

# ESAWC NEWSLETTER

*East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling & Conservation*



## Great Start

Our club is up and running

It is hard to believe that it is less than three months since the Inaugural Meeting of ESAWC was held in Alloa.

The achievements in that short space of time have been considerable, thanks to the sterling efforts of the office bearers and committee members elected at that meeting and, in no small measure, to the general support given by all of our Founder Members.

Committee meetings were held in February and March and another is scheduled for later this month. As a result, an impressive programme of events has been arranged and details are included in this Newsletter. Hopefully all members will find some activities that they want to participate in.

Also in the Newsletter you will find details of the

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Fundraising Auction that, already, has raised pledges of over £2000. Thanks are due to Neil Gunn for getting this major fundraiser off the ground so quickly and so efficiently.

Our affiliation to BASC has been agreed and you will find details in this Newsletter of the mechanism for reclaiming any duplication of BASC subscription. One member has already said that he will reclaim the cash from BASC and donate it to club funds. Perhaps that is an idea that will catch on – but it is certainly not compulsory!!

## Who's Who on the Committee?

Chairman:	Bill McIntosh (Perthshire)
Vice Chairman:	Archie Gillespie (Ayrshire)
Secretary:	David de Gernier (Angus)
Treasurer:	Billy Ferrans (E. Lothian)
Gundog Officer:	Adam Mair (Clackmannan)
Conservation Officer:	Andy Brown (Perthshire)
Education Officer:	Mark Breeze (N. Yorks)
PR Officer/Web:	Eric Begbie (Clackmannan)
Events Officer:	Cameron Wyllie (E. Lothian)
Fundraising Officer:	Neil Gunn (Angus)
Auditors:	Mark Robson (Fife) Chris Peace (Stirlingshire)

Normally any general correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary. He will, as appropriate, pass or copy communications to other committee members. His contact details are:

David de Gernier  
45B Blairs Road  
Letham  
DD8 2PE

Phone: 01307 818080

E-mail: [info@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk](mailto:info@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk)

## Check on Byelaws

The Secretary has been busy checking out on local byelaws with all the Local Authorities in the club's area. Using the Freedom of Information Act, he has been able to establish that, apart from the known byelaws that govern the permit schemes on the John Muir Country Park, Aberlady Bay, Eden Estuary and Montrose Basin local nature reserves, there are no other byelaws currently in force which restrict the right to go wildfowling below high water mark on the foreshores of east-central and south-east Scotland. Any member who is challenged about the right to go wildfowling on the foreshore should report this to the Secretary.

## Diary Dates

**May 9-10 – BASC Scotland Country Fair**, Port of Menteith. The club will have its own stand at this event. Come along and support us. If you are able to help man the stand, even for a few hours, please get in touch with the Secretary.

**May 26 – Trout Fishing Outing** (evening) to Holl Reservoir, Leslie, Fife. Further details from Cammy Wyllie. E-mail: [events@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk](mailto:events@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk)

**June 6 – Gundog Working Test** for club members. Designed to test the wildfowler's dog, this event has been sponsored by Quest gundog equipment and Squires and Beaumont dog foods. Judges will be Hugh Paterson, Stuart Dunn and Adam Mair. Open to all breeds, so bring along you dog and have a go.

Further details of venue and timing can be obtained from Adam at [gundogs@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk) or keep your eyes on the club section of the Wildfowling Forum.

## Conference Matters

Due to an administrative mix-up the BASC National Wildfowling Conference and the BASC Scottish Wildfowling Meeting both took place on the same date. However the club was represented at Trochry by Bill McIntosh and David de Gernier while the national event was attended by Eric Begbie. Reports of both can be found on the club section of the Wildfowling Forum.



**June 7 – Club Clay Shoot** for members will be held in Fife. As we go to press details are still being finalised and further information can be obtained from Mark Breeze by e-mail at [education@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk](mailto:education@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk) or keep your eyes on the club section of the Forum.

**July 12 – Guided tour of Montrose Basin** for club members. Meet at the Scottish Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre car park at 10.30 am. Please let the Secretary know if you will be coming and don't forget stout boots and binoculars.

