



The Austringer

The Journal of the Welsh Hawking Club

No. 43 2011



President's Preamble

Hello All,
This will be a short letter due to the fact that it has been a quiet year for a change.
The club had our stand as usual at the Falconry Fair, but the attendance was down from normal numbers and it is with no surprise that we have learned that the venue has changed for 2011. We are hoping this will turn out to be much better for future fairs, as they say "time will tell".
The CLA last year at Ragley Hall was much better for the club, less distance to travel and more members able to attend. We had plenty of help on the stand and a lot of interest from the public. This year it is at Blenheim Palace, Friday 22nd July – Sunday 24th July so again we are hoping to see plenty of members in attendance and hopefully some to help on the stand.
If you are going to attend I would

advise leaving plenty of time for travel as the last time it was held here it caused traffic chaos!
The annual AGM was held again at the Bryn Howell Hotel. This is proving to be the best venue we have had for a long time, food and rooms are excellent and the hunting is within easy reach. For those of you who have not attended this field meet before it should be a must for this year!
The quarry count was good and the landowners and keepers have helped us over the years. Of course a lot of this is due to the hard work done by the field officer Neil McCann to whom I give a great Thank you.
Coming up much later Sun. 11th December – Sun 18th December is the Third International Festival of Falconry, this year hosted by the Emirates Falconers' Club in Abu Dhabi. As yet we are not sure of the clubs attendance but some members are



already making travel arrangements. Hopefully, we will have more news in the "Mews Letter" later in the year.
On this note I will close now and wish you all a good breeding season and look forward to seeing some of you at the fairs in the future.
Dave Dimond

From the editors

Mike & Julie Clowes

Julie and I took over as joint editors of the Austringer at the 2010 AGM after Andy Hulme decided that 4 years was enough. The Clubs thanks go out to Andy for all his hard work...you can relax now Andy.
As you work your way through the journal you will notice that we have re-wrapped it a little. We have shortened the Field Meet report by leaving out the details of individual groups and the lists of quarry. The Rouse has gone but details of regional contacts have remained.
There is a new heading called "The Hunt", where members can blow off steam about any falconry related subject that they feel strongly about.
We have a mixture of articles from members and various countries around the globe which we hope you will enjoy. We would like to thank

those who took the time to put pen to paper to write the articles and ask those who were a little nervous about doing so to make an extra effort next year.
Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Pete Eldrett for his expertise in preparing the lay-out of this journal.



Chairman's Chatter



Hello members,
Well here we are another year on. This will be my third Chairman's report for the Austringer and when I wrote the first one I knew very few of the members outside of my own South Wales region. Now after a couple of Falconers Fairs, CLA's other game fairs and of course the Festival of Falconry I have met so many more of you from around the country. Admittedly there are many more I am still to meet and many more stories

to hear.
I feel it is going to be another tough year in 2011, we may have a different government in power but the cuts to both services and jobs will prove to be difficult.
It is times like this when our hobbies and pastimes keep us going. Falconry is one of those country sports which can be enjoyed both solitary and in multiple company. How many times have you been out hawking alone and seen one of those amazing flights from your bird whether it culminated in a kill or not. You couldn't wait to tell anyone who would listen at the next monthly meeting. Or you would be out with a couple of other falconers and a couple of Harris hawks would be on the tail of a flushed rabbit, each birds owner willing his/her bird to be the victor. It

is days like this which keep our sport going and makes us all want to get up in the morning.
The big change for this year will be the moving of the Falconers fair to Ragley Hall the scene of last years CLA game fair. It will be interesting to see which part of the site they will use but more importantly lets hope it brings in new ideas both for the arena and for the trade part of the show. I should also bring more people from the southern part of the country who, in the past have thought that Chertwynd Park was too far.
We are back to Blenheim Palace for the CLA this year, one of my personal favourite venues.
By the time you read this another season will be over and some of you will be into your breeding season, so enjoy what you do and I will see you at one of the many shows this year.
Best Wishes, Mick Cordell

Regional contacts and Field Meet News for 2011

South Wales	North Wales
Meetings 2nd Monday of each month at the Olway Inn, Usk	Meetings 1st Tuesday of each month at the Olway Inn, Usk. At the Railway Inn, Chester Road, Helstby
Contact: Dr David Ridpath 01594 860918	Contact: Neil McCann 0151 929 3402
South West	Essex
Meetings 3rd Monday of each month The Dartmoor Lodge, Pear Tree Cross Ashburton, Devon	Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month The Whalebone Inn, Fingringhoe, nr. Colchester
Contact: Kevin Mosedale 01404 823398	Contact: Pete Dawson 07973 814883

The Welsh Hawking Club Annual Field Meet will be held at the Bryn Howell Hotel, Llangollen.
Registration will be on Tuesday, 18th October and the Meet continues 19th-21st inclusive.
The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th October at 9.00pm
Information on costs etc will be notified later in the year by Newsletter and on the website.

What's inside



Front & Back Cover Sparrowhawk & Goshawk photographs – courtesy of Steve Magennis.

Page 2 Greetings from President & Chairman.

Page 3 Editors hello & Regional contacts.

Pages 6-8 Another Great Start to the Morning – Mark Williams.

Pages 10-11 British Archives of Falconry – Mark Upton.

Pages 12-14 Extreme Weather – Jemima Parry-Jones MBE.

Pages 16-17 Jewel in the Highlands – Frank Whitley.

Pages 19-21 Field Meet 2010 – Neil McCann.

Page 22 Club Wedding – Mike & Rena.

Page 23 My Rant – Pete Eldrett.

Pages 24-25 The Death and Life of a Valley Quail – Anon.

Pages 26-27 Caution, Birds of Prey in Operation – Mike Coupe.

Pages 28-29 The Grouse Hawking Junkie – Dave Jones.

Page 31 Festival of Falconry 2011.

Pages 32-33 Club Goshawk – Neil McCann.

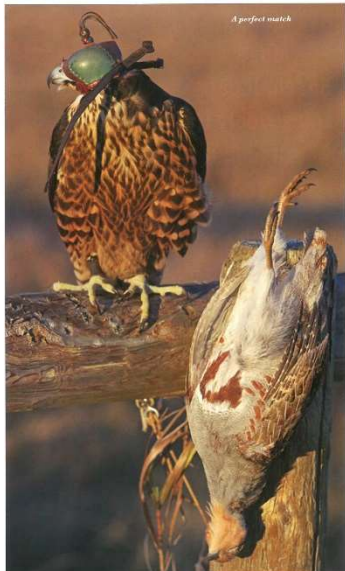
Pages 34-35 Air Support – Joe Atkinson.

