



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL GAME COUNCILS

N.A.R.G.C. CLUB OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



Senior - Intermediate - Junior



INTRODUCTION

Our “Club of the Year” competition has been running for several years now but since there have been changes both in the environmental landscape and farming practices, it has been decided to slightly change the structure of the competition to take account of these changes. The basics are still the same however. The points will reflect the areas that we would like Clubs to focus on moreso.

A ‘competition’ always brings out the best in everyone, be it GAA, golf, fishing or indeed, as in our case, conservation. It also gives us the opportunity to work with other community groups to enhance our town or village. Indeed, some Tidy Town Groups are involved in planting Wild Flowers and Wild Bird Cover patches alongside the entrance roads to their towns. This is to protect our bee population. These are the types of project that we would also like to see our Clubs engaging in as it raises the Club profile within our community. There is still a perception among some that all we care about is what’s in the bag at the end of the day.

This competition gives us an opportunity to change this. However, we still need the work done across our shooting and hunting grounds and there are many ways we can do this. The GLAS Scheme offers quite lucrative grants towards cover and feed for both wild birds and game and of course, the traditional hay meadows. It beholds us to become involved in these projects that are of interest to us and to offer whatever assistance we can to farmers involved in these GLAS Schemes. The NARGC is awarding grant aid to Clubs to get involved in the planting of game crops.

The competition is open to all Clubs affiliated to the NARGC. A Club entering for the first time will be in the Junior Section. If a Club wins in this section, then it will go into the Intermediate Section the following year and so on.

Do not forget that NARGC personnel are available all year round to offer any help or assistance that a Club may need in relation to planning for game development or habitat management work or, indeed any aspect of a Club’s development.

Best of luck to all Clubs who participate !



EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

The “Club of the Year” award will be judged by a specially selected team drawn from the NARGC Game Development and Predator Control Committees together with any other expertise that may be required. The Junior Club of the Year Award is specifically for Clubs entering for the first time only. A Club that has entered previously, on more than one occasion, will have to enter the Intermediate Competition.



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Clubs will be allocated points under the following headings:

Club structure	100 points.
Habitat development.	100 points.
Predator control.	100 points.
Game rearing.	100 points.
Public relations.	100 points.
Participation in Surveys.	<u>100 points.</u>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>600 points.</i>

Improve your conservation practices with cover crop mixtures
There are Gamebird cover seeds available in Ireland for Irish climates & soils
The NARGC makes grants available to Gun Clubs sowing game cover crops

CLUB STRUCTURE

Points will be awarded to Clubs whose structure meets the following criteria: -

- Club Constitution in place.
- Club Committees in place.
- Along with the usual Officers - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer - and an Executive Committee, a Club will also obtain points for having a Club Safety Officer, a Youth Development Officer and a Game & Predator Control Officer.
- Club Events, Projects and Activities.
- Social Events.

HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

Points will be awarded to Clubs here under the following headings: -

- Land under active habitat management.
- Game crop cover.
- Duck pond development.
- Provision of feed hoppers around the land.
- Woodland/Hedgerow/Marginal land management.
- Heather/Wetlands and other specialist areas of management.
- Establishment/existence of actively-managed Sanctuary sites.



PREDATOR CONTROL

Points for Predator Control activities will be awarded under the following headings: -

- Recent predator control records within the Club.
- Methods used to control the following Corvids, Fox, Mink and Rodents.
- Type of Equipment used - e.g. Larsen Trap, Ladder Trap, Fenn Trap, Cage Trap etc.

RELEASING GAME

Points for Game rearing and releasing will be awarded under the following headings: -

- Number of species of game birds released.
- Releasing methods used – hatching, incubation, etc.
- Propagation of Game generally.
- Quantity, size and location of all Release Pens.

PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS

- Members participation in Game Bag Returns.
- Members participation in Snipe/Woodcock Surveys.
- Members participation in RGC/NARGC events.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The points for Public Relations will be awarded as follows: -

- Co-operation with landowners. (An example of this would be proof of meetings with landowners at least once a year and supplying each landowner with contact details of key Club Officers, etc.)
- Charity work in the community.
- Club fund-raising and social events.
- Involvement with other groups in the local community.
- Involvement with schools in the area.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Clubs interested in entering the NARGC "Club of the Year" Competition should put together a short application outlining their work under each of these headings. 1. Club Structure. 2. Habitat Development. 3. Predator Control. 4. Releasing Game. 5. Public Relations. 6. Participation in Surveys. We recommend that Clubs use the sub-headings as a guide within each category.

Clubs must apply through their Regional Game Council before 15th May each year. Application forms will be distributed to RGC's in the spring and RGC's are asked to actively encourage Clubs to participate.

Examination of all applications and site inspections will take place during the months of June, July and August with the winners being announced in October.

Applications should be sent to the following address no later than 15th May: -

**MR. GERARD BURNS,
LISAVIRON, ANNESTOWN, CO. WATERFORD.**

PHONE: 086 3043587 or EMAIL: gerburns@hotmail.com



GUIDE AS TO HOW WE ASSESS A CLUB

1. Club Structure: *100 points awarded under the following four categories:*

- ◆ Club Constitution (25)
- ◆ Club Committees (25)
- ◆ Club Events/Projects/Activities (25)
- ◆ Attendance at Club and RGC meetings (25)

2. Habitat Development: *100 points awarded under the following categories:*

- ◆ Extent of land under active habitat management (15)
- ◆ Game crop provision (25)
- ◆ Duck pond management (10)
- ◆ Woodland/Hedgerow/Field marginal land management (20)
- ◆ Heather/Wetlands and specialist management (20)
- ◆ Sanctuary sites and the provision of feed hoppers (10)

3. Predator Control: *100 points awarded under the following categories:*

- ◆ Recent predator control records (20)
- ◆ Methods used for corvid control (15)
- ◆ Fox control (15)
- ◆ Mink control (25)
- ◆ Rodent and Pigeon control (15)
- ◆ Club equipment (10)

4. Releasing Game: *100 points awarded under the following categories:*

- ◆ Species of game birds released (25)
- ◆ Releasing methods (25)
- ◆ Incubation/propagation of game (25)
- ◆ Quantity, quality, size and location of Release Pens (25)

5. Public Relations: *100 points awarded under the following categories:*

- ◆ Co-operation with landowners (40)
- ◆ Club Fund-raising and sponsorship (20)
- ◆ Charity Work (20)
- ◆ Policies in Place, eg Youth/Safety etc (20)

6. Participation in Surveys: *100 points awarded under the following categories:*

- ◆ Bag Returns (40)
- ◆ Snipe/Woodcock Wing Surveys (30)
- ◆ RGC/NARGC Research Projects other than above (*eg. Duck Gizzards*) (30)

You will see from the above, special emphasis is being placed on game crops, Farmer/ landowner co-operation and surveys, all very relevant to the survival of our sport.



MAJOR CHANGE

Another major change now being introduced is that all Clubs who enter the competition, will receive a comprehensive Adjudicator's Report outlining, under each category, the points received and most importantly, giving advice as to how to improve the achievement of more points. This Report will be issued to each Club as soon as the Winners for the concerned year have been announced.





ENTRY FORM FOR THE **“CLUB OF THE YEAR” COMPETITION**

Category being entered for:

(Please tick one)

SENIOR ☐

INTERMEDIATE ☐

JUNIOR ☐

Name of Club:

RGC Area:

Club Secretary:

Address:

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Phone:

Email:

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**For any query, please contact:**

***Mr. Gerard Burns,***  
***National Game Development Officer.***

***Phone: 086.3043587 or Email: gerburns@hotmail.com***





