC.

### Rules

Members will form no new region unless the committee at a committee meeting has agreed it.

All regions must open a bank or building society account in the name of the WHC. It is recommended that the account have two signatories.

Any non-members attending will be made welcome for 3 meetings after this time they will be given the opportunity to complete an application form to join the club. If they decline they will no longer be allowed to attend the meetings, even as a guest of another member.

A register of attendees will be kept at all meetings, primarily to enforce rule 3.

The regional secretary will forward a written report each year to the Editor of the Austringer, to reach him no later than the end of February for inclusion in the Austringer for that year.

A report must be sent by the regional Treasurer to the club Treasurer showing the state of the region's finances, to reach her no later than the end of September for inclusion in the Treasurer's report at the AGM.

Each region will hold an election at its next meeting following the AGM. It will elect from its full members a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to run the meetings. One of these may also be elected as a member to attend the main meetings. This representative will have full voting rights.

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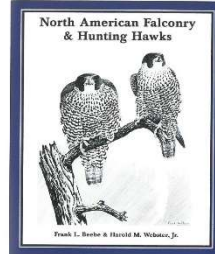
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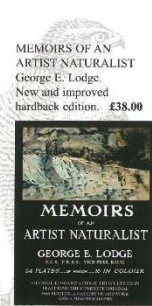
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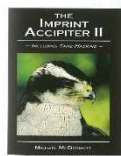
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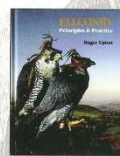
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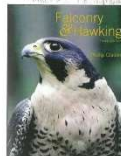
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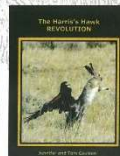
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