Page 36 The Merlin Story – Andy Hulme.

Pages 38-39 WHC Committee, Rules and Constitution

Enjoy your read.

Another Great Start to the Morning



Well I have to admit to having been hard at it for 6 weeks and it has been a great season so far but now the ducks are all but gone the going is tougher ...but not impossible. It was another one of those "great to be alive" mornings while out hawking in those few hours of daylight and before work today. To be honest the low numbers of huns we are finding (or not) as the case may be, tends to make these days all the more special lately. Goes to show how easily we can take for granted the good years when game is a plenty. Hopefully they will return soon.

The crazy harvest and the fact some canola fields are still laying as swath has not helped in allowing us into the fields and finding out just how good or poor the local hun population is. I am sure when snow arrives we will know more but that is unlikely anytime soon as the weather is crazy +15c right now.

So this mornings long drive searching for a flight for each of my two terocles was almost coming to an end as I had to be at work by 11am. I was almost resigned to the fact that I may not get slip and it would not be the first time now the ducks have mostly gone south. I had run dogs by familiar areas that previously held good hun numbers but no luck, you know that sinking feeling. I had sort of tried it but a few of my honey spots and was feeling a bit sorry for myself and all dressed up with nowhere to go. Both birds in the back were in peak condition and not only were in peak condition and not only was now filled with anticipation and excitement as I knew what was to

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by Mark Williams



Wallace's 25th head

out to be some of the best game hawks I have flown. I don't base that opinion on sheer head count but their passion to fly and hunt and the tremendous potential they are showing me.

My persistence was rewarded by accidentally bumping a big covey of huns off the road and a hundred yards out into Canola stubble. What was sweet about this was that I was in the middle of nowhere and no cover for a long way except a small draw or coulee a few hundred yards further out from where they mostly landed.

First to fly was Wallace my gyr barbury terocel. He did not get flown yesterday as he was cropped the day before for his successful flight on a hun. This little 600 gram bird has shown tremendous potential in this his first season and has already taken well over 30 head, mostly ducks and several of which were big mallards. The sky is clear blue, the stubble golden with the morning sunrise and the temperatures were still a cool 14c and all this set within a backdrop of the snow capped Rocky Mountains in the distance before me. Who could ask for more dramatic and picturesque steps to be flying against. I count my blessings and was now filled with anticipation and excitement as I knew what was to

come and the set up was as good as it gets. So confident was I that I picked up the tiny Marshall 433 mhz Field Marshall receiver that I am testing as this little baby fitted into my vest pocket and was a great asset trying to locate a downed bird on a kill in cover. No need to sling my stealth over my shoulder and have bang about. If the flight ended in the coulee I knew I'd be needing it and while a walk back to the truck is not unreasonable, these little falcons are best not left out alone for any time with bigger predators looking to survive.

He is way up by the time I let the dogs out and started walking to relocate the covey. I have a hundred yards to reach the area and I let the dogs run out ahead to get a point. The covey held together with exception to the last three or so birds that landed in a string. I estimate Wallace to be close to a grand when a single first bumps and he starts his stoop. He is wide and it has a good lead being so near to the edge of the coulee compared to the majority of the covey so he pulls up by the time it reaches the coulee. The thing I like about this bird is that in his pitch up he powers up still pumping his wings hard, giving him superb momentum and towering pitch ups. These in turn tends to give him an edge much

like it did today when the rest of the covey bust moments later and he was able to roll over and stoop back down. Because he is over the coulee the covey head out towards me and arc around me in a nice big compact curving covey quite high up in the air. I look up and here comes Wallace who selects a hun right in front of me for a super high speed power bind. The combination of audible sound effects of air rushing through his wings along with the huge puff of feathers upon impact as he binds and holds on falling to ground, makes for an exhilarating natural high as my endorphins shoot into my veins at the sight and sound of such a natural drama. I can't begin to articulate the experience but an awesome flight and one of many I have seen lately with these two fine young birds, but it was made all the more spectacular to me by me being so close to the outcome for a change. All that was missing was my camera to capture and share the moment as it unfolded but I was more concerned in the flush and flight.

Not a mile down the road I also got to fly "Coal" my 575 gram terocel anatum in a last minute tour around a familiar field with a good long draw through it. Low and behold I bump two covey's of huns not 20 yards apart totalling over 20 birds and they fly into the stubble a hundred yards or so out but well apart from each other. I grin to myself with that knowing feeling and am consciously aware that this flight is going to make me late for work as I have a far drive home before me yet. I can't turn this one down as I have driven too hard and long to do this. I put Coal up, then ready the dogs and as sure as heck as is often the case with this little guy I lose sight of him. I cross the draw and walk out into the stubble on the opposite side. I now wish I had brought the telemetry receiver as I am quite away from the truck but cannot see this bird as hard as I scan the clear blue sky. I am almost upon where I think the covey had landed and after checking the dogs positions, I look up to the sky. A swiftness as he is directly above me but wassay up. I did not even have chance to drop my head to locate the dogs and huns when the

huns suddenly burst all around me. In the commotion of three pointers coming unglued and huns busting all around me I look up to look in the stoop. He is a pin prick and falling and as he twists in his teardrop I lose sight of him momentarily and then he comes back into view as his profile changes in the sky. Meanwhile the huns are heading to cover where the second covey went in. He twists and turns to align with

his target and he hits it down but just over a slight brow of an incline in the prairie stubble field. A sharp pitch up and second pass tells me he does not have it. Moments later the dogs arrive and the second covey nearby explodes in all directions. Needless to say the flight went to hell in a hand basket from that point on and huns were flying in all directions. I can't blame the dogs as I encourage them to follow the flights

to be near the bird on quarry for fear of opportunistic predators. A good flight nose the less but this time the hun gets away. I am encouraged by the sightings as it seems the entire hun population is in this field. It does not matter how long I have been at this game but I just can't get enough of this. It sure puts you in the right frame of mind for work. I am off tomorrow and out yet again and will expand my search area for huns.



Mallard sequence on godswill

■ The Aukletter 2011

British Archives of Falconry

While British falconers today enjoy some of the finest falconry ever seen, it is very easy for us to think ourselves better falconers than those who have been before us. Throughout history there have always been great falconers, along with those, who while keen haven't quite made it to the highest standards. Having an interest in the falconers who went before us, and read much about them, I believe that while some of the greats of the past would be impressed with some of the flights today they wouldn't find them anymore spectacular than their

own best flights. They would equally find some of today's flying not very good, as all ages of falconers have their good and bad falconers. This shouldn't worry us as it is the natural scheme of things and none of us can expect all flights to be good.

What is interesting in studying the old diaries and books, is that falconers have always behaved much as we do today. There have always been some admired by others, some quite rude about their fellow falconers practices and the usual political problems faced by clubs. This is why many of us find reading about the past so interesting and has driven some of us to try to protect our

falconry archives for falconers of the future.

In 1980 Debrett's published "A Bird in the Hand", the first of three books on the history of falconry written by my father, Roger Upton. Rather surprisingly for both publisher and author, the book was not only popular amongst falconers but sold very well to the general public, selling about 5,000 copies. This book, particularly, made the falconry community around the world sit up and realise how interesting the history of the sport was and how necessary it was to preserve it. Kent Carnie once told me that the book helped start an interest in the USA which ended up



Ayong Sirhan Frank and Roger Upton

10 The Aukletter 2011



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by Mark Upton



Captain Knight stooping a Merlin to the lure

with the instigation of The American Archives at Boise. The American Archives of Falconry, more lately the Archives of Falconry, have done a most wonderful job of saving falconry archives and making us realise the importance of saving falconry material. They now have a purpose built archives building and museum and all this has been achieved by the hard work of Kent and his helpers and a generous tax system for donations in the USA.

The only draw back for British falconers is it is so far away, and although it is wonderful that the archives are saving items, many of them are from Britain and it is a shame they can't stay here. Because of this a few years ago a group of us got together to look at what could be done to save material over here. We didn't want to set up in opposition to the American Archive but to work together. Out of this came the Falconry Heritage Trust who's aims were to set up an online archive to give access to material to any falconer or interested party around the world, to help those

studying falconry archives with small donations and to at sometime start a physical archive with protected storage. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahayan of Abu Dhabi kindly gave a donation to get things moving and the online archive has now been up and running for several years and is shortly to get a facelift with a more up to date look. (www.falconryheritage.com) The Falconry Heritage Trust was also involved with the recent UNESCO bid, in which our history was a major part of the submission. The bid was a major success with falconry now being listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Partly because of the work involved in getting the website up and running and the UNESCO bid, the starting of the physical archive has been rather delayed. With the help of the BFC and others, a group of us have recently taken the step of renting storage space, and with some donations of archive material, started The British Falconry Archive under the wing of the Falconry Heritage Trust. It is hoped that if this

is a success the Trust can encourage other countries to start their own archives and we can all work together and share information through the Trust.

Our aims are to save as much falconry related material as we can, preserving it as safely as possible and digitally copying it for future use and keeping a database of all the archives. It is hoped that much of the material can stay in the ownership of individual falconers and clubs, but we could offer safe storage where necessary, and hopefully digitally copy and record as many items as possible, recording where they are kept etc so that we can ensure their safety in the future.

It is hoped that we will get support from the falconry community in donations of materials and finances to achieve these aims, as we are doing this very much for falconers and interested parties of the present and future. Remember falconry as practiced today, will be tomorrow's history.

The Aukletter 2011 11

Extreme Weather



Stella Sea Eagle

For the second year in a row we are experiencing very to extremely cold weather. We also have snow. It is at times like these that I think the Lord that I have well built and totally rooved enclosures because I don't have to rush round knocking snow off the roof and upsetting the birds, and praying that the top will not collapse from the weight of snow. When it thaws I know my birds don't have just above freezing water dripping on them. I know that my birds are dry and therefore able to fluff up their feathers and keep warmer. However in these extreme temperatures that is often not enough.

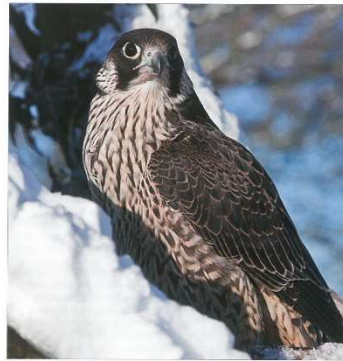
Tethered birds are by far the most vulnerable to extremes of weather, both hot and cold. Heat is less likely to affect them after dark, however that is probably when cold is going to do the most damage. And damage it will do. I suspect that there will be, and probably already are, a lot of cases of

wing tip oedema around. Sadly these days many people have no idea what it even is, and yet do and should know and we do and should be able to prevent it happening. I recently heard a story from a friend of mine who was asked for some advice on a Harris Hawk that was not doing well flying. On looking at it he pointed out that it was missing the tips of its wings, not only the feathers but the bone as well. The owner went back to the seller of the bird who told him the bird was moulting and that was why the feathers were missing. The owner believed the seller, not the person to whom he had gone for advice, which was remarkably stupid. The incredible lack of knowledge and understanding would be laughable where it is not so crassly stupid, so tough on the individual birds who suffer from these idiots, and so very bad for the name of falconry.

If you leave almost any species of bird out tethered in this weather you will have problems and I will stand by

that statement, whatever the species as even Steller's Sea-eagles who happily sit on the ground in deep snow during the day, generally roost in trees off the ground at night. It is so damn cold outside this morning as I write this, that the hairs in my nose froze when I look the dogs round the field and the outside fur on the dogs where they had been playing and left damp patches on their coats were also frozen. Tethered birds can't get away from the cold and unless it is an air front, i.e. a heat front, the worst of the cold will always be close to the ground, i.e. where the birds are tethered.

I think another aspect that people forget is that the very cold weather we have had here is very different from the cold in the Arctic for example. The same friend of mine said that when out hawking up north in the US, it was bitterly cold, but dry, he could work with the birds (Prairie and Gyrs) and even put sweats on without gloves, it was a much more bearable cold. In



Peregrine Falcon

the same temperatures in Scotland, he could not even put the leash on without gloves! So remember ours is a much wetter cold than that which birds are used to further north.

My thoughts when people bithely state that their birds are fine in the cold, that they survive perfectly well, are that I would love to leave those who say this outside, for the whole of one bitterly cold night. They would no doubt survive, but I suspect they would not have a particularly pleasant night and would definitely not want to do it again. If you put a bird or animal in a cage or tether it, and thus restrict its ability to choose where it sits, flies or how it lives its life, then you and only you are responsible for making sure that it is as comfortable as possible, and not merely surviving. Bear that in mind at night when the temperature outside suddenly plummets and you are in the warm and comfort of your home.

So what to do; no bird should be left tethered outside in the sort of weather that we have had during December this year (2010). You can

free loft a bird, which is the best way to keep many of them anyway, but not possible for us at the Centre because we have too many to do that and still fly them.

