

THE FENLAND WILDFOWLERS ASSOCIATION

and what it offers to members:



COASTAL WILDFOWLING.

The FWA leases from the Crown Estate all of the foreshore between the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse on the coast of the Wash - some 9 miles of salt marshes and the extensive mudflats beyond. Members can shoot here at any time during the season September 1st to February 20th (but there is no Sunday shooting in the county of Norfolk, which includes the eastern part of these marshes. Day tickets are available for accompanied BASC members.

FRESH MARSH SHOOTING.

We own 132 acres of land at six different sites on the Ouse Washes at Sutton Gault, Mepal, Little Downham and Welney. At a seventh site, Salter's Lode, we own 140 acres of freehold land and sporting rights in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of which 100 acres are shot by our members.

Flights on inland washes are by permit. There is a small booking fee and a highly effective telephone booking system is in place. Day tickets are available for members' guests on most areas.

GAME SHOOTING.

Within the Association there is a "walk and stand" syndicate, which shoots over about 1000 acres of farmland next to the Wash at Terrington. Bags are not large as this is a DIY shoot with limited cover, but it forms an enjoyable introduction to formal style shooting for members. A limited number of individual days are available at a very reasonable rate to members who do not wish to subscribe to the syndicate.

OTHER SHOOTING.

The FWA exists to provide shooting at a reasonable cost for its members, and we are always looking for new shooting opportunities whether by land purchase, leasing, or exchanges with other clubs. We have provided various other forms of shooting in the past and there may be more on offer by next season.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME.

There are general meetings on the first Friday of each month through the winter season at which there is some form of entertainment - usually a speaker.

We no longer have annual dinners but formal dinners still take place from time to time, and one was held in 2008 to honour our President, Mac Narborough.

We have stands to meet members and friends at the Fenland, Sandringham, Holkham and Norfolk Country Fairs, and while clay shooting is not a major interest we usually hold an annual club shoot and also one against neighbouring wildfowling clubs. These naturally include events for big guns. We have also had a dog-training group which has met on a fairly casual basis until recently and which we hope to revive soon. We have a website at www.fenlandwa.org.uk and there is a telephone information line for members.

AFFILIATIONS.

The FWA is affiliated to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC - formerly WAGBI) with full membership benefits for individual FWA members, and also to the Countryside Alliance (formerly BFSS).

The FWA is one of the eight clubs forming the Wash Wildfowlers' Working Group and represents shooting interests on a number of other bodies such as the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC Advisory Group and the Ouse Washes Strategy Group.

MEMBERSHIP

The FWA has a limited membership of 350 Full members. New members are admitted during the summer months of each year, depending upon vacancies. Applications close each year on May 31st for the coming season

Membership categories are Full, Junior (with concessions for those under 21 throughout their Student career), and OAP. (those applying to join at OAP age [65+] are required to pay two years' subscriptions at the Full Member rate before qualifying for the concessionary rate)

The subscriptions (reviewed each year in March) for 2010 are:

Full £140, Junior/Student £50, OAP £85. New Full and OAP members are also required to pay a joining fee of £50 in the form of a deposit with their application.

Each of these includes membership of BASC running from September 1st at £56 for adults (which represents a discount on individual membership). This gives all Fenland WA members full benefits of BASC membership such as third party insurance cover, and advice and support over firearms and other legal matters, as well as representation at national level for our sport.

The subscription also includes the current Wildlife Habitat Trust Stamp ("duck stamp") at £5 to help the acquisition of land by shooting interests nationwide.

Those who pay more than one membership to BASC can reclaim the excess from the membership department at Marford Mill.

The Association is anxious not to exclude anybody from the sport of wildfowling and payment of subscriptions may be made in stages if necessary by means of post-dated cheques (by arrangement).

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the enclosed form and return it together **with a copy of your Shotgun Certificate** and a deposit/entrance fee of £50. If you do not know a suitable proposer and seconder, then you will be interviewed by existing members of the FWA at a new members' meeting.

Applications close on 31st May each year. If you apply after that date, you will have to wait until the following year for admission Once on the waiting list you will receive the club newsletter and are welcome to attend club meetings, clay shoots, etc.

