

**THE TYNEDALE HUNT**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT**  
**STAMFORDHAM VILLAGE HALL ON Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

|                        |                          |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b><u>PRESENT:</u></b> | D P Johnson Esq          | - Chairman      |
|                        | A C Keate Esq            | - 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  |
|                        | J Atkinson Esq MFH       | - Joint Master  |

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs J Anthony; J Brown Esq; Miss E Carter; Mrs K Clark; Mrs S Dalglish; Mrs P Fletcher; Mrs N Foster; Mrs R Gaisford; Mr & Mrs H Gilfillan; Mrs P Harrison; E Jobling-Purser Esq; Hon Mrs Liddell; Dr J McElroy; Mrs W Murray; Mrs P Nixon; Miss A Pigg; M Priestley Esq; J Reed Esq; Mrs R Stobart; W Telfer Esq; Mrs F Templer; A Thompson Esq; Mrs R Tindale; Mr & Mrs S Wilson; Mrs A R Wood; Mrs D Wood

**PRESENT:** Mr & Mrs J Armstrong; Mrs J Atkinson; Mrs J Brown; D Bryson Esq; Mrs F Carter; Mrs S Coe; Mrs T Dalglish; Mrs P deWesselow; Mrs A Dickinson; Mrs J Dodd; M Douglas Esq; Mrs A Hall; Miss V Harrison; Miss J Harrison; Mrs D Johnson; Miss V Johnson; Mrs A C Keate; C Lawson-Croome Esq; Mr & Mrs J Leech; C Murphy Esq; Mrs R Murphy; P Nixon Esq; Miss P Nixon; Mrs L Ridley; Mrs A Robson; Mrs J Royds; Mrs P Scrope; Mr & Mrs I Smales; Mrs T Speir; Mr & B Speke; A Steel Esq; C Steel Esq; Mrs S Stewart; M Suddes Esq; Mrs W Telfer; Mr & Mrs D Tolson; J Walby Esq; J T Watson Esq;

The Chairman opened the meeting and as was customary read out the names of all those who had sadly died during the year and a minute's silence was held. Mr J Henderson; Capt. P Jones-Davies; Mr R Clemitson; Mr W Armstrong; Mr A Edwards; Mr J Sinton; Miss M Rutherford; Mr M Robinson; Mrs W (Kathleen) Woodman; Mr A Murray; Mr K Maughan; Mr R Charlton; Mrs M (Sarah) Findlay; Mr T Dickinson; Mrs J Johnson; Mr I Williams.

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING:** The Chairman mentioned that the following corrections needed to be made from the previous minutes: The Committee rotation should have read four years and not three. Mrs Carter was a member of the Committee in her own right and not as the THSC representative. Otherwise, it was agreed that the minutes were a true record. **Proposed by: Mrs A Keate and seconded by Mrs F Carter.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer began his report by referring to the hunt book which had been sent out electronically to include the financial detail, comprising a profit and loss, fund raising record and balance sheet as at 30th April 2019 comparing numbers with the previous year.

Overall income had reached a terrific total of £157,000, partly through timing, new initiatives, greater support and luck. This was some £20,000 ahead of the previous season.

In order as per the accounts, he commented that subscriptions were up a little but there was still a worrying decline in full subscriber numbers. 28 for the last two seasons, 30 for the two before that, 34 four seasons ago and 42 the year before that.

The increase in field money or caps of some £7,500 had made up for much of the subs shortfall and was obviously visitor and weather dependent, which was where luck came in. A further boost to field money was by having included the Jockey's Day takings. The Treasurer singled out Amanda Pigg for all the sterling work she did collecting car caps, an unenviable task, which were up by £200 to a respectable £1,930.

Donations had declined a little but this was to be expected as donors who had dropped off their perch were not readily replaced with younger versions.

Fundraising was the star attraction with significant sums raised by the Hunt Ball, Silent Auction and P2P. Newer initiatives such as the Ladies and Gents Days and the Belsay Bounce added to the mix.

He then turned to Expenditure 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. The two uncertain items each year were expenditure at the kennels and the purchase of hunt horses, both of which could be quite major. Very little had been

spent at the kennels for the last two seasons as against the previous year and for timing reasons £15,000 of income had been kept back to set against known kennel repairs and an additional hunt horse. In respect of the former, work had already been undertaken to replace various shed roves, repair chimney flashing and install new windows. Meanwhile rent and rates continued their upward climb.

The hunt was now into year 11 of full subscriptions being able to be paid by standing order and roughly half full subscribers paid in this fashion. The committee remained very conscious of what neighbouring hunts charged hence the decision to restrict increases to subscriptions and field money as much as possible. However, for the establishment to be maintained at its current high standard the hunt was again left with fundraising as the major source of additional income. The Treasurer put this into simple perspective by stating that the hunt needed to raise £1,000 per week from fundraising alone.

He then noted from the fund raising return that the smaller events made a vital contribution in addition to the bigger hitters and proceeded to read out the numbers from the list and expressed the committee's thanks to all who played a part in all the fundraising, big and small. Special thanks went again to the THSC and Gift Fair for all their work and for again showing such support to the hunt.

To conclude with a decent profit was heartening and allowed the hunt to complete much needed repairs and remain on a well ordered and even keel

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

There were no questions and the accounts were **proposed by Mr Speke and seconded by Mrs Stewart.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** The Treasurer reported that as usual a small increase had taken place and that the details could be obtained from the Secretary. They were approved and **proposed by: Mrs A Hall and seconded by: Mrs J Atkinson.**

**OFFICERS OF THE HUNT:** The Chairman stated that there was no change in any of the Officers and he asked that they be re-appointed. **This was proposed by Mrs J Leech and seconded by Mr J Watson.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** The Chairman reiterated that the term of office was four years, not three. The members due to stand down were; Mr Philip Nixon, Mr Paul Harrison. Also, Mr John Turnbull had resigned as he had moved away from the area. He thanked them all for their contribution and hard work and very much hoped that they would continue in their efforts to support the hunt! The following people had kindly agreed to join the Committee; Mrs (Lisa) Foster; Mr (Edward) Riddell; Mr (Andy) Steel and Mr (Jack) Watson. He explained that both Mr Riddell and Mr Watson were still on the THSC Committee but had agreed to join the main Committee too.  
**Proposed by: Mrs de Wesselow and seconded by Mrs A Robson.**

**MASTERS' REPORT:** Mr Shirley-Beavan read his report from the Hunt Year Book "We started the season with the Farmers' Tent at the County Show which again was popular especially the paddling pool for the children. We continue to try to give a little back to all those kind enough to accommodate us.

We took hounds to various Hound Shows over the summer with Gatton being the Champion at the Simonburn Hound Show. Asteroid won the Percy Hound Show and the Restricted and Open Class at the Great Yorkshire Show for the Best Unentered Dog Hound. Ascot and Ashby won the Open Couples. Ascot also won the Studbook Championship at Lowther. We also had a successful picnic for anyone at the Harrogate Show.

The Puppy Show was on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July and was judged by D Jones Esq MFH and E Foster Esq. Assynt walked by Mrs D Gibson won the bitches, who was by Morpeth Graffham out of Artful. The dogs was won by her brother Asteroid walked by the Steel Family. The Best Working Hound went to Rummage walked by Miss Susannah Barber. Autumn Hunting commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> August and continued through October with the young entry entering well. We had the Opening Meet on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Capheaton Hall kindly hosted by the Browne-Swinburne family. This was well supported with a large turnout and a busy day. This season has been successful mostly helped by the milder, drier winter we have experienced this makes it easier for all. Thanks must go the Farmers and Landowners for being so supportive.

In November we had an inaugural Jockeys Day from South Middleton kindly hosted by the Sample Family. This was well supported followed by an evening in Stamfordham Village Hall.

We had the Duke of Beaufort's hounds in January for a day from Whiteside Law, thanks to Mrs Fairbairn. We also continued with the Ladies Day from Belsay and the Gents Day from Bingfield. These were both good days and successful fundraising events. Thanks to the de Wesselows and Arthurs for hosting us once again

We were fortunate enough to be invited to the Duke of Beaufort's, Dartmoor and East Cornwall packs with our hounds for an end of season tour. This was an incredibly successful trip and we must thank all those who hosted and entertained us on our travels.