Free lofting means loose in an aviary, but even that in this weather may not be enough if your aviary is exposed and the bird or birds are not able to get out of cold wind and freezing temperatures, or the birds are species that do not normally have to deal with this sort of cold. We actually put translucent plastic over the fronts of most of our aviaries in early December this year, it made a huge difference to the birds cutting out the wind completely and even making it a little warmer inside, however that really only works if you have rooved aviaries. It is not a great deal of good if the top is wire. But again just to give you an idea of what the cold can do, I have two horses that are in every night and in the worst of the cold their droppings were frozen in the stables in the morning, so that is inside a wooden building with straw on the floor, only one small

by **Jemima Parry-Jones**

top door open to the elements, and that a ton of warm horse in there as well, that's cold!

I would strongly advise even with free lofted birds, particularly those you might still be flying and are therefore down to flying weight, that you put a source of heat in the aviary that the bird can benefit from. We are just now working on heated perch shelves using under floor heating wire, we should have it sussed out pretty soon. The mat type that looks like a giant piece of encapsulation does not work, it is not powerful enough to heat a shelf perch, if the outside temperature is below freezing. However the wire seems to do so, I will share the design and method once we have it done. For the time being you can use overhead heat lamps, but you have to be careful as they can cause frost and they are bloody expensive to run. The other option with a flying bird is to bring it in at night, which will work, but be careful not to put it out until the temperature has warmed up a little in the day, and in fact there were several days recently when we did not dare put the birds out at all. My Peregrine was sitting on an indoor perch in the stock room for four days!

We have an indoor Hawk Walk for the trained tethered birds in the winter months, but this year it was below freezing in there.

We grounded all the birds that would be most in danger, i.e. all the juvenile falcons, the Barbary, the African Peregrine, Lamers, Brahminy Kites and any other bird we could do without and put them all in aviaries so they were less vulnerable, and they went into the most sheltered ones we have. So I guess my answer here would be if you are free lofting a bird that is in flying condition with the weather we have had before and over Christmas 2010 then you need either to give it heat in the aviary or bring it inside.

Again just to bring home the point, we run Owl Evenings in the winter, so every Friday and Saturday evening including in the very cold weather we have visitors round and part of the experience is to fly some of the owls. The smaller ones such as the Barn Owl we fly indoors, but even weighing



Owl in the snow

the birds twice a day which we do on principle with any species under 400 grams in cold weather, our Barn Owl during that very cold spell, and who flies at about 280 grams, lost 30 grams in twelve hours, that is like

weighing 10 stone and losing a stone over night, a nice thought for some, but you would be very ill if you did. So what about birds that are in fat condition and in aviaries, well again you can and will have problems with

birds that are not evolved to winter in conditions such as we are having this winter unless your aviaries are very sheltered. You need to think ahead, and plan for bad weather, particularly as it seems at the moment that we are getting more of it.

Winterise your aviary, so it is secure from extreme cold, snow, and icy winds. Think about a heated perch for birds such as Lamers, Harris Hawks, Luggers and not to forget the owls, Spectacled Owls and other tropical species, not least the tiny ones, who are even more vulnerable.

You may not even see that you had a problem until the following summer, when your bird starts to moult and all of a sudden you find several primary feathers along with a part of the wing on the floor of your aviary, and by that time it is too late.

Be aware of cold weather, plan for it, make sure that you can keep your bird or birds warm and safe and comfortable in below freezing temperatures, day and night.

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Jewel in the Highlands



My dog Elsa

To those of us in the southern counties of England, hawking in Scotland seems to have an almost mythical reputation of plentiful and varied game to suit every kind of raptor. I have to admit to being a little envious of reports of enormous bags of rabbits being taken. Rabbit numbers in Shropshire have taken a hard knock in recent years, so the allure of Scotland is perhaps understandable but can we still rely on outstanding rabbit hawking to justify the journey up there?

For the past two years, in

November, I have taken a few weeks holiday in the Cairngorms National Park. Elsa, my female Harris Hawk, has come along and this year I took my two ferrets along as well. I have been lucky enough to be able to fly Elsa on a local estate of some 40,000 acres. The downside is that I haven't seen a rabbit there in years. There seem to be plenty of red grouse about, the odd blackcock, mountain hare and ptarmigan on the high tops, even red leg partridge by the river. Last year there was a glimmer of hope of success on a close slip at a gossander but unsurprisingly it got away. Three successive slips

at grouse succeeded in teaching the hawk only one thing - that she couldn't catch them, but it was fun anyway!

My ultimate goal is to fly a peregrine on this ground - something to work on for future years perhaps. For most of the time I was quite content walking for hours at a time with the hawk following on. One of the reasons I enjoy flying Elsa is that she doesn't need to be constantly served with game. It's a good job too because she was of course completely outclassed. The magnificent setting in the Cairngorms Pine Forest, flanked by impressive



Elsa on the bridge

mountains more than makes up for the lack of realistic quarry.

This year was supposed to be different. The intention was to make a concerted effort to secure new permissions, traveling further if necessary. Through local contacts I tried several farms and estates and was surprised how much of the ground was kept for pheasant shoots, so flying a Harris was simply not going to happen. Other owners claimed that all the rabbits had disappeared or had been 'taken care of'.

The lucky break came towards the end of my holiday, when I introduced myself to Ian, a falconer who I had heard lived on the fringes of the National Park. It was more a long shot really in an attempt to get some more contacts. As it turned out, Ian also had access to several hundred acres of rough hillground and a few thousand acres of grouse moor. Ian kindly offered to let me fly Elsa at rabbits as he had a few that could be

taken with ferrets. He said there were far fewer than in previous years but I was not to be disappointed. It turned out to be outstanding rabbit ground for the Harris and probably would be for virtually any other falconry species. If the mythical perfect hawking ground in Scotland exists then this, in my opinion, would be it.

Apart from an abundance of rabbits above and below ground, there were wild pheasant, woodcock, snipe and partridge on the lower hill. I didn't see any brown hare but apparently they were there too. The rough terrain and vegetation were ideal and a scattering of trees provided perfect launch pads for some thrilling flights. Further up the hill, the grouse moor rises to the high tops which were covered in snow in early November. Ian currently flies a peregrine falcon in her eighth season and a first year tercel.

I started early on my first day as Ian had said he wanted to take his peregrines onto the moor in the

afternoon. Within minutes of leaving my car, Elsa had a rabbit in the bag, kicked up from the rushes. Although that was her only kill of the morning, there were several other flights at rabbit and pheasant, both from the glove and from trees. The ferrets produced a few bolts, but Elsa could not quite connect. When secure in her box, Ian asked me if I would like to join him on the moor with the falcons. This was not an offer to turn down and with the help of the argool, we were up on the moor within minutes.

