

The Austringer

The Journal of the Welsh Hawking Club

No 41 | 2009



In this issue

The Dark Side

A Red Letter Day

The Story of Gizmo

*The Rosenberg
Christmas Meet*



President's Preamble

Hello All, I can't believe it's time for me to put pen to paper again except it's on a computer these days! How the time has flown by. I hope you all have had a good season's hunting and that breeders are looking forward to the new season's youngsters.

My first task is to thank Paul Dillon for all his hard work over the past years as our Chairman, supporting the club at Game Fairs and on his visits to foreign parts. He has been a good ambassador for the club and we wish him well.

I would also like to welcome Mick Cordell to the committee as Chairman, I am sure he has great things in store for the club! We also have to say Goodbye to Mike Clowes as secretary, and thank him for his hard work this past year as he hands over to Steve Lambert from the Yorkshire region who has taken up the position as secretary. It is good to get new people onto the

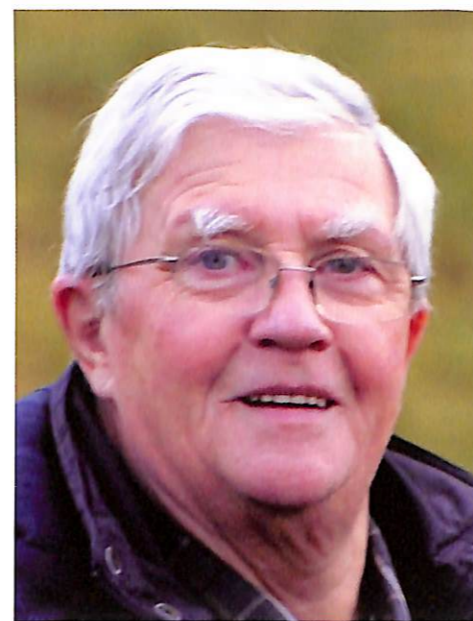
committee as they can help us older members see the way forward.

This year will be quite a hectic one for the club with the Falconry Fair and the Festival of Falconry to attend but we have high hopes that we can put on a good show as usual. It would be nice to see more members contributing in some way towards this, even ideas, pictures or even time on the stands. All members new & old are always welcome and it can be quite rewarding at times, after all the club is about its members and what we can do together. Without you the club cannot exist!

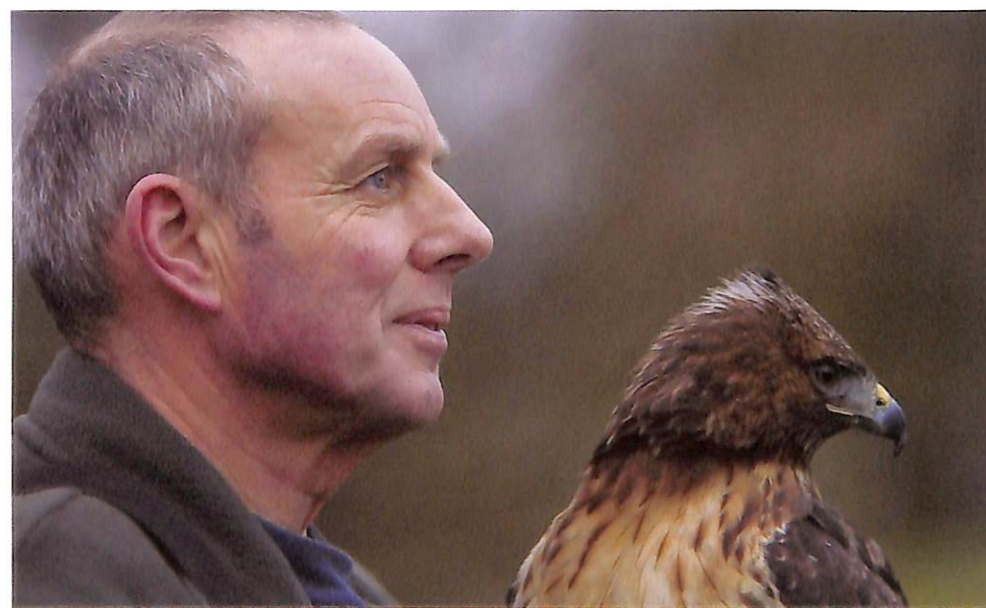
I won't take up any more of your time, I know you are anxious to get on and read the rest of what I know will be another excellent issue of the "Austringer" thanks to Andy Hulme's hard work.

I hope you all enjoy the coming year with the club and look forward to seeing you at some time in the future.

Dave Dimond



Chairmans Chatter



Welcome everyone; firstly I must thank those club members for electing me last October at the AGM. I find it quite a daunting task following in the shoes of Paul Dillon and before that Dave Dimond. Thank you Paul for all the hard work you put in over the last few years.

The next couple of years could turn out to be very difficult for some members with the uncertainty of employment and all else that goes with a recession. Quite often in lean times it is the hobbies and pastimes that are the first thing

to be cut back on, financially. With any sport that involves live animals this is even more difficult as cutbacks in things such as food, vets bills and equipment cannot be made. I do hope that things don't get so bad that people think about giving up their bird for a year or two until things brighten up.

On a more positive note however the WHC is looking rather healthy with new memberships being applied for and more current members applying to become full members. We have members now who are interested in manning a stand for the WHC for some of the less

glamorous shows, which is very important if we want to promote our sport. Quite often it is these smaller game fairs and shows which give people more of an opportunity to stand and chat to the members on the stand about falconry. Sometimes at larger shows like the CLA and Falconers Fair they feel as though they are intruding into another's private gathering. Let's all go out there and welcome them into the bosom of the WHC.

I can only speak for one region but it is very pleasing to see new, young members putting themselves forward for the good of the club. That doesn't mean though that WE don't still need you older wiser ones to steer US on the right course should we go astray.

Another Festival of Falconry this year: The very best of luck to the team of organisers for a successful event. I have been to a few meetings of the club reps and it is staggering the amount of work that the festival committee are doing. We have already ordered the good weather so all will be great!

That's enough from me, only to finish with my deepest gratitude to Dave and Jean for their unstinting hard work for the WHC. Also to the rest of the committee for their true dedication and commitment to the club. I thank you all.

For those not sure what I look like come along and say Hello at one of the shows this year.

See ya!

Mick Cordell

From The Editor

Another Hawking season has come to an end, well almost as I have been invited out to Norfolk and Cambridgeshire for Spring Rook Hawking. Thanks to our own Rob Cole I had the joy of flying an eyas Jack Merlin in the early part of the season.

I had a lot of fun with Eli Dingle on the stubble fields of Suffolk once the harvest had finally finished. I had one scary moment where the Jack chased a Lark and he hard pressed it into putting into the verge of the road. I ran over thankfully he was ok and was walking up and down peering into the cover looking for the Lark.

I again had a good season with Arthur the club bred Male Goshawk and as well as catching mainly Pheasants he did catch a few good Rabbits. The wild Mallard did very well with some good broods and the Gos had many goods flights in the early part of the season at them and put two in the bag. He finished the season with a respectable head of game.

We have finally had a proper winter with snow and hard frosts for days at a time and during the first spell of snow I saw a large covey of Grey Partridges for the first time on my Hawking ground and they have stayed along with another small covey of four. They started to pair up in late January, so I hope that the pairs are successful and rear broods during the summer.

Another great Fieldmeeting in October at the Chainbridge in Llangollen was had by all and as ever a great big thank you to Neil McCann for all of his hardwork. The Goshawk group I was in saw some good flying with all of the Gosses on form and they did their owners proud especially at Carrog with all them successfully putting a pheasant in the bag.

The club and regions will be very busy again this spring and summer with not only the Falconry Fair and the Festival of Falconry but representing the club at country fairs up and down the country. A big thank you too all the members who give up there time to help man the stands and make our club one of the finest in the UK.

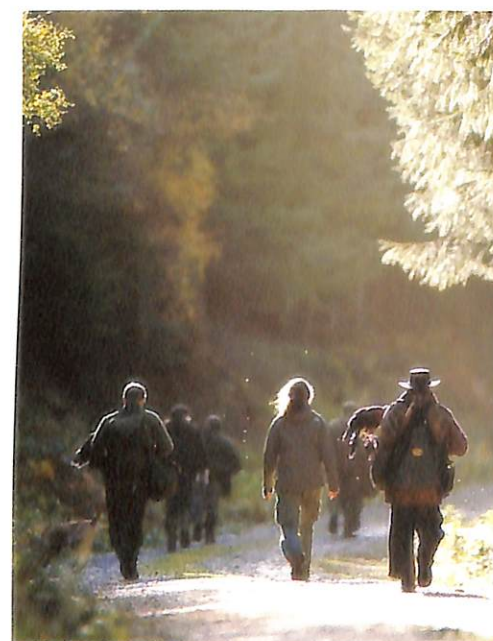
Many thanks too all of the members who have taken the time to write an article and all of the people who have allowed myself to use their

pictures many professional especially Paul Sawyer, Brian MacFarlane, Robbie McClintock, Dave Scott and of course Seth Anthony from the International Falconer. Not forgetting Mick Young.

I hope you enjoy your 2009 Austringer

Andy Hulme





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**Welsh Hawking Club
Field Meet 2009**
Bryn Howel Hotel
Llangollen
21st-23rd October

Front cover pic
Courtesy of Brian MacFarlane

Back cover pic
Courtesy of Paul Sawyer

Field meeting pictures
Courtesy of Seth Anthony and
The International Falconer

Mike Clowes

Our newest Vice President

by Ian Blantern
(Fellow Vice President)

Most club members will have noted Mike's name being added to our list of Vice Presidents at the last AGM. This was a worthy vote by the committee and club members, in recognition of his hard working contribution towards falconry and the Club's success over many years.

When I joined the Club in early 80's, Mike was already an established member. In those days, the club was then split between two groups, the main 'head office' group who met in South Wales and the North Wales group who met at the Goshawk Pub. The WHC committee comprised members from both areas since it would be some while before the regional structure was initiated. It was here that I began appreciating Mike's organisational skills, when perfectly presented and typed minutes were posted, within no more than a few days following our meetings, together with reports of Hawk Board

meetings since, at the time Mike was our Hawk Board representative. As I was then Mewsletter editor, this gave me the opportunity to regularly report both events.

I first met Mike when we were both enjoying a fortnights hawking in Wick during one of John Buckner's many excellent annual, falconry get-togethers. At that time, Mike was flying a Redtail as I recall. Sometime later we both joined up in a party of fellow members from the Club to enjoy a memorable first visit to the NAFA meeting held that year in Kearney, Nebraska. Over the years, Mike has been a regular contributor to the annual NAFA Journal, relating his falconry experiences both here in the UK and Europe where he has attended many foreign meetings.

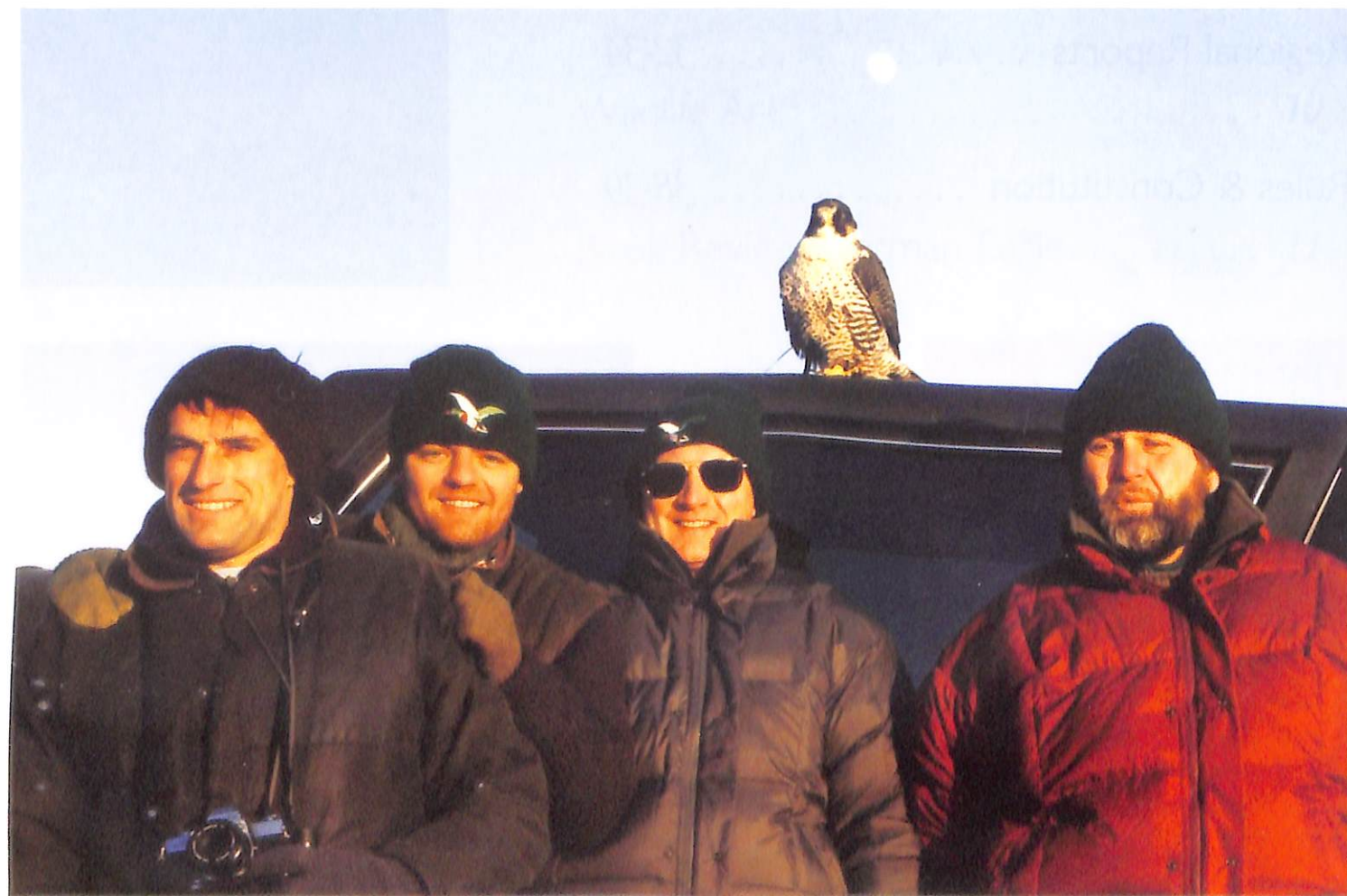
Mike held positions on the committee, but he really came into his own when as the new club secretary, he guided the club through a very difficult period when Adrian Williams was voted from the Committee. Since then, until his retirement as secretary of the committee in

2007, he helped in the smooth running of the club on a strict, professional and business like manner. These were the organising qualities, which made him an automatic candidate as your Hawk Board Secretary and as the CLA falconry linkman, which he still administers. Mike has been for many years a DOE, now DEFRA wildlife inspector.

A successful lifetime employment with the North Wales Police force, led to retirement to Lincolnshire with his wife, Julie and then on to France where he now lives and where he is able to spend more leisure time indulging in his love of falconry with his Harris hawk.

Mike's friendship, humour, handwork and commitment to the club still continue and are the qualities that have been much appreciated.

Pictured below: Mike in sunglasses, with fellow club members, Peter Blackaby, Di Kirkby and Gary Morris at the NAFA meeting in Nebraska



Hawking Ground Quarry

by Neil McCann

I have been flying hawks for more years than I wish to remember, I have flown most types broad wings, falcons and hawks! I have had success with them all, but have a true passion for goshawks, especially flying at ground game !!

The best time of the year is getting your hawk out of the aviary putting new equipment on it reducing its weight and going out first light with your ferrets or dog participating in one of the oldest sports in the world "falconry!"

I have a passion for ferreting, some say it is boring but if you get the land where the rabbits are plentiful its easy to take up too 70 rabbits a day with a few goshawks. You would not get much sport if it was not for the ferrets, some people don't like them and are very weary about handling them! If you take your time go slow don't snatch at them or pick them up by the tail they make a good hawking partner! You don't see that many rabbits sitting out in the day as you can bolt out with a ferret (a most underrated part of falconry is the ferret) mind though the down side is digging them out! I have dug over 6 foot many a time to retrieve a ferret up a stop end (or a bit of pot noodle mining). John Simcox and Gareth Thorne have spent many a happy hour for two shovelling sand with me.

I travel at least an hour or two to fly rabbits, my friend Gordon Curry has some of the best rabbiting land I have flown on, no hedges or fences no sign of a tree for miles, just plenty of warrens nicely spaced apart for a good flight, and quite easy digging if need be.

I have travelled to Cumbria for many seasons, the farmer thinks were mad to travel all that way approx 2 hrs but there are plenty to go out! We spend a week end there and easily catch 70 rabbits between us. It does not take long to fill your freezers, and your friends.

There's nothing better than a nice drive late in August when you have got your young eyas bird in the box in the car arrive at the farm at 5pm get your young ferrets out, a bit of a struggle to collar them for the first time (lick the blood from your fingers). Place the old hob in the warren a let the two young ferrets follow him about and wait for the rabbits bumping under ground. The hawk may watch the first couple away, but will soon switch on to the game ahead! Nine times out of ten the hawk will chase the third time may be kicked off! But she will struggle and keep hold of a young three quarter grown rabbit. You race in despatch it let her feed up! Job done! You have got your bird going and your young ferrets working. Its well worth the trip out. A few more rabbits under your belt the next step, hare hawking!!

I live near a farm where there are plenty of hares. I take my Brittany and look for a point on a small hare, no point in flying a young goshawk on a large 7lb plus to get kicked off and never fly them again! This may take me a couple of hours finding a suitable quarry what I am happy flying, if I think the hare is too big I will leave it in its seat or flush it and drop the dog!

By the end of the season I have caught hares regular over 7lb, and the best with an eyas bird is 8 lb 8oz from Towyn in Wales with Melvin Jones.

As for pheasants I live near a shoot and have left a goshawk on a bow perch all day then to come home to feathers all over the garden and pheasant remains, bird with a full crop, it does not pay to be a noseey pheasant and get too close!!

This season I slipped the goshawk on a cock pheasant in very strong winds on Carrog, North Wales on the 3 day field meet. The gos chased the pheasant out of sight, I crossed the river, no sign! Got the telemetry out a strong signal back from where I came, the receiver was picking up the over head electric mains box. The rest of the group carried on hawking further over, I moved further down stream. I had a better signal up the steep banking crossing the river again now, very wet. Twenty minutes had now gone by, I thought were she had killed it and was now feeding up.

I got a stronger signal near a hedge row and a large nettle patch, feathers every where no gos! I walked further up the hedge row, no sign? Very strong signal! I walked back 50 metres a bell! She was tucked up behind a tree, weakish signal though, (no transmitter on) I picked her up full crop very lucky!! Took her back to the car, through the river, put her back in the box, took the hawking vest off all unwanted clothes, I was soaked, took the receiver and walked back up the valley through the river:

The transmitter had come off 100 yards away, the clip had snapped off were she first took the cock pheasant, then lost it and chased it towards the nettle patch, dragged it in the hedge to feed up. I counted myself very lucky.

Many thanks to Kevin Simcox, Ray Smith, Mick Kane for being patient on the day as I thought I had seen the last of her!!!



An Imprint Experience

by Steve Vaughan

Just prior to the commencement of the 07/08 season I was kindly offered the opportunity to fly an imprinted Eya male Goshawk by my good friend and long term hawking buddy Aidy Watson.

Diego as my kids had named him was picked up on the 11th August 2007 from Mick Kane the same day we picked up Aidy's parent reared male Goshawk which was Aidy's first Gos, Diego had been imprinted by Trevor who had just started to fly him and had got a few kills under his belt before returning him to Mick. On arrival at home Diego was weighed then put out to weather with a bath I was amazed at just how steady he was as not two metres from him my two boys were on their trampoline making plenty of noise, Diego just sat

there with his foot up soaking up the late evening sun, I say just sat there! There was one other thing he was doing, screaming, the noise was terrible for about the first eight weeks he was with me he did not stop morning noon and night the only rest bite was after being flown and fed when he would fortunately remain silent, it was during this period that I was tested to the limit and to be honest I very nearly threw the towel in.

With daily flying and his success increasing on mainly Rabbit early season I noticed a change, his behaviour on the fist and on the lure or a kill was improving no end and I felt we were getting somewhere the noise at home and in the field was becoming less almost with each outing his weight had also risen quite considerably without his lure response which was awesome suffering.

At the start of the pheasant season he was already fit with very good stamina and he soon started to

show that he had the potential to become a very good pheasant hawk taking on at times very long flights ending with kills, he did however lose many birds on the floor early season but this did not seem to dampen his enthusiasm for the chase, I found the imprint ready to go straight from the box without the settling period I had experienced with parent reared Goshawks he would also accept almost everything and everyone in the field with little fuss he also accepted dogs of all shapes and sizes as he was well wedded to flying over mine and Aidy's Brittany's this imprint really had won a place in my heart he was full of character and seemed to give himself fully to falconry without any seeds of fear or doubt in his mind and was 100% committed on each and every day out in the field.

With daily flying field meets and being part of a syndicate we had a very good first season with only one incident which was a fence strike on the first day of the Welsh field meet at Llandegla which I thought at first was a fatality as he was rigid not moving with his eyes closed, after a couple of minutes he came round and was very shaky but nothing appeared broken, he was fed some fresh warm rations and replaced in his box. That evening he looked to be ok except for a slightly closed left eye. The next day at Bryn-a-pys he looked good to go and took a storming brace of Partridge from points in front of the field, this he also repeated on the following day to say I was elated was an understatement.

The first season soon drew to an end and Diego had bagged 86 head for the season including 46 pheasant and six partridge the rest being mainly rabbit with the odd miscellaneous thrown in, in all a very enjoyable season, as a note his weight had also risen from a starting weight of 11lb 11oz to 11lb 14.5oz of pure muscle he really was flying and killing as round as a barrel.

My second season commenced on the 1st September 2008 when Diego was removed from a secluded Aviary had his equipment changed and was weighed! He came out at 21lb 1.5oz, from the off he was very steady with hardly a bate which coupled with the weather made for a very drawn out weight loss period which to be honest shocked me somewhat as even though he was so steady I had to reduce him to 11lb 11oz again to get any response from him at all but once this weight was reached the old Diego returned and was soon putting late evening Rabbits in the bag once more.

The second season with Diego went pretty much the same as the first with one exception! I was now calling him to the fist as well as the lure, he took some time to get used the fist re-call as he had NEVER in his first season been called to or allowed to take his meal from the fist all his food was consumed on the ground which I believe produced a more pleasant first season bird.

His re-call to the fist by mid-season was as good as his lure response, his hunting drive and

commitment were equal to his first season and he was once again showing great sport at mainly pheasant taking a brace on many occasions with some astounding flights witnessed by myself Andy and Aidy as we shared many days out together on the syndicate, field meets, and Goshawk days at Stonham Barns which also highlighted the advantage of the Imprint which took every day in its stride with different people and experiences each time without losing total focus, the acid test being when we entertained a group of nine Americans all loud and colourfully dressed the Goshawks present were all Imprints and performed with their usual single minded determination without being phased whatsoever. This season was cut short unfortunately due to Diego injuring his leg quite badly, how I don't know as I never witnessed anything which I could attribute the injury to, luckily he has improved and will make a full recovery in time.

With the weather also being for the most part of this last season terrible his attendance in the field was much less than the previous season and his tally reflected this taking a total of 57 head including 34 pheasants and my first ever mallard. He once again reached his highest weight which equalled the previous season at 11lb 14.5oz and some of the flights he performed were jaw dropping on occasion with me thinking he has no chance only to prove me wrong and bagging his bird.

I would like to finish this article with a great big thank you to Aidy whom as always has been a great friend for putting his trust in me and offering me the opportunity to experience this cracking

Imprint, Also to Andy for some great days out in the field with good hawks and a good crack. I hope this season to carry out the Imprint process myself with another male to get the full experience, I have also sorted somewhere out at work for the Gos to stay with me Monday to Friday to give the Neighbours a rest from the noise as I'm sure I will have some for a certain period early season. Here is a diary entry I would like to share!

Saturday 11th October 2008 left the truck and made our way to the small pond which is surrounded by willows and oaks with a gap at the bottom of around 18 inches, as I looked under the tree's there were five mallard which on seeing me flushed, I posted Diego under the tree's like a letter who went like a bullet and was soon lost from sight, I ran round expecting a re-call and to my elation he was on the grass forty metres from the pond plucking his first drake mallard. I let him pluck for a while switched and carried on.

Next slip at the big pond saw a mixed selection of ducks flush Diego hammered off once more and selected another drake mallard which he came up and under after some sixty metres with a good bind he then tried to carry it to the far bank but was dropping lower and lower until he finally let it go just as it touched the water; a shame but still a top drawer flight. Next slip from a point saw a large cock pheasant flush, Diego bound on the rise lost it in the air the pheasant dumped to the floor where he hit it again but once more lost his grip, the pheasant took flight with Diego very close as they rose over a spinney and I said to Aidy "He's having that" tracked him down to a ditch 500



metres away plucking a very dead cock pheasant, today typifies why I fly Goshawks. 11lb 12 3/4oz. Imprints are like Marmite you either love them or hate them, I am definitely a convert and can't wait for next season to commence.



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Wildlife Art



Introduced by Andy Hulme

Mark has had a lifelong interest in natural history and from an early age he painted and sketched the wildlife that he saw around him.

Originally qualifying as a professional photographer he worked for many years in the photographic industry, his interest in wildlife enabled him to use his photographic skills to capture on film many species of birds and animals in their natural habitat. In 1990 Mark decided to leave photography and pursue a career as a wildlife artist.

Mark's travels have taken him from Africa to the Arctic and from America to India in search of subject matter such as wolves, bears, eagles, owls and his favourite the big cats. He likes to study all his subjects in the wild gathering material on them and their environment. The final paintings are drawn from field reference gathered on his trips.

Most of Mark's new paintings are of game birds, hares and deer that are abundant close to his home. The subjects are combined with local backgrounds around the Suffolk and Norfolk border and incorporate local farms, churches and windmills. These new paintings show the subjects in the habitat where Mark has watched



them and many are depicted with action and movement.

