



Blankney Hunt Supporters Club



Newsletter Summer 2020

Key Dates:

23/7/20 BHSC AGM
(online)

11/7/20 & 9/8/20
Pleasure rides (tbc)

28/06/20 Car
Treasure Hunt (tbc)

27/9/20 Hunter Trial -
Danethorpe

Duck Race -Stapleford
(tbc)

BHSC AGM

This is to be held on
Thursday 23rd July
at 8pm. Not at the
Golf Club, but in the
comfort of our own
homes.

Yes, we are going
to hold our first
Zoom AGM.

We will send an e-
mail to all
supporters with the
meeting ID and
would encourage
you all to join us. It
would be nice to
see some familiar
faces again.

A lot has changed in the 14 weeks since our last newsletter, especially the weather, we have gone from Biblical rains to Sahara dust bowl. Whoever is controlling this weather really needs to think about sending us some of that rain again soon! (But not in the same volume)

Our world has been transformed in a few short months, Covid19 has engulfed us all more than we ever could have predicted, our thoughts and prayers go to our Friends and Family at this time. I am sure it is not necessary for me to spell out the effects this virus could have on our community.

The cancellation of the Hunt Ball 2020 was a loss to all of us, the Ball Committee work incredibly hard to create a magical night and our ball is second to none and something we should be proud of. I would like to thank the Ball team for all their effort, and we can't wait to see what they have in store for us in the future.

Cancellations are everywhere at the moment; our Hunter Trials and first pleasure ride have had to be rescheduled. I am very fortunate to be supported by such a great committee who have stepped up and come up with some new and exciting ways to raise money and keep us all connected. The BHSC photography competition is now running on Facebook, this has been a great fun way to raise some funds and share some fantastic memories. I am personally excited to see the Hound Sponsorship go ahead as planned "Online", this change of format has taken some getting used to. I hope you all get behind this, the money raised at this event goes direct to the hounds. Philip uses this money to purchase wormers, vaccines, microchips and whatever else the hounds need.

Please support our attempt to go 'online', we are not the most 'Tech Savvy' group but with your support and patience we can make this work, every penny earned at the moment is essential.

We are excited to welcome Owen to the kennels and I look forward to being able to get out and catch up with you all soon.

Please read and enjoy our Summer Newsletter, don't forget membership runs from September the first, a copy 2020-2021 membership form is attached. Hunting season will be here sooner than we think. Enjoy your summer and Stay Safe

Kindest Regards

Callum



ALL profit from photo orders goes directly to the
B.H.S.C. Buying a photo is a great way to help
support us!
FB Digital download £5 / 7x5 print s.£8 (inc p+p)

B.H.S.C. PHOTOGRAPHY
For photos of various meets and BHSC events visit:
www.facebook.com/BHSCphotography

Non Facebook users please email
bhsc.photography@gmail.com with any photo
enquiries – please include date/meet and short
description to help identify you in images.

Hi Everyone,

On behalf of the Hunt Ball Committee I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your support, as once again we had sold all of the tickets.

Unfortunately, due to the virus we had to pull the plug at the last minute and postpone the event, as your safety is paramount.

We will let you know as soon as it is safe to hold the Ball, but obviously the timing is out of our control.

Wishing you a safe and healthy future

Peter Hayward.

A little plea for help from all of us on the BHSC Committee.

Our small team work extremely hard throughout the year to raise funds and last year at the hunt AGM we were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £13,300 plus donated £1,242.22 towards hound welfare (wormers, microchips etc)

Obviously, an awful lot of our fundraising events have had to be cancelled this spring and summer, impacting massively on our ability to raise much-needed funds. This year's cheque is going to be much smaller. We are therefore asking whether you can help us in any way at all, be it by coming up with different fund raising activities, joining in with our attempts to take competitions and events more online or even by considering making an extra donation in these unprecedented times.

We all want to see the Blankney thrive and that is why we have for the first time ever had to ask our supporters directly for financial help.

Thank you for reading and best wishes from us all on the Committee.

Hound Sponsorship

We are having a slight change in format for this year's hound sponsorship. Due to the continued Covid-19 situation we will be running it online. The money raised at this event goes "straight into the hounds", Philip is able to use this money throughout the year to purchase wormers, flea treatments, microchips, and other essentials. When you sponsor a hound, you will receive a certificate and a photograph of your hound to help you pick your hound out when we are back out and about.

Hound Sponsorship will go *live* on the www.Blankneyhunt.co.uk Website on Saturday 20th June. The Link on the website will explain the process.

- Select your hound from the list on the website
- Call/Text the BHSC phone on 07389896206 to reserve your hound or hounds.
- Payments will be taken ideally with Online Bank Transfer
- Once payment has been received, we will post your certificate and photo out to you.

Due to increased printing/posting costs sponsorship will be £25 this year.

Anyone especially wishing to reserve a hound before the opening day please don't hesitate to get in touch with me on the BHSC phone, I appreciate there are some favourites out there, especially with the puppy walkers.

This is always a successful event and I hope as many of you as possible will get involved.

The winner of the best working hound of 2019/20 has been won by Mousetrap, sponsored by Jono Wray.

