

THE TYNEDALE HUNT
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT
STAMFORDHAM VILLAGE HALL ON Tuesday, 11th October, 2016

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mrs J Leech	- Chairman
	A C Keate Esq	- Hon Treasurer
	Hon Mrs M H Beaumont	- Hon Secretary
	Mrs W J Dickinson MFH	- Joint Master
	Mrs C Lawson-Croome MFH	- Joint Master
	Mrs S Eggleston MFH	- Joint Master
	C Shirley-Beavan Esq MFH	- Joint Master

Mrs N Addis; Mr & Mrs J Armstrong; Mr & Mrs J Brown; Mrs F Carter; Miss E Carter; Mrs K Clark; Mrs S Coe; Mrs J S Dickinson; Miss J Dunlop; Mrs P Fletcher; Miss C Greenwood; Mrs J Hales; Mrs A Hall; T Hooper Esq; Mr & Mrs D Johnson; Mrs A Keate; C Lawson-Croome Esq; J Leech Esq; Dr J McElroy; Miss A Murphy; Mrs R Murphy; H Murphy Esq; Miss A Pigg; G Reed Esq; E Riddell Esq; Mrs J Royds; Mrs P Scrope; D Skinner Esq; Mr & Mrs S Speke; Mrs T Speir; C Steel Esq; M Suddes Esq; J Walby Esq; J T Watson Esq; Mr & Mrs S Wilson; Mrs D Wood

APOLOGIES:

Mrs J Anthony; Hon R & Mrs Arthur; Mr & Mrs J Atkinson; Miss B Buglass; Mrs A Cowie; Mrs S Dalgliesh; Miss J Dalgliesh; Mrs J Dodd; Mrs N Foster; Mrs R Gaisford; Mr & Mrs P Harrison; Misses J & V Harrison; Mrs D Henderson; P Jones-Davies Esq; Hon Mrs Liddell; Miss E Mather; R Murphy Esq; Mrs W Murray; Mr & Mrs P Nixon; Miss P Nixon; Mr & Mrs S Riddell; Mrs C Shirley-Beavan; Mrs S Stewart; Mrs W Telfer; Mrs F Templer; Mrs R Tindale; Mr & Mrs J Turnbull; Mrs A R Wood.

The Chairman opened the meeting and a minute's silence took place to remember the following who had sadly died during the last year: Mr R Gaisford; Mrs Elizabeth Palmer; Mrs Margaret Bell; Mr Johnnie Johnson; Mrs Edna Scott.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING: The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated electronically to save postage; there were no matters arising so the Chairman asked that they be approved as a true record.

Proposed by: Mr J Watson and seconded by: Mr E Riddell

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer referred to this year's hunt book which as usual included the financial detail in the middle pages, comprising the Income, Expenditure and Appropriation account, fund raising record and the balance sheet as at 30th April 2016 compared with the previous year.

Starting with income, the total had fallen some £16,000 with core income of subscriptions and field money being down some £6,000. Subscriptions had fallen overall compared with the previous season and was partly represented by the full subscriber numbers falling from 34 to 30 (38 the year before and 42 the year before that). There has been a steady decline in subscription income from a peak of £70,000 in 2012-13. Field money is obviously visitor and weather dependent, both uncertain from a budgeting viewpoint. Donations and car caps had slipped back and gross fundraising income was also about £10,000 down on the previous year although net of fundraising expenditure broadly neutral. The treasurer referred to the fundraising list which was self explanatory and which highlighted the impact of 2/3rds of the April 2015 auction being included in the accounts.

The miscellaneous item in the accounts represented the Carol Service donation income of £826 to the Hunt Servants Fund, £520 to Stay Strong Stu and £425 to Mary's, Stamfordham. In addition, the hunt had received £500 being the deposit received from Air Farmers Ltd some years ago in respect of the Alfred Straker Memorial Whin.

The Treasurer commented that Expenditure spoke for itself which was controlled as tightly as possible whilst at the same time making provision for the Tynedale to be the premier hunt in the North and run as such. Although the Kennels rent had been on an agreed upward trend this had now steadied. Kennel repairs related to the repair of the gable end to the cottage and it was noted that there would be significantly more expenditure in the current year.

The hunt was now into year 8 of full subscriptions being payable by standing order. Last season we were up to 15 with the makeup of names never remaining consistent with some leaving this arrangement and others joining with only a hard core of about half a dozen being constant over this 8 year period. All full subscribers were urged to consider this to help their and the hunt's cash flow and at the same time receive a discount. All other subscribers were reminded that subscriptions were due to be paid by the month end.

As stated last year, the Committee were very conscious of what neighbouring hunts charged hence the decision to restrict increases to subscriptions and field money as much as was possible. For the establishment to be maintained at its current high standard then we were again left with fundraising as our major source of additional income.

The fund raising return spoke for itself and as ever it was noted that the smaller events were vital in addition to the bigger hitters and the committee's thanks went to all who played a part in all the fundraising, big and small. Additional thanks went to the THSC and Gift Fair for all the work they did and for again showing such support for the hunt. It was also noted how the Jackpot Joker and Whisky Draw monies had contributed over recent years with the purchase of a hound trailer, power washer, tack, walker boards, drive hogging and a new backdoor for the groom's house, in all some £4,000 and Michelle Henderson was thanked for all her sterling efforts.

The balance sheet reflected the asset of the hunt being cash.

Mr Tim Sale of Redesmouth Hall was thanked for formally auditing the books thus continuing to provide external verification.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and said that there was a good programme of events planned and urged everybody to support them.

There were no questions and the accounts were:

Proposed by Mr Speke and Seconded by Mrs Royds

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Chairman reported that the subscriptions were raised a small amount every year to keep in line with inflation. Mr Johnson asked if it would be possible for the Committee to consider having a subscription at a reduced rate for the 25-30 age group as he felt that it was a very big jump from a junior subscription to a full one. The Chairman agreed to discuss this at the next Committee meeting.

OFFICER'S OF THE HUNT: The Chairman asked if the Officers of the Hunt could be approved for another year.

Proposed by: Mrs Carter and Seconded by Mrs S Wilson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The Chairman said that Miss Greenwood was due to stand down after three years and she thanked her for contribution and hard work to the hunt. Mr (Michael) Suddes had kindly agreed to join the Committee and the Chairman welcomed him on board.

MASTERS' REPORT: Mr Shirley-Beavan reported that last season we welcomed Andrew Higgins to the team as the new Kennel Huntsman. Andrew arrived from the Bicester and is no stranger to the area having previously been Whipper-in at the Morpeth. The rest of the team was David Sherwood as Kennelman; Emma Mather and Hannah Williams as grooms. I would like to thank all the staff for their endless work at keeping the show on the road. This includes John Pigg and his team who do a lot throughout the season.

The Puppy Show was on Friday 30th July and was judged by Mr Ian Pearse MFH and Mr Matt Ramsden MFH. Graceful walked by Val Armstrong won the Bitches who was by Gunner out of Jingle. The Dogs was won by Stagshaw walked by Matthew Walby who was by Heythrop Major out of Starling. The best working hound went to Judgement who was walked by Matthew Walby.

Autumn Hunting commenced at the beginning of September and continued through October with the young entry entering well. People will forget but it was considerably dry up until November, which made conditions difficult. We had the Opening Meet on Saturday 7th November at Capheaton Hall, kindly hosted by the Browne-Swinburnes. Again this was well supported with a large turnout and a busy day. This season we were fortunate with the hounds staying in good health. This was not the same for the weather and with one of the wettest winters on record it was an incredibly testing time and I can't thank the farmers and landowners enough for allowing us to continue.

We were fortunate enough to be invited to the Wynnstay and South Shropshire countries with our hounds and a great number headed down for a very enjoyable two days

I would like to thank my Field Masters who are continuing to learn the country and assist myself; they were Mr D Johnson, Mr J Atkinson, Mrs Keate and Mrs Royds.

We had the South Shropshire hounds in January to have a day from New Deanham thanks to the Steel family. This was a busy day and I know that they thoroughly enjoyed their northern experience. We finished at the beginning of March at Sweethope.

This season we continued to lay trails and hunt within the law, which we have to continue to prove. Lastly, I would like to thank all the landowners and farmers for their continued support especially due to the wet winter we have had. At the end of the season we said good-bye to Emma Mather and to Hannah Williams. We would like to wish them the best for the future and to Emma for doing three seasons of turning the hunt horses out to a high standard.

Mr Shirley-Beavan reminded everybody that they must be paid up members of the Countryside Alliance, who continued to fight the ban. He thanked the THSC for their fantastic support and help at the Kennels and added that happy staff meant a happy team! He finished by thanking everybody for their cards and gifts sent to celebrate the birth of Max in September.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Mr Wilson reported that Fences for the Future had built over 50 fences during the summer and thanked all the volunteers who came to help and particularly Mr Shirley- Beavan and David Sherwood. Over three years over 150 fences have been installed and this was applauded by those present. Mr Wilson encouraged everyone to support FFF and suggested that if a money was due to the Tumblers Club then perhaps a donation to FFF could be forthcoming too! An e-mail would be sent out in due course with further details.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

21st October - Mystery Night/Professional Hypnotist at Stamfordham V/Hall

22nd October - Hunt Breakfast at Well House

31st October and 1st November - Tynedale Gift Fair at Matfen Hall

18th November - Fireball Hockey TBC

20th November - Brocksbushes Sunday Lunch

3rd December - Tynedale Hunt Ball at Albemarle Barracks

9th December - A Festive Gathering at Heathery Edge

15th December - Tynedale Hunt Carol Service at Stamfordham Church

26th February, 2017 - Tynedale Hunt Point-to-Point

January, 2017 - Pantomime TBC

The Chairman encouraged everybody to support all the fund-raising events. As there was no further business the meeting was then closed.