

RIPLEY CASTLE SHOOT

**RIPLEY CASTLE : NIDD : HOB GREEN : CAYTON : EAGLE HALL : ASHFOLD SIDE
HARDCASTLE AND HEATHFIELD MOORS**

May 2015

NEWSLETTER No. 3 : 2015 – 2016

Much has been happening and there is more than ever to do before the start of our new season. However first I have some wonderful news.

DAVID COCKSHOTT AND CAROLINE LACKS

I am delighted to advise that David's 40th Birthday Party was certainly a party with quite a difference. David our Head Keeper at Ripley Castle, proposed to Caroline and they have become engaged. Even more good news is that they are expecting a baby in October, so it is going to be an even busier season for David!! I am sure we all send them our congratulations and wish them a long and happy life together.

CHARITY CLAY DAYS: WARTER PRIORY ESTATE, NEAR YORK

Friday 5th June: Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust GWCT

Monday 8th June 2015: Army Benevolent Fund ABF: The Soldiers Charity

As a member of the organising committee we would like to invite you to field a team on one or both days.

We plan to field 30 teams of 4 guns and 4 loaders each day. At present we have approximately 20 teams taken on each day so there is still plenty of opportunity to field a team.

Friday 5th June will have a GWCT theme and Monday 8th June will have an ABF theme. All proceeds over the two days will be divided equally between both charities.

During the morning each team will shoot 5 clay stands plus a combined archery and surprise stand. On completion of the course everyone will enjoy a champagne reception followed by a three course lunch.

There will be a number of competitions and following lunch we hold an auction of many "Money Cannot Buy" lots. The cost is £1,800 per team and well worth it!

There are also a number of prizes: Top Tossers who are first, Naughty Nines for ninth place and Sweet Sixteen for sixteenth place. So everyone has a chance to win.

Please do try and make up a team for what promises to be two most enjoyable days when we will be supporting two very worthwhile Charities. Your support would be really appreciated.

For further details, please contact:

Michael Wilson, Bridge House, Station Road, Gilling East, North Yorkshire YO62 4JN

Tel 01439 788045 Mob 07528 657998 E-mail: mpbg.wilson@outlook.com

CONFIRMATION OF SHOOT BOOKING

I would like to thank those of you who have not only booked your days in the new season but have also paid your initial shoot fees. I am pleased to enclose a copy of your Confirmation of Booking which acknowledges your initial payment.

There are few initial payments still outstanding and would appreciate receiving these as soon as possible. In addition to a copy of your confirmation I also enclose a copy of your outstanding invoice.

Where applicable I also enclose an invoice for the second part of your shoot fee.

Most important of all, could you please double check the dates on your confirmation in order to ensure I have understood your requirements correctly! If you wish to change any of your dates please consider this as soon as possible in order to give me ample time to re-sell.

REMAINING SHOOT DAYS

This year I have experienced the strongest demand for shoot days in my 21 years of running the Shoot. At the time of going to press 86% of days had been taken up. This is a significant change to last season when we were not in this position until mid September.

I would like to think this is due to everyone enjoying their days with us in the past which I am sure it is!! However on talking to other Shoots and Agents everyone is experiencing a similar increase in demand for days. This can only be good for our sport for the future.

I am pleased to enclose a list of our remaining days. Quite surprisingly even though we have only 14% of our original days remaining, there is a good variety with every type of day still available. As there are many days not included in previous lists please check if there is anything which may now be workable for you. For an update on availability please visit our website **www.ripleycastleshoot.com** or **www.GunsOnPegs.com**. Both sites are updated daily and are iphone, android accessible and now have a responsive design image, whatever all this means!!

NEW TO GAME SHOOTING

Since the Shoot was established, anyone interested in taking up driven game shooting has always been welcome to join us at Ripley Castle. I am now very pleased to see that our sport is increasing in popularity, particularly with Ladies and young people. We welcome new guns to join us on any shoot day with our Novice & Practice Days designed particularly as an introduction and are ideal for all ages.

Our Novice & Practice Days are run as a normal shoot day but with a few extras. We start with breakfast and a shotgun safety briefing from one of our instructors. All guns will then experience some non-competitive clay pigeon shooting in order to get your eye in before the real thing. Anyone new to or with limited driven game shooting experience should either book one of our instructors or bring an experienced shot to stand with them

In the event of someone wishing to join the Shoot but does not have a UK Shotgun Certificate or Visitors Permit, he or she may shoot with us by hiring a shotgun provided by and in the presence of one of our experienced instructors, some prior notice is required. It is also most important that everyone shooting has the required £10 Million personal liability insurance cover in place. (See our website **www.ripleycastleshoot.com** for further details).

The Guns will experience a typical driven days shooting and receive instruction and advice on all aspects of shotguns, shooting and the etiquette of our sport. Anyone shooting is encouraged to bring a non shooting guest just to enjoy the day and well behaved dogs are always welcome. In addition to the shooting all guns and their non shooting guests will take breakfast, drinks breaks throughout the day, lunch in our Shoot Cabin and day will end with afternoon tea. The cost of all meals and refreshments are included in the shoot fee. By the end of the day you should have a far better knowledge of what to expect and what is expected of you in the driven game shooting field.

So if you know of anyone wishing to take up our sport please ask them to contact me.

We are fielding Novice & Practice Days on Saturday 12th and Saturday 26th September and there are plenty of pegs still available. Similar days could also be arranged on any shoot day on our availability list where no guns have been taken.

INSTRUCTORS AND LOADERS

Over the years I have convinced many of my friends that having someone to look after you on the day can be a real advantage and improves your performance. It also gives you plenty of time to work your dog at the end of a drive when you don't need to worry about your gun or clearing up your spent cartridges.

For anyone new to and with limited driven game shooting experience it is essential. On the grouse Moor not many guns now shoot without a loader. Having two pairs of eyes spotting on the Moor, I feel really improves your day. After over 50 years of driven game shooting I now never shoot without a loader. I do not feel double guns are necessary on partridge or pheasant, however on grouse on some days it can improve your performance. On our Shoot we only shoot double guns on grouse and this is very much an option.

Having a loader to stuff cartridges is very useful, however having one of our loader/instructors to show you where you are possibly going wrong, really does improve your day. My encouraging guns to have someone with them has given me a problem as our instructor/loaders are now in big demand, not only on our Shoot but by guns taking them elsewhere. So for this reason if you wish to have someone to look after you could you please let me know as soon as possible. Cost remains as previous seasons £90 for the instructor/loader and £50 for shotgun hire if required.

As always lead and non-toxic cartridges for 12 and 20 gauge are available to purchase on every shoot day.

SHOTGUN SERVICE AND FITTING

Although the new season is still three months away it may be worthwhile having your shotgun(s) serviced now in order to avoid the mad rush before the season. There is nothing more frustrating than your gun letting you down when you know you should have had it serviced. It is always best to take a spare gun with you on any shoot day.

When you buy a new pair of gloves they may keep you warm but are uncomfortable and awkward until you have worn them in to fit you. The same applies to your shotguns. You may buy a shotgun and find the stock to be the ideal length for you so you feel you have the right gun. You may shoot well with it. However if the stock had been finely adjusted to fit you, you may well shoot even better. If you have never had your gun actually fitted for you, I do strongly recommend that you do this. It is not expensive and can make your favourite gun even better.

If you are considering buying a shotgun, fitting it to suit you is a must. Finding a competent gun dealer and gunsmith is not easy. However I am pleased to advise we have this facility 5 minutes' drive from Ripley Castle.

The Yorkshire Gun Room and Shooting Ground, Bishop Thornton, Nr Harrogate HG3 3JN
Tel: 01765 620602 E-mail sales@yorkshiregunroom.com www.yorkshiregunroom.com

Jeff Lupton, who in his younger years was a clay pigeon champion holds an extensive stock of shotguns and rifles so is well worth a visit. If you are considering buying a shotgun you can try it first on the shooting ground. Jeff also offers a shotgun storage service which has proved very useful for many of my Shoot Members.

Just as importantly we have a very experienced gunsmith, Steve Baren working from the Yorkshire Gun Room. Steve can also often be seen loading for me on a shoot day. Steve can be contacted on the Gun Room number or direct on 07786 370848. Steve offers speedy and efficient servicing and repairs and will travel to assist you with an emergency repair if required.

