

One month into the 2020 close season

The present coronavirus situation that we find ourselves in requires that we stay at home if non-essential, only being allowed out for exercise once a day. Unfortunately checking out any new Wildfowling areas will have to wait until the end of next season, however there is a lot to be gained by looking closely at our good old ordnance survey maps.

Wondering what to put into the clubs newsletter and hoping to lighten the mood a little I decided to take a step back in time and take a look at how some of our earlier fowlers went about their business.



If your season didn't go that well or your shooting wasn't that accurate what about lying flat out and paddling about in a luxurious double punt gun on and around one of our local estuaries! (don't tell them I sent you). I am not sure whether Amazon stock single or double punts?! I reckon delivery might be a problem.



Once you've purchased one of these muzzle loading cannons a six month weight training course would assist you when carrying the 180lb monster to the craft. A double punt would be best as you could take your wife or husband to paddle at the stern - it goes without saying that you would both have to be on talking terms!

The barrels on these weapons would have been 9ft 6in approx. and the bore 2in - this would match up with 12-30oz of charge and 2 1/2 lbs of shot. Oh, and don't forget Colonel Hawk's trusty recoil spring! Once you've had some practice the old timers reckoned you could reload in 4 minutes. On a good day you might get a maximum of 4 shots and on a bad day you might not get home at all!

On second thoughts, a few sessions at your local clay layout to improve your accuracy might be a more sensible and safer option.

Many thanks for the club's bag returns it is much appreciated, as usual I will inform you all of facts and figures at our annual meeting.

Obviously the scout outing to Mugdrum and club clay competitions will not be going ahead due to the ongoing virus situation.

On behalf of TVWA club members I would like to say a massive thanks to all NHS workers and essential services out there doing an incredible job. The best

way to support our heroes on the front line and the health of our loved ones is to stay home and be thankful – I think we can manage that.

Stay safe, everyone.

JM