FENLAND WILDFOWLERS' ASSOCIATION:

57 YEARS OF WORK AND PROGRESS

- 1952 - club founded at Angel Hotel, Wisbech Cambs.
- 1954 - first club to lease and control shooting rights on the Wash from the Norfolk Estuary Company.
Terrington Syndicate formed
- 1960 - Crown Estate grants foreshore lease.
- 1964 - lease of East Lighthouse for FWA wardens
- 1969 - first club to purchase land on Ouse Washes.
- 1970s - more Washes land acquisition. Brandon game syndicate - run jointly with Norwich WA.
- 1980 - Crown Estate grants 21 year foreshore lease. First reserve areas set aside on foreshore.
- 1989 - joint purchase with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of washland and shooting rights.
- 1991 - first club to make Wildlife Habitat Trust Stamp ("duck stamp") a condition of membership.
- 1992 - first club to host National Wildfowling Conference, with Kings Lynn WA. 40th anniversary limited edition print published.
- 1995 - launch of FWA promotional booklet, "Wildfowling on the Wash and in the Fens".
- 1996 - club exhibits at the CLA Game Fair for the first time.
- 1997- SSSI Award from English Nature for management of Wash Outer Trial Bank Seabird Breeding Reserve.
- 1998 - awarded Stanley Duncan Trophy for conservation work on the Wash and the Ouse Washes.
- 2000 - website set up; co-hosts of 2000 Wildfowling Conference.
- 2001 - co-hosts of first East Coast regional Wildfowling Conference.
- 2003 - Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner.
- 2005 - Launch of the DVD film "FWA - The First Fifty Years"
- 2005 - Denny's Wash purchased (17 acres at Little Downham)
- 2009 - Green's Wash purchased (24 acres at Sutton Gault)

Application Form for Membership of Fenland Wildfowlers Association

(NB Applications close on May 31st each year)

Complete in block capitals or type and return to Mr J.R. Collison, 6 Edma Street, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 2BB.

(NB Enclose stamped addressed envelope if you require acknowledgement of receipt)

Circle type of membership you require: **Full £190*** (includes £50 one-off joining fee) **Junior £50*** and complete all relevant questions for your application. * Subs may change at the AGM in March.

Full Members: Please enclose a deposit of £50.00 (payable to the FWA), which will be your entrance fee when you join the Association. This deposit is otherwise non-returnable to those accepted on to the waiting list. In return for this deposit, you will receive copies of the club newsletter, and may attend club meetings and events whilst you are awaiting a vacancy for full membership.

Successful applicants will attend New Members meetings (inland and foreshore) to be vetted by the committee and receive instruction in best and safe practises in respect of Wildfowling. New Members without previous experience will undertake a probationary period when they will have to be accompanied by an existing member.

Applicant's names and addresses are published in the Club Newsletter, and if no objections are received, are added to the waiting list. The waiting list closes on 31st May for the forthcoming season.

Full Name.....

Name of Parent/Guardian (junior members only).....

Address.....

Registration number(s) of vehicle(s)

Postcode..... **Telephone No.**.....

Date of Birth..... **BASC membership Number (if any)**.....

Occupation.....**E-mail address**.....

Shotgun Certificate No......**Constabulary**.....

****Please attach a legible photocopy of your Shotgun certificate to the application****

How long have you held a Shotgun Certificate.....

Are you a member of any other shooting/Conservation clubs, please list.....

Please list any foreshore shooting experience you have.....

Please list any shooting experience you have.....

I give the information on this form truthfully and voluntarily on the understanding that although it may be included in a computer database, that database will only be used for FWA purposes.

Signature of Applicant **Date**.....

We also require the parent/guardian of a prospective Junior member to counter-sign the application.

Proposer / Secunder: If you know existing members of the Association or **officers** of another BASC affiliated club please ask them to countersign below. If you do not know persons who can do this then you will be asked to attend a short interview at the new members meeting.

Proposer: **Name**.....**Signature**.....

Secunder: **Name**.....**Signature**.....