Finally and most importantly, for actual shotgun fitting you will find it very hard to find anything better than the combined knowledge and experience of Jeff and Steve. I do strongly recommend their services.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES

There will always be adequate parking to leave your car all day and everyone is welcome to bring their own four wheeled drive vehicle, there is no restriction to the number on the day, however I prefer no-one to be on their own, unless this is necessary for private phone calls etc. If you travel to the Shoot by car, there is normally space available in the other guns vehicles for you to travel with them. However please bear in mind that not everyone wishes to give a wet muddy dog a lift in their vehicle so your dogs would travel with my Keepers.

COURTESY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE

As more and more guns are traveling some distance by car to shoot with us, we now have available on each shoot day a long wheeled based Land Rover Station Wagon together with a driver. Each vehicle will seat up to five passengers comfortably. Your dog(s) would travel with my Keepers. There is no charge for this service but I would appreciate if you could book this as soon as possible. Just in case, as happened on a number of occasions last season when we required both courtesy Land Rovers out on the same Shoot Day.

NEW BROCHURE AND WEBSITE UPDATE

During June you will receive a copy of this season's brochure. This new publication includes details of the Shoot Day, Information on an increased number of Hotels, Meeting Places and Insurance together with Risk Assessments. It is important that all guns and non-shooting guests receive a copy. Additional copies are available from Lynda on 01423 323321 or e-mail info@ripleycastleshoot.co.uk or can be printed off our website. The reason I mention this now is that it should be read in conjunction with our website **www.ripleycastleshoot.com**. This is undergoing an update at present which should be complete by June.

The new brochure has only a few photographs so for an illustrated guide to the Shoot we have a new web page Photo Gallery - it will be well worth visiting.

CLA GAME FAIR 2015

HAREWOOD HOUSE, NR LEEDS FRIDAY 31ST JULY AND SATURDAY 1ST AND SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

For those of us in the North of England we are delighted to welcome the CLA Game Fair back to Yorkshire. For everyone else you will now have to travel to Gods own County!

Many of you may not be aware but I was the local committee Chairman for the CLA Game Fair at Harewood in 2003. It was a great experience, hard work but a load of fun. This year's Chairman is my good friend Christopher Bourne-Arton whom many of you will already know. If you don't and you visit this year's Game Fair you soon will!

I am relieved not to be too involved with the organisation of the Fair but have "volunteered" to host the "Local Committee Hospitality" or better described as the opportunity for a three day party. We have a substantial stand overlooking the main arena where Local Committee Members can bring their family and friends for a drink and snacks to relax after a hard day's work at the Show. I have also planned our stand and facilities to be large enough to invite my Shoot Members, Shoot Staff, family and friends. We will provide snacks and drinks throughout the day. In order to give the stand an extra flavour Jamie Goodheart of Bon Coeur Fine Wines is joining us and we will also entertain his clients and friends.

Most importantly of all Vicky and Duncan of Advent Catering will be providing the food and drinks. They will be assisted by some familiar faces to you mainly Ruth, Tassa and Debbie. I will be sending out invitations to our stand nearer the time but these will not cover entry to the actual show. So please make a date in your diary.

FACEBOOK

Many of you may be very surprised but I now have my own Shoot Facebook page. It remains to be seen how I get on with it but I do appreciate even I must move into the 21st Century.

I also now have a computer both at home and one on my desk in the new office, an iphone and even a tablet. I do however still have my old Nokia mobile phone which still works well after more than 15 years. In line with this move into the modern internet world I actually send e-mails but Lynda does it far better! Not sure what happens next!!

However please feel free to visit my Facebook page **frank.boddy@ripleycastleshoot.com**. Hopefully not all of you at one time!

OFFICE MOVE – JUST TO REMIND YOU

My sawmill site is now ready for the developers so Lynda and myself have moved into a property I have in Boroughbridge. The only change is that our office telephone number is now 01423 323321. We have also done away with our fax. My postal address for the Shoot remains as The Old Hall, Burton Leonard, Nr Harrogate HG3 3SD and my other contact numbers remain as at present:

Mobile 07774 271781 – which still does not receive a signal at home. Home 01765 677343 after 8.00 p.m. is ideal.

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Only three months until we are out again so now is the time to check your kit and service your shotguns.