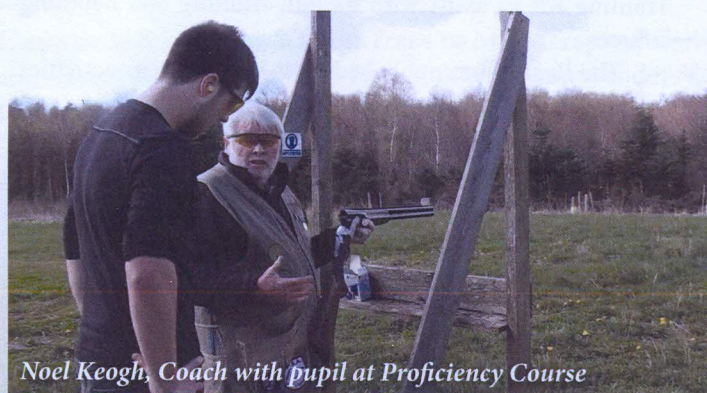




Kildare Regional Game and Wildlife Council

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

Some of our activities in 2012...



Noel Keogh, Coach with pupil at Proficiency Course



Visitors at our stand in Borris



2012 Clay Shoot



Grouse Seminar 2012



Michael & John Keenan & Ken Morbin at Borris



KRGWC stand at Borris



The start of a good day



Early morning start for Midland Gamefair

2012 CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



I am delighted to inform you the KRGWC had another very successful year. Your Game Council has continued to grow in strength and stature and is increasingly being recognised for its expertise and input to Biodiversity and Conservation. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with Regulatory and State Bodies and they seek our advice and contribution on a frequent basis. Our

farming community and countryside neighbour recognise our input to rural development and they are very supporting of our conservation and sustainable hunting activities.

The position of high esteem that we hold in our communities has been built up by the tremendous commitment and tireless work of our affiliated clubs and their members. We thank each and every one of you most sincerely for support and commitment in continuing to achieve our objectives.

Our sport of traditional rough-shooting, and fishing, is still practiced in a tradition handed down from our forefathers and we have a duty to protect its practices for future generations to enjoy. Rough-shooting as it is practiced in Ireland, is part of our heritage and is unique in the sense that we still enjoy the support of our farming neighbours in granting us liberal access to their lands in pursuit of our quarry, be they game or predator.

With the Celtic Tiger, which fuelled a move away from rough shooting, now a relic of the past it is pleasing to see a revival in this tradition. Sustainable hunting alongside our mixture of farming activities is increasing being recognised as being a major contributor to the biodiversity richness of our countryside. A day in the countryside with dog and gun is a recreational activity full of surprises and it a joy to observe our natural environment close up while working in tandem with a good dog in pursuit of a wild pheasant or duck for the table. Alongside the advances in modern agricultural practices our Kildare countryside has retained a diverse mixture of habitats, in hedges, woodlands, streams, bogs, wetlands, and our farming activities supplement this for our game and wildlife to prosper in.

Over the past three years we have been trialling various Game and Wildlife Crops in the county and through the generous sponsorship of Kings Seeds UK and Connolly's Red Mills. For members who prefer Clay Shooting the Region is continuing to develop a clay shooting facility for its clubs and we hosted a number of successful clay shoots during the year.

We continue to enjoy excellent relationship with the local Gardai and we successfully renewed our three year licences this year without a hitch. The Community crime watch co-operation of our members with local crime prevention officers has been much appreciated and we continue to monitor illegal hunting activities.

Our farmer hosts are very appreciative of our work on crop protection and livestock monitoring. The year proved to be a most difficult year weather-wise and the wet summer had a negative impact on breeding wildlife. Luckily for us the impact was not as severe as elsewhere due to our ongoing winter feeding programme and the good body condition of the pheasants and other species going into the laying season.

Predation levels are still exerting pressures on game numbers and your continued predator control activities are maintaining the balance. We rolled over our Predator Control Scheme this year and the IFA Countryside are generously sponsoring a new Mink Bounty Scheme.

In conjunction with our associated organisations we made a number of submissions to the government legislation and schemes

during the year. These include the E.U. Lead Shot initiative, the control of mink and foxes, Dog Breeding Bill, Heather Burning policy, and more recently the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, Pillars 1 and 2 which includes the Leader Scheme.