Finally, do let committee members have your ideas about the type of club events you would like to see being offered.



## Club Subscriptions

At the Inaugural Meeting the following rates of membership subscription were agreed for 2009-2010.

Entry Fee:	£20
Full Member:	£65
Junior Member	£20
Supporter Member	£20

*Junior and Supporter members do not pay an Entry Fee.*

*Full membership includes full membership of BASC. Junior membership includes BASC Young Shot membership.*

*Supporter membership does not include BASC.*

The club year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March and subscriptions paid for that period will include the appropriate grade of BASC membership for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## Sporting Auction

One of the club's major fundraising efforts this year is the online Sporting Auction that has been organised by Neil Gunn. This auction is unique in that it is a "rolling auction" with new items being added as they are donated and closing dates set according to the nature and value of the item. Most items are being offered via the club's auction website but a few are being offered on Ebay.

The ESAWC auction website is to be found at:

<http://sportingauction.yuku.com/>

and bids and donations should be submitted to:

[auction@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk](mailto:auction@scottish-wildfowling.org.uk)

All members who paid their current subscription before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 will have club membership until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and BASC membership until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> June will be able to get a pro-rata reduction in the BASC element of their club subscription. A discount is also available for unemployed members who are eligible for Jobseekers Allowance.

Members who already held a BASC subscription, either as an individual or through another club, can reclaim the duplicated proportion of their subscription if they so desire. To do this, wait until you get your new BASC membership card and then write to Membership Services, BASC, Marford Mill, Rossett, LL12 OHL giving details of the duplicated subscriptions.

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At the present time some of the items being auctioned include:

Moonlight Goose Flight for 6 Guns  
 Goose decoying near Loch Leven  
 Evening Duck Flight  
 Several packages of Roe Stalking  
 Several packages of Roughshooting  
 Several packages of Trout Fishing  
 Taxidermy Opportunity  
 A number of items of sporting goods and clothing  
 Books, DVDs and Art

This is an ideal opportunity to grab some great bargains and, at the same time, contribute to club funds.

## Our Hon. President

The committee were delighted when Adam Drummond of Megginch, the 17<sup>th</sup> Baron Strange, graciously accepted their invitation to become the Honorary President of the East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling & Conservation.

Lord Strange is a very keen wildfowler and lives on the family estate in the grounds of Megginch Castle, near Errol, overlooking the Tay Estuary.

We look forward to welcoming him at club events and benefiting from his knowledge and enthusiasm for our sport.

## Bits and Pieces

### LNR Permits

The contact details for the local authorities that issue permits for restricted wildfowling on the four local nature reserves within our club's area are as follows:

John Muir Country Park and Aberlady Bay – East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington, EG41 3HA. Phone: 01620 827462 (Note that permits for Aberlady bay are only issued to residents of East Lothian and, for JMCP there is a limit on permits for those living outwith the Lothians).

Eden Estuary – Fife Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT. Phone: 0845 155 0000.

Montrose Basin – Angus Council, The Yard, Queenswell Road, Forfar, DD8 3JA. Phone: 01307 475376.

## Membership Recruitment

Already, at the time this newsletter went to press, our membership figures were approaching the 60 mark – which is no mean achievement in the short time since the club was launched.

An informal target of 100 members by the end of this year does not seem unattainable so, if you have friends or shooting companions who are genuinely interested in wildfowling, please encourage them to join.

Membership packs are available from the Secretary and there is also a form available on the website.

### Wildfowling Forum

The club has its own private section on the internet's Wildfowling Forum. If you are not already a member of the Forum, you can join at:

<http://duckandgoosehunting.yuku.com/>

### BASC Fast Tracks

BASC operates a number of "Fast Track" e-mail publications that are sent to members who register. Two that will be of interest to club members are the Wildfowling Fast Track (e-mail [wildfowling@basc.org.uk](mailto:wildfowling@basc.org.uk) to register) and the Scottish Fast Track (e-mail [scotland@basc.org.uk](mailto:scotland@basc.org.uk) to register).

### .....and finally

Please remember to notify the Secretary if you change your postal address, e-mail address or phone number.