## **STAGHUNTER**

## The Remarkable Story of Ernest Bawden

As Baroness Mallalieu says in her Foreword:

Staghunter is a remarkable book. It is more than just a biography of an exceptional man or even a study of Exmoor nearly 100 years ago when life was far harder than today. It also contains the explanation of why staghunting still remains so central to life on Exmoor and why its continuation is crucial to the survival of the herds of red deer. But this is a story of a genius and it deserves to be read by all who seek to learn the secret of excellence.

Ernest Bawden is accepted as being one of the greatest huntsmen of all time. Difficult, complicated, ruthless and with a notoriously short temper, he lived for his work for thirty-three years with the Devon and Somerset Staghounds.

Crowds flocked to see him. Sportsmen from as far away as America came to hunt with him. He was truly a legend in his own lifetime and remains one long after his death.

Genius, of course, defies analysis. A skilled huntsman must understand the science of venery and be able to practise the art, but he also needs an intuition and the ability to perform magic. Ernest Bawden had all this and more. In this meticulously researched book, Paddy King-Fretts, himself brought up on Exmoor, has brought this extraordinary man and his times to life.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



Born in 1941, Paddy King-Fretts grew up in the wilds of Exmoor where, as a boy, he shot game, fished and hunted with local packs including the Devon and Somerset Staghounds. Educated at Sherborne and R.M.A. Sandhurst, he was commissioned into The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Before commanding his own regiment in 1982 he served for two operational tours with 22 S.A.S. A keen sportsman and countryman, he captained the R.M.A.S Modern Pentathlon team and was short-listed for the Tokyo Olympics.

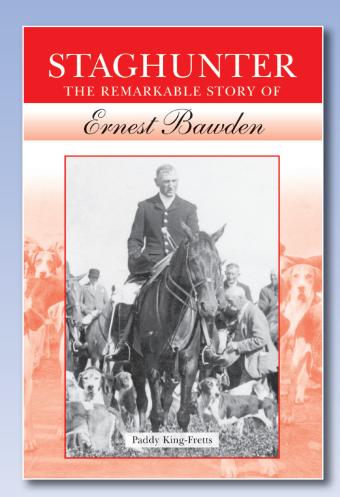
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