



Now that we are into 2020 the Wagbi / Basc Challenge cup which the club won last summer changes hands between team members going from Newburgh to Ceres, it last came our way 13 years ago in 2006.

Like most fowlers you will be patiently awaiting winter to arrive!! Alas the wet and mild weather continues and with a small percentage of potatoes not harvested and turned into the soil the geese are cashing in big time. Most ploughed fields that I've seen are covered in light grey pinks greedily grazing away, mallards also enjoying small ponds in the middle of ploughed and winter crop fields. Must be a nightmare for farmers as these winter crops will be struggling surrounded by too much water soaking into the root systems.



Geese will be enjoying the extra portions, as potatoes not picked will be turned over creating more food than ever for them, I've noticed good numbers of pinks mostly on ploughed fields and with mild temperatures these birds won't be going anywhere else. Windless conditions on the estuaries will be keeping most geese out of range on the foreshore so let's hope the weather changes before the end of the season.

Being in the Fife area there are some excellent driven pheasant days to be had and it was whilst on my peg and awaiting a driven bird or two that I couldn't help comparing the different pressure one feels as the first bird comes towards you. An early morning goose flight over the mud flats usually edges it for me and being in the crouched position for an hour or so doesn't help, then there's that electrifying sound as they come towards you.

The main difference has got to be the fact that on most mornings you know you've only got one opportunity to get it right!! There's nothing worse than driving home wondering how an expert fowler like yourself has missed with both barrels!! That's pressure!!

All the best for 2020

JM