

Why join...

...the British Falconers' Club ?



Plus Membership Application

Introducing the British Falconers' Club

Founded in 1927 by the surviving members of the Old Hawking Club (1864 -1926), the British Falconers' Club (BFC) is the oldest falconry club in Great Britain and, with over 1200 members, is the largest in Europe. Its prime objectives are the promotion and protection of falconry in the UK and the provision of help and advice to members and to those thinking of taking up falconry.

Representing falconers' interests

The Club is a founder member of the International Association of Falconry (IAF), the Hawk Board and the Countryside Alliance. Through these bodies the BFC and falconry have considerable representational influence with government and regulatory bodies in the UK, Europe and worldwide ensuring that new and existing legislation does not adversely affect the sport. This vital work is costly and time consuming and receives little recognition by many hawk keepers.

Supporting its members

The BFC has a permanent office, (open weekdays 9.30am-1pm). It employs a Secretary to answer enquiries from members and the general public, and to assist the Club Officers in the administration of the club. Membership to the BFC grants automatic inclusion in a 'local' Regional Group, each having its own chairman and committee. These groups, which organise social and field meets, are the main focus of activity for most members.

New members are encouraged to make themselves known to the Regional Group committee and to attend Regional meetings. In this way they can be put in touch with other falconers in their area who will be able to offer advice and help when necessary.

Democratically elected management

The BFC office and day-to-day administration is overseen by the Director, with the support of other Club Officers and members of Council. The business of the Club is conducted by an elected Council comprising of Club Officers, Regional Representatives and 6 Council members. All Officer and Council positions are elected from among the Full members. They serve a 3-year term and are eligible for re-election at the Autumn AGM.

The Council normally meets three or four times a year to discuss Club business, current issues and changes in policy. Changes to policy are presented, where necessary for voting, to either the Spring or Annual General Meetings.

The Council is responsible for the Production of the Falconer, the journal of record, and two Newsletters. It organises national Club meetings, social events and field meets, including the four yearly International Field Meet, traditionally held at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire.

Maintains standards

The Club maintains a Code of Conduct, which members are required to observe and which is set out on the reverse of this leaflet. Any member whose conduct is unsatisfactory and not in accordance with this Code may be the subject of an enquiry by a Disciplinary Committee of the Club.

Membership Categories (& subscription rates)

Supporter members (~~£42~~) are those who have a genuine interest in falconry but whose circumstances do not allow them to keep and fly a hawk at quarry. They receive the Club publications and can attend all field and social meetings but may not vote. People who keep hawks or owls as pets are not accepted as supporters. £55

Associate members (~~£42~~) are those new to falconry (or to the Club) and who are learning to hunt with a hawk. Associates have the same benefits as full members although their voting powers are limited to regional meetings. Associates are encouraged to apply for elevation to Full membership after 3 years experience of falconry and with written recommendation by two Full members. £55

Full members (~~£42~~) are those who have demonstrated competence in the training and flying of hawks at quarry in accordance with the code of conduct, and who have maintained the standards expected of membership. Competent falconers wishing to join the Club as full members can do so on the recommendation of two full members. Applications for Full membership and elevation from Associate membership are made to and scrutinised by the Council. £55

Overseas members (~~£42~~) are those who permanently live abroad and have the status of an Associate when in Britain. £60

Life membership (£500) is available to all members in the above categories.

Trade membership (£-please enquire) is open to falconry related businesses, giving them preferential rates for advertising in the Newsletters and Website and the ability to use the BFC Trade Member logo.