For many years Mark has kept and bred a wide variety of birds including many species of birds of prey and at one point flew them in public demonstrations. He has also been involved with various bird of prey conservation projects both at home and abroad, ranging from captive breeding programmes to assisting with the



Hawk and Owl Trust advising on conservation schemes as well as working with landowners in creating suitable habitats.

Mark exhibits at many county and country shows throughout the year as well as holding an annual One Man Exhibition. Customers are welcome to visit his studio to view his latest paintings and prints, although please phone first 01379 668077 www.markchester.co.uk.

Book Review

'German Eagle'

by David Horobin

Having become somewhat immersed, over the last few years, in falconry's heritage, this new title by Martin Hollinshead was one I eagerly looked forward to, and was not disappointed.

German Eagle concentrates on the falconry career of Fritz Loges. Few British falconers may have heard of him, yet his influence on subsequent European falconry has been great. His career would have been remarkable in any era, but what makes it more fascinating is that it was played out in the dark days of the Third Reich.

The associations between falconry and the Nazi regime are ones that, understandably, have been little discussed. However, we must remember that at the outset, when Hitler came to power, he seemed to offer hope for a nation ravaged by the aftermath of war. Few, if any, knew of the horrors that would come later, and into this picture of a reviving nation steps Hermann Göring.

A passionate sportsman with a great interest in falconry, Göring was a willing patron of a State Falconry Centre at a time when falconry was at a low ebb in Germany. This was a tremendous boost to falconry and it would be wrong to write off the great developments that arose at the time just because they occurred during the Nazi period. After all, it was a falconer associated with the Reichsfalkenhof who was the first to enjoy success in captive breeding of peregrines – and where would we be today without such developments?

Whilst Loges' career was greatly shaped by his involvement with the Reichsfalkenhof, it is his

role in the development of falconry with eagles that is the focus of the book.

The historical background is, of course, hugely significant, and it may well be that Loges, a passionate austringer from his earliest association with the sport, came to handle eagles because of the symbolism of the huge, mighty bird that was adopted as a national symbol.

featured in the hands of "falconers" for years, it was Loges who first enjoyed real success with them, setting the scene for the European field meets we know so well today.

The author has a great flair for fully engrossing his readers, whether describing slope-soaring on the Shropshire Hills or fox flights in Finnish forests, and "German Eagle" is no exception.

The reader is soon drawn into Loges' successes and failures. It would be difficult not to enjoy the vividly described flights, to share in his elation on taking his first fox after several abortive attempts and interruptions, and it would be a hard-hearted person indeed who did not share his great sadness at finding the Reichsfalkenhof in ruins after the war, and the subsequent tear-jerking story of its sole remaining occupant.

"German Eagle" is both a look at a hitherto uncharted aspect of falconry's history, and also a personal narrative covering one man's achievements in the sport. Featuring a number of illustrations from the time, fascinating in their own right, as a whole this is a very thought provoking book. One could dwell upon the darker side of the human psyche, made manifest in the Nazis' worst excesses, and struggle to relate this to the sport we all know and love.

What would we have done in those times? One might choose to look beyond the sinister associations and look instead at the amazing scale of the Reichsfalkenhof and marvel at the lavish expense and detail put into the endeavour.

However, aside from all this "German Eagle" remains very much a book about a falconer and his triumphs and experiences for his fellow falconers to share and enjoy.

GERMAN EAGLE

Copies Direct from the Author
£33.00 (inc p&p)

'A thoroughly informative masterpiece.'
David Fox, author of *Garden of Eagles*

'A wonderful addition to the austringer's library.'
Steve Ford, *The British School of Falconry*

'Recommended for anyone drawn by the allure of flying eagles.'
Matthew Mullenix, author of *American Kestrels in Modern Falconry*

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Hollinshead covers what little work was done with eagles at the time, from military falconry schools which existed in the 1920s before the Nazis came to power; to their employment by the showman "Billy Jenkins" – a man of Jewish descent who came to do propaganda work using eagles for the regime!

He argues the case that although eagles had

The Dark Side



by Ellis Phytbian

New season and my old Gyr/ Peregrine, G.P. finished his moult and was ready to go by the middle of September.

It was his ninth year and I usually just had to reduce his weight, show him the lure and he would go up and usually put something in the bag but not this year. I had usually found Ducks on one particular pond I had access to and a few ripples had given the signal for a speculative flight to be attempted there was always at least one Duck in residence on this pond. I released G.P. and he went out and slowly came back over and as it was first flight I did not want to keep him waiting too long. Throwing a stone into the water I shouted and rushed in only to see a Waterhen paddle off and dive!

Looking up there was no sign of the Tiercel. I tracked him for a mile and found him on a pylon, he came straight down to the lure. A bunch of Woodpigeons in the near by bushes told the story, he had seen these and had raked off after them.

In the next field was a small pond surrounded by willows so I decided to try him again at spec and although he seemed over keen he went up a couple of hundred feet and a Teal was flushed and he cut it over and whipped round and had it. But as I flew over the next few weeks he

seemed to become more and more independent. Each time I cast him off he seemed to straight line after distant quarry as I found it harder to find any wild quarry nearby and the bad weather had destroyed all the broods of Partridges and Pheasants wholesale. Ducks did not seem to have done much better and ponds that could be relied upon to produce at least one or two held nothing. His wayward ways persisted through most of October and one day while on the Garlands Estate he decided to visit the shoot across the valley. He caught a Pheasant right in front of the Keeper who duly plucked him off it and put him under his coat! We had a laugh about it but I am glad the Keeper was understanding and the guns were aufait with Hawks.

A trip to Llandegla helped to orientate him as he did not have to fly far before he ran into something to kill and he caught a Pheasant and Mallard. This was on the three day meet of the WHC of which I could only attend two days.

The second day was at Brn-a-Pys when everything went wrong again and he raked away across the river and I eventually caught up with him in Johnstown perched on a high building across the Mere at the back of a supermarket. I swung the lure and he came back instantly! If I pulled any more hair out I would soon be bald! The highlight of the particular day was watching the Goshawks of Trevor Webster and Gavin lee

put Pheasant after Pheasant in the bag. Both Hawks were a credit to their owners who informed me that they had hardly missed a day since the beginning of the season.

I did make another trip to Brn-a Pys a week or two later he did the same again after putting a stoop in at a Partridge, this time I caught up with him at Ruabon on a farm house. I had to rethink the problem, it was basically finding near perfect set ups and flushing before he had time to look around. Last year had been a "woody" year and they seemed to have had a very good breeding season due to the mild weather with young birds been seen in the middle of the winter consequences been G.P. killed seventeen where as half a dozen was average for most years.

With this and low wild game numbers might be partly the reason for his self hunting at his age "flying cunning" would seem to be easily attained. Ponds with Ducks in residence was the answer, if I could be sure of a flush he would start to "look in" more. At the end of October Ducks seemed to become more evident as in past years and some of the estates we Hawked on had a good supply of Duck ponds so I would try to concentrate on these as well. The first estate Incheshire produced a Mallard and a Redleg, the Redleg flushed just as he was starting to look around and he pounded it into the mud. A new estate up near Preston had been aquired with the permission of the Keeper Geoff who told us that most ponds held a Duck or two.

These ponds proved to be my saviour Ducks were indeed to be found on the majority of this haven. On the first pond we tried a group of Geese in the next field lured him over but he came back over us and we flushed a Mallard which he whacked into a hedge through which it escaped. G.P. turned and came back to chase three Mallards across the sky into the next pond then he returned over for a third time and a Teal flushed which was cut over and taken before it made it back to the pond. He later on knocked down a Pheasant after waiting on for some time before been served.

I returned to my home patch and during the next few weeks he orientated around me nicely putting a few Ducks and a Snipe in the bag from near classical flights. The next trip to Preston Haven as I call it was in the middle of January. G.P. had finally got his act together again and I was flying him over 1 1/2 ozs above his flying weight. The first two ponds produced a spring of Teal and a Mallard which he knocked down but made it back to the safety of the water still waiting on we ran over to the second pond

from where a Hen Mallard sprang. He clinically cut it over and winnowed down onto it. Later a point in a hedgerow next to a pond prompted a second flight which proved to be a Woodcock and he touched it and knocked it down but the Woodcock recovered and flew through a hedge out across the next field but G.P. put on the

afterburners catching it as it tried to put into cover at the base of a hedge.

I tried him at "spec" on the last flight of the day at a pond surrounded by trees but it looked deserted as we crashed around it. Thankfully Tony Armstrong's old wire haired pointer

begged to differ and found a lone Teal which was flushed and G.P. stooped as it headed for a thorn hedge next to another pond. They both hit the hedge together and upon parting the branches we found him mantling over a Hen Teal, the one and only hat trick of the season.

The Old Bird V's The Fast Bird

by Lyn Palmer

The bird in question is my seventeen year old Harris Hawk "jess" and the fast Bird is the Woodcock.

Over the past few years I have put up many Woodcock in the woods, all you see is a flash of a branch shape weaving and dodging through the branches ascending into the canopy of the wood.

I think a lot of the Woodcock that we see in Wales are from the continent and like the Fieldfares and Redwings migrate for the food and the milder winters.

I have been flying hawks and Falcons for the last thirty years but have never caught a Woodcock before. I caught a Hare two years ago with the same bird, I wrote about an article on it in the Austringer which was an achievement as the Hare weighed five times the weight of the bird but to catch a Woodcock I was well pleased.

Last year my main quarry was the Grey Squirrel, its great Hawking the only disadvantage is the bird getting bitten. She did receive a few bites mainly on the toes but I carry a bottle of Iodine in my Hawking bag to put onto the wounds just in case.

I lost this Harris for two and a half hours one day last year. She was following me through the canopy of the wood when suddenly she vanished and not a sound of her bell nor a squeal from a Rabbit. I did not know what to do. I walked up and down the wood whistling and shouting but nothing. I walked to the next wood as I could see a pair of Buzzards dive bombing something but again it was not the Harris.

You get a horrible feeling in your stomach as what has happened to her, is she caught up on barbed wire, or caught in a hole in a tree after chasing a Squirrel, you do not know what to do. Eventually I thought to myself when did I last see her so I went to the part of the wood and sat still and listened as by now I was out of breath. The next thing I could hear a faint pair of bells near to myself and when I looked behind there she was covered in mud coming out of a Rabbit warren. She must of chased the Rabbit down the warren but could not turn around,

she could not fly as her wings were matted in wet mud. I fed her up and headed home as fast as I could and washed her down and removed as much mud as possible. The next day she was still damp from the previous day but a few days past and she was as good as new.

The day I caught the Woodcock was in the same wood she had caught a Rabbit the day before so I fed her up on the Rabbit. She was in "yarak" the next day and when I weighed her she was 1lb 15ozs just right.

We got to the wood so I put on her flying jesses and cast her off into a tree where she then began to follow me as she does as I do not have a dog so I have to flush the game for her. She went crashing into some ivy after a Squirrel but missed it then next a Woodcock flushed and she gave chase but gave up after sixty yards so I

called her back to the fist for a tit-bit. We carried on through the wood and I was just about to call it a day when all of a sudden up flew a Woodcock from right under my feet as the Harris was above me. She hit it just as the Woodcock was about to fly away, it all happened so quick the next moment there she was in the bramble bush on top of the Woodcock with the pair of them fighting like hell. I managed to get to the Woodcock before she had started to make in on the kill. I put my Hawking bag over the kill and rewarded the Harris with a leg of Rabbit she had caught the day before then I removed the Woodcock from under my Hawking bag while she was eating her fill.

For a bird of seventeen years of age and has not broken any of her feathers yet I reckon I am a lucky Austringer.



A Red Letter Day



by Andrew Hulme

The last day of the season dawned upon us with a field meeting arranged at the Boxted estate in Essex. This day had been arranged by Dave Martin for a small group of Goshawks to hopefully finish the season on a good note.

The five of us met up at 10am with the group consisting of Dave and Neil spectating, Steve Vaughan working his Brittany Kipper and Adie Watson with his eyes Female Gos and myself with my intermewed Club bred Male Gos Arthur.

Sadly Steve was not flying as he had to lay his Goshawk up in early January due to a leg injury. We had met Josh the shoot owner as we had

driven in and he wished us luck. Adie took first slip as we walked down the first field a Hen Pheasant broke and the Gos was in pursuit flying it back to a wood. My Gos pulled a Woodcock which the dogs flushed from the hedge then as worked along Adies Brittany came on point and she flushed a Cock bird which the Female took on and hard pressed the Cock bird all the way to big wood.

After the Gos was retrieved we made our way to a gamecover strip of maize and sorghum and very quickly two Hen birds broke cover and headed for the hedge across the field with Arthur the Male Gos hot on their heels following the Hen he had picked out into cover. I picked him up and headed back to join the group. As we made our way down a cock

Pheasant broke a head of Adie and his Female followed the bird across the field over the hedge across the next field to the adjacent wood where the Cock bird was seeking refuge, a few minutes later Adie phoned us to say she had caught the bird.

We carried on down the cover strip when a brace of Redlegs flushed and the Male took them on putting them into an adjacent strip of cover and he threw up into a tree. The Partridges were marked down so I left him in the tree and walked up the cover strip when suddenly the brace broke cover and the Gos left the tree just at that moment a Hen pheasant flushed and rose right in front of him which he grabbed but let go before they hit the ground.