With the GSP on point the falcon was released and circled to find a good pitch directly over the dog. Just as she stopped back with the wind, a pair of grouse took their chance and hammered off in the opposite direction. The falcon realised that pursuit was futile and held her position. The next point flushed a grouse that made a poor decision to attempt a downwind escape. A quick turn and devastating stoop had the young grouse on the floor. The whole thing looked remarkably simple but I knew was the culmination of many hours of hard work.

We called it a day there, but I was back the next morning to make more use of the ferrets. Elsa took another rabbit flushed from the rushes and two rabbits bolted by the ferrets. Ian suggested trying a bury only yards from the back of his house in a grass field. The ferret disappeared from the hole while Ian looked on. Many of us will be familiar with that pause that gives a sense that something is about to happen. Five rabbits exploded from the bury at the same time. Elsa took a moment to pick her target but connected before the other four disappeared back where they had come from.

Ian could see how pleased I was with my two mornings on his land, and remarked that he looked forward to reading my article in the "Austriager". This got me thinking...

To finish I take this opportunity to thank Ian again for allowing me to fly on this ground. I have returned to Shropshire with memories of superb hawking and it was well worth the journey up there.

by Frank Whitley



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WHC Field Meeting 2010 Report

by Neil McCann

Once again I am writing a short report for the Newsletter, and it's hard to believe it's been twelve months since the last three day meet. As you can see by the game the groups caught there was plenty to fly at and the weather was more than kind. On a sad note, Mike Couple lost his falcon of the first day at Llandegla, and to this day the falcon has yet to be seen. On the other hand, Ray Smith lost his male goshawk chasing a pheasant at Llandegla - it lost its telemetry and fell in flight whilst going through a fence! After three

hours searching, all four falconers thought "this is the last chance of getting it back today - it must have killed" then whilst the rest of the group went back to their cars, Andy Povey went to the rearing field where he put the goshawk up. It went to the nearest tree with a huge crop, and got caught by one jess. John and I must have walked past him numerous times! How pleased were Mick Kana and Ray Smith? Huge relief all round. Kris Urens travelled from Belgium with his Rodtail and took five pheasants at the meet. Before going home, he stayed with Bryan Paterson for a

couple of days and caught a brown hare. Not a bad week away! The hotel we stayed in was great. The food was excellent, the washing ground is a hundred times better than the other hotels and as for the car park, it is huge! Members I spoke to during the three days there thought it would be good to stay there again for the 2011 three day meet, and so I have rebooked the hotel for next season.

Thanks to all the members that attended the meet.



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Fieldmeeting 2010 Llangollen

Mike and Rena get married



Congratulations are in order to your Webmaster and his new wife, Mike and Rena Roberts. They were married on Saturday, 6 November at Brown Knowle Methodist Church, Nr. Chester. As can be seen from the photograph, Mike was prepared to go hunting following the reception.



22 The Avianizer 2011



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My Rant!

by Peter Eldrett

Is it me, or is falconry getting too cheap? Equipment and certain species of raptor are affordable by most people these days, so is our sport attracting the wrong person to own and train a bird of prey? By that, I mean that many people don't have any experience of finding out how to keep a bird of prey and what equipment and housing is needed. They don't go on a course that is being taken by falconers who are experienced, Lantra or otherwise, to see if the responsibility of owning such a living being is for them. I get to hear stories about people who just find out where to obtain a bird from a breeder after just seeing a DVD or video and read a book and they think that is all it takes. Unfortunately, there are some breeders out there who are just wanting to make a 'quick buck' and don't ask the correct questions of the prospective purchaser. Why they want a bird, how will it be housed, what equipment have they got, which vet they intend to use if anything goes wrong, etc. etc.

Many years ago when Harris' Hawks were introduced into this country for the purposes for falconry, a single hawk could cost £1500-£1000. Nowadays, you can pick one up for £100. It won't be long before the market is saturated with Harris' Hawks costing under the £200 mark. Goodness knows what will be happening in 10 years or so. Also, it probably won't be too long before Goshawks go in a similar way. The welfare of any bird or animal should be paramount, but not everyone feels the same. I have heard of birds being kept in rabbit hutches and even in the spare bedroom of their homes. This, I find utterly repulsive.

I do believe that the cost is going the wrong way and breeders should be asking more - £600 £700 or more should be the norm for Harris' and Redtail Hawks. Some may think that even that price is too low. It is not only these species, either. Falcons are suffering the same

face. You can log onto any falconry related website on the computer or read in certain bird related publications to see how many birds there are for sale at a ridiculously low price. These attract people who have absolutely no idea of what they are buying or even how to house them.

Even then, we see why people are selling their charges, "job forces sale", "House move forces sale". I know that some of these may be genuine, but really, are these adverts from people who just want a different bird just for the sake of it? Then you get the other side of the coin with people who are new to our sport, "What is the best bird to start falconry with?" Start with? This sounds like someone doesn't intend keeping a raptor for very long.

What can be better than manning, training and flying a hawk and see it progress year after year? Some so called falconers just want a hawk for a couple of years and then sell it on to get a different species. How many people sell their dogs when it has reached an age of about three or four years to buy another one? You don't hear of many people purchasing a springer spaniel and then selling it to buy a pointer, so why sell a hawk or falcon after a short period of time? They say a dog is for life, so why not a hawk or falcon?

Then there are others - who, thankfully are in the minority - lose their hawk or falcon whilst flying and just turn around and go home to order a replacement, not even bothering to go and look for the lost raptor. How irresponsible is that?

Then we come onto equipment. There is so much rubbish out there and so cheap it can put a hawk's welfare or even life, at risk. Bow and block perches, hoods, gloves and even swivels are attracting perspective purchasers because of the low cost. Why people don't want to pay a bit extra for good quality I don't know. In this country we are very lucky

to have excellent manufacturers of gloves, hoods and perches but some falconers are into the false economy syndrome. A good quality glove costing upwards £60.00 or more, for instance, will give you many years service if looked after properly.

So, if any falconer out there agrees or disagrees with me get in contact and don't just blast about it with your mates down the pub. The price of good equipment which will last costs the same as a few pints - which don't last! We should be proud of our sport and we all have a duty of care to keep the art of falconry going for as long as possible - not just in this country but all over the world. It's not just for us at this moment in time, but think about future generations.

