

The Stanley Duncan Conservation Trophy

James Williams has been awarded a prestigious Honour by the British Association of Shooting & Conservation (BASC). The only person ever to receive the award posthumously. He was nominated by Robin Marshall-Ball and James Green last year, such nominations are made in secret so James was unaware. With James's death in February the BASC took the unprecedented decision to award the Trophy posthumously. It was collected by James's wife Elizabeth who was accompanied by their son Rob.



BASC.

The Stanley Duncan Conservation Trophy

is awarded to an affiliated club, member or individual, who in the opinion of Council, has contributed most to conservation in the preceding 12 months.

James was for many years until his death in February 2014 the Chairman of the Somerset Otter Group. Initial contact was made with Robin Marshall Ball shortly after he joined BASC in 2002; since then James wholeheartedly supported all his activities with mink and water voles, both on the Somerset Levels and further afield. He was a constant source of detailed information and assistance in all conservation matters, especially concerning riparian habitats and wildlife.

A member of BASC since WAGBI days, (30 years), James attended and made valuable contributions at mink and water vole workshops on the Somerset Levels organised by Robin, and more recently has done the same for the workshops for the River Tone project for James Green.

Enormously respected throughout the conservation community in the Southwest, James was awarded an MBE in 2013 for his services to conservation. At all times he ensured that other bodies recognised the contribution the country sports community made to landscape-scale conservation and often made it plain that he had little time for the 'protectionists'!

A skilled salmon fly fisherman, a breeder of his own line in cocker spaniels, and a game shooter, he was an all-round countryman who has given unhesitant and dedicated support to BASC's conservation activities in Somerset

Until his death he was a valued BASC volunteer on the River Tone project, and his loss will be felt deeply by both the country sports and conservation communities.



On 14th of June 2014, Elizabeth Williams, accompanied by Rob Williams attended the Abbots Well Hotel in Chester as guests of the BASC, at their annual general meeting. Elizabeth received the Trophy from their president Lord Home.



Elizabeth Williams: “I’m so delighted to be here to receive this award on behalf of James. He would, I think, put it on a par with his MBE that the Queen awarded him last year. It was a year ago this weekend since it was announced. He was then made a fellow of the Linnean Society. He was a great conservationist and a great field sports enthusiast, which I shared with him and shall miss terribly our fishing expeditions and that I didn’t actually have time to do more of the conservation work with him; but, fortunately, his work is going forward and there are all sorts of things happening and so I am very grateful to BASC for awarding this to him.”



BASC Director of Conservation Tim Russell, with Rob Williams and Elizabeth.