Adie had not returned after I had retrieved my Male so I took the next slip which was a cock bird which flushed from another game cover strip up over a hedge out across a paddock to a wood. When I arrived the Gos had him marked down and when reflushed he was taken after a short flight. I rejoined the group to see the Brittanies work a thick hedgerow out where a Cock bird was flushed and Adies Gos flew it along a row of trees.

We walked over along a stretch of water towards another game cover strip which runs next to a small wood as we make our way there one of the dogs flushes a single Redleg from the edge of the stretch of water and Arthur the male is in hot pursuit flying this partridge over half a mile and he had to be coaxed back from over the river.

Adies Female flies a couple birds while I retrieve the Male and by the time I catch up with the lads it is my slip again. Kipper comes on point and follows the sent up a ditch to the edge of little wood where he flushes a Cock Pheasant which the Goshawk gets his feet to then he follows it across the field to the small wood we had just come from. When I arrive he has wet tips to his primaries and tail so he has had the Cock bird on the floor but has lost him.

We make our way around to the top of little wood then make our way through when a Cock Bird flushes and Aadies Goshawk is hot on its heels weaving her way through the branches but this Cock bird stands on his tail and heads for the canopy and out and away he goes. We cross the road and make our way to a plantation after the Maie pulls another Woodcock.

The dogs work this plantation which is situated on the brow of a hill when a Hare flushes with Aadies Female is on its case and is unlucky not to put him in the bag after the classic side step. Kipper picks up scent further down the plantation were he works a line of bramble and comes on point, he flushes a Rabbit and the Male has a fine flight but the Rabbit makes it to the hedge.

We walk up the other side and return to the farm yard for a bite to eat and a well earned hot drink. After a short break we walk over to big wood where we intend to spend the rest of the afternoon.

The dogs started to work the bracken and it was not long before the dogs came on point and flushed a cock bird which is quickly bound to. Both birds hit the ground but the Pheasant manages to break free from the Female and both take flight and fly out of the wood with Aide in hot pursuit. Kipper soon finds a Rabbit and the Male Gos has a terrific flight down through the wood but the Rabbit found the sanctuary of its warren. Both Adie and I had several flights at Pheasants in the wood with the both of us running around chasing the Goshawks but neither bird successfully putting one of these Pheasants in the bag.

At the bottom of the wood a long plantation leads off it so we all start to make our way down and the dogs work the plantation when all of a sudden a Cock Bird burst from the cover and Adies Female left the fist and powered after the fleeing Pheasant out across the field and both headed towards the big wood. A little time later the mobile rang and Adie announced that She had caught the Cock bird and he was feeding up.

We headed back to the farm taking in a hedgerow for hopefully a final flight with the Male and we were not disappointed with Arthur flying a Cock Pheasant up hill to a small wood where I found him perched in a tree so out came the Pheasant he had caught earlier in the day and he was allowed a good feed to finish a Red Letter day.

A big thank you to Dave Martin for organising the day. Alex the Gamekeeper for providing these top quality Game birds for us to test our Accipiter Gentilis. Last but not least a special thank you to Josh Bates for his continues support of the Essex region allowing us access to this great estate.



The Story of Gizmo

'My Imprint Goshawk'

by Tony Allen

Little did we know what we were letting ourselves in for; when in all our excitement on a sunny day in June we collected an imprint goshawk from M&J Raptors.

Mick Kane was in the grounds waiting as we arrived and had told us that we had a choice of three young birds to choose from, one was ten days old and the other two were fourteen days old, one of which became Gizmo the efficient hunter of today.

This ball of white fluff with big feet became the centre of attention at home taking up all our energy and time, watching him wake to engulf the bowl of food we had laid out for him with eagerness, seeing the changes in his appearance on a daily basis as quills sprouted and patches of feather replaced down. The Perspex rearing area for Gizmo took up a space 4 foot by 4 foot in our living room. Inside we had placed a suitably sized plant water holder which was lined with branches of Leylandi and became his nest which we placed by the patio doors. Gizmo became very aware of his surroundings; as he grew curiosity and wing exercises led him to an ideal first perch, the top of his Perspex wall, then escape and the full room to discover and exercise in, I found him on the television, the grandmother clock, the sofa and the highest point in the room the pelmet.



The diet for Gizmo changed as he grew from the quail meat with no casting material very finely minced to a whole skinned quail that Gizmo could pull his own bite size morsels from. I used to watch for hours and could not believe the swiftness with which he had grown before my eyes, he exercised his wings on a daily basis and loved to play with anything and everything that was introduced to him, a stick became an item on which to practice hunting skills; he would jump onto the stick as if it were his prey clasp it in his talons again and again until he became tired and went to his nest to sleep.

As you can imagine all this activity took its toll on our living room which before being cleaned looked like a bomb site! My partner Sheila was forever getting rid of the dust, quills and cleaning the nest area in fact she says "Never Again" to raising an Imprint Goshawk, yet looks back on the photos and remarks at how cute he looked!

We took it in turns when the weather permitted to sit outside with Gizmo so that he would have the healthy benefit of fresh air and sunshine. When the day came that we could put his furniture on we took him for walks, included him in family barbecues and car rides to make him truly bombproof and an extremely confident bird. Now it was time for training in the full sense of the word of course Gizmo was used to the Lure it was his best friend, the place where he had his feeds throughout the day, so we

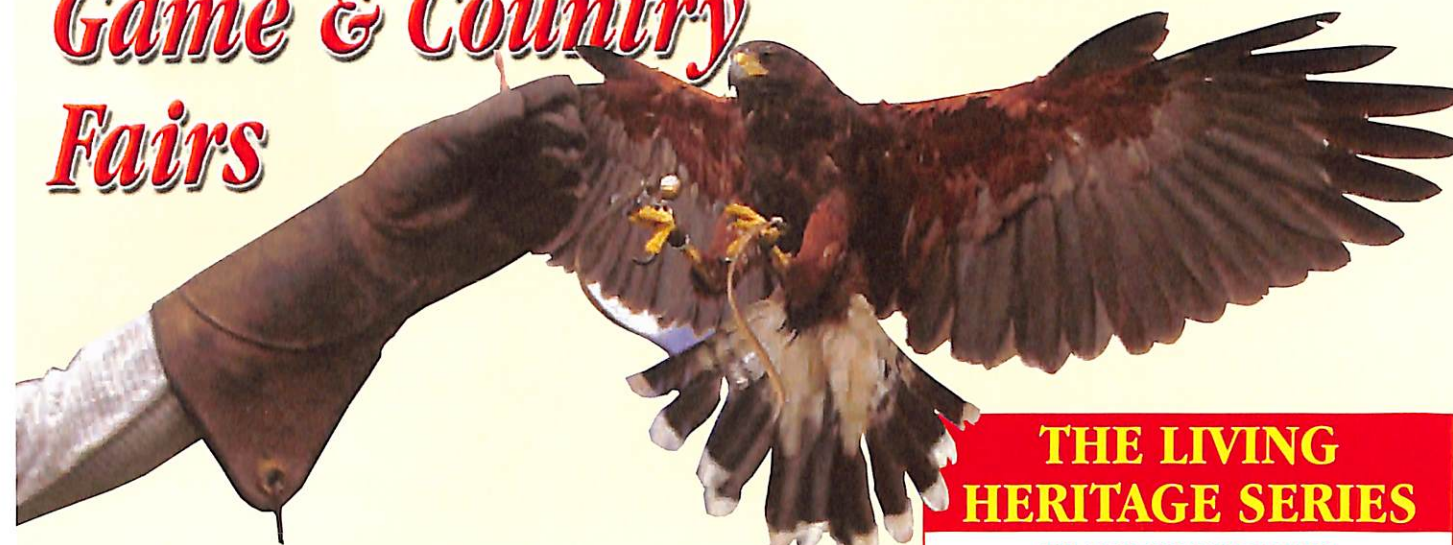
extended its use casting Gizmo into the trees at the base of the garden and calling him to it with a whistle and swinging it slowly forward to the ground and his reaction was instant like a bomber he would swoop down onto the lure and his prey (reward); and the speed at which he did so took my breath away! Now it was just a matter of extending the distance gradually building my confidence in him and his in me calling him by swinging the lure and whistling, practice made perfect! Like the way in which he flew! Fast and agile.

There was only one small hiccup; which we have now overcome, as we cut his weight down he became very protective of the lure to the extent that if you made in on him while eating he would let go of the lure and fly up at me. I thought it only a matter of time before he nailed me or Sheila so we introduced Gizmo to the fist as well as the lure this seems to work better for us. As I intended to enter Gizmo on fur I had been giving him gutted rabbits from an early age so that when we hid a dead rabbit in long grass and pulled it on the creance line there was no hesitation in Gizmo, he left the fist as soon as Sheila pulled the line and caught it. A few days later it was time to enter gizmo he weighed in at 1-11oz so off we set to the hunting ground which we knew held a large population of rabbits.

On entering the field and walking around for a while we spotted a rabbit hidden (so it thought) in long grass; as we approached it got up and ran, as soon as he saw it Gizmo left the fist and hit the startled rabbit on its back end, but he could not hold on, and was left on the ground with just rabbit fur in his talons; a good try but unlucky.

As we carried on another rabbit got up in front of us Gizmo gave chase but it made it to the safety of a dry stone wall. I called him back to the fist and off we set again confident that he would catch sometime today and the next chance we had a rabbit got up from under my feet Gizmo set off after it and as he went in for the kill the rabbit changed direction at the last moment, Gizmo landed on the floor took straight off and hit the rabbit right on its head perfectly this time there was no way he was going to let go. I made in on him and dispatched the rabbit and let him have a full crop. Sheila and I watched him tuck into his well earned meal, sat next to him on the grass we could only hope the rest of the season would carry on getting better and better.

Falconry with . . . Living Heritage Game & Country Fairs



The Falconry Village is now in its third year, steadily growing year on year. The aim of the Falconry Village is two fold:

- 1. To provide the falconer a forum and meeting place to discuss all aspects of falconry including health, welfare and legal issues.*
- 2. To provide spectacular static and flying displays for the show visitor and to interest them, perhaps entice them into taking up falconry.*

• The Falconers

The original gang of four Chris Neal, John Akerman, Chris Miller and Andy Cook has gradually increased to six with Paul Fox and Jon Hall joining the team along with Chrissies Owls giving an insight into the conservation of owls.

• Arena Demonstrations

The Village has its own flying arena for smaller demonstration talks, large displays such as the five hawk display or hunting with Gundogs and ferrets is undertaken in the main arena.

• The Forum

Includes a series of talks, question and answer sessions covering a broad spectrum of conservation, welfare and legal issues.

• Tuition

For youngsters is a re-occurring theme at Living Heritage and falconry is no exception. Lantra have put together a free 20 minute lesson to show visitors that will culminate in flying a hawk or owl.

• Lantra Awards

Themselves or a Lantra assessor will be present to discuss and promote their "Introduction to Falconry" Award, an award backed by the Hawk Board.

• The Hawk Board

The Hawk Board are intending to have a presence at most of our shows to support falconers on welfare and legal issues. A full list to be announced on our website when available.

• Local Clubs

The number of local clubs taking part in the village is growing, including the Welsh Hawking Club, again a detailed list will be available on our website.

• Trade Stands

There is always a number of selected trade stands in the village.

We hope to see you at one of our events over the coming year!