We continued with the same Mastership team and in Kennels we had Andrew Higgins as the Kennel Huntsman and Ryan McKinna as Kennelman. We welcomed Ryan and his partner Nikki who have moved from the Berwickshire. Ashley Small and Jayne Briggs continued as grooms and we bid them farewell at the end of the season and they will both be missed and we thank them for all their hard work over the years. 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. I would like to thank my Joint Masters for their continued support as each season a lot of unseen hard work goes into putting on the days hunting for your entertainment.

I would like to thank the Field Masters who are continuing to entertain around the country and assist myself, they were Mr D Johnson, Mr J Atkinson, Mrs Keate, Mr W Telfer and new addition Mr J Watson.

This season we continued to lay trails and hunt within the law. Lastly, I would like to thank all the Landowners and Farmers for their continued support."

Mr Shirley-Beavan added that the Hunt and Mastership were indebted to the THSC and Mrs Armstrong for all their hard work and effort to keep the Kennels going and this was applauded by those present.

The Chairman thanked the Masters for their strong and stable Mastership.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr Shirley-Beavan reported that the Hunt Ball tables were selling well and advised people to get booked as soon as possible.

Mrs de Wesselow asked if there were preferential rates for students and Mrs Beaumont replied that the under 25's paid £30 for weekdays and £40 on Saturdays.

Mr Harrison said that he planned to run the 200 Club again (£10 a ticket) and four draws would take place throughout the season.

The Chairman said that fund-raising was hard work and for every £1 if subscription/donation another £1 was needed (from fund-raising) to match it. In his eyes the best events were those where a high proportion of the ticket price went to the hunt – the flip side of this is that Hunt Members have to help run events, e.g. catering to keep costs down. In an ideal world he would rather have fewer successful events than lots of small ones.

The Hunt Breakfast scheduled for the next day would have a TV showing the rugby and hounds would move off at 10am.

Newcomers' Day on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October was planned to be at Swinburne with bacon butties afterwards, but this was dependent on the weather and whether parking would be possible there.

Sunday Lunch on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November – the Chairman asked Mrs Speir (organiser) to give a brief resume of how the lunch would work. Mrs Speir also added that Mrs (Philippa) Shirley-Beavan had very generously donated all the lamb for the lunch.

Hunt Ball Auction – the Chairman reported that the Silent Auction at the 2018 Hunt Ball raised an extra £7k. He needed some new ideas and asked people to come forward; he suggested that people ask businesses etc. that they used to donate something having taken off the cost of the donation for themselves and leaving the balance for the hunt – this would have the benefit of advertising their business and also helping the hunt. There would be a live auction as well as an online and silent auction for the smaller lots.

The Chairman said that the fund-raising to date (such as the Summer Rides, Belsay Bounce and West Side, Ryal Ride) had gone well and that this year's figures reflected the most successful Point-to-Point ever in February.

Notwithstanding this an extra £7k would still be needed assuming the Hunt Ball and other planned events in the pipeline met expectations.

Do's and Don'ts – the Chairman said that he had planned to say something about do's and don'ts, but looking around the room there seemed little point as there were so few riding subscribers present and it would be inappropriate. However, he did ask those present to make sure that they help to educate and advise the less experienced members of the field and he particularly asked that any visitors were properly looked after. He also reminded everybody to respect the generosity of the Landowners and Farmers.

Mr Leech asked if Fences For the Future was still going and Mr Shirley-Beavan replied that 40 new fences had been built during the summer and that a fund-raising event would take place in the spring. Mrs Speir asked that more gates be either repaired or replaced. Mr Watson suggested repairing gates in order to help the Farmers and Mr Shirley-Beavan replied that gate repairs were made where appropriate but was worried that the Hunt might then be expected to be responsible for every gate in the country!

Mrs Coe said that the Poppy Appeal tin would be at the Opening Meet and subsequent meets during Remembrance week and any volunteers to rattle the tin would be appreciated.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and the Secretary for their contribution to the hunt and as there was no further business the meeting was then closed. Everybody was invited to enjoy the curry supper kindly provided by Johnson family and Mrs Royds.

As there was no further business, the meeting was then closed.