

# Ballywalter Game & Country Living Fair Printable Guide



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## A Foreword from the Organisers

In 1978, Michael Dickey hosted a lunch in Royal Ulster Yacht Club to launch the first major Irish Game Fair. The participants were the late Major William Brownlow, Stanley Scott, Donald Hoy and myself and we became the steering committee for the first Fair which took place in County Down at Clandeboye Estate in 1979.

Over the years we were joined by a number of people and organisations too numerous to mention individually including of course, the late John Beach (of the BFSS, now CAI) who co-directed the Fair with me for many years. All of these people played an important role in helping establish the Game Fair concept in Ireland and in creating events which celebrate the important role that country sports play in the preservation and life of the countryside.

In the 33 years that we have been organising Fairs our format has been copied many times but we continue to lead the field because of the creativity of our team in developing new attractions and competitions for our Fairs and in creating new methods to promote Irish country sports and the rural way of life.

Just as we have created an internationally acclaimed magazine in Irish Countrysports and Country life (now FREE to READ online at our portal [www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com](http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com)) it has always been my ambition to develop international class Irish Game Fairs North and South of the border. Thus the Great Game Fairs of Ireland brand was born in 2007 when John, Edwin, Irene and I joined up with well known ROI sportsmen and event organisers David Wilkinson and Philip Lawton to launch a new Irish Game & Country Fair, at Birr Castle and twin it with the Fair at Shanes Castle. The objective of this game fair organising "dream team" was simple - to give Ireland North and South really great Game Fairs of an international standard. To this end we are currently implementing a further development programme to give the events much greater depth and breadth than any of the other Irish country sports events.

When the news was released earlier last year that Country Down was to lose its Game Fair at Ballywalter we didn't really hesitate to answer the various requests that were made to us to rescue it. Ballywalter is a very beautiful setting for a game fair and Lord & Lady Dunleath are superb and very involved hosts with a total commitment to country life and to promoting tourism in the area. Also of course having started the game fair tradition in County Down we were very reluctant to see it die.

The groundswell of support for our rescue plan from our hosts and their superb staff, the local council (both political representatives and staff), the sporting organisations including BASC and CAI; our event organisers, our

exhibitors, contractors and sponsors (including the Spectator Newspaper Group) truly humbled us. It led to the 2010 fair being one of the best staged at Ballywalter and this in turn led to our Irish Game Fair at Shanes Castle delivering a record crowd for any Irish Game Fair ever. With the Birr Fair also turning in an ROI record crowd the only negative in a year of success was the death of our esteemed colleague John McClelland. We are very fortunate that John's partner, Liz McCracken has stepped in to fill the gap left by John and become a Director of the company.

This year you will see that we have attracted a fine range of exhibitors from all over Ireland and the UK and we have also organised an action packed main arena programme and lots of 'have a go' opportunities for the whole family. I think it is fair to say that it is one of the largest Fairs ever to take place at Ballywalter and on a par with anything in Northern Ireland other than the fair at Shanes Castle.

Finally we recognise that many people are experiencing hardship and we decided to lift the spirits of the sporting public by repeating our offer based on the Ballywalter fair, of two big days out in the country for the price of one. With the purchase of a ticket, either adult or family at Ballywalter, you get the equivalent ticket to Ireland's leading Game Fair at Shanes Castle on the 25th June completely free.

An event of this size cannot be staged without the assistance of a great number of groups and individuals and we pay tribute to them all. I trust none of you will be offended if I single out for special mention Alastair McDowell the Events Manager of Ards Council, who has given us maximum assistance and advice; Councillor Angus Carson, Chair of the Council's Development Committee, who has wholeheartedly embraced the concept of the new fair as a vehicle for helping economic development in Ards; Jim Shannon, MP a great supporter of the fairs over the years and of course we are indebted to Lord and Lady Dunleath for allowing us to use this most beautiful and historic estate and for the facilities that they put at our disposal. We would ask you to respect this by following the fair signs and the directions from the stewards.

Finally we should like to thank the Council for their generous support of the event this year, our other sponsors and all of you who have attended the event and help the development of a most exciting time for the Great Game Fairs of Ireland brand and Irish country sports. We hope you will join with us to ensure the future development of international class Irish Game Fairs.

