

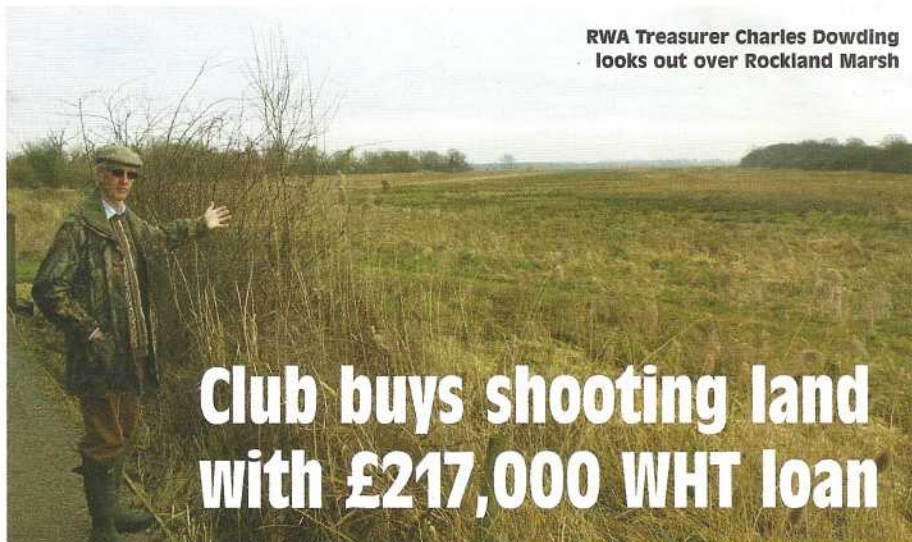
# Wildfowling NEWS



LAURIE CAMPBELL

+ club news  
and events

RWA Treasurer Charles Dowding  
looks out over Rockland Marsh



## Club buys shooting land with £217,000 WHT loan

A wildfowling club in Norfolk has received a £217,000 loan from the Wildlife Habitat Trust to buy land for shooting and conservation – the largest-ever loan authorised by the WHT.

The money will go towards the purchase of 58.9 acres at Loades Marsh, Rockland St Mary, by Rockland Wildfowling Association (RWA). The club, whose 60 members shoot on Rockland Broad and over 1,000 acres around it, has itself raised £48,000 towards the cost of the land.

Kevin Tipple, club land secretary of the Rockland Wildfowling said; “The purchase of land around Rockland Broad achieves an ambition which the club has held since it was formed in 1987 and secures the future of the land for shooting and conservation.

“The WHT has again helped us and its support is crucial to our goal of securing land by ownership. The club bought its first land in 2008, with help from the WHT and the Dee Wildfowling and Wetlands Management Club; it has raised funds in

different ways from an online auction to the sale of prints and badges. The WHT has continued to support the club's work and we appreciate its interest and involvement.”

The 52-acre Rockland Broad is an old peat working over which the club members shoot a wide variety of quarry species – mallard, teal, wigeon, gadwall, greylags and tufted duck – from rowing boats. The surrounding land is also home to an abundance of wildlife – including Chinese water deer.

Treasurer Charles Dowding said the RWA was formed by local wildfowling to manage the shooting on Rockland Broad. At that time, Dennis Loades who owned land round the Broad became involved with the club and when he retired, we negotiated a deal to buy the land. The club is extremely grateful to Dennis for his help and support for this deal and as president of the club for many years.

The RWA is in the BASC Wildfowling permit scheme and keeps two boats for the



Chairman Malcolm  
Huggins repairs a bird box

use of visiting members. “It is very popular with fowling from all over the country,” said Charles. “Last season was particularly good and we are looking to increase our core membership as the land we have can easily accommodate more wildfowling.”

The club carries out an annual March clean-up of debris and litter on the broad and has regular working parties carrying out conservation work. They have had great success with owl boxes, a kestrel box, bee hotels and beetle banks.

Tim Russell, WHT secretary and director of conservation at BASC, said; “The Wildlife Habitat Trust is pleased to be able to make this loan to Rockland Wildfowling. The purchase of land at Loades Marsh is important for wildlife habitat preservation.”

The club is holding an online auction from 9-22 September to help raise funds. To find out more about the auction or for more information on the club please see: [www.rocklandwa.co.uk](http://www.rocklandwa.co.uk)

For further information on the WHT visit: [www.wht.org.uk](http://www.wht.org.uk)

## MCZs 'will not limit wildfowling'

The effect of marine conservation zones on wildfowling in England will be “negligible to zero” according to the man responsible for them. Nigel Gooding, head of marine biodiversity at Defra, was speaking at the 25th National Wildfowling Conference, organised by BASC.

He said that the zones will not seek to protect areas already designated as Natura 2000 sites and will not impose restrictions on recreational activities. Mr Gooding urged all delegates to raise any concerns over the implementation of MCZs through the current consultation and he said that Defra had given a commitment that regulating authorities (Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities and Marine Management Organisation) will consult on all proposed management measures. Any inconsistencies should be raised at the highest level with Defra and the regulatory organisation.

