

# Lot 122 of The Sporting Sale 2008

In the Heather Trust's 2008 Sporting Sale The Fotheringham Estate Company kindly donated a day's walked-up shooting for six guns on their Estate in Angus. Our successful bidder Mr Norrie Petrie writes to tell us how the day went.

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Lot 122 of The Sporting Sale 2008

Dear Catherine,

On 2nd May 2008 I grouped together a team of six close friends and placed a bid with The Heather Trust's Sporting Auction Sale for Lot 122, a walked up partridge day on the Fotheringham Estate in Angus.

Some of us had bid on the Heather Trust Auction before, but never won. We were determined to win this lot and have a great day out. My email inbox was filling up as quick as I could clear it as the auction ended. My friends were desperate to hear the news. And good news it was too, we had won the Lot.

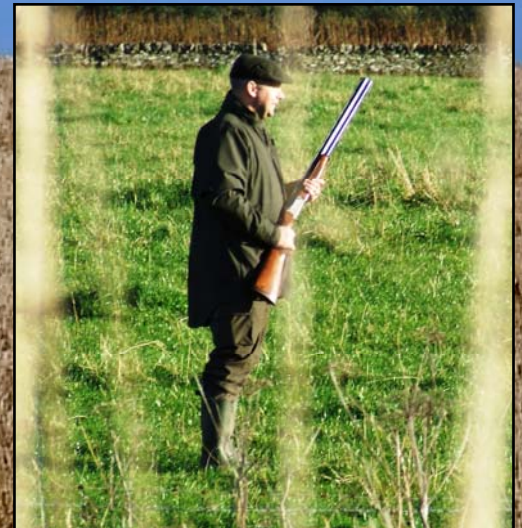
The Heather Trust was quick to contact me and give me the relevant details, allowing me to speak with the Head Keeper, Ian Duncan on the Fotheringham Estate. Ian congratulated us and we agreed at date of 16th October. The group decided to make the most of the trip and booked into the hotel and bunkhouse at The Glen Clova Hotel, about 30 minutes from the Estate.

At the hotel, on the night before, we all had a few drams and the chance to air our thoughts on how the big day was going to unfold. Stories of historic days at Fotheringham from old shooting pals and the excitement of it all made it feel like Christmas Eve! The usual bets of the first bird of the day, the best bird of the day and the first left and right were made.

The morning duly came and we headed down to the Estate. We were met by Ian and his team and made to feel very welcome. The first drive was over some turnips. The first bird was debated by a few guns, all in good spirit and with a great deal of sportsmanship. Then Ian arranged, what can be best described as partridge rockets! We then headed down by a stream and had some fantastic sporting shots. The first right and left bagged too. After a challenging drive with some high birds over the top of a hill, we headed back to the lodge for lunch. If only all shoots had such a great lodge! Over some homemade cakes we discussed what we would like to do in the afternoon. Remembering Ian Telling us of his ducks, we thought this would be a great idea.

Up to the duck ponds we headed. The wind was strong, but the skies blue and we were still happy in our shirt sleeves. After formulating a plan with the beaters and keepers we took our places by the ponds. We all had our share of testing birds and we all bagged enough to keep the grins well and truly on our faces.

After another duck drive we headed for our last drive of the day. By this time the sun was low in the sky and glaring in our faces. We had no idea what to expect on this drive, but we knew it was going to be good. The last drive of any shoot always is. Firstly some pheasant, low and fast. So low in fact, the sun blinded some of the guns and birds whizzed by. Then some duck, fast and furious, just like the previous ponds. Some more pheasant and the day was over.



**I think we all had sore jaws with the grinning we had done all day long. We all headed back to the lodge for another dram and some banter about the birds that were and the birds that almost were! A second and a third dram for some and the afternoon was all but over with night time closing in on a perfect day. This was our first day out individually of the season and as a group. We could not have asked for better weather, company, birds, beaters or keepers. This day was shooting as it was meant to be.**

**We all headed back to the hotel and had a feast of great food and wine, gaggling over the funniest and best bits of the day. It felt like Christmas had been and Santa had given us the best presents ever! All of us, that is six guns, three spectators, (two of them aged only 11 and 13), and three dogs all exhausted and content with the perfect day.**

**Will we be bidding next year? For sure! In fact, we are planning on bidding for the same day and also buying a day too.**

**We cannot thank The Heather Trust and the Fotheringham Estate enough for our day. Magical in every way and what makes us all glad to be part of Scottish Sporting Life, supporting a very worthy charity and keeping our countryside economy going.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**Norrie Petrie**

**Photographs courtesy of Amy Smith, the 11 year old photographer for the day!**