**Albert J Titterington, BSc, MBA Director**

## Fair Organising Team

**Directors:** Albert & Irene Titterington (Marketing & Planning); Liz McCracken (Operations & Planning); Edwin Dash (Operations & Equestrian); Paul Robinson (Sales & Marketing), Philip Lawton (Main Arena), Paul Pringle (Press); Peter Ayre (Maintenance) and Matt Lee (Car Parks)

**Chief Steward:** Tom Fulton

**Gundogs Directors:** Johnny Rea, Retrievers: William Thompson: Spaniels.

**Angling Director:** Mark Patterson

Casting Competitions – Mark Patterson & GAIA Demonstrations: Charles

Jardine, Glenda Powell, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell  
Fly Tying Demos: APGAI Ireland

**Clay Pigeon Director:** Drew Heslip Ballycranmore & Kircubbin Clay Pigeon Club

**Terrier & Lurcher Events :** Mid Ireland Terrier & Lurcher Club

**Hounds:** The North Down & Sunnlyland Beagles

**Vintage Cars:** The UVCC

**Safety:** Pat McCollum PM International

**Security :** Select Management Security

**Veterinary Surgeon:** Peninsula Veterinary Clinic

## Sponsors

Ards Council	Barbour	Wildebeest Embroidery
Spectator Group	Glennoo Shooting & Fishing	Irish Countrysports and Country Life Magazine
Feedwell	Tidepool	( <a href="http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com">www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com</a> )
Redmills	Stena	Smyths Country Sports
Favour	Countryside Alliance Ireland	Pawlines
DT Dog Boxes	Premier Event Catering	Johnston Gilpin
Atkins Angling	Jack Pyke/Firefly	Charlie Keenan
Gardiners Bros	Banside Leisure	North Down Marquees
Donal McCloy Guns Unlimited	Stuart McIntosh (Brackenhill Pheasantries)	Norspace

# Competitions

## CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

**Organised by the Ballycranmore & Kircubbin Clay Pigeon Club in association with BASC**

Game Fair High Gun Challenge over both days : Bettinsoli Shotgun sponsored by Donal McCloy Guns Unlimited & the John McClelland Memorial Trophy

### SATURDAY

Top Gun: £100 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life; 2nd: Hunters Jacket sponsored by Firefly/Jack Pyke; 3rd: £50 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life

### SUNDAY

#### CLASSIFIED

**1st:** £200 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life; **2nd:** Watch sponsored by Gardiner Bros (RRP £250); **3rd:** Hunters Jacket sponsored by Firefly/Jack Pyke; **4th:** £50

#### UNCLASSIFIED

**1st:** £200 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life; **2nd:** Watch sponsored by Gardiner Bros (RRP £250); **3rd:** Hunters Jacket sponsored by Firefly/Jack Pyke; **4th:** £50 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life;

The prize fund includes Vouchers for Dinner from the Wildfowler Inn, Greycabbey. These and other prizes will be notified on the day.

#### PLUS

**Top four guns overall qualify for All Ireland Game Fair Championship Final at Shanes Castle and Top four unclassified shooters qualify for the Barbour All Ireland Novice Game Fair Championship at Birr.**

## TERRIER & LURCHER EVENTS

**Organised by the Mid Antrim Terrier & Lurcher Club sponsored by Redmills, Premier Events Catering, and Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine**

Prizes include Trophies & Rosettes each class

OVERALL CHAMPION £50 Cash plus Special Champion's Tankard

CHAMPION TERRIER, LURCHER & WHIPPET Champion Tankards for each plus £50 plus Bag of Dog Food

The Champion Lurcher qualifies for the Redmills Five Nations International Lurcher Final at Birr Castle on the 29th August (and some travel expenses payable at Birr) and also receives four tickets to the Birr Castle Fair and a year's subscription to Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine. The Prize fund for this prestigious final will top €1,000.

