

The romance of owning an 8 bore never leaves a fowler



On a few occasions I did come fairly close to buying something similar to the weapon above but as the years went on a 10 bore was as near as I ever got. Like most coastal gunners the weight of such a beast played a big part, carrying a 15lb chunk of metal and wood out over the flats would definitely have given me that sinking feeling every step of the way. Cartridges weren't too common and pretty expensive hence I settled for a 10 bore 5lb lighter and able to launch 63g or 2 ¼ oz of shot in the general direction. The results were impressive with the 10 and ensured a clean kill which for me was important being without man's best friend for most of my fowling days.

As one would expect fast ducks to close were often missed as swinging a 32 in barrel quickly wasn't easy, hence it was mainly my goose gun.



It seems many seasons ago when as a youth I would slip into a pair of long Johns look out my trusty woollen balaclava and ensure my woollen gloves were in my Barbour pockets.

The mild weather we are now receiving is all a bit frustrating for most of us Wildfowlers. Without frost and snow means less wildfowl on our estuaries Years ago you had to set your alarm proper early to make sure you got to your intended place without ending in a ditch due to black ice and that white stuff. Then when eventually out there your headgear and gloves meant that you could still function and pull the trigger!

Unfortunately the clubs AGM didn't go ahead we the committee did intend on having one but as you will know everyone is being ultra-cautions again.

The club is quiet with no organised events, but off course our members are out there Wildfowling as normal, let's hope for some wintry weather before the end of the season, just remember and take care!

I will be out on the Tay on opening day chasing the King of fish, here's hoping a bar of silver slides into the net.

TVWA would like to wish all members a happy and prosperous new year.

JM