



I am sure most fowlers will be saying August already! Another season almost with us.

Now's the time to check all your foreshore hardware, gun , waders, wading stick, game bag and strap, gloves, headwear and your selected non lead cartridges. Some guys will probably never even have fired a shot over the close season, hence a we visit to your local clay pigeon range may be a good idea just to check that your gun operates as spec. Wading sticks don't last long what with all the salt and mud they have to put up with, 2 or 3 seasons on average I would say is the the norm before 6 inches or so will have to be removed leaving you with a stick that is to short!! Decoy strings will also suffer under the same conditions.

If you are involved with a permit system there will be paper work coming through your letterbox any day now, most reports along with the permit supply important info on last season's results and how the wildfowlers have behaved whilst fowling. There is much to be learned from this info, perfect for any young fowlers who will surely benefit from times and dates when birds frequent certain areas.

Reconnaissance carried out over the close season will also add to your enjoyment possibly allowing you to try new areas.

Planning at the start of the shooting season is vitally important some of our club members are privileged to shoot over some of the country's best spaniels that are trialled at local estates, others will be shooting driven game, then there is beating at one or more shoots, and I almost forgot fishing which goes on until mid Oct. All these dates have to be worked out to prevent clashes, after all you can't be in 2 places at the same time!!



Safely releasing a 10lb Dee salmon, all part of the fun.

Good luck with the start of the wildfowling season remember the 1st of Sept is a Sunday so your opening day should you make it will be Monday 2nd Sept, and tight lines if you are salmon fishing.

JM