RACING - the launch of the REDMILLS Master McGrath Challenge to find the fastest lurcher in the UK and Ireland

**The winner and runner up (any size) will qualify for the final at Shanes Castle again with a prize fund in excess of €1,000. The winner at Ballywalter receives a tankard, four tickets to Shanes Castle, a years subscription to the Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine and the winner and runner up receive a specially commissioned qualifying scroll designed by Ingrid Houwers.**

**The winner at Ballywalter, the first qualifying event, also receives £50 sponsored by Premier Event Catering.**

There will also be the normal over 23"; under 23" Lurchers, Whippet & Terrier Racing

**Top Dog** in each class £20 (sponsored by Premier Event Catering) Trophies, Rosettes & bags of meal

## IRISH DUMMY THROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Organised by Comber Wildfowlers Association & Sponsored by Outdoor Experience & Tidepool A new FUN competition with two ADULT categories: DISTANCE and ACCURACY and a CHILDREN'S Accuracy.

## REAL INTERNATIONAL GUNDOG TESTS

It is our policy within the GREAT GAME FAIRS of Ireland to stage both enjoyable North v South gundog matches AND also REAL International gundog events bringing in top teams from both the UK and Europe. For Shanes Castle we will continue the international theme with gundog teams from Wales, all over the UK and from Holland. For Ballywalter we launch a REAL international retriever test

with team from Denmark. We are indebted to sponsors FEEDWELL for facilitating this international competition.

### Saturday

**SPANIEL TESTS** (contact William Thompson 028 90962441) sponsored by Redmills - 9.30 am On Main Gundog Course

**Spaniel:** Puppy, Novice and Open tests organised by the Antrim & Down Springer Spaniel Club contact William Thompson 028 90962441. Prizes for each test 1st £40, 2nd £25 3rd £15. Plus bags of Redmills Dog Food for the winners.

Top spaniel goes on to meet the top retriever on Sunday to challenge for Top Gundog Overall and win a DT Dog Box sponsored by Gilbert Irvine of DT Dog Boxes.

**RETRIEVER TESTS** (contact Johnny Rea 028 258428)

Novice Test (sponsored by FAVOUR) Meet at Gundog Car Park 10.00 am sharp SATURDAY

Prizes include prize money sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine 1st £40 ; 2nd £25 and 3rd £15 plus bags of Favour meal to fourth.

### Sunday

**A REAL Retriever International Challenge sponsored by Feedwell Dog Food sponsors of the REAL international Retriever Challenge at Shanes Castle.**

**The Ulster Select Team (Captain: Johnny Rea) will meet Teams from the ROI (Captain: Laurence Hennessy) and a team from Denmark (Captain: Ms Marianne Ankjaer). Prize money for Top Team £100 plus bags of meal from FEEDWELL. 9.30 start.**

Sunday afternoon Open Retriever test (sponsored by Feedwell)

Prize money 1st £40, 2nd £25 Third £15 sponsored by Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine and bags of Feedwell Dog Food to fourth place.

**EACH ENTRANT FOR THE OPEN TEST RECEIVES a 2.5KG BAG of FEEDWELL.**

The top four dogs qualify for the ALL Ireland Game Fair Championships in Gundog Handling at the Fair at Shanes Castle on the 26th June.

AND on SUNDAY at Ballywalter THE Top SPANIEL and Top RETRIEVER will run off for TOP GAME FAIR GUNDOG and win a DT Dog Box

## GUNDOG SCURRY

**Organised in aid of the Ulster Select Gundog Team (contact Johnny Rea)**

Sponsored by Charlie Keenan and Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine good prizes with the top four dogs going forward to Shanes Castle and the Irish Scurry Championship final.

## ANGLING COMPETITIONS, COACHING & DEMOS

**The Angling competitions are organised by Angling Director Mark Patterson and GAIA sponsored by Atkins Angling, Loop Tackle and Shimano/G.Loomis.**

The Game Angling Instructors Association (GAIA) will be running the angling related events at this year's Ballywalter Game and Country Fair. APGAI Ireland will also be in attendance at the Fair in Fisherman's Row.

Demonstrations will be carried out by Charles Jardine, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell, who hold GAIA's highest qualification of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructor (APGAI). The event will be coordinated by Mark Patterson, APGAI, who is GAIA's regional representative in Ireland.

