

MORPETH FOXHOUNDS NEWS LETTER

The 2006/2007 hunting season was our second full season “under the ban”. We have managed to keep hunting going within the law and whilst we have had good sport and many new members, we should beware of complacency and continue to be vigilant in our fight to repeal the law. Silence may be viewed as consent. The farmers, landowners and shoots have all been tremendously supportive and we should all bear this in mind when following hounds. Without them we would be finished.

As many of you are aware hunting was suspended in February due to a hound at the kennels being diagnosed as a suspect TB case. We are pleased to inform you that subsequent tests carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency have been negative.

We believe that the action we took was prudent. TB can be a devastating disease in cattle and also has implications for human health. To have continued hunting would have put the livelihoods of the farmers in our country at risk.

We can now look forward to this season with a clean bill of health.

We should also thank ourselves for the huge fundraising effort that has gone on this year. Everybody will have been involved in some shape or form. The Hunt Ball is now probably one of the best, if not the best, in the Northern Area and we are grateful to all our long- suffering hosts. Next year the ball will be held at Netherwitton Hall by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Trevelyan.

Jane Percy took over the Point to Point on a “one year contract” and it looks as if we may have had a record year in takings. She is handing over the position of Point to Point Secretary to Joanna Boswell who will be working with Adam Waugh as Sponsorship Secretary. Adam takes over from John Pettinger who has been pulling in sponsorship for at least 15 years. This year we had pony racing for the first time and it was a great success and is already scheduled in for next year. We have been told by the Area Course Inspector, who also inspects Aintree, that Tranwell is now the best course in the Northern Area. For this we are most grateful to the Jeans family who have allowed us to use their land for atleast 38 years because Brian Hepple can remember winning the Members Race there in 1969 on a horse called Silvertail!

We have had a lot of new young members this year and you will see enclosed “Tips for Newcomers” and, for want of a better phrase, a promotional offer for people new to hunting. Most newcomers came by recommendation from existing hunting people and it seems that this may be quite a sensible way to recruit. So if you feel you know someone who may like to try out a day’s hunting at the Cubbing Breakfast please give them the enclosed leaflet and encourage them. We also have very strong links with the Morpeth Pony Club and at the beginning of July we were delighted to welcome over 20 Pony Club members to the kennels. After seeing the hounds and being given a tour of the kennels by Sandy, some members who had been judged as competent out in the hunting field last season completed their Pony Club hunting badge with a question and answer session. Congratulations to Kate Simpson, Louise Kelcher, Ewan Macaulay, Kate and Eleanor Myerscough and Emily Hattrick for gaining their hunting badge. We look forward to seeing a lot of

them out hunting with us this coming season and are planning a pony club meet in both October and February half terms.

Whilst all of you should recognise our Huntsman Sandy Wilson, you may not know a great deal about him. Sandy has been with The Morpeth Foxhounds for 11 years, 7 of those as Whipper –in to Major Roddy Bailey and for the last 4 years as our Huntsman . Sandy does not come from a hunting background but worked with his father on their livestock farm in Lanark and Renfrew. He got involved in hunting by chance when the local hunt needed to borrow a wagon to take their horses to the meets. So Sandy's father, who also dealt in horses, agreed to provide a wagon in exchange for a subscription to the hunt and Sandy started by riding ponies out with the huntsman. At 16 years of age he joined the Lanark and Renfrew Hunt as a whip for the princely sum of £27-50 a week. He describes skinning lambs and sheep to supplement his income saying that he had to skin 2000 sheep to cover the cost of a holiday! After 2 years with The Lanark and Renfrew he spent a year working on farms before going back into hunt service as Whip for The Fife Hunt. After 4 years at The Fife he moved to the Tyndale for 2 years before a move to The Fernie. When asked how long it took to learn the hounds' names, he said it only took a week because the Huntsman didn't say very much so he had to listen carefully when he spoke to the hounds and as far as he could tell he called them all Ladybird! However after a month he had them all sorted out. So it was 11 years ago that he finally joined The Morpeth and we are pleased that he chose to stay on as Huntsman when Roddy Bailey retired to Ireland 4 years ago.

If you watch Sandy working with the hounds you will see that he likes to let them rake about and use their own initiative. He believes that it is better to remain quiet and not lift their heads by interfering too much so that they learn not to be totally reliant on him. So when hounds are drawing a cover it is probably well that we also remember to remain quiet and not to crowd the hounds. Bad scenting days can be very tiring for both huntsman and hounds but on good hunting days hounds can cover up to 50 miles in one day.

Paul Roberts, our whip for the last 4 seasons, has moved to the Barlow Hunt after getting married to Sally. We wish them both well in their new careers.

We are very lucky that Andrew Higgins has joined us from The Bolventor Harriers and East Cornwall Foxhounds. Andrew had the chance to join other hunts but decided to come to The Morpeth: after spending a few days working with Sandy he realised that he liked the way Sandy hunts hounds.

Andrew probably best describes how long he has been involved in hunting himself, "I was born on 21st December and was hunting by Boxing Day!". Andrew, as you may have guessed, was born into a hunting family .His father is huntsman of The East Cornwall so Andrew has been involved in hunting all his life. He first rode to hound, albeit on the lead rein, at the tender age of 4 on a 10 1/2 HH pony called Tag. He claims to have won everything at the local gymkhanas and did his time in the Pony Club. This is the first move he has made away from Cornwall so we hope it's not too cold for him this winter! Ian Robinson has already given him a nick name which seems to have stuck. On the second day he came out for a trial, hounds hunted on foot at Elsdon. When we thought hounds had gone on ahead unaccompanied, Ian spied this speck on the horizon, Andrew, about a mile ahead of everyone else ...hence the obvious nickname "Hurricane Higgins"

So I hope we all make Andrew very welcome.

Useful Contact numbers

Vicky Knox : Secretary 01665 570021

Masters (contact via the Secretary)

Samantha Orde, Val Jackson, Evan Jobling Purser, James Cookson

You may have noticed that mailouts tend to now contain leaflets from Mitsubishi Pearson. This is because they are now kindly sponsoring some of these as well as having sponsored the highly enjoyable and successful shoot at Bywell. So please have a look as there are some good deals on offer.

The Horse Club

There have been several changes to horses since the end of last season. Arnie was sold as it was felt he wasn't quite fast enough for the job and would make a good price given his age. Unfortunately Harry had to be put down as he suffered badly from "The Shivers".

Val Jackson, our new Master last season, was charged with the task of replacing them . She has done a very good job and found a horse called Leo, a local lad from Bedlington aged 8. Seamus was scooped up by Val when she heard he had been Paul Carberry's hunter for 2 years, he is 9 years old. All the horses have been in work since the beginning of July, are reported to be going well and will start exercising with hounds in the middle of August.

The Puppy Show and The Puppy Walkers

We have just held our Puppy Show and despite the dampness it was a very successful day. This day really belongs to Sandy and the Puppy Walkers .The Puppy Walkers can be an unsung group of heroes who take puppies as youngsters into their own home , or firmly outside in most cases. They are kept as a member of the family and hopefully taught a few manners. These manners may not include when not to shred everything within reach but hopefully may include not chasing sheep, getting across streams and ditches and negotiating wire fences. Most importantly they learn to respond to their name. The puppy walkers feed these eating machines for sometimes up to about 5 months and then they return to the kennels. The following year the Puppy Show is held and the young hounds are judged and trophies awarded to the winning walkers. Anyone can come to the Puppy Show and it is a very enjoyable day where people dress up and enjoy the show and a wonderful afternoon tea. Every walker is given a spoon with the name of their hound engraved on it. Anyone can walk a puppy. The results of this year's show are shown in the table but there other people who may not have walked hounds last year but have done so in the past and some who would like to in the future. Those not in this year's show are Evan Jobling –Purser, Sarah Fenwick, June Taylor, Sybil Hescox, Pam Wright, Tony and Zilla Watson, Mark and Sharon Jackson and Vicky Knox.