Any youngster we know who may be interested in our sport should be encouraged to be part of it with the same passion as the rest of us oldies. With the tremendous news of last year from UNESCO it would perhaps encourage young people to join clubs or, as in some cases, bird of prey centers who run courses designed to educate school children in most aspects of our sport.

One aspect I have not yet mentioned is the hard work the hawk board does for falconers and raptor keepers in this country. There are those who knock the hawk board and what it does without finding out the why's and wherefore's before moaning. If it wasn't for the hawk board, we wouldn't be enjoying falconry as we do today in the UK. Just think about certain aspects such as the quarry we fly at, the close relationship we have with bodies such as DEFRA, Animal Health and The Countryside Alliance, the de-regulation of certain species, etc. We have a lot to be thankful for.

At the end of day, we should support our sport in a responsible manner and enjoy going out with friends or on our own to fly our birds. For just a few hours we can forget all the trials and tribulations that are happening in our lives and just have fun.

The Death & Life of a Valley Quail



What a beautiful day. I love waking up to the sun glistening on the snow. The problem is that the cold makes my stomach feel that my throats been cut. I'm Quentin, a valley Quail and my claim to fame is that I am the state bird of California, not that this has any bearing on the guys here in Oregon. I think I'm quite a cutie with my distinctive striped chest feathers and my pretty curving six feathered crest.

My name is Tinkerbelle and I am a perlin. If you are not familiar with perlins, we are smallish falcons, a cross between a peregrine and a merlin. By combining those two birds you get a perlin... get it? My days start with a good bath as I want to look my best when out flying. Looking my best is not all that difficult as I am quite beautiful already. It is not necessary for you to tell me I'm gorgeous because I already know this.

and the hood miser. This makes my human mad and he makes sounds that I usually only hear when the dog does something stupid. I am then put on the scale and weighed which I don't like because sometimes I am told I am too fat. When I hear that I won't fly well and I may just fly off. I mean, what lady wants to be told she's too fat, I don't! I don't know what the human's female is like but I'll bet he doesn't go around telling her she's too fat and then expect her to go hunting and do all the things he wants, like come back when he whistles, come over here or hey, I'm calling you, please come down! I'm no expert but I don't think he does that!

Okay off we go looking for some tasty morsel to get rid of the hunger pangs. I just hope our peaceful existence is not disturbed by the large human who frequently turns up with a huge hairy monster in tow. He lets this beast run all over the place and then it stops and sniffs at us. Sometimes it looks us right in the eye and we stare back waiting for him to give in and back off. He never does but pushes us with his nose until we have to fly for it.

Where was I... okay, we go to the truck and he sets me down on the perch. Nice enough perch but it could be a little more padded. Then he loads the dog. Oh my god, don't get me started on dogs! What stupid creatures they are! They get screamed at, yanked at, and still they keep coming back for



Tinkerbelle on quail

more. They do find stuff though, I'll give them that. Finally, everything is in the truck and we start looking for quail which is what I like to hunt. Quail are nice enough looking little things and if they did not taste so good I would not bother with them because they are rather annoying to hunt. They always seem to be in the wrong place and I have noticed there is always one sort of boss quail coordinating all the rest, telling them when to fly and where to go. This I find most aggravating. Once a flock of the little sods are found, off comes my hood and I am airborne. This is when I am at my best and, I must say, I look fabulous in the air and I am fast enough to catch anything I want, so look out. Once in the air I look for quail which are usually hiding under some bush or clump of weeds. I can see them running around like ants, looking as if Godzilla is coming, or some other monster. Seriously, get a grip!

We're extra lucky today and we find plenty of seeds so we go to our favourite bush for privacy and gorge

ourselves to our hearts content. I like to think of myself as top quail and that involves me having to keep a look out for any potential dangers. A quick warning nip is all that's needed to let my buddies know that something is afoot. Suddenly I hear a rustling and I spy the hairy monster moving through the bushes. I let out the usual alarm call, everyone crouches and we wait, hardly breathing, hoping we won't be discovered. Oh no! I look up and see a familiar sight, that frighteningly fast bird in the sky, who has been responsible for the loss of many of my friends. It's every bird for himself as we head for better cover.

While I'm working my tail off my human is unloading the dog which typically has no clue where anything is due to the fact they use their brains way too much. It is not until they switch over from brain to nose that anything good starts to happen. That's when I get serious... it's go time! I watch the dog, not the human, as he is too slow to be of any use now. Once I see the

dogs tail go straight up I know that something is going to happen. At this point my human has survived and takes a quick look up to see if I'm there (like, where else would I be) and then out he flush the quail. Now I'll admit, I have on occasion been guilty of looking the other way or turning the wrong direction, but not today. When I see the little sods flush, I twist my wings and do a perfect half roll over, pumping my wings fast on the way down. I quickly turn into a beautiful missile going three times faster than any quail could ever hope to go! Now all that remains is to pick the unlucky target and... voila, grab the little bugger. And there he is, a fat quail right in front of me. You'll do! Mission accomplished and everyone is happy... dog, human, and me! That is how my days go. I wonder how I'd look in a red hoodie?

We reach cover and I shout panic over lads settle down. Wheres Quincy? Quincy... Quincy! Oh no, poor quincy.



Tinkerbelle on the fat

Caution-Birds of Prey in Operation

Yes, this was the sign that greeted us on a visit to see club member James Garton fly falcons in Liverpool. Our local treasurer Nigel Evans had arranged to take junior member Dan Maddock along for a visit and I joined them to take a look at a very different sort of falconry.

James flies raptors for NBC Bird&Pest solutions at various sites in the Liverpool area and has built up a vast expertise flying and handling all sorts of birds of prey. He was the ideal person to give Dan a great insight into how it is all done. I had

read about falcons being used to clear unwanted vermin from building sites and tips and the late Philip Giesler training falcons to scare off gulls etc. from the runways at R.A.F. Lossiemouth in Scotland. However, the reality is a little different and can be very challenging.

We drove onto a vast site with old factories, rough areas of ground, new office blocks etc. an ideal area to harbour vast numbers of pigeons and gulls which make a great deal of mess and pollute the new buildings, costing the owners a great deal of money in cleaning bills. James flies

the falcons as an environmentally friendly way of scaring off the pigeons and gulls, making them think that this is not a safe part of the city to inhabit. He explained that the ideal falcon for this work was one that had lots of energy, chased everything around but didn't actually kill many. If they do kill, the prey can often be caught in a difficult place for retrieval and the falcon can feed up and then cannot be flown again or even worse may spend a night out. A good falcon for this type of work can be flown up to four times a day, so spends hours in the sky doing his job. James is meticulous in recording



In the weighing room



Every picture...

the weight of his falcons and keeps charts, scales etc. in his site office adjacent to the weighing area. This is all in the middle of a very busy site but the falcons soon become accustomed to everything and sit on their blocks completely oblivious to their surroundings. Of course 'bird scare' falcons have to be very fit and flown at a very high weight to enable them to perform but have to be well trained and just hungry enough to return to the lure. It's a difficult thing to get right at the best of times but to fly birds in all conditions throughout the year takes some doing.