Charles has agreed to get into the spirit of the fair, which will have a Victorian theme, and perform his casting demonstrations in Victorian garb with vintage tackle. There will be a dedicated area set aside where GAIA instructors will be giving demonstrations in single handed casting, double handed casting and fly tying.

The top 4 competitors in the open and novice section will qualify for the all Ireland Championships at the Birr Castle Irish Game & Country Fair in August. The prizes for the casting competition have been generously donated by Atkins Angling, Loop Tackle and Shimano/G.Loomis. You will find Atkins Angling on Fisherman's Row and they will have a full range of Loop tackle on show.

Glenda Powell, no stranger to the Great Game Fairs of Ireland, will also be entering into the spirit of the Victorian theme in appropriate period dress and gracing the main arena with demonstrations.



# ARENA PROGRAMME

**Arena Director: Philip Lawton**

**Chief Steward: Tom Fulton**

## Saturday 30th April

- 10.00 Muzzle Loading Display**
- 10.20 Casting Demonstrations by Charles Jardine, Glenda Powell, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell**
- 10.40 'Riverdance on horseback' with the Cochise Horses**
- 11.10 Falconry with John Carmichael (NI School of Falconry)**
- 11.40 Hound Parade from the North Down & Sunnyland Beagles**
- 12.10 Long Netting Display by Stephen McGonigal**
- 12.45 Official Opening**
- 13.00 Equestrian extravaganza with Horse & Carriages; Running horses and Dancing Horses**
- 13.35 Punt Gun Demonstration on Lake by Andy Scullion**
- 14.00 Pipes and Drums At House Sherlock Holmes Play By Valhalla Theatre Group**
- 14.30 Casting Demonstrations by Charles Jardine, Glenda Powell, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell**
- 15.00 Keith Mathews – The Dog Guru – World Record Dog Training Attempt**
- 16.00 Gundog Demonstration By Joe Morrison and the Labrador Club of NI**
- 16.30 Falconry**
- 17.00 Muzzle Loaders & Valhalla Theatre Group**

## Sunday 1st May

- 10.00 Muzzle Loading Display**
- 10.20 'Riverdance on horseback' with the Cochise Horses**
- 10.50 Casting Demonstrations by Charles Jardine, Glenda Powell, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell**
- 11.20 Falconry with John Carmichael (NI School of Falconry)**
- 11.50 Long Netting Display from Stephen McGonigal**
- 12.20 Hounds from North Down & Beagles**
- 12.50 HPR Demonstration from Billy Lewis and Kieran Fox**
- 13.20 Muzzle Loaders followed by**
- 13.35 Punt Gun Demonstration on Lake by Andy Scullion**
- 13.50 At House Sherlock Holmes Play By Valhalla Theatre Group**
- 14.10 Fly Casting Demonstrations by Charles Jardine, Glenda Powell, Leslie Holmes and Gary Bell**
- 14.40 Muzzle loaders & Valhalla Theatre Group**
- 15.10 Keith Mathews – The Dog Guru – World Record Dog Training Attempt**
- 16.00 Falconry with John Carmichael (NI School of Falconry)**
- 16.30 Willie Edgar Cocker & Springer Demonstration**
- 17.00 Cochise Horses**

Best Dressed Lady and Best Dressed Gentleman Competition sponsored by Alan Espey Newtownards.

## Ongoing Attractions and Tented Village

Tented village of trade stands and attractions featuring the Sporting Village in the Court Yard with a fine range of modern guns from Donal McCloy Guns Unlimited, Firefly and Smyths Country Sports; Sporting art from David Prescott and the Three Sisters Gallery; taxidermy displays; game keeping supplies; BASC sporting pavilion with Marksman Simulator; Irish Countrysports and Country Life Stand with Keith Mathews; Wildebeest Designs Mortons Game Seeds and Game & Fish Cookery displays by Emmett McCourt plus also in the yard a Hog Roast. See the fine display of vintage cars in front of the house, plus the falconry and game displays and casting on the lawns.

