

WOODCOCK NEWSLETTER

2015-2016 SEASON

Angelsey

The Weather !!!!!

The level of rain and wind we experienced was a total nightmare lets hope we don't see this again in my life time all guns accredited themselves with exemplary safety and good averages despite rocket propelled birds Woodcock and snipe were 50% down on all areas which was to be expected given warm conditions, but we had good levels of bird on most days the excessive water made duck hunting touch and go but all fed ponds produced well on each shoot - the goose flighting provided and average of 5-8 shot geese in most cases. All Grey Lag and a few Canada's.

The level of birds

As mentioned above woodcock and snipe numbers were just not there as normal but we still averaged 30 woodcock lifts a day in general and 50-100 snipe, and any amount of duck and a good variety of duck species turned up in the bags, gadwall teal widgeon, pintail, golden eye, shoveler and mallard. We even lifted a great snipe a rarity indeed and it made it!!

Wigtown

Argyllshire



Angelsey

A fully booked back to back season and we made our land work hard, much thanks to Steve Armsden who keepsers the ground and we will be making a few improvements to give us extra drives. I won't harp on about the conditions the wind the rain but in contrast the birds performed here below is a video link which gives you a feel for the shoot all in a few minutes the video was shot by our middle east agents, who promote our operations very professionally enjoy the video. Woodcock flighting was excellent which confused the issue why so many birds in the woods - probably dry and warmer but not unusual to see 25-30 woodcock flighting out on our patches? Who really knows about woodcock? thats why we love them so much.

https://plus.google.com/+Huntourage/posts/EwoKkBnWH3E?utm_source=1-2-2





Costings for 2016-17 season

We are keeping costs the same as 2015 all hunt charges include an option on an am flight and a pm flight am flight only where geese are present.

- £285 per gun per day up to 6 guns
- £265.00 per gun 7-8 guns

Accommodation

Angelsey - North Wales

www.nant-yr-odyn.com

£55 twin room sharing £65 single room. Packed lunch £6.00 / Dinner pm £20-25.00

Newton Stewart - Scotland

www.creebridge.co.uk

£65.00 DBB twin room sharing and £75.00 single room DBB. Packed lunch £8.00, dinner included.

Ford Argyllshire - Scotland

tarpon450lb@yahoo.co.uk

Various costs please email me for cost sheet but single £65-70 and plenty of self catering options Dinner £45.00 in evening or eat at the Ford hotel in town in the evening - luxury 5 star.

Newton Stewart - Dumfries and Galloway

In the borders of Scotland we are stationed at Newton Stewart we use the www.creebridge.co.uk as our stabling for clients, you can have another hotel and you can have a self catering property we can organise this the ground here has 5-6 days shooting and can facilitate pointers over 4 days, Stuart McShane keeps the ground and we had good levels of Snipe and Woodcock but again 30% less than normal but speaking to local shoot owners the same story everywhere but good 'Snipe', duck even though the duck were spread out we had good flights in the evening as clients asked for woodcock one night duck the next - am goose flighting was excellent if the client wanted the am start its there just ask. `We can do 5 days here back to back over 10,000 acres we shoot the ground 6 times a season so mostly your on fresh areas with a month rest, although you could effectively shoot every 2 weeks woodcock continually move and feed so you never know what density of woodcock you will get even after a month, one grumpy old client thinks he is a woodcock hunter unfortunately his misplaced ill mannered attitude only upset the group we were kind enough to put him with - and his



continual phone calls and chattering to his girlfriend when asked to be quiet on approaching shoot areas was maddening.

Ford - Argyllshire - Scotland

Our main pointer ground with a large acreage this is run by Angus Wilson and is a wide expansive woodcock shoot - note we can do 5 days back to back here and if you want more we could do another 2 days but with a move down to Loch Lomond where we have 2.5 days on pointers here. Run By Bob Brannan

Woodcock numbers here have again been a touch lower than normal , welcome back the cold weather as soon as we can get freezing ! Angus reports decent levels of birds through out the season but this is mainly a woodcock shoot there is little else some Snipe and duck add to the interest on the day. We can bring pointers in for client's needs at a cost. Distance from Glasgow around 112 miles but windy slow roads and you need to hire a car from the airport and make your way there. We will supply accurate directions. Accommodation is either self catering from 2 bedroom cottages to 8 person farmhouse and in between properties that sleep 4 and 6 respectively - the main house is B&B in 5 star luxury with Dinner at £45 per night.

Pointer hire - handler and team of dogs £150.00 per day - note these are classical pointing dogs no collars see on the video for an example of them. And book them well in advance. on all shoots own gun dogs are welcome.

Photo Gallery from 2015 - 2016













Photographs! - 'so many' I've picked **a few that I liked** some with emotion some with trepidation but all the shooters faces say 'We love woodcock' may they reign supreme, I remember my first invitation to a Woodcock back to back its was on Islay in 2004-5 and an article was written by Alistair Balmain then deputy editor of the shooting times I did my first left and right that day not once but thrice only 1 was fully witnessed but my dog Jessie picked everyone up (Jessie is 16 in May 2016), the shoot organiser was Dimitriou Konstantinu he said to me 'Bob you can shoot thousands of pheasant, partridge, dove , but none have the same affect that a woodcock kill has' he said '**It has the college affect**' you always remember every one you shoot its that affect' **you know he is right !** but all I shoot with these days is my camera and the photo of the 'woodcock' above was the only one that I got properly all season in flight despite aiming and clicking the devils just jink and dive so hard its a task to get them never mind shooting them, Thank you for many wonderful years, one bad one was losing Kate in November 2014 to a manitou on a farm track by a careless farmer rates as being the saddest day I have had to endure in my hunting career and I still miss her abilities at covering the ground at such speed 8 hours a day all day and the next day.

To book email enquiries@woodcock-hunting.com or telephone 0044(0)7795-214934