Dan was given expert instruction on how to handle a falcon and was then allowed to cast off the star falcon, a Gyr x Barbary hybrid. Dan struck the hand, the falcon rounded, looked around and then was off flying in front of the old Roils Royce building before perching on a new office block. Then the fun started, up and up the falcon went, then stooped and chased pigeons all over the place. This continued for

some time until it seemed to us that the falcon had played around long enough so he went up to a spook and disappeared towards Antree. James wasn't worried, "he often does that sort of thing" he said. Telemetry was switched on and the signal was getting louder, we just glimpsed the falcon so high above us he was just visible with binoculars and still climbing. Then pigeons erupted from everywhere and we watched in awe as this falcon put in a devastating stop just about clearing the whole area of pigeons before returning to the lure. Dan was then allowed to feed up this fantastic falcon on his fat and believe me the falcon had an enormous crop ready for the next days flying. James was then able to give Dan some more advice about cleaning off the falcons

feet and gloves - use baby wipes, very hygienic and also contain lanolin which helps to keep the glove nice and soft. We then left James to attend to his other falcon, a Peregrine x Saker a huge beautiful looking falcon that was a learner in the chasing off idea and was more into straight in for the kill!! On the way home all our families met up at a village car & dog show being held at an equestrian centre. We entered our dogs in various categories, our dog wasn't placed but Nigel's cocker, Gillie, won the first prize for the most handsome dog, as he constantly reminds me! A great day, some fantastic flying, if I close my eyes I can still see that Gyr X Barbary up there in the sky above Liverpool.



Dan with falcon

The Grouse Hawking Junkie



*The Red Percepsio
Turdus, the Goshawk's
favorite prey*

Do you have a compulsion? Mine is 'Grouse Hawking' and I'm hooked on it.

I travel thousands of miles a year just to fly Grouse. It's crazy and expensive.

Where did this compulsive hunting gene come from? I think it's buried within us all from the days when we had to catch our own food.

At the sight of my first hawk at a young age I was infected with a magical virus called falconry.

I tried to shake it off by throwing myself into a business career and the normal things like buying a house etc. but the virus got worst when I bought a dog that wanted to hunt.

I finally gave in and took up falconry then travelled the country in pursuit of game and sport.

My addiction to Grouse hawking started in the highlands of Scotland when I was hunting Blue Hare with my female Goshawk. I flushed a covey of Grouse that exploded like a shotgun in all directions. I could

not believe how fast they flew. My Goshawk bailed and I thought if I come across another covey to fly them.

My Goshawk was very fit and I was convinced that she would catch a Grouse. A covey got up and flew downhill I cast my Goshawk she flew the Grouse with burners on at high speed. At that time I did not realise that a Grouse can reach speeds of up to 80 miles per hour. My Goshawk flew her heart out into the far distance and out of sight. I saw a long walk ahead with telemetry beeping as my dog and I raced downhill bouncing over the heather. One hour later I found my fit and seasoned Goshawk sitting on a rock frustrated with empty talons.

I decided that my next challenge would be to fly a Long-wing and catch a Red Grouse.

Goshawks had set me up well as a hunter, and my steady German Short-tailed Pointer was a good start to find and hold a point on Grouse. It took me several seasons to

learn how to catch a Red Grouse. It was far removed from coming home with a brace or more of Pheasants, Partridge, Ducks or Rabbits. This Long-winging was almost impossible to start with but that was the challenge. It wasn't just a case of getting your Hawk fit and casting it.

You have to believe in your dog before you let your hawk go, as too many false points will ruin a long-wing. Also, learn not to fly in a down draft, wait for your hawk to climb to its maximum height then get your hawk into position before you flush the Grouse down wind to give your hawk a chance of catching one.

One autumn day I got it right and then I was hooked on Grouse Hawking and became a Grouse Hawking Junkie.

What's so different to hawking Partridge, Pheasant, and Duck etc with a long-wing? I didn't know that until I flew a Grouse.

Grouse are the ultimate game bird to fly in the UK they travel at speeds of 80 miles per hour that's why your long-wing needs to climb to a high to use the speed of the stoop to overtake the Grouse and have a chance of catching one. A Grouse will twist and turn like a flying hare. They bail out into the heather and wait for your hawk to try and land on them and then they side step like a top class rugby player and take off leaving your hawk at the starting gate. They will also go underground to get away from your hawk and go into streams (burns) and hide up under the overhanging banks. They are the top survivors, mysterious and totally wild, not bred by man and released.

What more can I say about my addiction! My respect for this hardy moorland bird is immense.

To catch your first Red Grouse with a virgin hawk is a celebration

by Dave Jones



Dogs on point Grouse hiding underground

your sport. When I drive back home from the Grouse moors to Somerset my long-wing spirit is dampened. I try to get my enthusiasm back by hunting my local game ducks, pheasants, partridge etc. It's alright, but not the real thing!

This hawking season has been good to me, I've caught Red Grouse in England Scotland and Wales. (What I call "The Moorland Three") Now my hawks are put away and my lasting images of the hunt for the Red Grouse will remain in my memory until late August arrives then the addiction will start all over again.



Red Grouse/Percepsio Turdus on Grouse in Scotland

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We are delighted to announce that the Emirates Falconers' Club, Abu Dhabi has kindly agreed to host the

3rd International Festival of Falconry

at Al Ain Jahili Fort, United Arab Emirates

Public Festival days
15th, 16th & 17th December 2011

Free admission

Saturday 10th December Meet and greet, Abu Dhabi @ Dubai Airport

Sunday 11th, Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th December Falconry conferences at Al Ain Rotana Hotel Overnight hawking parties at Desert Camp Safari racing at Desert Camp Sand Dune Cinema & evening socials Falcon flying events at Desert Camp Training for Festival Arena Events

Wednesday 14th December Excursions to Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital & Grand Mosque Falconers come to Town - falconers parade in Abu Dhabi

Thursday 15th December Schools day Arena events Award ceremony for Art and Photograph competition Social events

Friday 16th December International Festival of Falconry - free admission Arena events Grand Parade Falconers Feast and Social Evening

Saturday 17th December International Festival of Falconry - free admission Arena events Grand Parade 9:30 Gala Dinner, UNILSCO celebration and Concert

Sunday 18th December Depart

For more information on conferences, short breaks and how to contribute to the festival please contact: info@falconryfestival.com

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The Merlin Story

by Andy Hulme

Harvest down here in Suffolk was late due to wet weather in August so I kept back an Eysass female Merlin from the second clutch. She was named Ethel and was quickly trained and flying free ready for my campaign of Lark Hawking. My Quarry licence duly arrived from Natural England on the 2nd of September to catch 15 Skylarks in Suffolk and Norfolk so we were away hawking the stubble fields in search of the Lark armed with Ethel, Danny the Brittany and Diego the Springer Spaniel. I rotated the fields so not to Hawk the same fields on the farm on a daily basis.

