

## **First Generation Wildfowler from Clevedon**

One first-generation wildfowler described a different route into the practice. He explained that he had not come from a shooting family, but had always kept air rifles and air guns, and gradually progressed from there into shotgun shooting. His first real introduction to wildfowling came through Highbridge Wildfowlers, which he joined because it was more accessible to him than other clubs he had considered. He identified a single formative experience as decisive: being taken out by one of the older members at Highbridge and shooting a goose. He recalled that he did not really know what he was doing at the time and was simply fortunate, but that the experience immediately “hooked” him. From that point onward, he became fully committed to wildfowling and later joined Clevedon as well. His account shows the importance of mentorship and of memorable first experiences in drawing new people into the practice.

Taken together, these accounts show that there is no single pathway into wildfowling. For some, it is an inherited family tradition rooted in place and sustained across several generations. For others, it begins through adjacent forms of shooting, such as air rifles or clay shooting, and develops through contact with a local club. Across these different routes, two themes recur consistently: the importance of older, more experienced practitioners in introducing newcomers to the practice, and the central role of clubs in turning initial interest into long-term participation. Wildfowling emerges not simply as an individual activity, but as a social tradition maintained through kinship, mentorship and shared access to place.