



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL GAME COUNCILS

*Proudly Celebrating 50 Years*

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## NARGC has a New Chairman



*Dan Curley (Monaghan) New NARGC Chairman*

It's a great privilege for me as National Chairman to welcome you to our first NARGC Newsletter.

I am absolutely delighted to have been elected to the position of National Chairman. I have been an NARGC Member for the Last 42 years and I am Secretary of my local Club Annagh-Ma-Kerrig as well as current Secretary of Co Monaghan RGC. It goes without saying that I am passionate about hunting and shooting sports and promise that I will strive hard to protect and represent our members by working closely with all interested parties and build strong partnerships with like minded organisations.

I am taking up the role at a time when the shooting and hunting community needs to be vigilant both with the new licensing round starting and the continued efforts by some to try and make life very difficult for us. Our Sport is under attack from all quarters from those that are anti shooting and anti gun but also from those within our own

Community whose activities are damaging and casting our sport in a bad light. The Public generally and NARGC members will not tolerate lazy or reckless activity that portrays our sport in a negative way.

As the new Chairman I will continue to work tirelessly for our members here in Ireland and in Europe. Our first Newsletter has been produced as part of our Communications strategy through our Communications Committee headed by the PRO- Mr. John Toal. We are aiming to post it on our website every quarter from where you can read it or print it for future use.

It will not replace the Game Shot Magazine, and we hope to have a Special Game shot out before Christmas to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which will be a trip down memory lane celebrating the last fifty years. This newsletter will be in addition to game shot. This Newsletter is our way of telling you all what is going on at National and County Level and we would love for you to send us articles you would like to see in it/ advertise a shoot or too or any event linked to shooting and hunting. I hope our members around the country will become regular contributors to this newsletter, and it will become an information exchange medium for our members. Enough for now, I will articulate some of my goals / visions in the next editions.

Enjoy your first Newsletter

*Dan Curley*

## A Message from The PRO- John Toal



Figure 1 Mr. John Toal PRO

Many thanks for downloading and reading our first NARGC Members Newsletter. The aim of which is to communicate with all our members friends and supporters not just here in Ireland but all over the world. There is a saying that *from little acorns big oaks grow* and never is it a truer expression of the NARGC. We are celebrating 50 years in 2018 and no one would have thought that 50 years ago, the Association would now reach out to 24567 members in Affiliated Clubs all over Ireland.

As we close our Jubilee year I am delighted to be able to announce that everyone who is in the Fund since the 1<sup>st</sup> October will be entered into a free draw for a suite of prizes including a Beretta A300 valued at €1250.

Best of Luck to all.

In the mean time anyone who has an article or wants to promote a Club/County event please send it in to me and we will endeavor to print it in the Newsletter also keep watching our Facebook updates.

It is our intention that a Christmas Newsletter will be on the NARGC web page week starting 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Yours in Sport

*John Toal*

## The Importance of Bringing on our Young Members- John Butler Youth Development Officer



Figure 2: John Butler Youth Development

The Youth is the hope of our Future, and looking around me no one I know seems to be getting younger. As an Association we need to be growing and developing our younger members into the future Secretaries, Chairman, Delegates and National Executive. This has to begin at club level.

The NARGC has over the last few years worked hard to address youth development and put in place mechanisms to protect our youth. We have created a Youth Development Policy Booklet and Child Protection Policy and circulated them to Regions and Clubs. We will shortly be meeting with all County Youth Development Officers to advance these policies. Ensure your County has a YDO in place.

In association with secondary schools we have already launched a transition year proficiency course which is very popular and extremely well received with endorsements from the Principals of the schools where we attended. Already there are a number booked for 2019. We couldn't do these without the assistance of the local ranges that host the event and our National Safety Officer and Coaches who attend and assist on the day.

2018/2019 is going to be a busy year as Youth Development Officer with the assistance of the Committee we will be providing support to clubs on this very important topic

We will also be launching our "Junior Trained Hunter Course" shortly. This course is aimed at the 10-14 year

old students. It covers topics such as Game Bird identification, Habitat Development & Protection, Vermin Control and Game Rearing.