Benefits of Membership

- Members are part of the oldest falconry club in the UK and the largest in Europe.
- Members receive a bi-annual Newsletter and an annual Journal "The Falconer." Published by the Club since 1936, the Journal is considered to be the UK's publication of record and has accordingly become very collectable.
- Members are covered by the Club's £2,000,000 third party liability insurance, whilst practising the sport of falconry.
- Members can attend National and Regional field meets and the four yearly International Field Meet organised by the Council. Regional groups also organise field meets and social events, which are advertised in the Regional Newsletters.
- The falconry interests of members are represented nationally through the club's membership of the Hawk Board (the recognised non-governmental organisation representing the interests of all bird of prey keepers in the UK) and internationally through the International Association for Falconry (IAF).
- The Club is represented on the Countryside Alliance, FACE (the federation of hunting organisations in the EU), PAW (Police Wildlife Crime group), CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species), SCCS (Standing Conference on Country Sports) and others as and when appropriate.
- The Club has two extensive libraries in Oxford and Perth available to members.
- The Club offers a voluntary Apprenticeship scheme for members who are newcomers to the sport.
- The Club has experts in all the branches of falconry who are able to offer advice to members.

Code of Conduct

This Code sets out the general standards of the British Falconers' Club which members are expected to observe. Members, are of course, required to observe the Club's rules. The Code is used by the Council as a guideline in assessing any questions of "bringing falconry into disrepute" under the Club Rules:

1. Falconry is the sport of hunting quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained hawks. The first duty of all members is to respect and uphold this standard.
2. Members must always endeavour to promote the welfare and survival of hawks in the wild state taking into account all environmental issues.
3. Members are under an obligation to observe the laws and customs of the United Kingdom and of foreign countries with regard to the taking, import and export of hawks, the taking of quarry species and the right of access to land in the country concerned. Any member found guilty in a court of law of any such offence will automatically be subject to investigation by a disciplinary committee convened under the Club Rules. Any complaints of attempting to supplant permission, or hawking on land without permission will also be regarded by the Council as conduct meriting investigation under the Club Rules.
4. A Member must uphold the highest standards of welfare, housing and feeding hawks. The welfare of a hawk must over-ride any other considerations.
5. A Member should not train a hawk unless he or she can fly it at suitable quarry. A Member should not try to train a difficult type of hawk if he has not got the general experience and knowledge to handle it.
6. Unwise publicity can bring falconry into disrepute and may embarrass the Club's relations with welfare and protectionist organisations. Only Full Members with considerable experience should attempt to provide material for publishing, take part in films or plays, give lectures and instruction or give displays. They should ensure that their actions comply with the standards of the Club. The Hawk Board and the Countryside Alliance guidelines on public displays (flying and static) should be studied carefully. Interviews with the media (press and broadcast) can be seriously distorted on publication or broadcast. Members should consult the Director, Press Officer or their Regional Group Secretary before committing themselves.
7. A Member who has reason to believe that another Member is in breach of the Code or of the Rules, shall remonstrate with him, and if necessary, report the matter (in confidence if he wishes) to the Director or his Regional Secretary. If he does not do so, he himself is in breach of the Code.

British Falconers' Club Membership Application Form

Membership Required (please tick appropriate box)

Full:

Associate:

Supporter:

Overseas:

Life:

Trade:

Personal Details

Title: First name: Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Tel: Email:

Are you a practicing falconer? (please tick)

No:

Yes:

If Yes, for how long (yrs):

DoE ID No:

Are you known to a BFC member? (please tick)

No:

Yes:

If Yes, please give details:

DOB:

Current Hawks:

Are you, or have you been a member of any of the following organisations? (please tick)

Countryside Alliance:

BASC:

Game Conservancy:

Hawk & Owl Trust:

Other:

Other Falconry Clubs:

RSPCA:

RSPB:

BTO:

Have you ever been found guilty of an offence concerning birds or the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981? (please tick)

No:

Yes:

If Yes, please give details:

Additional information you think may help your application (attach separate sheet if necessary)

How did you hear about the British Falconers' Club?

Declaration & Application

I declare that the information given is true and that I am a sincere supporter of Falconry, which is the sport of hunting wild quarry in its natural state and habitat with trained hawks. I have studied the code of conduct of the club and shall obey it if I am accepted as a member.

(NB) Applicants under the age of 18 should secure the support of a parent or guardian

Signed:

Signed:

Date:

Date:

Please send appropriate subscription together with your completed application form to:

FOR CLUB USE ONLY

Date Received: Date Referred:

Proposed Region:

