

Minutes of the “Virtual” New Forest Hounds Hunt Club AGM held on 24th April 2020

In view of the restrictions imposed by the Government in relation to the Corona virus, the Chairman arranged for the Hunt Club meeting on the 24th April 2020 to be a virtual meeting conducted primarily by e mail. All members were invited to register to participate and a list of 51 Members who accepted is set out below. These Registered Members were entitled to vote on item 10 on the Agenda, the New Hunt Rules.

Registered Members

Tom Blachford	Sue Smorfitt
Marylyn Husband	J.C Husband
John Curley	Tricia East
Alan Brown	Sonja Waite
Pam Baker(Chairman)	Judy Sharrock
Mike Squibb	Will Day
Colette Bunch	Georgie Fitzwilliam
Piers Fitzwilliam	Crispy Moore
Jas Barker	Carol Lovell
George Biddle	Pauline Dodson Spink
Tony Taylor	Anna Taylor
Erika Lovell	Roger Gilley
Angela Gilley	Alexia Jenkins
Adam Thomas	Gail Renny
Diana Moore	John Moore
Kerry Dovey	James Young
Trudy Nineham	Sue Browne
Andrew Hollins	Peter Jenks
Fiona Jenks	Penny Rendle
Cody Green	Tim Goldfinch
Caroline House	Paul Ames
Penny Pannell	Arthur Eales
Trisha Eales	Tim Upward
Tina Bick	Sharon Hollows
Tony Hockley	
Jane Curley	Graham Ferris

1. Apologies	None
2. Minutes of the previous meeting	Minutes from the previous meeting on 30th January 2020. Were circulated to Members on the 2nd of April 2020. The circulated copy had an incorrect date of the previous meeting and this has been corrected.
3. Matters Arising	There were no matters arising other than items already on the agenda.
Deaths and Resignations	None
5. Treasurer's Report by AH	This was circulated to the Registered Members on the 21st April 2020 and is attached to these minutes.
6.Subscriptions	Members have been requested to pay next season's subscription, due on the 1st May 2020, as soon as possible to support the financial position of the Hunt as this difficult time.
7 Kennels	See attached report

8. Masters Report by	See attached report.
9. Response to Corona Virus	See relevant sections of the Treasurer's/Finance Reports attached
10 Revised Rules	No proposals to amend the draft Hunt Rules previously circulated to Members were received. Accordingly the Registered Members were provided (in the Agenda) with a link to a website to enable them to vote whether to accept the proposed draft Rules. On that website, 37 votes in favour of the New Rules were received, non against. The Chairman also received a further three emails from Registered Members indicating that they were voting in favour of the new Rules. Accordingly these new Rules will be adopted by the Club with effect from the 1st May 2020.
12.AOB	A number of questions were raised by Registered Members. These are attached with answers provided to the questions.

Treasurer's Report



NEW FOREST HOUNDS

Treasurer's Report – Hunt Club 'Virtual' meeting – 23/4/20

You will find attached the financial report for the NFH Hunt Club for the 11 months ending March 2020. As shown previously this is in the form of cash income vs cash expenditure. At the next Hunt Club meeting I shall be in a position to present the full year accounts for the year ended 30/4/2020.

For the 11 months our total cash inflow was £153,751 – this is an increase of almost £30,000 on the prior year. The vast majority of the increase relates to the surrender of £15,000 Premium Bonds we undertook to pay for the refurbishment of the Rental Flats and an exceptionally generous contribution from the Supporters Club (£17,000 vs £9,000 in the prior year). However, at an underlying level both Direct Hunt Income (i.e. Subs, Day Caps, Campaign etc) and Flesh Round Bankings improved on the prior year – by 7% and 10% respectively.

In terms of cash outflows, for the 11 months this was £144,423 – up almost £14,000 compared to the prior year. If we look at underlying day to day expenses (i.e. exclude Horse purchases, Refurbs of Flats and other Capital/R&M works) then costs were up by just 1%.