Looking forward to a busy but productive 2019.

*John Butler*



Figure 3: St Patricks Secondary School Castleisland, Co. Kerry at the Transition Year Proficiency Course.

## Game Development the year ahead- Ger Burns



Figure 4: Ger Burns- Game Development Officer

Game Development and Breeding programs are very important to Clubs. While the rearing of Poults and release of adult birds are popular there is an increased

number of clubs setting eggs under Bantham Hens and from anecdotal evidence there has been great success.

We need to be sharing these success stories and it is hoped that over the coming months these stories can be sent to me for sharing in our newsletter. I would ask you not to stop there show us your successes with game crop and other areas of habitat management, no matter how well established your Club is, you might learn something new and if you share the information it is being shared so that other clubs might develop.

Our Club of the year program is changing and being revamped to make it more appealing to everyone. We will also be providing to the Counties a report on the activities of the clubs who entered the competition so that everyone might see the hard work that is put in by all.

I am glad to note that nine clubs in various Regional Game Councils have sent in their application forms in relation to Partridge projects and have already received their breeding pairs. I am hopeful that we will have these projects up and running in the spring of the new year. Likewise the Grouse committee have received applications and are dealing with them with the hope of getting 2 to 3 Grouse projects off the ground. If you have need of any advise or want to get a project up and running in your Club, contact me and I will discuss what is needed.

Lastly you will see an article in the Newsletter regarding a survey of lead to determine the current prevalence of lead shot in the gizzards of Ducks in Ireland please do your best to partake as currently the we need this information.

Yours in Sport

*Ger Burns*

## A message from the Fund Administrator- Chris Gavican



Figure 5: Mr. Chris Gavican

Hi Folks I am aiming to use the Newsletter to keep you informed on fund related and other matters I am involved in so here goes.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Memberships are coming in very well once again this year and already we have crossed the 23,000 barrier so, in essence, we have only around 850 subscriptions to achieve to equal last year's figure. This seems, and entirely achievable figure so well done, one and all.

### **GAMESHOT:**

GameShot is progressing and I'll say no more than that. The old reliables have already contributed their articles and this is appreciated because we have to go to print in 2 weeks' time in order to achieve the January output date. Let's not forget that Christmas and Christmas holiday closures, is a major chunk of time to be extracted from 'go to press' date versus 'delivery date'.

If your article is not in, please let's be hearing from you.

### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DRAW:**

This draw was held on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> November at the Fund Office in downtown Bornacoola and was overseen by Dan Curley, Seamus O'Brien, Ray Devine, Eddie Kelly and Shane Reynolds, Hon. Secretary of South

Leitrim RGC and of course muggins, me. Shane Reynolds very kindly supplied us with a machine which randomly selected the winning numbers and Dan Curley 'pushed the button' each time. Seamus O'Brien very kindly recorded all the winning numbers, but we can assure you neither Marty Whelan's nor Sinead Kennedy's jobs on Winning Streak are in any danger.

GDPR prevents us from releasing all the 205 winning names but what we can tell you is that there were winners in every RGC area – I've just checked and can verify this. There were 5 main prizes and our most sincere thanks to John Butler who secured these. These select prizes were:

- 1st Beretta A300 Semi-Auto Trap Shotgun valued at €1,250.00. The winner is from Innishannon in Co. Cork.
- 2nd Huglu Semi-Automatic Gun valued at €650.00. The winner is from Terryglass in Co. Tipperary.
- 3rd Ridgeline Hunting Smock/Jacket valued at €285.00. The winner is from Kilfenora in Co. Clare.
- 4th Deerhunter Hunting Jacket valued at €180.00. The winner is from Scotstown in Co. Monaghan.
- 5th U-Caller valued at €130.00. The winner is from Rathmore in Co. Kerry.

These 5 persons will be presented with their prizes, by the relevant Sponsors, early in 2019, possibly in conjunction with the next Quarterly Meeting.