Moving on to the main site there is a fine range of exhibitors including the Countryside Alliance Marquee- do call in to see Stickmaker Lindsay Carlisle; a great display of canine products including, DT Dog Boxes, Barking Pet Beds, Pawlines, Tuffies, Redmills, Brian Lyons with his cages and pens, dog kennels & sectional buildings etc.; a fantastic range of clothing from Dubarry Boots, Clarke's of Enniskillen, Charlie Keenan, Edinburgh Clothing, Duck Dri, Philpotts, plus clothing and accessories from companies such as the Pigeon Shooter,

Corbieton, Enterprises, Tidepool, JBS nets, The Binocular Outlet Co etc; a good range of country focused cars and 4x4s plus classic cars – there is even a hovercraft! The Fisherman's row features DCAL, fisheries, and an extensive range of tackle and boats and boating equipment, plus well known UK company Ultimate who are also bringing a great range of Hunter boots. Add into this a good range of countrysports and conservation stands such as the inimitable Tony Carinduff and his ferrets, the World of Owls, Air rifle shooting, archery and even more lazer shooting etc, plus gardening, ground control and alternative energy and food and craft stands and a childrens entertainment area and you have a country market place where any member of the family can purchase what they need to buy into the country lifestyle.

AND don't forget if you purchase a ticket at the gate at Ballywalter you get a FREE ticket to an even greater country sports extravaganza at Shanes Castle on the 25th & 26th June 2011 See [www.irishgamefair.com](http://www.irishgamefair.com) or see the Summer edition of Irish Countrysports and Country Life magazine in the shops or online at

[www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com](http://www.countrysportsandcountrylife.com)

## Ballywalter Game Fair *Spectator/Participant Survey*

At Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd we like to know what our customers think and to use that information to constantly improve the entertainment experience we provide for you and your family. We should like you to take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. All completed questionnaires will qualify for a £5 voucher off next years ticket and there is an overall prize of £100 and a family day out at the 2012 Fair.

### Question 1 How did you hear about this event?

Newspaper		Television	
Radio		Magazine	
Poster in Shop		Fair Flyer	
Roadside Poster		Other Please Specify	

Other Please Specify:

**Question2. If you heard about the Festival from newspaper(s) or magazine(s) can you remember which paper/Magazine this was?**

### Question 3. What activities did you find of particular interest?

Archery		Carriage Driving /Cochise Horses	
Angling		Falconry	
Punt Gun display		The Stable Yard	
Long netting display		Clay Pigeon Shooting	
Gundog displays		Childrens' Area	
Gundog Competitions		Past & Present Pavilion	
Keith Mathews		Vintage & Classic Cars	
Terrier & Lurchers		Theatre Group	
Fine Food Pavilion		Tented Village	
FREE ticket for Shanes Castle		Game Cookery	

**Any Other activity ( Please specify)**

**Question 4. Can you suggest any other activities, displays or demonstrations which you would like to see at the Fair :**

### Question 5. How satisfied were you with the following facets of this event

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Signage					
Toilets					
Parking					
Catering					
Range of Activities					
Range of Stands					
Overall Satisfaction					

**Question 6 For the 2012 Fair we should like your opinion on the following:**

	Very Important	Important	Neither Important nor Unimportant	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
The Fair should stay at Ballywalter					
The Game Fair type attractions should be extended					
Country Living attractions should be extended					
There should be more conservation activities					

**Question 7 Your trip to Ballywalter?****(a) How many people were in your Group:** (a) Adults

(b) Children

<b>(b) Duration of Stay</b>	Day Trip	
	1 Night	
	2 Nights	
	3 Nights plus	
<b>Type of Accommodation</b>	Hotel	
	Guest House	
	B&B	
	Other please specify	
<b>Location of Accommodation</b>	Please specify	

**Question 8 Personal Details**

Gender	Age	Male	Female
	Under 18		
	18 – 25		
	26 – 39		
	40 – 54		
	55 - 64		
	65 +		

**Name :****email :****Address:**

**Please return the completed questionnaire to : Customer Survey, Country Lifestyle Exhibitions Ltd, Cranley Hill, 5b Woodgrange Road, Downpatrick BT30 8JE**