Looking to the end of our financial year on 30/4/2020 I expect our day to day bank accounts (Main Hunt Account and Stock Service) will show a healthy credit. Whilst in April ordinary expenses will materially exceed income, there will be a contribution from the P2P committee, we have received a £10,000 grant as part of the Gov't's Coronavirus support measures and a number of our Hunt Club members have very helpfully paid their 20/21 Subscriptions early.

Notwithstanding this reasonable start position for next year; your Exec have scrutinised costs to identify a series of savings that will help us weather the current crisis. Across staff, horse livery, and premises these should amount to £15,000 versus the current year.

In the current climate it is difficult to predict when we will get back to 'normal', and as such we must not take our eye off the cost line; but with a well-run flesh round, healthy rent from the Flats and a series of measures to cut our day to day costs we have a good basis to move forward.

Joint Masters	Alan Brown, Scatterbrook Farm, Whitemoor, Winsor, Hampshire, SO40 2HB	Tel: 02380 812990
	Graham Ferris, Derrants, Durnstow, Sway, Hampshire, SO41 6AL	Tel: 01590 682002
	Carol Lovell, Culverley Farm Cottage, Beaulieu, Hampshire, SO42 7YP	Tel: 07740 744100
Chairman	Pam Baker, 4 Windsor Way, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 3BN	Tel: 01425 653440/07747 766157
Vice Chairman	Will Day, 3 Broomhill Terrace, Lyndhurst Road, Landford, Salisbury, SP5 2AR	Tel: 07824 469573
Hon. Sec	Penny Rendle, 1 Burton Close, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 7NF	Tel: 01202 478597/07775 722795
Treasurer	Andrew Hollins, Lister Tower, Fritham, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, SO43 7HH	Tel: 02380 813044

Income and Expenses Report - May 2019 to April 2020						
	January	February	March	Year to Date	Prior Year	Prior Year
	Actual	Actual	Actual	(11 mths)	(11 mths)	(12 mths)
Income						
Direct Hunt Related Activities						
Hunt Club	£ -	£ 250	£ 50	£ 5,225	£ 3,975	£ 3,975
Riding Subs	£ 599	£ 199	£ 199	£ 33,099	£ 29,679	£ 29,743
Non-Riding Subs	£ 80	£ -	£ -	£ 1,230	£ 1,795	£ 1,795
Day caps etc	£ 3,225	£ 1,665	£ 690	£ 10,840	£ 12,394	£ 12,394
Campaign monies	£ 891	£ 356	£ 235	£ 1,482	£ 1,382	£ 1,862
Other	£ -	£ 390	£ -	£ 870		
Total Direct Hunt Income	£ 4,795	£ 2,860	£ 1,174	£ 52,746	£ 49,225	£ 49,769
Associated Hunt Activities						
Flesh Collections	£ 4,554	£ 6,141	£ 3,388	£ 40,215	£ 36,498	£ 40,997
Hunt Activities	£ 9,349	£ 9,000	£ 4,562	£ 92,961	£ 85,723	£ 90,766
Commercial Activities						
Property rentals	£ 1,210	£ 4,844	£ 1,210	£ 11,454	£ 12,484	£ 12,834
Investments/Premium Bonds	£ 25	£ 50	£ 25	£ 650	£ 775	£ 850
Total Commercial	£ 1,235	£ 4,894	£ 1,235	£ 12,104	£ 13,259	£ 13,684
Total Regular Income	£ 10,584	£ 13,894	£ 5,797	£ 105,064	£ 98,982	£ 104,450
Other Income						
Donations	£ -	£ -	£ 2,133	£ 2,773	£ -	
Events	£ 2,600	£ -	£ 2,850	£ 11,114	£ 11,881	£ 19,855
Supporters Club	£ -	£ -	£ 5,000	£ 17,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,000
Other (including redemption of Premium Bonds)	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 17,800	£ 4,102	£ 4,418
Total Other Income	£ 2,600	£ -	£ 9,983	£ 48,687	£ 24,983	£ 33,273
Total Income	£ 13,184	£ 13,894	£ 15,780	£ 153,751	£ 123,965	£ 137,723