And following this then there are a further 200 winners and each will receive a €50 Gift Voucher and a Commemorative NARGC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coin, specially struck to honour the year that's in it. These prizes will be mailed out to the individuals concerned hopefully before Christmas. The €10,000 cost of these latter 200 prizes is sponsored by the National Association.

All 205 winning Fund Registration Numbers will be published in GameShot.

All the best for now.

*Chris.*

## Survey to determine the current prevalence of lead shot in the gizzards of Ducks in Ireland.

You will be aware of the moves afoot towards banning lead from wetlands and indeed much more, by the European Commission (EC). The EC has instructed the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to pursue this, which they are doing. You will also have seen the data which the ECHA produced claiming that more than 1 million water birds die from ingesting lead shot annually in Europe. In Ireland, we have never seen this alleged problem on the ground, and indeed, most of us would contend that we can see no evidence to support this at all.

In the late 1980's, the late Dr. Douglas Butler did a survey on this subject which showed that 2.52% of gizzards examined had pellets in them. It is felt that the level of shooting now is much less than back then, but we need up-to-date real data to clearly show this to the EC and the Irish Government.

The NARGC has decided to do a survey and we need the help of all our RGC's and members to do it as follows: -

(1) Each Region should produce 50 x wild duck gizzards. Nationally, 28 RGC's by 50 would give us an overall sample of 1,400 to survey. Any of the shootable duck species will be acceptable though it will mostly be Mallard and Teal probably.

(2) The required gizzards should be immediately frozen to preserve their integrity while awaiting collection.

(3) Care should be taken in relation to ducks shot at close range in case the projected lead may have entered the gizzard thus giving a false read. Suspect gizzards should not be supplied.

(4) Each RGC should place the supplied gizzards in a small plastic bag e.g. a sandwich or children's lunch type bag and mark each bag with an indelible marker/pen, 1-50, using the county vehicle registration letters as the prefix, e.g. MN1, MN2 (MN being Monaghan for example).

(5) Each RGC should accumulate its 50 gizzards keeping them frozen throughout. When the 50 are available and ready for collection, contact your nearest

Co-Ordinator who will arrange collection and transportation to the Laboratory for examination. It is hoped to send them to the Laboratory in batches of 50 from each RGC.

(6) The Record Sheets attached should be completed using the above numbers as the reference, by each RGC.

(7) The NARGC has engaged St. David Poultry Unit to carry out the independent gizzard examinations and to produce the analysis report afterwards.

This survey is being co-ordinated by the NARGC Research Sub-Committee and it has appointed the following four NEC members to co-ordinate the survey: -

**Mayo:** Mr. Paddy Flynn (085.8498650) or email pflynnmavorgc@hotmail.com

**Meath:** Mr. Jim Brennan (086.2725372) or email landabrennans@eircom.net

**Wicklow:** Mr. Tom O'Shea (087.2430081) or email tractor.tomPhotmail.com

**Cork:** Mr. Raymond McCarthy (086.8456804) or email raymccarthy1210Pyahoo.ie

*We ask each RGC to complete this task as quickly as possible and hopefully so that we can assess its progression before Christmas,*

## A Message For All Firearm Certificate Holders

The Third major renewal phase of three (3) year firearm certificates will shortly be underway. Each current holder of a firearm certificate should receive a pre populated version of the new Firearms Renewal Form in the post approximately three months prior to the expiry of their current certificate.

All details relevant to the current firearm certificate, including the firearm, referees, G.P, land etc will be detailed on the renewal form. Corresponding boxes will be included to facilitate any changes for example a change of referee, doctor etc. The firearm owner can fill in the changes on the renewal form, if any, and when the form is signed it shall then be returned to the local Station for

consideration by the relevant Superintendent (or Chief Superintendent if a restricted firearm application).

If there are no changes, the applicant simply signs the renewal form and brings the FCR form to his/her Garda Station for processing by An Garda Síochána.

