

No 34

WINTER
2014/15

The Scottish SPORTING GAZETTE

& INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLER

THE FUTURE
OF OUR
FIELDSPORTS

TEN OF THE
COUNTRY'S
FINEST VIEWS

WIN A LUXURY
WEEKEND
BREAK
FOR TWO

Preserving the rural way of life

GOATS IN THE WEST SEASON ROUND-UP THE SECRETS OF KINTYRE
A KENYAN CASCADE THE SEABIRD HUNTERS GAME & WHISKY

www.scottishsportinggazette.co.uk



TACKLING THE TWELFTH

PHOTOGRAPHY: TWEED MEDIA

A REGULAR ON the Scottish moors on the Glorious Twelfth is auctioneer Nick Holt, who wouldn't miss the experience for anything (well, within reason, of course!).

"It's the only place to be," he says. "Especially here in the Lammermuirs when the heather is in full bloom. There are plenty of grouse and the walking is nothing like as sapping as further north

– it's a joy just to be here."

He is joined on a stormy day at Horseupcleugh by three good friends, two from overseas, who, like Nick, enjoy the occasion of the Twelfth. Some people can be a little snooty about walking-up, but Nick will quite rightly point out that he doesn't want to be shooting driven grouse in mid-August when many of the birds are yet to mature. He also loves seeing dogs work and

enjoys the hunting aspect of walking-up. "The birds are unpredictable, and added to this is that underneath that lovely purple heather, the ground can be as challenging as the shooting. It is also exhausting – but all the better for it. The hotel bar is a lot quieter in the evening following the day's exertions, compared to the night before."

An exhilarating day's walking-up is full of the stuff from which memories are made.

Bag: 15 brace



Nick and his team of valuers of fine modern and antique sporting guns will be regularly visiting Scotland for valuations hosted at Goldsmith & Co, 48 North Castle St, Edinburgh.



Finding their wings



A grouse suddenly rises



Completing a retrieve



Bernard Williams, Gary Widdowson & Nick Holt



Glorious purple heather



Taking a long shot



“An exhilarating day’s walking-up is full of the stuff from which memories are made.”