Tel: (01283) 820 548 • Fax: (01283) 821 200
www.livingheritagecountryshows.co.uk email: info@livingheritage.fsnet.co.uk

THE LIVING HERITAGE SERIES

THAME COUNTRY FAIR

Easter Saturday, Sunday & Monday, April 11th, 12th & 13th
Thame Showground, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxon, A4129 Thame,
Princess Risborough Road OX9 3JL

THE MONMOUTH COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday April 18th & 19th
The New Monmouth Showground, Wyesham Farm, Redbrook Road,
Monmouth NP25 3LX Directly off the A466, Monmouth - Chepstow Road

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY FAIR

May Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday, May 3rd & 4th
Broadlands Romsey, Hants. S051 9ZD, Junction 2 & Junction 3, M27

BURGHLEY GAME COUNTRY & ANGLING FAIR

Late May Bank Holiday -
Saturday, Sunday & Monday May 23rd, 24th & 25th
Burghley House, Stamford, Lincs PE9 3YG

THE WOLDS GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday August 1st & 2nd • Sledmere House
Nr Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 3XG,

WILTSHIRE GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, August 8th & 9th
Bowood, Calne, Wilts, SN11 0LZ

TEST VALLEY GAME COUNTRY & ANGLING FAIR

Saturday & Sunday August 22nd & 23rd
Broadlands, Romsey, Hants. S051 9ZD, Junction 2 & Junction 3, M27

TATTON PARK COUNTRY FAIR

August Bank Holiday,
Saturday, Sunday & Monday August 29th, 30th & 31st
Tatton Park, Knutsford WA16 6QN

SANDRINGHAM GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, September 12th & 13th
Sandringham Signed off the A149 Kings Lynn, Hunstanton Road
A148 Kings Lynn-Fakenham Rd. PE35 6EN

SOUTH WESTERN GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

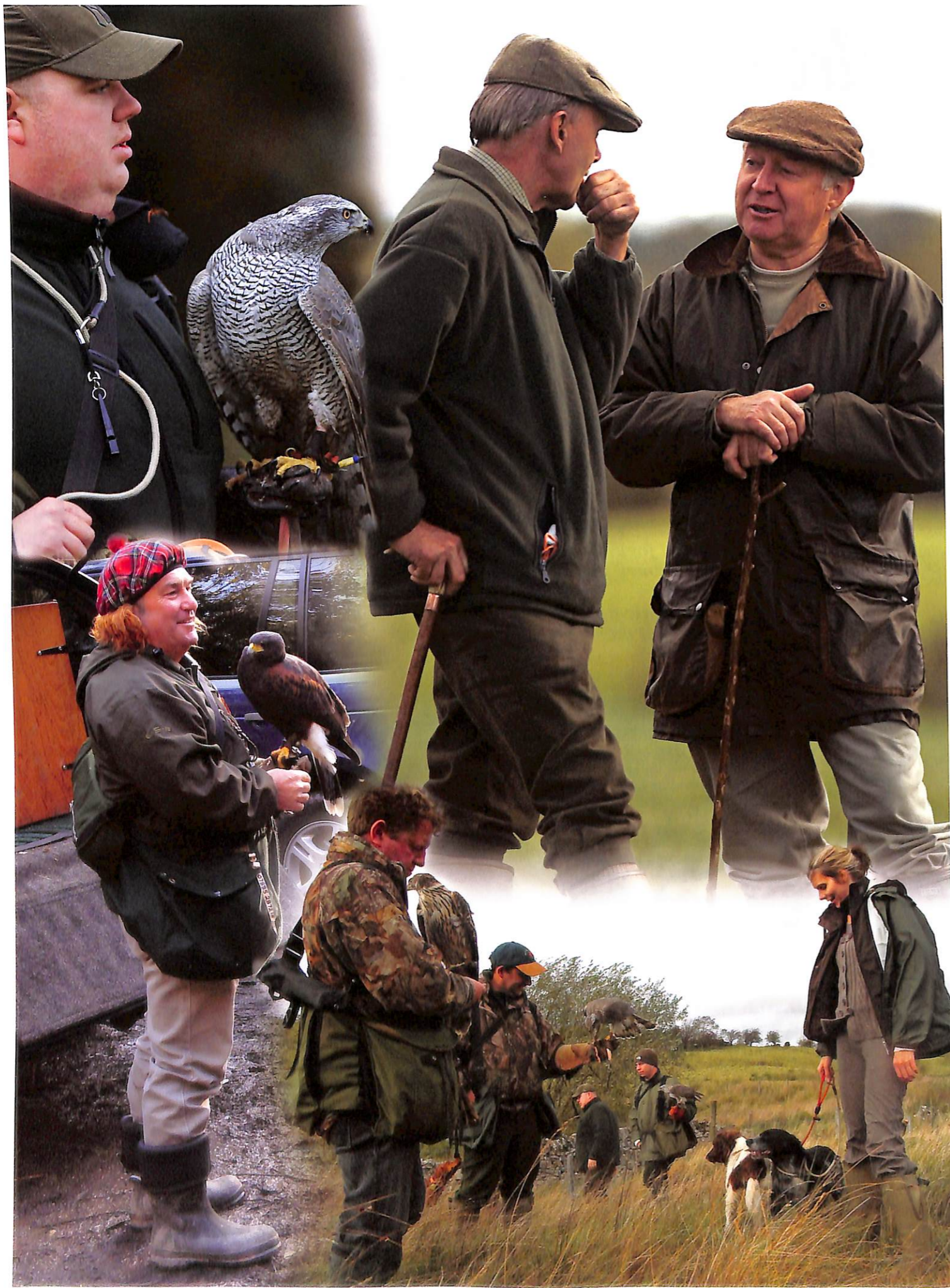
Saturday & Sunday, September 26th & 27th
Powderham Castle, Exeter, Devon EX6 8JL

KNEBORTH GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, October 3rd & 4th
Knebworth House & Gardens Directly off Junction 7-A1(M)
Stevenage SG3 6PY

CHESHIRE GAME & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, October 10th & 11th
Cheshire Showground, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HJ



Fieldmeeting 2008

2008 Welsh Hawking Club Field Meet Llangollen

The 3 day field meet was again held at the Chain Bridge Hotel in Llangollen North Wales.

The weather forecast was not up to much, the only day that let us down was wednesday wind and rain a bit of a wash out some members did not bother to fly.

As you can see from the list of members attending more members are flying goshawks this season, I had asked Dave Rhodes for the use of the moor for the falcons, were there are plenty of pheasants and black cock too, but we only had 2 falcons on the day. Next season the falcons will hopefully fly the moor and on the top of carrog?

Again Ray Hoopers Harris Hawk Group taking plenty of game, the keeper on carrog was surprised by the amount of game they took in the first couple of hours there! He said "thank f**k there not in this country he would rather have a goshawk in his wood than a harris!"

Many members will be pleased to see the venue has changed this coming season to the Bryn Howel Hotel just a few miles down the road, a large car park, huge weathering grounds with rabbits and pheasants grazing on the lawns and a lift to the rooms so no climbing the stair after a few to many drinks.

This meeting was covered by Seth from the International Falconers Magazine. He went out each day with a group and took some fantastic photos, hopefully Seth will attend the next meeting in 2009.

As you can see from the venues the Harris Hawk Group taking plenty of game. Trevor Webster and Gavin Lee flying an eyes imprint female goshawks have had some excellent flights although they got off to a slow start, both taking over 80 head of pheasant in there first season, unfortunately Trevor's bird dying in a freak accident, as he put her up for the moult.

Again the field meet went with no great mishaps all members going home with there birds and dogs and very few complaints hopefully the meetings can only get better as the years roll by.

Cheers, Neil

Harris Hawk Group

RAY HOOPER (FL)
TERRY PELOW
MARK HERBERT
FRANK WHITLEY
PETE DAWSON
STUART BYERS

Wed	Llandegla	
	7 Pheasants	1 Rabbit
Thur	Bryn-A-Pys	
	8 Pheasants	1 Partridge
Fri	Carrog	
	6 Pheasants	1 Rabbit

Falcon Group

ELLIS PHYTHIAN (FL)
MIKE COUPE
ANTHONY ADAMS

Wed	Llandegla	1 Pheasant
Thur	Llandegla	1 Duck
Fri	Bryn-A-Pys	1 Partridge

Goshawk Group A

MICK KANE (FL)
RAY SMITH
KEVIN SIMCOX
CHRIS ULENS (Redtail)
NEIL McCann

Wed	Foelas	
	2 Pheasants	1 Hare
Thur	Carrog	
	6 Pheasants	
Fri	Llandegla	
	5 Pheasants	1 Duck
	2 Rabbits	

Goshawk Group B

ANDY HULME (FL)
STEVE LAMBERT
STEVE VAUGHAN
ADRIAN WATSON
STUART BAILEY
PAUL HARMAN

Wed	Bryn-A-Pys	3 Pheasants
Thur	Llandegla	2 Pheasants
Fri	Carrog	5 Pheasants

Goshawk Group C

TREVOR WEBSTER (FL)
GAVIN LEE
CLINT WILKS
NIGEL HAWKINS
LEE RUSH

Wed	Hope	
	1 Pheasant	1 Duck
Thur	Bryn-A-Pys	4 Pheasants
Fri	Foelas	5 Pheasants

Goshawk Group D

CHRIS FREARSON (FL)
PAUL WORBY
DAVID FIELDER
DAVID SINCLAIR

Wed	Bryn-A-Pys	1 Pheasant
Thur	Carrog	5 Pheasants
Fri	Llandegla	5 Pheasants

Goshawk Group E

MICHEAL TAYLOR (FL)
IAN BELL
MARTYN FURBER
KENNY SMITH
HARRY GILBERT
CLARE GILBERT

Wed	Llandegla	7 Pheasants
Thur	Foelas	2 Pheasants
Fri	Bryn-A-Pys	5 Pheasants 1 Partridge

Total Game Caught

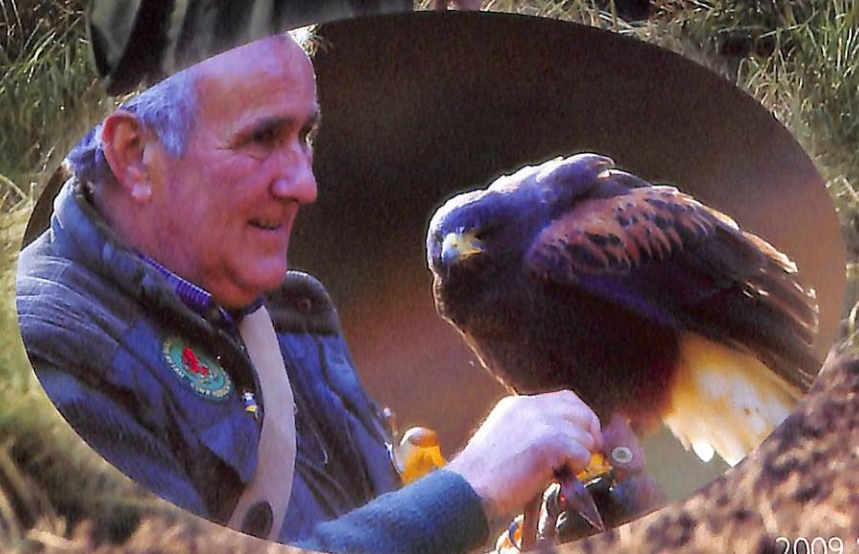
PHEASANTS	80
RABBITS	4
DUCKS	3
PARTRIDGE	3
BROWN HARE	1

TOTAL OVERALL	91



Fieldmeeting 2008

Llangollen



Scotland 2008

With Sir Peregrine Peckwith-Pascoe

by Kevin Mosedale

It is a bright October day, a Friday and mid-afternoon in the South-West, to be more precise, just a few miles outside of Exeter. The vehicles are loaded with all the paraphernalia required of a hawking trip north of the border.

The birds consist of a female goshawk a male Redtail, female Harris and two Pere-sakers. Two dogs, a Brittany and a Vizsla. In addition, we took a couple of ferrets just in case we cannot get onto the grouse moor. Oh, and an Australian chap called Pete. Might come in handy.

A journey of exactly 600 miles lay ahead. Tom-Tom told us that we would not arrive until four in the morning. We knew we could beat that. So, off we set. Within an hour regional chairman, Andy Stockwell needed to feed his worm.

At Bristol, we made our first stop, consumed a KFC, and topped up the caffeine levels. With vehicles and occupants now fuelled up, we would make a big dent in the remaining mileage.

Well to be honest there is not much you can really say about the rest of the journey. It was dark and quite boring. So boring in fact that we even started playing text 'I spy' between the vehicles.

A couple of relief stops and the taking on of more coffee and we had arrived at Lord Haverman-Marts Scottish estate. It was around 0200 on Saturday morning, beating Tom-Tom by a couple of hours. Speed limits! What are they then?

Having unloaded and checked all the livestock, we quietly, so as not to wake his Sir-ship, made a cup of tea and hit the sack for a few hours' kip.

Sir Peregrine Peckwith-Pascoe, with his tiercel peregrine Muir, had been on the estate for a week or so.

A little background on Sir Peregrine Peckwith-Pascoe, or Tony to his friends. I have never understood why posh people have a common name they like to be referred to. Maybe they feel it makes them more acceptable to us common folk.

Anyway, a gentleman in his youthful middle-age, a successful semi-retired entrepreneur, public school educated and a man who socialises with the high and mighty on various continents. Still capable, apparently, of getting his balloon up.

With various residences both, here and in the colonies he was availing himself of an invitation to the estate of the Haverman-Marts.

We meet Sir PPP over breakfast and he immediately put us at ease by informing us that we could refer to him as Sir. It appeared that he hadn't troubled the grouse to much, informing us that Muir had been very unlucky on a couple of occasions. Allegedly, the dog had spoilt a couple of slips and at times, the wind got up to a fearsome level. Yea right. He told us that he had seen a few hare and that the grouse were most certainly there. All seemed positive to us, and with six days hawking ahead we were looking forward to getting started.

The Austringer party consisted of Andy Stockwell with his female Goshawk, Dave Scott with his female Harris and me with my male Redtail. Aussie Pete and Ben Gill were also part of the hawking group. They would take their turns to fly our birds and work the dogs. The plan was to hawk the hare in the morning, and then with Scotty's two pere-sakers, heshe, sweetpea, and Sir Peregrine's tiercel Muir, we would hopefully trouble the grouse in the afternoon.

The weather was good, a slight wind but I put that down to the breakfast.

Now, as with the year before it took the birds time to adjust. Firstly, to hunting earlier in the day, and secondly, taking on a different and much larger quarry. They all had slips which they took on but as they closed in on the hare they raked off. For all of us it was the hawk's first outing of the season so we knew that they would come good. The dogs and Aussie Pete were working well and finding plenty of hare and the occasional grouse. Scotty was making a mental note of where the grouse were going for later in the day when we would bring out the falcons.

That first afternoon we meet up with Sir PPP and Muir. We set off in search of grouse.

A point and Muir is unhooded. Sir PPP asked us to back off a touch as Muir was only used to hearing Eaton and Harrow accents. A rouse and off he went soaring to at least eight feet until he found a rock to perch on. This was of course just temporary as off he went again. Not exactly gaining a great pitch, but none the less above head height, just.

Aussie Pete was sent in to flush and, oh dear would you believe it, a hare.

Now I am not saying that the presence of us peasants was the reason that Muir was having an off day, but Sir Peregrine was not a happy knight. He cast a look that only nobility can, it served only to remind us of our decidedly dubious parentage.

Still never mind there is always tomorrow.

Our hawking days followed the usual format, Austringers in the morning and Falconers in the afternoon. The Austringers hawks soon came into form with them all taking hare on the second day. At the end of the week, the tally was Goshawk 9 hare. Redtail 7 hare and 1 rabbit, Harris 3 hare.

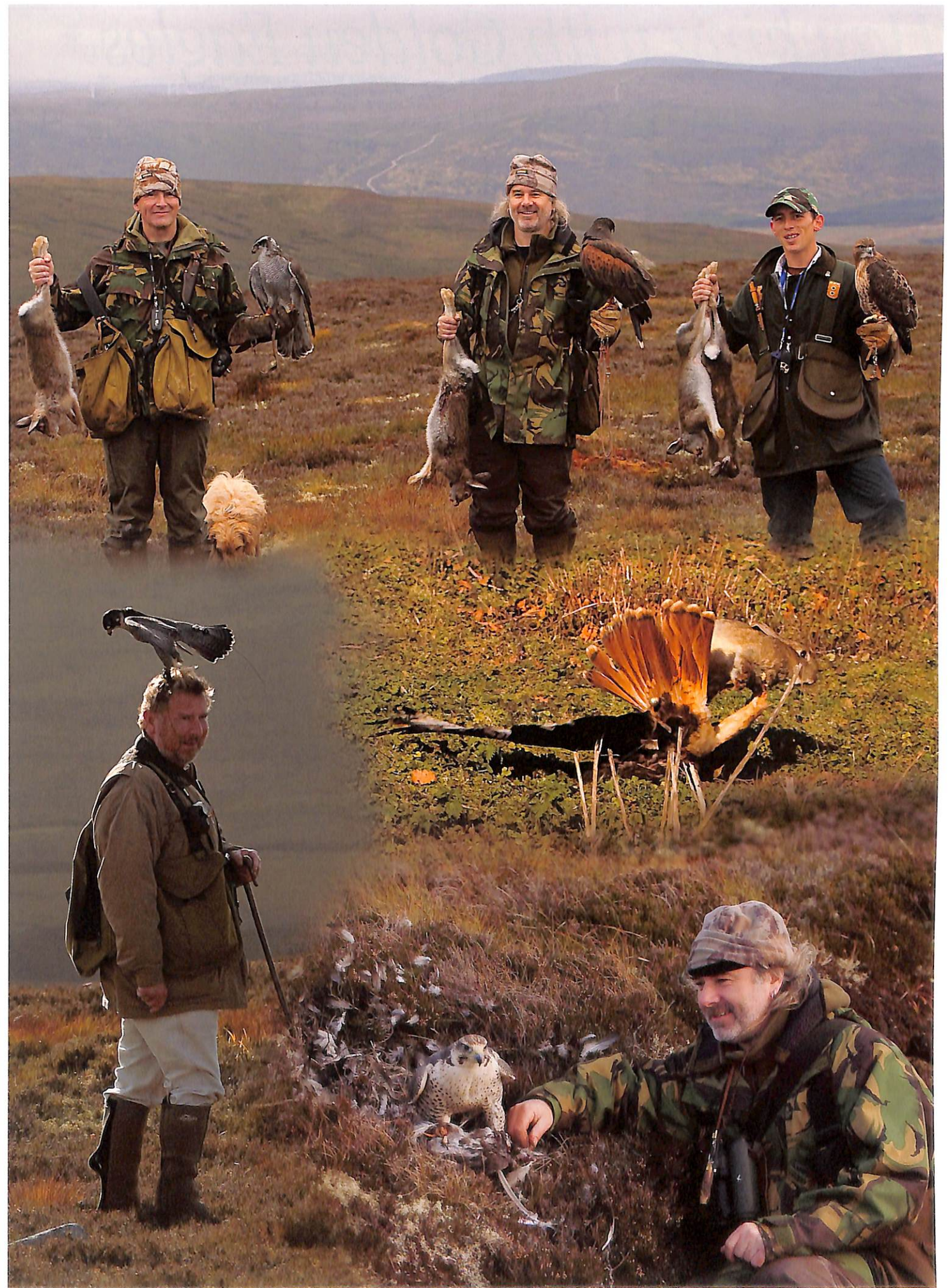
The Dave Scott's Falcons took 3 grouse with Muir sadly none. Although as he became used to the serfs around him he did perform better as the week went on. We had some great slips, and the dogs and Aussie Pete worked their pads off. Anyone who has been on the moors in the highlands will know just how tiring it is walking over the heather and it must be an English thing but it really is funny watching people running after their birds and falling over. We all took our turn of falling over and laughing at each other's misfortune. At least it was always a soft landing.

Later in the week, Lord and Lady Haverman-Mart joined us. They let us call them Nick and Lynne. The hospitality afforded us was excellent and I have to say we ate like lords. Some obviously more used to it than others.

Now it has to be said, Sir Peregrine was an excellent chef, didn't do washing up though. With Scotty and Andy out stalking and Aussie Pete, carrying it home (I knew he would be useful) venison was on the menu. With a couple of aged malts to wash it down and some interesting conversation, the evenings were a delight. We certainly slept well. That was due to the mountain air I'm sure, not the alcohol.

Unfortunately, all good things must end and our week was up. Sir Peregrine, after a couple of whiskies, even lets us call him Tony. We had all had an excellent time. The weather had been kind, allowing us on to the moor everyday. All the livestock were fit and well. A truly great start and to the season.

It only leaves me to pass on our considerable thanks to Nick and Lynne for what was for all of us a brilliant week.



Hawking with Golden Eagles



by Craig Mailey

Travelling out was not good for me, coming off 9 nights of work and onto a plane within 3 hours was not the best of moves.

We travelled out with our tour guide and host Mick Young after a couple of hours on a cramped Ryanair flight to Altenburg Germany picking up our rental car which this year turned out to be much better than the last with plenty of room for our junk we arrived in Czech by 4 and I for one was ready to turn in after a quick meal in the town and a beer with Zdenyck who's eagle we would be watching hunt for the most of the week. I turned in and Matt and Mick had a couple of beers and were not far behind me. We were up about ten ish and in to the main town near-by of Cheb for breakfast of Chinese!

In the afternoon we went out with Zdenyck and Irenko and had a good flight off a railway bridge unfortunately Zdenyck was on the wrong side of the river which entailed me and Matt running up to a rather worked up 6 kilogram eagle. We got there in time to hold the deer down in till Zdenyck could come and dispatch it. Then it was back to the town for dinner and beer before the next day when there was a field meet planned for the next 3 days. We were also meeting up with a group of NBC pest controllers who were out for a corporate weekend. They were flying in around lunch time so we meet up with Zdenyck and 2 Czech guys who had come in early for the meet.

We set out in the morning on to Zdenycks land where Matt spotted a well tucked up hare that was pushed out onto a field of winter wheat.

The hare accelerated up hill running at full pelt the eagle caught up and gave chase it was a good flight, didn't result in a kill but a very good flight.

After picking the eagle up we carried on to a small wooded valley staying at the top of the ridge. We watched a good flight on a Roe deer which managed to escape by jumping a 8ft deer fence speaking to zdenyck the eagles have been known to wait for the deer to jump this fence then take them mid jump!! By then the NBC guys had turned up so we meet them at the bottom of this valley knowing that at least 2 deer doubled back in, so we lined out and pushed the ground up again kicking out 2 deer and 1 hare the last deer was taken by one of the eagles allowing us to get some nice photos on the kill.

We finished up and headed back to the cars where we purchased one of the deer for dinner. That night we headed back to the cabin to get changed then out to a local shooting range for some target practice which is always fun. After this we headed back for a meal of fresh venison we caught earlier, then down the pub for more drinks.

The next day we headed out to meet up with the hunting group onto a new piece of land, a great piece with good woodland and some great valleys it showed all the promise of being a great piece of land. We started working a valley through pushing the scrub land up flushing 3 deer none catchable though, even so a good flight was seen on hare moving through wood land. We stopped for lunch, lit a campfire and cooked klobasa sausage.

As we left we pushed up a copse where we flushed 2 more deer onto the meadowland this proved to be a good flight in the open, that we



all watched. Then we moved on crossing the fields and finding out the electric fences in Czech are much stronger than back home!!

As we walked back down we worked a nice valley which proved to give the best flight of the week with the deer running up and down the edge of the valley and trying to make a break across a marsh land. It was a nice big buck, one of the biggest I have ever seen, of course the fact it was a great flight made it all the better. Then it was back to the village to eat another deer we had caught, this time as a goulash, it was great to taste the local food and the fruits of our labour.

The next day the NBC guys were heading out home. We had a couple of extra days that we were going to take easy for the field meet was at an end but one of the guys was staying around for another couple of days so we managed to have a good couple of days hunting and just a nice bit of relax time. All in all I could most recommend the trip to see a form of falconry not practiced in this country and to meet a great bunch of people.



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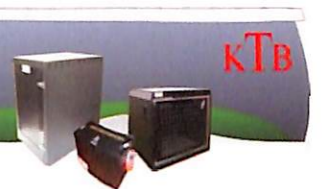
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The Rosenburg Christmas Meet

by David Horobin

A mighty fortress towered over the village, its massive stone walls appearing to rise out of the ancient, gnarled rock, clad in dense forest, upon which it is perched.

Within the walls stood a courtyard surrounded on three sides by an arched walkway that, centuries ago, echoed to the silvery sound of hawks' bells and brass blasts of hunting horns. As if in a dream, these sounds grew louder in my head, but this was no reverie: The horns announced the start of the day's hunting at the 2008 Rosenburg Christmas Meet.

This is a private falconry meet, organised on an invitation only basis by widely respected eagle expert, Josef Hiebeler. Josef is also known for running what are perhaps the most spectacularly situated falconry centres in the world, one high in the mountains near at Hohenwerfen Castle, where the movie "Where Eagles Dare" was filmed, and here at Rosenburg Castle. Having assisted with obtaining material for the falconry museum Josef has opened at Rosenburg, I was honoured and delighted to receive an invitation.

After a ridiculously early start on Friday 5th December, and a long stopover between flights, I arrived into Vienna and was relieved to see a gentleman holding a board with a picture of falcons on a glove – the internationally recognised symbol for "you can relax now"! This was Erich, Josef's brother in law, who wasted no time in whisking me to the guesthouse in Rosenburg where I met up with Jim Chick, a regular attendee, and was introduced to Josef, his wife Monika and daughter Doris. Later, Alan Gates, lately back from China and Mongolia, who had also been invited for the first time, arrived.

We were out long before dawn on Saturday as we had somewhere in the region of 170 kilometres to travel to the venue for the day for the traditional roe-deer hawking. Although we were in "Nieder-Österreich" or Lower Austria, and far from the famed ski-resorts in the Alps, en route we passed through some quite high areas which had a goodly covering of snow, via deep wintry pine forests in which it was easy to imagine wolves running not that long ago. Reaching our destination we part walked, part slid down an iced-over path into a small garden annexed to a baronial house, where the meet was opened by four horn-blowers in traditional Tyrolean loden capes and hats. The "ee-yapping" of several excited eagles, eagerly awaiting the off, added evocatively to the chorus.

The hunting was arranged very much like a driven shoot, with each falconer allocated a "peg" and beaters driving the woods to flush roe into the open. Roe hawking is illegal in Britain, where firearms are now the only legal means of killing deer, and our overcrowded island gives very little scope for such flights in any case, but the courage, strength and incredible fitness demanded of the eagles is outstanding. Only the most experienced eagle falconers and eagles, some travelling from Czech, France and Belgium, are invited, as was evident from the committed, strong and fit eagles we saw. Two roe (one a buck) were taken in front of me and the athleticism of the austringers is also

quite something to behold – it is, obviously, vital to get in fast to dispatch the deer. The day ended traditionally, with the laying out of the deer in an area of pine boughs and respects paid to the quarry on the hunting horns.

Sunday being a non-hawking day, we visited a museum at St. Pölten, the capital of Lower Austria, with Dr. Ferdinand Rosenburg, a kindly gentleman who somehow got lumbered with chauffeuring three Englishmen for the meet, and Dr. Sigrid Schwenk, an expert on the history of hunting. This was a tremendous place, devoted to wildlife and had a permanent hunting exhibition. Sadly there was nothing of direct relevance to falconry in the collection, but a tremendous array of art and artefacts in the hunting gallery was complemented by live fish, snakes and some phenomenal set-pieces of taxidermy to reflect the former and current wildlife of the area. Everything from two stags shown fighting with interlocked antlers, through wildfowl and birds of prey, to a re-constructed woolly mammoth was represented – a far cry from museums in P.C. Britain!