When a decision is made to grant the renewal by the Superintendent (or Chief Superintendent), the applicant will receive a Grant Notice Letter in the post (as is currently the case with a new application) and when paid will then receive his/her new three year certificate by post. The current fee structure has not changed with each class of firearm certificate costing €80 with the exceptions of a Firearm Training Certificate. Please be aware of the following:

1. Please ensure your forms are completed fully and the information on it is accurate so that the deciding member can process it quickly without any delays.
2. You need to have a good reason to own a firearm so ensure you provide this with your application engaging in hunting and shooting sports is a good reason, It is advisable to enclose a copy of your club membership card where you have detailed that you are a member of a club.
3. Check the details are correct eg: Ammunition amounts/serial number/ that you have permission for a moderator.
4. It is advisable to keep a photocopy of the form any correspondence regarding errors etc should be recorded in writing.
5. Once you receive the grant notification you must go to the post office and pay your license fee within the specified time frame, if you miss the deadline you must reapply.
6. Be mindful that if you have not received a letter acknowledging receipt of your application you should contact the barracks immediately.
7. If after 3 months you have not heard from the Gardai it is an automatic refusal.

Please note that only the PRE POPULATED FCR form will be acceptable to An Garda Síochána when renewing

a firearm certificate and each application for renewal must be accurately completed prior to returning the FCR to the Garda Station. Finally, the Firearms Renewal Form (FCR) is only used for renewals of firearm certificates

## Predator and vermin Control- Seamus Heraty



*Figure 6: Seamus Heraty-predator and vermin control officer*

Well folks as per the previous contributors I would like to welcome you all to the NARGC News letter. I have been thinking long and hard about what type of contributions would be best in relation to Predator and Vermin Control and I think a question and answer approach would be best suited. At shows throughout the year members and non members alike come up to the stand and ask questions which should be shared with everyone and at least now we have a forum for same.

Ill start the ball rolling with a question I was asked at least ten times at the ploughing this year.

What's the best bait to use in a mink trap? There are so many different answers from so many different people that this topic can cause good arguments, however mink are opportunistic carnivores and eat a variety of prey hence they do so much damage. I like to keep it simple and would recommend that folks use fish even something as simple as canned sardines or mackerel. I will expand the question by adding that winter is a good time to start trapping because males are on the lookout for females to mate with mating is usually over February/March. . They are curious creatures and will often investigate tunnels, burrows and man-made objects set the traps where mink are most likely to encounter them. Along drains, hedges

etc and please check the trap daily and dispatch the mink in a humane manner.

*Seamus Heraty*

## News from Around The Regions:

Cavan Regional Game Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> November gathered for a function at the Lavey Inn to make presentations to five long standing Members whom in the course of their life made great contribution to shooting sports in the County and NARGC alike.

At a function held in the Lavey Inn and attended by representatives of the 41 Clubs affiliated to the Region, as well as NARGC Fund Administrator and Chris Gavican and the National Chairman Dan Curley a special anniversary NARGC medal was presented to

- **Frank Reilly (Ballyjamesduff GC)**
- **Liam Mc Kiernan (Ballyconnell GC)**
- **Ray Arnold (Virginia GC)**
- **Sean Doris (Redhills GC)**

Speaking of the event Secretary and PRO Sean Cassidy pointed out that these individuals are long serving members that contributed greatly at County level and even at National Level and two in particular are still active and that it would be remiss for Cavan RGC to let the Jubilee of the Association go by without honoring these people.



*Figure 7: Left to Right: Gerard Crowe (County Chairman) Dan Curley (National Chairman) Sean Doris, Eddie Kelly, Liam Mc*

*Kiernan, Ray Arnold, Frank Reilly, Chris Gavican (National Fund Administrator) Sean Seán Cassidy (County Secretary).*



*Figure 8: Eddie Kelly receiving the NARGC 50th Anniversary medal for long service to Cavan Rgc from County Chairman Gerard Crow, Mark Kelly (Eddie's Son) is shown aswell.*



*Figure 9: Frank Reilly receiving the NARGC 50th Anniversary medal for long service to Cavan Rgc from County Chairman Gerard Crow, Maurice Lyttle Ballyjamesduff GC Chairman ) is shown aswell.*

# GMK

## Proud Sponsors of the NARGC Members Prize