We are delighted to report that one of our clubs was successful in a Leader Grant application to develop a Wildlife Reserve and Training Centre for its members and community. The region's members can benefit from the use of this facility for Wildlife management and proficiency training. The Region has also purchased a new Laser Shot Training Kit to assist with its gun training and handling courses

The Region has published a PR Leaflet on its activities for promotion at Shows and community events. A copy of this is enclosed with this newsletter and clubs are invited to apply for additional copies.

The Region is very willing to work with any like minded organisations who share in our aims and objectives. During the year we have supported and worked closely with such organisations as IFA Countryside, Countryside Alliance, The Irish Red Grouse Association and the Irish Association for Game Hunting and Conservation.

We shared our stand at the Borris National Country Fair this year with some of our affiliated organisations and supporters. As a number of years in operation in the midlands the National Country Fair moved to Borris House in Carlow this year and it was a resounding success. We were actively involved in its organisation and participated with South East Tourism, Carlow Co, Council and Carlow Game Council in making the show a success.

We were invited by Russborough House, over the border in Wicklow to advise them on the restoration of their historic Duck Ponds and the project is now successfully completed with our sponsorship of the ducks and nesting boxes.

We continue to support the Lullymore Grey Partridge Project and are in ongoing active discussions with Bord Na Mona on a Grouse Conservation Scheme.

Our clubs enjoy excellent relationship with Coillte on their leased grounds and we support Biodiversity Action Plans of both Coillte and Bord Na Mona

A busy and successful year was made easy by the commitment and input of your hard working Executive and I must thank each and every one of them for their contribution to a team effort. We met monthly and completed everything we set out to do and even got time to go on another educational trip to the UK Midland Game Fair

I had pleasure in working with many individuals and clubs in resolving personal and local issues and it gave me great satisfaction to be able to advise them on such developments as constitution reviews, game rearing, game cover crops and predator control.

I look forward to Kildare's continued success in setting a leading role in Regional and Game club Management. It has been a pleasure to serve you

Yours in Sport,
Jim Fitzharris

VERMIN COMPETITION

The 2012 Vermin Competition ended. As you all should be aware our competition runs from November 1st 2011 and ends October 31st 2012. If your Club has not submitted Vermin returns, please do so asap in order that you be included in the Vermin Competition. We would ask all Clubs to continue recording their Vermin Control figures and don't forget to include Rooks and Pigeon. We distributed nearly 1000 euro in prizes last year and we hope to repeat that or even do better this year. If any Club is looking for Larson Traps or Mink Traps, they are available at 50% discount from the KRGWC. To avail of the discount the traps must be purchased via the KRGWC.

If anyone is looking for Larson Traps or Mink Traps or Call Birds for Larson traps please contact John Fitzgerald, Tommy Winders or Charlie Harding.

Larson Trap (Wooden) €90.00 – Less 50% Discount €45.00
Mink Tarp (Double Entry) €40.00 Less 50% Discount €20.00

Last year's prize winners were:

1st	Ballitore	200.00
2nd	Ellistown	150.00
3rd	Roseberry	100.00
4th	Castlemitchell	75.00
Fox	Kilteel	50.00
Grey Crow	Rathcoffey	50.00
Magpie	Caragh	50.00
Grey Squirrel	Naas	50.00
Mink	Clongorey	50.00
Wood Pigeon	Robertstown	50.00
Rook	Mooretown	50.00

*Any Club can only receive one prize.
14 Clubs submitted Vermin Returns
for 2011.*



CPR/AED TRAINING

In Ireland, each year 5,000 die suddenly from Cardiac Arrest. 70% to 80% of these deaths happened in the presents of family or friends. If Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is use on a person within 3 minutes of collapse, they will have a 70% chance of survival.

The KRGWC are offering CPR/AED Training, free of charge to all members and their families and friends. It is approx 3hr evening course and can be arranged in a venue of member's choice. For more details please contact John Fitzgerald [REDACTED]

CODE OF CONDUCT

It has been reported in the local media in December, that a young Buzzard was found in Co. Meath, injured with shotgun pellets. The Kildare Regional Game & Wildlife Council members abhor this behaviour of a protected wildlife species. This not the behaviour of a responsible hunter or firearm holder and this illegal action impacts negatively on all responsible hunters and any information should be reported to the Gardaí.

KRGWC ROAD SHOW

Members of the KRGWC Executive are always available to come to Clubs and talk to members on a range of issues e.g. Insurance, Grants, Vermin Control and Safety etc. Contact any member of the committee for more details.

WWW.KRGWC.IE

Our website has been redesigned. This is your website so please send in your club news and photos and we will do our best to display them.

