

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. 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 seven different sites on the Ouse Washes at Sutton Gault, Mepal, Little Downham and Welney. At an eighth 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.

We no longer have annual dinners but formal dinners still take place from time to time, and one was held in 2012 to celebrate the club's 60th Anniversary.

We have stands to meet members and friends at the Fenland and Sandringham Country Fairs, and while clay shooting is not a major interest we usually hold an annual club shoot. We have also had a dog-training group which has met on a fairly casual basis until recently and which we hope to revive if a member volunteers to run it. We have a website at www.fenlandwa.org.uk

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 Joint Council 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 and Land Managers' Groups. The FWA is also a founder member of the Association of UK Wildfowling Clubs.

MEMBERSHIP

The FWA has a limited membership of 350 Full members. New members are normally admitted during the summer months of each year, depending upon vacancies. We are currently experimenting with allowing new members to join at any time in the year, even though this presents problems: these members will not get the New Members' induction until the following August.

Membership categories are Full, Junior (under 18), Student (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).

Junior members must have a current shotgun certificate and must be accompanied by a Full Member. At the age of eighteen they automatically become Full or Full(Student) members - proof of Student or Apprentice status may be required for the latter. Student membership is for those in full time education up to the age of 21.

The subscriptions (reviewed each year in March) for 2019 are:

Full £195, Junior £26*, Student £80, OAP £140

Each of these includes membership of BASC running from September 1st at £69 for adults (which is a discount on the normal £80 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 once they have both membership cards and providing there is at least six months outstanding on the original card.

* The FWA subsidises Junior members: normal BASC fee is £28 and they also get a Duck Stamp.

*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 FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Complete the application form and return it together **with a copy of your Shotgun Certificate** and for full members a deposit of £70, which will form part of your first year's subscription **OR send the full subscription if you wish to join straight away**. 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 which is normally held in August.

FENLAND WILDFOWLERS' ASSOCIATION:

67 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.
- 1954 - 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 140 acres 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.
- 1992 - Fortieth 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)
- 2011 - Foreshore Code of Practice booklet produced
- 2011 - Spinney wash purchased (small wash adjacent to Green's)
- 2012 - Sixtieth Anniversary Dinner
- 2016 - Film made by Chris Green
- 2016 - Re-Launch of Website www.fenlandwa.org.uk
- 2016 - Became a founder member of the Association of UK Wildfowling Clubs