



## A Fowler's Revenge

Although a fowler should resist from conflict with a fellow fowler it is sometimes just a by-product of wildfowling

I remember it like it was yesterday. It was very early on in my fowling career and I was very green. An early morning ambush on duck had been planned on the middle of the estuary. At my chosen spot I was aware of a dark shape lumbering towards me. When the shape got closer it revealed itself to be a fowler.

Pleasantries exchanged it was soon down to the serious question of who was going where! Ah well son" the fowler said "stay here and I will go there because its better here and you were here first so you should get the best spot". The flight passed with me not firing a shot and the other fowler having a red letter day!

A season or so later the same situation but this time I was wiser so I stood my ground and would not be swayed . The other fowlers answer to this was to sit 80 yards directly in front of me effectively cutting of my flightline, again another flight without a shot fired. Whilst legally okay mortally it was against the ethos of fowling. However a mental note was made to return the favour when the opportunity arose.

Perhaps 8-9 years passed and I had my chance one morning. Discovering the fowler had beaten me to my chosen spot I promptly took up position 100 yards directly in front and had a reasonable flight. After the flight was over the fowler approached me crimson with rage and began to complain that I had cut of his line. "Well I began "do you remember a few years back when you did that to me and I left him with his jaw hitting the mud..... A fowler never forgets!!!! SW



Wildfowlers that carry out their sport out over the estuary mud have got to take on board the fact that they may sharing local hot spots, enough books have been written on this subject so I won't be boring you with any of that. Let's just say apply a common sense etiquette when you are aware that you are not alone!!

I must say that on the other side of the coin I've met some fowlers who can't do enough to help you, it's just your luck who you bump into on these dark winter mornings. Many thanks to our club member who shared his unlucky experience with us all, I know for sure he can see the funny side of it now, although not at the time.

Sure is a busy time, beaters days, cock days, Salmon season opened, and off course the last of the Wildfowling days in February, life's a bit hectic sometimes!!

Great big thanks to the estates that some of us beat on, we've been well looked after dining on some great food and hot drinks, spoilt really!! JM