DATA BASE

We cannot emphasis the importance of having an up to date database, please insure we have the correct names and addresses of your Club Officers. These should be submitted to Ken Morbin when there is any change of Club Officers. If the contact names are not correct, it is because an up to date list of Club Officers has not been submitted. In addition to this if your Clubs members and officers would like to submit there Mobile Phone numbers and e-mail addresses we can forward details of meetings, KRGWC events and general information directly.

You can be absolutely assured the KRGWC do not forward any of these details or any of your member's details to any outside parties.



PROFICIENCY COURSES AND SAFETY

Our Safety Officer Michael Keenan ran his first proficiency course since returning from overseas duty in the Lebanon. It was held at the request of Killeel Gun Club. 18 people representing 7 Clubs attended. Certificates were issued on the day. Thanks to Killeel G. C. for organising the venue, with special thanks to Ken Coogan, Charlie Harding and Ken Morbin for their help and Ray O Sullivan and Billy Ryan who Supported John with the lectures. A Practical demonstration took place a couple of weeks later for all those who attended the Killeel course. Not many of the seasoned shooters attended but the junior shooters were there in force and had the full attention of John and Ray. Alan Clarke and Noel Keogh helped out with coaching the Juniors. We will be demonstrating the Lasershot simulator at the next course so come along and have a go. If any club wish to host a Safety Course they can get in touch with John Keenan or any member of the Executive. John is also available to conduct a Proficiency Course on a one to one basis.

SUBSIDISED PHEASANT AND DUCK PROGRAMME

Clubs gathered on a June Sunday morning at Chadwicks in Naas to collect 500 pheasant poults and 500 young mallard supplied by Martin Moloney (Wild Mallard Duck Farm – Clonmel). As usual, Charlie Harding oversaw the proceedings. The transfer to clubs' own crates went smoothly. Thanks to Charlie, Gertie and Martin Maloney.

MIDLAND GAME FAIR

Our annual trip to the Midland Gamefair Shropshire England took place from the 14th to the 17th September 2012. This was the 12th fair that the region has attended. 26 people travelled. A drop in numbers compared to previous years. The show was a huge success. Over 100,000 people attended over the 2 days. Weather was ok. No rain for 4 days which was rare in 2012. Several major shows were cancelled, including the CLA so there were plenty of bargains to be had. The Bins on the bus were full to capacity on the return trip. The 2013 trip is open for booking. The all in cost is €350 (€100.00 deposit) which covers coach and ferry travel from and return to Naas, entry to fair for 2 days, 3 nights B&B Sharing. There is a €100.00 supplement for a single room. The trip can be booked with any of the executive.

CHARITY DONATIONS

A cheque for €500.00 was presented to the Jack and Jill foundation by our Vice Chairman Billy Ryan on behalf of the KRGWC Midland Gamefair Fund. A letter of thanks has been received. See Clayshoot report for other donations.



K.R.G.W.C. COUNTY SHOOT

We held our regional County Shoot this year at Ballitore Club's Shooting Ground (Narraghmore Bog) on Sunday 10 June 2012. The day turned out ideal for Clay Shooting. Favourable comments were received from many shooters on the layout and how well the shoot was run. Thanks are due to the help received from Ballitore Game Club, Hempstown Clay Pigeon Club who assisted with refereeing along with other club volunteers. Charlie Harding and his family undertook the running of the DTL stand and to provide refreshments all in aid of his Charities. €600.00. was raised on the day. Kildare Region supplied the clays free.

RESULTS

Team	1st	best 4	160	Ballitore	Gold
	2nd	best 4	141	Grange	Silver
	3rd	best 4	127	Killeel	Bronze
H Gun	Jack Kelly		Wexford	48	Visitor
H Gun	Ian Coleman		KRGWC	45	Naas
1st	Alan Clarke		KRGWC	44	B/tore
2nd	Aiden Kelly		KRGWC	43	B/tore
3rd	Mick Fitzgerald		KRGWC	43	C/Mitch

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Sam Cooke (Son of George) on obtaining his training licence, safe shooting.

Well done to Walter Phelan on his Countryside Alliance award for his Fishing and Shooting Museum and to the publishing of his fine book '*Letters of my Brothers John's Life in the Klondike*'. Great value @ €50! (Limited Edition)

KRGWC have produced an information leaflet which should be enclosed with this newsletter.

RUSSBOROUGH

Russborough House has renovated its duck pond as part of new developments to the grounds of the house. Our Wildlife Officer Damien Walsh was involved in the project and the KRGWC presented the project with nesting boxes and ducks which were supplied to the Region by Martin Moloney.