



August 2019

Dear Belvoir Hunt Subscriber and Supporter,

This season, we welcome a number of changes to the meet card which has been constructed by the Joint Masters and has the backing and approval of the Chairman, Finance Committee and Main Committee. It is a new formula which has been carefully thought through, and which we believe will best suit our loyal subscribers and supporters, underpin our finances and combat our opponents.

In Lincolnshire, subscribers say that they would like a shorter day's hunting or a one horse day. Most people own one horse and would prefer more horse recovery time between these days. Consequently, hounds will be out in Lincolnshire twice a week every Tuesday, almost every Friday and some Saturdays, totalling around 40 days across the season.

In Leicestershire, the Belvoir has been famous for its Wednesdays and Saturdays. This season we are moving six of our Waltham/Scalford and Long Clawson/Hose days back to Wednesday, allowing more recovery time for one horse owners before the Saturday. Last season, there were a total of 13 high days and this year there will be the same number with six on a Wednesday and seven on a Saturday. Most subscribers have a limited holiday allowance and we hope this provides the right balance to encourage the use of holiday to experience and enjoy High Leicestershire hunting.

In a move to strengthen the hunt's finances for the future, we have identified that whereas tickets offer people flexibility they also allow the good days to be cherry picked, unfortunately at lower than cost to the hunt. We have therefore limited ticket packages to those who have never subscribed or ever bought a ticket package in the past. We have also reluctantly increased the cost of some of our subscriptions, which allows the Belvoir Hunt team to deliver some of the highest quality hunting experiences available yet still offer remarkable value. Visitor caps (inclusive of a Melton Hunt Club cap) will be a maximum of two days for a season, after which a subscription is payable. Please see the rate card which details flexible payment options for your subscription.

Our method of combating the antis continues to evolve. Most recently we have successfully employed SIA accredited security personnel to prevent trespassing and allow us to go about our lawful activities. However, we also recognise the three week Saturday rotation makes it too easy for us to be found. We are therefore increasing the geographical area we hunt on a Saturday. One Saturday a month will be a Long Clawson/Hose or Waltham/Scalford day. Two Leicestershire Saturdays will be in the Sproxton/Eaton/Buckminster/Plungar/Granby areas. One Saturday per month will be in Lincolnshire. There will also be one Thursday per month in Leicestershire.

Finally, it became apparent last season that the antis had obtained a copy of our meet card. This season we will not publish a printed card, issuing all information via email only. We will announce the dates for hunting in plenty of time by email but will not release meet locations until the week before, in a similar way to how Autumn Hunting dates are publicised. The dates announcement will make clear which are Leicestershire high days and Lincolnshire Saturdays (with no Lincolnshire Friday that week) to allow diaries to be planned well in advance.

It has been a challenging job to achieve a fine balance in a plan which will ensure we provide enjoyable hunting for all our dedicated subscribers and followers, attract new people from near and far and ensure the finances are secure not just for this season but for many years to come. We look forward to seeing you out during the season and thank you for your continued loyalty to, and support for, the whole team, voluntary and paid, who work so hard to run the Belvoir Hunt for your benefit.

The Chairman and Joint Masters.