Monday saw us assemble at the Castle, and it was then I realised what a spectacular venue for the Meet it was. Though we had popped in briefly on the Sunday morning, we had a bit more of a look around before the horns called the assembly together; eagles, goshawks (plus one Harris') and longwings. The cloistered courtyard made a dream of a weathering area, and the display ground used in the summer months was surrounded on three sides by castle, and on the other by sky, overlooking the cliff edge. It is here that Josef's team holds displays which feature not only raptors, but also horses and the spectacular historic falconers' costumes seen at the first Festival of Falconry. After the assembly, we moved off with a mixed eagle and shortwing group for an area of vineyards surrounded by vast open fields where we were to see hares in abundance.

Walking up hares in a huge line, we enjoyed many great flights and though, sadly, the two goshawks near me did not take any quarry, some of the eagles were successful. If the roe deer is a test of the eagle's strength, then the hare is certainly a test of her agility. The difference in style of younger and more experienced eagles was quite apparent, with the older birds very proficient at taking hares which can make the best eagles seem clumsy at times. We turned the line around almost on the Czech border: Not that long ago this had been the frontier between Western and Soviet Europe and, until frighteningly recently (Jim mentioned reassuringly!) What were now vineyards had once been fields bearing "grapes of wrath" – landmines! Fortunately the only explosions we witnessed that afternoon were of hares from their seats, one of which, seemingly as big as a fox, was taken by Monika's eagle in fine style. We returned home via a wine cellar owned by the landowner, where wine and snacks, plus a welcome heat-lamp, were laid on!

On the final day, before the formal assembly at the Castle, Christian Habich kindly showed us around the falconry museum which contains some stunning exhibits and taxidermy – falcons on regal screen perches and richly decorated hoods, bags and lures

from former times and even our own British falconry history represented. Jim, Alan and I then accompanied the longwings, plus Christian with his first year tiercel gos and one of Josef's team, Katrina, flying a female Harris' who had the monopoly on any hares that were found. The longwings were hybrids with the exception of a white gyr flown by Czech falconer Dr Jiri Vesely and a peregrine falcon and tiercel flown by his fellow countryman, Tomáš Leskovjan, the tiercel having put in a tremendous flight the previous day, we had heard. Tomáš could certainly be described as a very committed falconer: At school, when Russian was a compulsory second language, he additionally taught himself English so that he could read Jack Mavrogordato's "A Hawk for the Bush!"

It was a superb day with bright blue skies facilitating some nice, high mounting falcons and hard stoops at pheasants. Two were taken, one falling to the peregrine and one to a hybrid, and then a hare was found at which the Harris' put in three very determined efforts but after a phenomenal chase was sadly defeated. Christian had a very long flight which, predictably, I was the wrong side of a hedge to enjoy and then a bitterly cold freezing fog started to draw in. This was no problem for the gyr, which appeared and disappeared into the whiteness above like a ghost and eventually re-emerged at speed to scoop up a cock pheasant, but thereafter it became too risky to continue with the longwings and so in what was quite dense fog now, we lined up to find hares for the Harris which was cheated out of one which jumped above her at the critical moment, almost obscured from view by the mist, then finally got her reward to end the day on the next.

Tuesday evening saw everyone assemble on a bitterly cold and atmospheric evening in the courtyard outside the Great Hall of the Castle. Surrounded by blazing torches, all of the quarry taken over the three days was laid out in the "Stricke Legen" and all of the falconers and their charges stood to pay their respects. Speeches were made and, with everyone in their traditional hunting clothes or formal/historical dress, it was a truly magnificent scene to behold. However, better yet was to come. We entered the Great Hall to be greeted by a long table decorated with a red cloth, pine boughs and a magnificent stuffed peacock as centrepiece, with pheasants either side. No detail had been omitted, and even the napkins and bottles of wine bore the picture of Georg Herzog, a 17th century falconer to whom this year's meet was dedicated. With 400 year old portraits on the walls and a roaring fire in the hearth, we enjoyed a started of hare pate followed by a selection of hare, red and roe deer; wild boar; black grouse, pheasant and capercaillie – musical accompaniment throughout on hunting and French horns, plus other historical instruments.

Such a magnificent setting for an evening I shall never forget was surely the perfect way to end three days of high quality hawking. As a love of falconry's heritage, it was a dream come true to be there, but also showed that, as falconers, we enjoy a living heritage where the values and traditions of our ancestors are healthy and flourishing even in the modern world.





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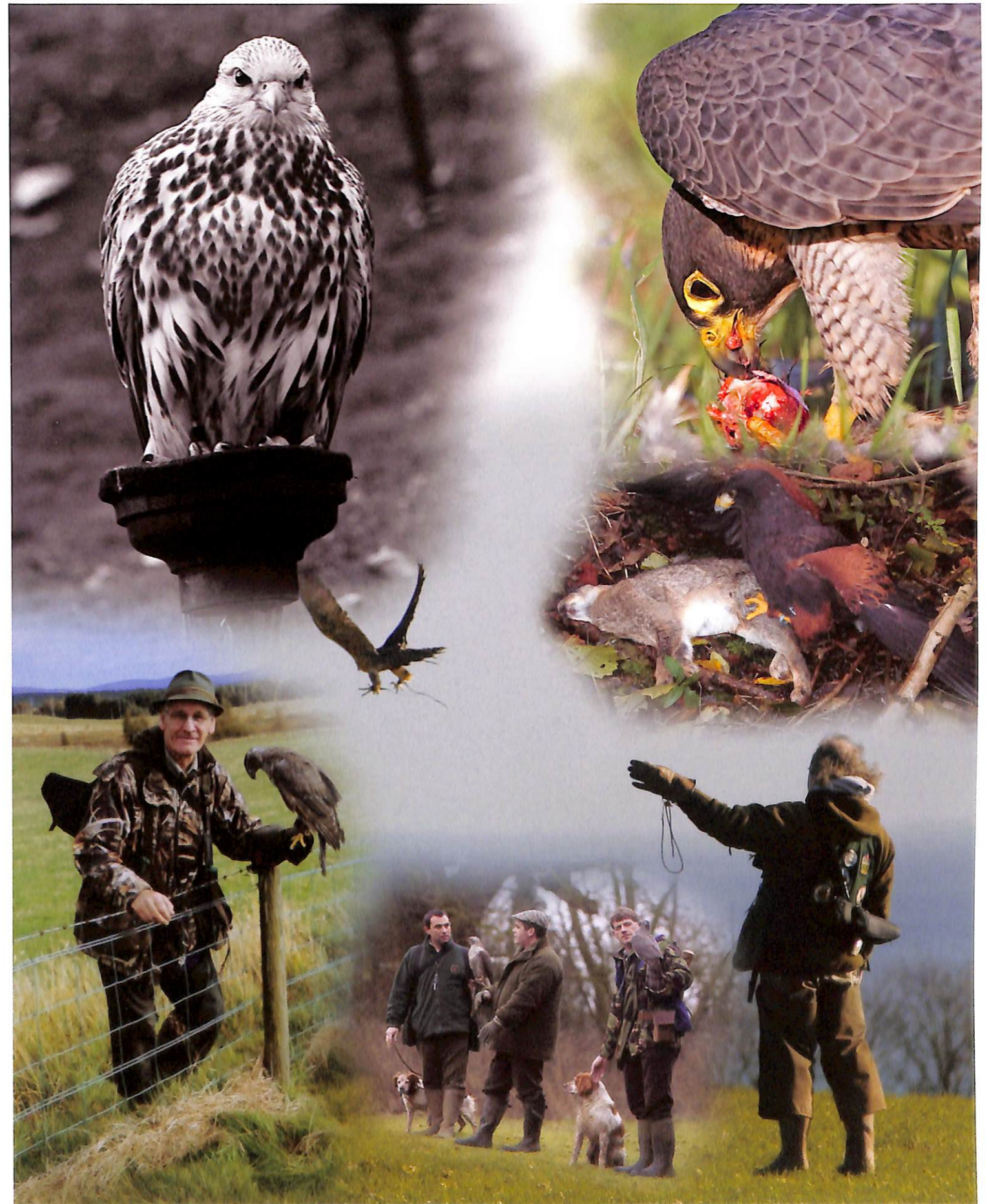
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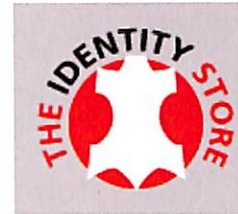
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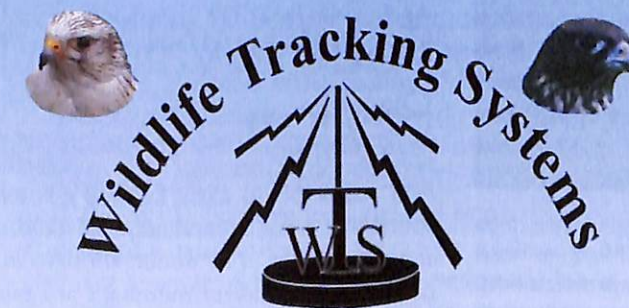
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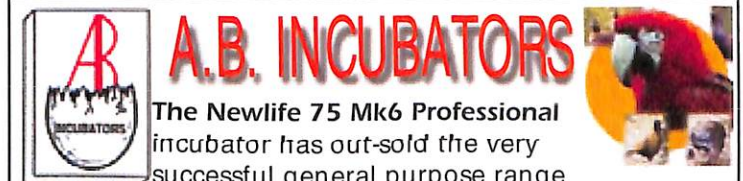
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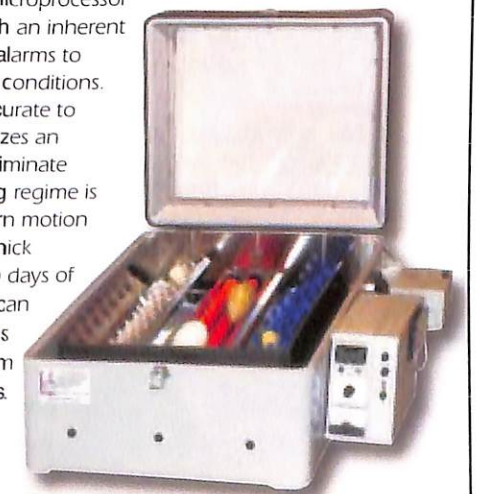
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Under the auspices of your committee, the WHC had been gently directed towards a regional structure. The need therefore, to inform you of the passion and success of each of the regions has arisen. The rouse gives you such a chance, and the rules of the club have been altered to accommodate this new direction. As part of the new clarified regional structure, it has become obligatory for the secretary to send in a written report to the editor of the Austringer.

SOUTH WALES

Meetings held on the second Monday of each month at Olway Inn, Usk.
Contact Dr David Ridpath 01594 860918

NORTH WALES

Meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at The Robin Hood Pub, Helsby.
Contact Neil McCann 0151 293 0364

SOUTH WEST

Meetings held on the third Monday of each month at The Ley Arms Public House, Kennford, Nr Exeter.
Contact Kevin Mosedale 01392 8333681

ESSEX

Meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at The Whalebone Inn, Fingringhoe, Nr Colchester.
Contact Ray Hooper 07885 287218

YORKSHIRE

Meetings held on the second Monday of each month at The Marquis, Stubbin Rd, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.
Contact Steve Lambert 07736 319147
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Regional Reports



North Wales Region

Chairman – Mike Coupe.
Secretary – Neil McCann.
Treasurer – Kevin Simcox
Regional Rep – John Simcox.

Again another season comes to an end and I go about writing the annual report! The North Wales Region has grown in strength and support this season with a turn out of up to 35 members in the room

This year we have not had many guest speakers, as we agreed to keep the funds to go on field meets and Kevin Simcox wanted another holiday in Disneyland!

Again we had a good turn out for our xmas party in March, with the auction raising plenty of money (can't say too much Jean will confiscate it!)



The field meets we held were again on Llandegla north Wales many thanks to Mel and Dave Rhodes for the rabbit and duck days on a Sunday, we had members travelling from Nottingham Trevor Webster and Gavin Lee flying Eya's female imprint goshawks, I don't think they had an unsuccessful flight between them! The weather was kind on every day we hawked on there, it made a change not sitting waiting for the rain to stop or phoning every one up to change it to another day.

A special thanks to Mike Roberts professional gun and falconer dog trainer gave an excellent talk and advice, (a Brittany fanatic a must for all falconers he says!!!) Mike Coupe done a slide show on birds he and other members have flown from the 1970s to present day and how things have changed and progressed over the years! Many for the best.

There is still the invitation to hawk in town mid Wales at rabbits (ferrets a must), this again was a kind free invite from Dave Melia. Paul Harman, Melvin Jones and myself have hawked this venue a few times, taking 15 rabbits between us and a 8lb 8oz brown hare.

We hope to organise more field meets for this coming season lets hope we continue to get the great support from the member. Regards, Neil.

Neil McCann

South Wales Region

As I write this in early February, snow is still falling after several days of cold and snowy weather. No doubt, though, some of our more stalwart members are taking time off work to go out hawking while quarry is less camouflaged.