THE
MORPETH
PUPPY SHOW
2007

HOUND	SIRE	DAM	WALKERS
GRIMSTON GRINDER GRACIE GRAYLING GREEDY	Middleton GRAPPLER 03	GARNISH 03 30th Jan 06	MR I ROBINSON MR I ROBINSON MRS P JACKSON MRS S FENWICK MRS P AYNSLEY

WINKER WISEMAN WICKED WIDGET WINKLE WINSOME WISDOM	CV/NN WIDGEON 03	SARAH 03 31st Jan 06	MRS J COOKSON MRS A COTTINGHAM MRS J COOKSON MISS M THOMPSON MISS M THOMPSON MASTERS G & F RENWICK MASTERS G & F RENWICK
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JUGGLER JULIAN JUMBLE JUPITER JUSTICE JUDITH JUDY JUNKET JUSTLY	Exmoor JUSTICE 02	CHAPTER 02 12th March 06	MRS D MILBURN MISS M THOMPSON MRS R PETERS MRS R PETERS MRS J THOMPSON MR J HEDLEY MRS J THOMPSON MRS D MILBURN MR J HEDLEY
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	DOGS 4 1/2	BITCHES 6	TOTAL 10 1/2
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DOGHOOUNDS	BITCHES	COUPLES
1ST - JUGLER	1ST - GRACIE	1ST - GRIMSTON & GRINDER
2ND - JUPITER	2ND - GRAYLING	2ND - JUDITH & JUSTLY
3RD - JUSTICE	3RD - GREEDY	3RD - JUMBLE & JUPITER

"THE BARNEY SMITH" TROPHY	CHAIRMAN 02'	MRS J THOMPSON
BEST WORKING DOG HOUND	GROWLER 06'	MRS A COTTINGHAM
BEST WORKING BITCH	GRATEFUL 06'	MRS P AYNSLEY

JUDGES: JOHN HARRISON, HUNTSMAN, ULLSWATER
MAJOR R I BAILEY

The Masters and committee are keen to welcome new members and introduce them to the ways of hunting. Please feel free to approach Masters or give them a call if you ever have any queries. Phone numbers are below. Here is the new recruiting form

Tips for newcomers to hunting

The Morpeth Hunt likes to welcome new followers out hunting. If you would like to hunt for the first time or have an inexperienced horse, it is a good idea to join us during October when the pace is generally a little slower.

Please talk to:

One of the four joint masters – by phone before you come out, and at the meet so that we can make sure you are looked after!

The Hunt Secretary, Vicky Knox to find out about charges for the day, and to check where best to park your trailer or wagon.

We hope that everyone enjoys their day with the Morpeth, and here are some tips:

- **Please turn up at the meet on time, so that you hear any announcements. Make sure you know who is field master for the day as you should follow them.**
- **Turn your horse's head towards the hounds, especially when you hear 'hounds please' as they move off from the meet. If your horse is young, consider wearing a green ribbon on its tail. If it might kick please keep it out of range of others and wear a red ribbon.**
- **There are a number of traditions regarding dress, but we welcome anyone out in neat, practical gear. Up until the opening meet in November, we wear tweed jackets with a tie or coloured stock, and we don't plait. After that generally people wear a black/blue jacket with a white or cream stock, unless you are a young person who would still wear tweed.**
- **Please remember to think of other road users and thank cars who pass.**

WE CAN ONLY HUNT BECAUSE OF THE GOODWILL OF OUR FARMERS:

- **Please ensure that all gates are left shut, unless told otherwise.**
- **Please pass stock carefully, especially cattle in the autumn. Please walk through farm yards especially where cattle housed**
- **Please go carefully around the edge of arable and hay fields and other places if asked to.**
- **Please carry string in your pocket to tie up any broken fence.**

We also welcome our many enthusiastic car followers and would ask for their help by ensuring that, as well as horses not obstructing the road, plenty of space is left for other road users to go about their daily business. Please also remember to help the Hunt Staff by not getting too close to covers which are being drawn.

Happy Hunting!

If you enjoy cross country riding why not try a day with The Morpeth Foxhounds? You don't have to jump, plenty don't, but plenty do.

For first time hunters we can offer you a morning's hunting followed by a Full English Breakfast for only £15-00.

On the day you will be assigned someone to look after you and tell you what is going on, who everyone is and how to take part in a day's hunting.

Do not worry too much about dress, light cream or beige jods with a hacking jacket shirt and tie or stock or just a dark waterproof coat would be fine.

We will meet at Todburn near Longhorsley on Saturday 6th October. Please ring me for a time and your name so that we can arrange for someone to "buddy" you.

Ring me, Vicky Knox on 01665 570021 or email victoriaknox@rothbury.net preferably a few days before.

Looking forward to seeing you.

DIARY OF EVENTS 2007/2008

Sunday August 19th Country Ride from Garrettlee MHSC

Contact Linda Henderson 01670 788 348

Thursday 13th September HUNT AGM Middleton Village Hall 8pm

Sunday 16th September Hunter Trial Duddo MHSC

Contact Linda Henderson

Saturday 22nd September HOG ROAST LIVE BAND Lee Farm

Contact Susan Aynsley 01665 570257 or Vicky Knox 01665 570021

Sunday 30th September Hunter Trial Todburn MHSC

Contact Linda Henderson

Saturday 6th October Hunting Breakfast Todburn MHSC

Contact Linda Henderson or if first- timer Vicky Knox on 01665 570021

Sunday 14th October Meldon Hunt Ride

Contact Maggie Tully 01670 788 145

Tuesday 30th October Fashion Show Whalton Village Hall

Contact Susan Aynsley 01665 570257

Saturday 3rd November Opening Meet Dinner Cook and Barker

Contact Charlie Renwick 01670 788 214 or Susan Aynsley

Sunday 1st December Hunt Lunch Steve Bell's Espley Hall MHSC

Contact Linda Henderson

Friday 1st February Farmers' Dinner Dance Ken's Chinese Morpeth

Contact Ian & Michelle Robinson 01661 823 749 or 07711 886 390

March Oscars and Hunt Auction, Beresford Arms, Whalton

Contact Sue Bell 01670 772 277

May Hunt Ball at Netherwitton Hall

By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Trevelyan

Dear All

I am producing a Recipe (food and alcohol) and Handy Hunting Tips Book for sale at Christmas Fairs and events.

All proceeds will go to The Morpeth Hunt.

There fore, I require as many people as possible to send me their favourite tried and tested dishes, these can be any thing from a really good sandwich filling to a cocktail!!

Starters, main courses, Puddings etc

Flask fillers, handy tips for cleaning Hunting Kit, Horses, Tack, anything will be greatly received.

Please e-mail me at yorkie@marthamoo.co.uk

Please make sure you put your name and address on the e-mail as each person will be mentioned in the book Many thanks. Yorkie Jobling-Purser

Hunt Subs Due 1st May 2007 : THOSE WHO HAVE PAID BY 1ST SEPTEMBER WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW FOR £100 !!

Full Subscriber	792
7 day ticket Non Transferable	396
10 day ticket Non Transferable	560
Point to Point sub (4 days qualification)	330
Child of a subscriber / Farmer/ Pony Clubber 18-21 on 1 st May 2006	345
Other young People 18-21 on 1 st May 2005	415
Child of subscriber/farmer or pony clubber under 18 on 1 st May 2006	105
Other young people under 18 on 1 st May 2006	160
Non riding subscription (minimum) as much as you can for your sport	40
Quad	400
Day Cap Horse	65
Bike	32
Under 21 Cap	32
Hound Training is free to those who have paid their sub or who pay by monthly standing order by 1 st October, if not, Hound Training caps will not be refunded.	
Hound Training caps	
September	15
u 25	10
October	30
U25	15
Cheques payable to Morpeth Foxhounds.	
Vicky Knox, Lee Siding, Longframlington, Morpeth. NE65 8JG	

Send to Vicky Knox, Lee Siding, Longframlington, Morpeth, NE65 8JG.

Tel. 01665 570021

Very young children /leadreiners at Secretary's discretion

No half day tickets

Tickets cannot be carried over to the next season

These subscriptions are set by The Committee and are non-negotiable.

All non subscribers to contact the Secretary or a Master for permission to come out.

Due to requests and concerns from farmers last season this also applies to bikes. On specific days we may have to limit non-subscribing bikes.

The Masters and Committee expect all those who hunt with The Morpeth Foxhounds to be a member of The Countryside Alliance which covers you for 3rd party

insurance. To become a member apply to Richard Dodd, Ogle Hill

Head, Belsay, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 0DR. Tel. 01661 881 800.

The Masters and Committee are most grateful for any contributions from hunting farmers whose land we cross .

The TEXT MESSAGING service has proved very useful. If you wish to remain on the list please could you add a further £5 to your subscription, and I will form a new list.

Contact phone numbers