Callum

Fieldmasters' Report June 2020

Thinking back to how we finished the season, and unlike most of our neighbouring packs we did manage to finish our season, and while enough has been said of how awful conditions were, quite apart from mostly sodden, sometimes unsafe ground conditions we finished up having some storms to contend with: remember them? Dennis, Ciara and Jorge certainly caused an awful lot of behind the scenes "do we go or don't we?" discussions and forecast watching, all focussed on the safety aspects, but I reckon generally we got it right.

To get away over the season with losing as few days as we did to the weather is because we owe a massive debt to all the farmers and landowners who welcomed us through the season in whatever way they could: I can't thank them enough.

I should also thank our stalwart team of field masters for all the support and innovative problem solving and plugging on through the season with enthusiasm. Particularly my thanks to Alex Askew who has stepped down at the end of the season, having worked so hard on her patch of country and run some great days even when laid up with a broken back: thank you Alex and I do hope we'll still see you out in the future, whenever/however that may be!

..and on that note as lockdown eases apart from hoping there are no spikes to set us back we eagerly await advice from the Hunting Office and the CA on what, whether and when we might be able to do anything, so that we can plan to do what we can when we are able to.

..and back to last season: on top of the weather further challenges were provided by horse number one developing his already warped sense of humour by bringing me back down to size on a regular basis. Mostly by fine tuning his ability to spook at WHAT? "Haven't the foggiest idea, but it was DEFINITELY there!" culminating in some very forthright footage of his rider telling him exactly what he thought of him in a loud voice appearing on a Facebook post... apologies to the more sensitive among you who spotted it, and a lesson to watch out for social media, even the friendly kind!

But following our last morning and that wonderful breakfast given under the most challenging circumstances, the last time we gathered, and the next day a lovely afternoon out with our very good friends the Cranwell Bloodhounds and then lockdown. Grumpy horses kicked out on furlough leave, and how quickly it got so dry it's hard to believe how wet it was.

Also hard to believe what we have had to miss since then and when we will be able to gather again, to pick up where we left off. I'm quietly hoping we might yet even get to have an end of season do, complete with tumblers' club melt down, even if it isn't until next season, as I have high hopes for the family entry, given the number of mishaps we managed to tally up this time. It was an expensive season for this particular household: as strongly as we feel about supporting the Air Ambulance, we've gladly paid our dues, and while it may not go far have maybe provided some entertainment too. Obviously better for those concerned where no lasting damage done, and with apologies to those who may have damaged more than just their dignity. and appropriate to mention here far more seriously also to have in our thoughts those who have lost friends or family at this time.

Lockdown has had some benefits. We are lucky enough to have puppies to walk this year and that for me has meant a constant daily hound fix, following Carver and Carling's adventures as they turn into hounds. Best not elaborate too much in case Philip won't let us have any more, but there's constant amazement at what turns up intact the morning after what they managed to eat the day before and how did they find it, through trying to keep one step ahead of their gardening skills, to wondering how they will ever grow in to their feet.

Latest was suffering a dunking in the River Trent whilst surveying some of the Grove and Rufford Country from our side of the river: hopefully when they eventually get to kennels they will be steady to all sorts of things, including ducks, and might have learned to swim by then too..

Hope to see you all soon and stay safe meanwhile!

Jonathan. 31 May 2020

Congratulations to Alex and Rosie Theaker on the birth of Tabitha Grace on 7/4/2020. A beautiful sister for Monty.



Perry Covell

Sadly, another of our friends has passed away. Perry was a past Chairman of the BHSC. He worked hard and enjoyed raising money for the Blankney. Perry and Branigan loved hunting, something which he passed onto the rest of his family.

Our thoughts are with them all at this sad time.

Sir Andrew de la Rue B.T.

Andrew was a country loving gentleman who was always happy to be out with the Blankney hounds and was also a keen supporter of The Belvoir. He always had a tale to tell and will be sadly missed.

Thank you to Derek Smith for penning these.



It is with sadness that we record the passing of a Blankney Hunt stalwart when Peter passed away on the 25th March in his 84th year. These memories of Peter are in the main attributed to Ian Holvey who with his dad Horace held the position of terrier men for many years. Peters official title was Dr P.J. Becket. He had been Head of Chemistry at North Kesteven Grammar School for many years and was Ian's chemistry teacher. Whilst he was there, he was affectionately known as Dr Joe by his pupils. It is believed he succeeded Jack Walker as car capper for the hunt for many years. He could often be seen out both hunting and in Navenby with his little brown dog Penny on a long lead. A highly intelligent man who loved to chat to others when out hunting. My own recollections of Peter mirrored Ian's apart for the schooling. He never seemed to miss a meet for the car and foot followers and never missed a donation which in the early days was a fox mask sticker. Peter will be greatly missed by all followers.

George Chambers.

Owen Riley – New whip/Groom

I was born and bred in Hull, East Yorkshire - born in the city, but I was meant to be born in the countryside! So yes, it is true I am a city boy and northerner - one is a bonus the other one not so much! I will let you guess which one.