The South Wales Region has continued to have good attendances this year; despite the paucity of guest speakers: The committee was somewhat diminished due to illness. In electing regional officers at our January meeting, the previous position of secretary was split into secretary and programme secretary, to reduce the workload on individuals. Our committee now comprises Mick Cordell (Chair), David Ridpath (Secretary), Wayne Sullivan (Treasurer) and Matt Whittaker (Programme Secretary). With all posts now filled again, we look forward to a more interesting programme over the coming year.

There have been some lively discussions at region meetings on topics such as the LANTRA award and preparations for the Festival of Falconry. These useful discussions might not have been possible had we had a full guest



speaker programme.

However, we did have a very interesting presentation by Alasdair Greenyer on the time he spent in Mexico at a wildlife sanctuary.

At that early part of the year, it was becoming increasingly clear that we were less than welcome at the Rat Trap Inn. The new management had very substantially increased bar prices and there was a perception that we were not the sort of customers wanted in what was fast becoming an up-market restaurant. So, having lost the venue at the Olway Inn some three years earlier when the previous owners went into liquidation, we approached the new management who extended us a warm welcome. We now meet there each month where we have been received with a friendlier environment and have all saved considerably on the cost of beverages.

Region members manned a club stand at the Usk Show in early June and region members assisted on the club stand at the Falconer's Fair and the CLA Game Fair all of which have helped to attract new members.

In August, Roger and June James kindly hosted a region family weekend at the Black Mountain Falconry Centre. A separate report on that event is given below. All who attended reported a cracking weekend, especially the barbecue for which Rob Cole very generously donated a drum barbecue to the club and £100 for meat to put on it. Many thanks to Roger, June and Rob.

The region was not in a financial position to subsidise a Christmas meal this year; so the Olway Inn manager was asked to provide a Christmas buffet for the December meeting. The kitchen staff did us proud with a buffet of traditional cold meats, vegetables and trimmings followed by a choice of desserts. Crackers on the tables added to the atmosphere. The buffet was followed by a quiz set by David Ridpath and Mick Cordell.

Our only field meet of the year was held on Mick Cordell's permission land on 17 January. Two Harris' Hawks, a Goshawk and a Red-tail made up the feathered contingent. Three working dogs, working two at a time, and a total

of six ferrets completed the hunting party. A number of spectators, including one of the landowners and his family made up a sizable throng to witness a dozen or so rabbits being caught, some by the Gos, one coursed by Colin Asquith's spaniel and others by the ferrets and ferreters. The planned soup and roll lunch was augmented by Colin's generous donation of game pie, filled with red deer venison of his own stalking. Linda Wright, our raptor photographer colleague, took some stunning pictures, some of which accompany this report. Everyone had a good day: Where else can you get a day's entertainment for £10 (£5 for spectators)? Many thanks go to Mick for organising the meet, Colin for the pie and to the landowners, John James and Mel Thompson.

To end the year, we planned to hold our region auction at the February meeting. Unfortunately, the heavy snow at that time meant that the meeting and hence the auction had to be postponed until the March meeting. The items for sale have been significantly enhanced by a very generous donation by Crown Falconry of a hawking jacket, bells and several decorative pewter items. Our grateful thanks go to Jim Moss of Crown Falconry. We shall look forward to a lively event and a significant boost to funds.

The committee extends thanks to all the



members who regularly support region events and to the main Club committee for their support, without whom the club would not exist. We wish all our members a successful moulting season and hope to see you at the various local and national fairs, especially the Falconers Fair.

David Ridpath (Reg. Secretary).

South Wales Region Family Day

In August we arranged to hold a regional family day. Roger & June James very kindly offered to let us hold it at their centre in Abergavenny. A few activities were planned for both grown ups and not so grown ups, Archery, food and drink, coconut shy, food and drink, treasure hunt, music, more food and drink etc. You know the usual stuff. Well somebody up above decided that this particular day was the day to practise for Armageddon. Members turned up bright and early on Saturday morning and we duly erected about 8 gazebos and set everything up by 11.30 am. at 11.40 it started to rain. At 12.30 it was still raining and at 1.30, 2.30, 3.30 in fact it never stopped pi**ing down ALL day.

The coconut shy floated away and the treasure hunt was more like 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea'. To be fair though, the archery was great fun.

Then of course there was the food and drink. Boy was there food and drink. Rob Cole very generously donated £100 towards this good cause. Thank you Rob, and Paul Dillon picked up his tongs and donned his apron to do a sterling job in charge of the barbeque. Many of the ladies brought and arranged other food and by about 5 o'clock we were well fed and watered.

Unfortunately it was still raining and we had a Ceilidh Band booked for the evening.

Once again Roger and June came to the rescue and had a chat with the golf club next door and managed to get us into the lounge of the club for the remainder of the evening. So the band set up indoors and we kicked off our muddy boots and enjoyed a further few hours dancing and drinking. There was a strange odour around to start with and a few were steaming quietly whilst they dried out but after a few dances all was well.

We came away from the golf club at around midnight and those capable made their way back towards the tents and caravans. It had now stopped raining but whilst we were indoors the wind had got up and the gazebos where we had held the barbeque earlier had blown some 20 feet away and were upside down. Six beefy guys dragged it back onto its feet, we re lit the barbeque and started all over again eventually finishing about 3.30-ish (I think)

Much clearing up was done later that morning and the site was left neat and tidy. (Thanks everyone). Roger assures me the grass did eventually recover!

Mick Cordell (Reg. Chairman).



Essex Region

Chairman: Adrian Watson.
Secretary: Ray Hooper.
Treasurer: Andy Hulme.

The Essex region of the Welsh Hawking Club continues to have a healthy number of members. Our monthly meetings at the Whalebone Pub continue to be informal and a good social event.

This year we welcomed Dan and Paul into the club, they are both flying Harris hawks and have enjoyed our local field meetings. We owe our thanks to Stuart as he has taken over the difficult task of organising the field meetings this year. He has made a lot of visits to various farms and managed to persuade gamekeepers to allow us to hold field meets this year. I know next year there will be some new venues to visit thanks to his hard work.

I would like to thank our members who helped and supplied birds for displays at the Essex Game and Country Fair at Blake Hall and Stonham Barns Country Fair. Unfortunately the weekend at Stonham Barns was marred by the inclement weather.

Several members from our region attended the Annual Welsh field meeting and AGM at the Chainbridge Hotel this year. Our thanks go to the committee and especially Neil McCann for co-ordinating another 3 days of great hawking. Although Steve and Adi defected to the Goshawk group, our Harris hawk group keep up to expectations with Mark Herbert and Frank



Whitley joining the Essex boys for the duration of the meet.

This year's venue looks good and should improve the parking and weathering ground problems we have endured in the past. Seth and Sarah from the International Falconers magazine were taking photographs at the meeting and there should be some interesting articles in their magazine too.

We look forward to meeting up with friends at the Falconry fairs this summer. I wish all members of the club great success for coming season.

Ray Hooper

Yorkshire Region

Chairman & Regional Rep – Steven Lambert (Tel No. 07736319347).

Secretary – position vacant.
Treasurer – Paul Cuthbert.

Regional meets take place on the second Wednesday of every month at the Marquis public house (Stubbin Road, Low Stubbin, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S62 7RX).

Another year gone and it doesn't seem a year since I last sat down and wrote the regional report. Once the season closed it wasn't long before a few of us from the region made the journey down to the Falconers Fair in Shropshire, the weather wasn't great but as always a good laugh was had and it was nice to speak to friends who we just don't see often enough.

The region was asked to look into organising the clubs summer weekend which we did, and though poorly attended those members who did make it from the North Wales and Yorkshire regions all enjoyed themselves and it just meant that there was even more food for everyone thrown on the 'barbie'.

The clay pigeon shooting was fun and thanks to John Simcox for running this for us and of course Kevin Simcox for bringing the clays all the way over. A big thank you must go to Terry Cadwallander and his family for making the event what it was though, Terry and his family took on the majority of organising and fetching



and carrying for the event and without them it wouldn't have been a success. A big thank you also to Paul Cuthbert and his family for all the time and effort they put into making sure the event was a success.

The region was asked to represent the club at some of the local Heritage Fairs that took place through-out the summer and Martin Wilmot and Ben Brewer did a fine job in representing both the region and the club at the Tatton Park event in August. A thank you from us all for the work you put in there.

The seasons almost over to be honest it's not been the most productive for the Yorkshire Region.

We had our annual Scotland trip at the end of October and as always many thanks to Terry Cadwallander for organising the trip and ensuring that a temperamental bunch of Austringers had plenty of land and quarry so they could fly their hawk's everyday. Lots of sport was had and once again Dave Hughes excelled himself in the kitchen providing some excellent meals. His rabbit stew and the 'game' curry both very memorable.

The season peaked then really for the region however. We organised four field meets for Goshawks on prime kept land on the doorstep to the region and on all four occasions I had to fill places by asking members from other regions and friends to attend. Each time the region lost money on these days so we decided not to arrange any more through January.

The Harris Hawk boys had a day on the same estate organised by Martin Wilmot and a fair few days up in North Yorkshire organised by Paul Cuthbert.

Attendance at the monthly social meetings is equally disappointing and numbers have dropped to the same half a dozen faces each meeting. It's your region, and it will only be what you make it, if you think something is wrong come along and speak up. We now do not have a Secretary or any field meet co-ordinators.

I hope you all get through to the moult with healthy hawks, dogs and ferrets and wish you all the best for the next season. I might even see some of you at the Fairs or the Festival in the summer.

Steve Lambert

South West Region

I am happy to report that all is well in the West Country.

New members have settled in and along with existing members have taken advantage of the field meets organised throughout the season. Special thanks must go to our chairman for arranging some excellent sport on ferreted rabbit on his land. We also joined up on a couple of occasions with the B.F.C for joint meets on pheasant, our thanks to Dave Scott for organising them. The field meets have been well supported and with plenty of game around a lot of quality slips were seen. New birds were entered and experienced birds continued to perform well. Of course, the art of digging out ferrets was in evidence on several occasions with our chairman only too willing to instruct our new members on the best way to take on this task. He even supplied the spades.

All of our members, birds, dogs and ferrets have generally stayed in good health and free from hunting accidents. Overall, a good season for the region.

The monthly meetings have been very well attended, but along with our chairman, it would be great to see more of our members, there is no doubt that the continued strength and success of the region relies on all members participating in the regions activities.



A special mention for a couple of our long-standing members. Dave Scott and Nick Farrant have been WHC members for many years now. They have both held various positions on the regional committee. Rarely have they missed a meeting and their contributions and knowledge are invaluable. Our thanks go to you both.

Also, our thanks to everyone who has given up their time, and do, or have, held office. Without whom of course the region would not exist.

At our regional monthly meetings, we have been working our way through the LANTRA workbook. We take on a module at a time and explore the subject in more detail than would actually be required by an assessor. This makes it more interesting for everyone and many members contribute with their knowledge and experience. It

works well and I have no doubt that members are finding it not only interesting but also useful.

With the new membership rules now in place it has become incumbent on new members to achieve the award within their first year of membership, we are therefore, setting up Lantra workshops during the closed season to guide people through the award. This also includes long standing members, many of whom have now taken the award.

Another season is over and a chance now to meet up with like minded people at the up and coming country fairs and of course the Falconry Festival. We look forward to seeing you all during the summer.

Kevin Mosedale

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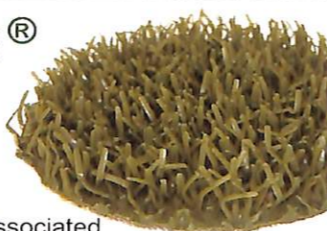
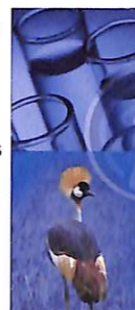


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Rules & Constitution

of the Welsh Hawking Club

Name and Objects

- 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 members.

Constitution

The club shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Membership Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Editor, Press and Publicity Officer, Education Officer, Breeding Project Officer, Legal Officer, Mewsletter Editor, Field Officer 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. Proxy and Postal votes will not be allowed at committee meetings. 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

- 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.
- 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

- Members of the club will be elected by the committee.
- No person will be elected without application to the Membership Secretary in writing.
- The annual subscription rate shall be determined at the AGM each year.
- 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.

- 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.

- No member must give talks, interviews or material relating to Falconry. Domestic breeding etc. to the media i.e. TV, 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.
- Any member wishing to dispose of a hawk obtained through the club must first offer the hawk back into the club.
- Only Full members are eligible to vote on club affairs.
- Proxy and Postal votes are not allowed.
- 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

- 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.
- 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

- 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 hawk.
- All hawks flown free should be equipped with field jesses, at least one bell and if possible a transmitter and the name and address of the owner. In the case of unentered or aggressive hawks, eagles, hybrids, exotics etc. special care must be taken to prevent loss.
- 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.
- 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 hacked back.

Regions

Purpose of the Regions

- To provide social meetings for members and potential members living locally, although any member will be welcome to attend.
- To arrange local field meets, which will be governed by the main Club field meet rules
- To arrange fund raising to assist with paying for speakers and field meets.
- To promote falconry and the Welsh Hawking Club.

Rules

- No new region will be formed by members unless it has been agreed by the Club committee at a committee meeting.
- 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 2 signatories.
- 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.

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

Mike Clowes

Hon. Secretary, January 2009



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