

Members and Club News



The Home Counties Hawking Club member profile

is...*Club Secretary - Nicky Forrest*

Club member for? *Five Years*

Years in falconry? *Three Years*

Birds kept? *Barn Owl, White Faced Scops Owl and I share a Harris Hawk with my husband Steve. I am getting my own Harris Hawk this year*

Dogs used? *English Springer Spaniel*

Ferrets, love them or hate them? *Love Them*

Other field sports involved in? *Clay Pigeon Shooting*

Vehicle used for falconry? *Share Steve's Mitsubishi L200*

Favourite bird? *Barn Owl and Harris Hawk*

Favourite game to eat? *Venison*

The Season So Far

For me it has been a difficult season so far. My male Harris that started so well, cut his foot and then got an infection, he has been laid up for the last six weeks. The two new ferrets I got have been very slow starting and then I lost one on Christmas Eve, which resulted in me trying to locate it on Christmas Day.

The weather has not been kind with the snow which was on the ground for ages. However I have had some good days out.

I had a day's hunting on the Kent marshes hunting rabbits, this was a big meet which had about eighteen falconers flying Harris Hawks and Goshawks on rabbit. The two groups had a bag of 34 rabbits.

I have had several bags of 10 and 6 rabbits even though they have been in short supply this season. Mxymotosis seems to be rife this winter!

From what I have been told of members birds, Paul Gray's Redtail has entered and is catching rabbits regularly, Steve Wises male Harris has been performing well. John Lucas's female Harris has been catching quite a few pheasants. Stuart and Kelly's new Redtail's are entered and taken pheasant and rabbit. Steve Forrest's female Harris has been flying very well and taken three rabbits twice in the times I have been out with him.

Even Ryan has managed to catch the odd rabbit although on one occasion I bolted a rabbit for him and although it nearly ran into his leg he failed to see it. Sorry Ryan I had to tell everyone about that!! Another amusing occasion occurred when a rabbit bolted from a warren and bolted up a bank with Paul Gray's Redtail in hot pursuit, for it to run straight into the mouth of my dog. All caught on video much to Paul's disgust lol.

Club Meeting Dates for 2011

February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, May17th, June 21st, July19th, August 16th, September 20th, October18th, November 15th, December 20th. Easy way to remember is, it is the Third Tuesday of every month.

Club Venue

The hall we have been using at The Royal Swan is being turned in to a flat, so we are going to lose this. We have been told we can still meet in the pub and they will cordon off an area for us. How ever this is not ideal and if you know of a suitable venue please let one of the committee members know. Many thanks.

Field meets

There will be two field meets coming up soon (Alton and Uppark). Information will be sent to members by email. Please contact Steve if you are interested in going. Places for members flying and guests will be limited so please apply promptly to avoid disappointment.

Meets

Binfield 1/1/11

Present were Paul Gray and his two sons Tim and Chris and myself. We started by hunting some pheasants but had no success. We then moved into a wood and started ferreting. There was still snow on the ground and it was bitterly cold.

The rabbits on this day were not playing ball and we ended up digging out five with the ferrets. We did manage to bolt some and my Harris caught two, Chris's Redtail caught one and my pointer caught two! The total bag was ten rabbits and although there were quite a few rabbits there, there were also many dead ones which had died of myxy.



Aldbury 27/10/10

Attending were Chris Gray, Ryan and myself. The weather was very warm on this day.

The first place we went to which normally holds a lot of rabbits had been ferreted by a local ferreter about a week prior to our visit. A fact we were unaware of until we arrived.

It still produced rabbits though with my male Harris proving that he has balls of steel by hitting rabbits anywhere he could and hanging on for grim death.

We ended with a total bag of four rabbits, one to my male, two to my female and one rabbit to Ryan's female Harris.



Aldbury 12/12/10

As the picture to the right shows, it was an eventful day starting with Paul's son Chris driving his Discovery into the back of mine! Luckily for me, mine was unscathed, although Tim and I are feeling a little stiff in the neck Paul lol. However no one was hurt and we did manage to continue to the hunting ground and hawk for the rest of the day.

We had some good flights and Paul, Chris and I all caught. The ferret also managed to catch one as well and this resulted in more digging out.

I think this season I have dug more times than any previous years.

Paul also had a spectacular long flight with his Redtail going through a fence and still continuing after the rabbit. This was caught on video and we hope to be able to show this at the next club meeting.



For Sale and Wanted

To place an Advert in next months newsletter contact Jem on 0786 3339074 or jp243@aol.com (falconry related items only).

Wanted. The use of a small male ferret that is working well to breed with two of my ferrets. If you have such a beast please contact Jem on 0786 3339074