



As you are reading this article the 2023/24 season is now coming to an end.

Part way through my first beaters day I had asked a few of our talented crew what would be their personnel favourite pursuit amongst a handful that they have taken part in over the years. All the answers were pretty much the same jeez oh that's a hard one and difficult to say.

On the day a high driven pheasant with applause coming after the shot must be right up there, as is a jinking woodcock or even the double!

Stalking red or roe deer in glorious or not so glorious conditions was also a firm favourite.

My recent beaters day produced duck, pheasant and woodcock so shooting across the card would also make for a special top day



A few days earlier I was lucky enough to enjoy watching 4 skeins of pinks pass before selecting an unsuspecting pair from the last group, it doesn't get much better when you see them drop like stones and are carefully placed into your gamebag. As you can see they were in tip top condition.



During the day we almost forgot the King of fish now who wouldn't have a racing heart in that first 10 seconds of the take, surely an unbeatable experience.

Grouse well I've only ever shot one which was via my black lab who flushed and then retrieved in text book fashion, I dare say driven grouse must be near the top of the list with some of you.

Then there is the old pigeon a firm favourite be it flighting or decoying, it could be taking home half a dozen birds or hundreds depending on what the situation is and of course the crops benefit greatly.

Driven partridges on the wind with the guns on great pegs certainly requires a high amount of skill especially for that left/right.

A walked up day with a well trained or not so well trained dog can be immensely satisfying, shooting and handling at the same time will definitely be up there with lots of rough shooters.



My remaining beaters day will end my game season then I will be left with wildfowling until the 20th Feb, oh and not forgetting a well organised pigeon day or two that usually leaves me slightly embarrassed with my shot ratio.

I've got to end this article by naming my own favourite pursuit which has got to be wildfowling below the high tide mark usually kneeling in some dark muddy gutter awaiting the roaring sound of pinks lifting and skimming across the mussel beds before then slowly rising to between 20 or 30 yds and coming straight for you, giving you a can't miss opportunity.

No pressure then eh!!

Now that gets the old pulse going !!

JM