I have been around horses for 8-9 years and I always liked them when I was young. I originally got into horses through an Aunt who took me to a livery yard one day while she taught and I could be around the horses. Soon after, I sneaked down of my own accord on a bus and asked the yard manager, Anne, if I could go down more and help around the yard and that is when the bug kicked in! I was with Anne for 3 years - I rode her laid-back cob, learnt a few basics and I even successfully showed her Welsh A's in hand.

As I was getting older and wiser around horses, I always dreamed about being in the countryside jumping those hedges and ditches in a red coat. (Anne was not a fan of hunting, but she knew and respected my opinion). I believe I must have been born with the hunting gene! Crazy! So, as I wanted to hunt, I went off to find my first ever loan horse but ended up with 3! Ellie, Rita, and Joe. Ellie was an ex polo thoroughbred and she taught me how to have fun, and how to stay in the saddle!

Rita was with me for 5/6 years and was the first one to take me hunting.

Joe was a cob of a lifetime. We did all sorts unaffiliated showing. He loved hunting too. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to hunt much as they were not my horses, but I was grateful for the amount of times I got to take them.

During this time I also rode quite a few other horses which helped broaden my knowledge. Alongside this I went to Bishop Burton College, gaining my A levels in horse care and stable management. I did attempt university but decided it wasn't for me. I did miss having loan horses, so I rode for a friend and got to take their hunter showing. For 3 months I worked for Jayne Ross Showing producer for a while. I came back home and I ended up getting Joe and Rita back, also working with hunters During this time I got to hunt with the Middleton and the Holderness.

I then got my current job on a livery/hunt yard for the secretary of the Holderness, Emma Richardson, who is one of the best people I have ever met and worked for. She is truly amazing and when I approached her and told her that it was my dream to work with hounds, she urged me to go for it. Even though she still does not want me to leave as I am the comedian of the yard, I approached the Blankney Hunt through the MFHA and got asked for a chat. Two days later I was



down at the Kennels meeting Philip who give me a quick tour and then had an interview with Mr Brown, Mr Royce and Philip. I felt like I was on Dragons' Den trying to sell myself - I hoped I had impressed them with my horse knowledge but my hound/hunting experience wasn't as high as it should have been. They asked me to come back on the Saturday and come for a day's hunting so they could see how I rode etc.

I met some really lovely people, too many to name! I had a fabulous day being under Martin and Jo's wing - I hope I did not drain them. Welly looked after me and made my day enjoyable and unforgettable - I really hoped I could be back in a red coat riding him whipping in to Philip.

The next day I got a phone call – I got offered the job! I was so lucky as I have not had any hound experience and my hunting knowledge is a sparse. I have a lot to learn but they were willing to train me up.

I am so looking forward to moving to the Blankney - I cannot wait to learn about the hounds, take care of their day to day needs and to be able to whip them in on a hunting day and live that dream of being in a red coat and just being around them. I am that excited I have already got my topped hunting boots on order and we are 5/6 months away until I need to wear them! I have been told Philip is the best of the best to learn from and as I know little about hounds, I think this will be a great step forward in my education to be with them and learn Philip's ways. I am looking forward to caring for the horses and enjoying hunting them out with all the Blankney supporters and followers. Hopefully before too long events will be held where we can all dig in with each other!

I would just like to say a massive thankyou to Mr Brown, Mr Royce and Philip for allowing me to have the opportunity to learn, better myself, live my dream and for having me as a part of the Blankney family. Hopefully, this pandemic does decide to move onto pastures new soon and we can all get back to normality, start having fun again and most importantly getting to see those hounds! I look forward to seeing everyone out on the hunting field next season – let's make it a good one!

Thankyou.

If anyone has anything which they would like to add to the next newsletter then Please contact Gemma Wray. Email address is jonowray@hotmail.co.uk.

The BHSC website is up to date and has all the current information with regards to our upcoming events.

<https://www.blankneyhunt.co.uk/blankney-hunt-supporters-club/>

There is also a pdf link on there with available merchandise. Please have a browse and consider purchasing.



BLANKNEY HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB

MEMBERSHIP & CONSENT FORM for 2020-21

Membership is due from 1st September 2020 and the Membership Fee is remaining at £10.00 per household.

We require your consent to hold your information so we can communicate with you about our activities and those of the Hunt. Your privacy is important to us.

Title -----

Members Name(s) -----

Address with postcode -----

Tel. No: -----

Mobile No: -----

E-mail: -----

Can we send your Newsletter by email Yes / No

I/We consent to the above details being used solely for the purpose of providing information to me/us about the activities of the Blankney Supporters and/or the Blankney Hunt. I/We understand the information will be stored on paper and within an electronic database

Signature(s) -----

Please send your completed, signed form and a cheque for your subscription payable to B.H.S.C. or pay by bank transfer to Sort Code 60 13 15 Acc. 90990374 (please Ref your name and payment of Membership)

If you would like to make a donation in addition to your subscription, it will be gratefully received

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To. Mrs Angie McDonald, Membership Secretary, 60 East Road, Navenby, Lincoln, LN5 0EP

A self-addressed envelope with stamp will be most appreciated