

and how they can test it. Options such as hunting trails, using two hounds to flush out foxes, and the possibility of harriers switching to

shortly after the introduction of Scottish hunting legislation in 2002. "The parliaments in both Edinburgh and Westminster have placed

Summer hound shows will go ahead as normal and the MFHA is urging all hunts to keep as high a profile as possible.



Versatile gamekeeper turns to pictures

THANKS TO his work as a gamekeeper, John Clarke knows more about the subjects he paints than he could have learnt at art school. "Being a gamekeeper has allowed me to see all forms of wildlife interacting within their natural habitats through the changing seasons," says Clarke, headkeeper at Dunsop Bridge, Lancashire.

He enjoys painting birds but most of his commissions (for which prices start at £200) are studies of dogs or horses. "The most challenging aspect of painting somebody's treasured animal is that it has to be

recognisable as theirs. That is why I always take my own photographs of the subjects," he adds. This enables him to capture an animal's own quirks and personality.

Clarke was one of the keepers who bared all for the Gamekeepers Calendar (Mr March), which raised over £30,000 to be shared between the National Gamekeepers' Organisation and Macmillan nurses. Following an article in *The Field* orders flooded in from around the world. The cheques will be handed over at a black-tie dinner at The Inn at Whitewell, near Clitheroe, Lancashire, on 18 February. For tickets call John Clarke on 01200 448214.