

It's always nice to start off with some good news these days, so it was great to get an envelope from Fife council last Thursday, things got even better when I opened it and found my Eden Estuary Wildfowling permit along with paperwork inside.

Hats off to Fife Countryside Trust and Fife Council who together somehow managed to battle through the still problematic covid situation and deliver our Wildfowling permits just in time for the seasons start. I am sure I am not alone in saying a big thank you to all involved.

Meanwhile back on the Tay good numbers of Canadas have been seen in various areas, these birds have been increasing year on year and are an added bonus should you be lucky to get under them. It's only common sense to deploy some restraint when you are successful as they are heavy birds to carry back to your vehicle and take up far too much space in a freezer!



A small number of pinkfoot on Loch Leven shortly before morning flight



How nice it was to spend an organised day after some local pigeons

The morning quietly went by with some reasonably good shooting, that was after the mist had slowly crept away. At mid-day the sun came out making the heat almost unbearable I found some shade away from my hide and had some good sport with a few flighting birds that were heading elsewhere. By late afternoon the days forecast east wind appeared and it was time to get back into the hide. It was cooler by this time and the birds slowly started coming into a nice pattern of decoys, in the last hour I've got to say I had a pair of relatively warm barrels and with that some great shooting. Naturally a good pigeon day is best finished off by sampling tender fillets cooked on a very hot heat as above.

Throughout the day I had the good fortune to watch a peregrine taking a feral pigeon and a couple of buzzards showing great interest in my decoys also 3 or 4 skeins of Canadas heading for some distant fields.

JM