It had been a good year for Skylarks and I found that I was getting up to half a dozen flights each evening. All but two were strong fit birds that under pressure from Ethel would stand on their tails and power up into the heavens singing their victory song. The two Larks I put up under her that were in moult she had pressed into putting into the cut straw lying the length of the stubble field but not before she had twisted and turned with them and had come close to catching both of them in mid air.

Ethel started to chuck the ringers and I was disappointed that I wasn't going to see a true ringing flight of these two old adversaries but one evening things changed and after two tall chases a Lark rose 80 yards in front of us and promptly flew on 50 yards and dropped back into the stubble. I walked towards the Lark when Danny picked up the scent and after 20 feet went solid on point. Danny flushed the Lark and it immediately started to climb with Ethel. I thought, chucking the flight but I was wrong. She turned and started to mount and higher and higher they both went until the Lark was over cover and dropped like a missile into safety with Ethel close behind. I called her into the lure and



led her up walking back to the car with a large grin on my face. After that evening she never chucked a ringer and I had some of the most exciting flights I have ever had with a Raptor with some incredible ringing flights going up to where the two birds were barely visible. To watch both birds trying to control the flight and get one above the other then suddenly the Lark

would fold up and plummet down with Ethel hot on its heels as it made cover was a privilege to witness. I hawked Larks with Ethel for only five weeks before I turned my attentions to Freya, my Goshawk; but it was five weeks of fun and excitement and I look forward to next season with hopefully another eyes with as much enthusiasm and vigour as Ethel.

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For more information please see his website www.stevemagennis.co.uk or contact him at photos@stevemagennis.co.uk.

36 The Auksterger 2011

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Rules & Constitution of the Welsh Hawking Club

Name and Objects

1. The name of the club shall be the Welsh Hawking Club.
2. The objective of the club shall be:
 - a. The promotion of Falconry,
 - b. The provision of advice and information for members and other interested parties,
 - c. The promotion and maintenance of the club Code of Conduct amongst members.

Constitution

The club shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Membership Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Austringer Editor, Press and Publicity Officer, Education Officer, Breeding Project Officer, Legal Officer, Newsletter Editor, Field Officer, Events Co-ordinator and a Webmaster. Each of these is 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 business of the club will be conducted by the Officers and committee (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. No one with convictions for offences involving birds of prey shall hold office within the Welsh Hawking Club.

Elections

1. All members of the committee will be elected individually, annually at the AGM. Prior to the election the attendance record at committee meetings for the last year shall be given.
2. 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 may co-opt a member to fill the position. They may also co-opt any person to the committee if considered desirable.

Membership

1. Members of the club will be elected by the committee.
2. No person will be elected without application to the Membership Secretary in writing.
3. The annual subscription rate shall be determined at the AGM each year.
4. Any member whose subscription is unpaid by the end of May of any year shall cease to be a member, but shall be eligible for election as for new members.
5. 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 or the club.

6. No member must give talks, interviews or material relating to Falconry, Domestic breeding etc. to the media i.e. T.V. Radio, Press etc. without advice from the committee and/or the Press and Publicity Officer. Any member giving such talks must make every effort to ensure their accuracy.
7. Any member wishing to dispose of a hawk obtained through the club must first offer the hawk back into the club.
8. Only Full members are eligible to vote on club affairs.
9. Proxy and Postal votes are not allowed.
10. 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 application must give details of hawk related experience and should be countersigned by a Full member.

Meetings

1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the main Field Meeting each year.
2. Meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or in their absence one of the other Officers as appropriate.
3. A summer meeting shall be held annually at which reports of the affairs of the Club can be given. General meetings will normally be held monthly. Informal meetings will be held as required.

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 prior to these meetings. Any member wishing to call an EGM shall inform the Secretary in writing stating the reason for such a meeting. The application must be countersigned by 20 Full Members.

Code of Conduct

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Every hawk must be properly named and equipped.
4. Every endeavour must be made to recover a lost hawk.
5. All hawks flown free should be equipped with field jesses, at least one ball and if possible a transmitter and the name and address of the owner. In the case of untrained or aggressive hawks, eagles, hybrids, exotics etc. special care must be taken to prevent loss.
6. Permission must be obtained before entering open 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. Indigenous hawks that are no longer wanted must either be returned to the wild state in a suitable country or passed on to someone who will treat them in accordance with this code of conduct. Before a hawk is released the falconer must ensure that it is in good feather, in the highest possible condition, that it can kill for itself and is suitable for release. If there is any doubt that it is able to do so it should be hatched back.
7. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the main Field Meeting each year.

Regions

- Purposes of the Regions**
1. To provide social meetings for members and potential members living locally, although any

- member will be welcome to attend.
2. To arrange local field meetings, which will be governed by the main Club field meet rules.
 3. To arrange fund raising to assist with paying for speakers and field costs.
 4. To promote Falconry and the Welsh Hawking Club.

Rules

1. No new region will be formed by members unless it has been agreed by the Club committee at a committee meeting.
2. All regions must open a bank or building society account in the name of The Welsh Hawking Club. It is recommended that an account has to be opened before the region is formed.
3. Any non-members attending other than wives, partners or children of members will be made to 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.
4. A register of attendees will be kept at all meetings, primarily to enforce rule 3.
5. A written report will be forwarded each year by the regional Secretary to the Editor of the Austringer, to reach him no later than the end of February, for inclusion in the Austringer.
6. A report must be sent by the regional Treasurer to the Club Treasurer showing the state of the finances, to reach her no later than the end of September, for inclusion in the Treasurer's report at the AGM.
7. 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 committee meetings. This representative will have full voting rights.

Jan France
Honorary Secretary
January 2011

38 The Austringer 2011

The Austringer 2011 39