Major Donations and Events		
Month	Amount (£)	Description
June '19	1000	200 Club
June '19	5000	Supporters Club
Aug '19	700	Vet Fund
Aug '19	1000	Inter Hunt Relay Win
Aug '19	414	New Forest Show Raffle
Sept '19	300	Inter Hunt Relay Win
Sept '19	1900	Fun Ride
Sept '19	4000	Supporters Club
Oct '19	3000	Supporters Club
Jan '20	2600	Hunter Trial
Mar '20	5000	Supporters Club
Mar '20	2850	Snow Ball
Mar '20	755	Marilyn Husbands - sale of Hunt Coats

Kennels and Master's Reports

7. Kennels

A Covid 19 lockdown plan has been instigated at kennels to protect all those that live and work on site. One of our tenants has temporarily moved off site while we are on lockdown, but continues to pay rent.

Blissful has whelped and has a surviving litter of 5 dog pups and 2 bitches. We have 25.5 couple of hunting hounds in Kennels and 3 couples to enter. She was put to Demon, both of which go back to good New Forest lines.

Hounds are well but their exercise is limited to the adjacent fields, with no road work. All living at Kennels are well and the precautions we have put in place are working with trades people and those dropping off fallen stock, telephoning Michael beforehand. The Flesh Round continues to be busy. Our efforts to appoint a full time Kennelman proved unsuccessful and for the time being no further attempts will be made. But we have identified resource to provide Michael with part time/occasional paid help and holidays

8. Masters Report

Of course, Covid-19 is having a dramatic effect on all our lives and New Forest Hounds and trail hunting generally are not exceptions. We were fortunate to be able to complete our trail hunting Season and run our point to point before the general 'lockdown' was introduced.

Whilst we lost a few days through the Season due to severe weather and EHV, there were many excellent trail hunting days albeit in very heavy going and seemingly continuous rain, which tested the fitness of hounds, horses and riders!

We owe our heartfelt thanks to Michael and Kieran for caring for hounds, Penny for producing Hunt horses and all who help on trail hunting days-trail layers, whips, Field Masters, road crews and our generous lawn meet hosts.

All our fund-raising social events have been postponed or cancelled, but our Point to Point ran in the nick of time. For those who braved the typically challenging Larkhill weather, the racing was good. Thanks are due to all who helped, but especially to James and Trudi, without whose knowledge, experience and hard work our Point to Point would not be possible.

In light of the Covid-19 crisis, the first concern of the Joint Masters, Chair and committee was to protect the health of those who live at Kennels. We also wanted to be able to continue to offer the vital flesh round service to commoners farmers and horse owners generally.

To that end we have introduced a number of new procedures. The gates at Kennels are locked, no visitors are allowed and trades people or those dropping off fallen stock are only allowed entry by prior appointment with Michael Woodhouse. Extra bio-security precautions will be imposed on site visits and hounds will not be walked out by staff around neighbouring villages.

We are also saying goodbye to two of our team.

Wayne Windebank has been a very effective, keen and dedicated trail layer on foot for many years. It is a daunting task to run through the mud, keep up with hounds, read the map and speak on the radio all at the same time! We wish Wayne and his family all the best in the West Country.

Kieran Hawkes, Kennelman and occasional Whip has learnt his trade well under Michael's guidance and is now moving to whip in at the Essex with Farmers and Union Hunt kennelled near Dunmow. We wish him every success in his career in Hunting.

Any Other Business

The Treasurers states that the £2,600 from the Hunter Trial was received earlier this month i.e. January. Given that the Hunter Trials were in September why has it taken so long for the money to be forthcoming.

Answer: Correct, the HT team made a bank transfer to the main Hunt Bank account in January 2020. This is some 4 months after the date of the event. Whilst this is a little longer than usual (normally 2-3 months), there is always a delay. This relates to the HT team ensuring that they have tidied up the loose ends from the event and prepared the accounts that go with this.

2 How much in flesh collection accounts is outstanding for more than one month.

Answer: the NFH Stock Service Bank Account is used to collect income from the Flesh Round and sits alongside the Main Hunt Account. Normally funds are transferred from the Stock Service account to the Main Account about every 6 weeks. Neither account attracts interest on their credit balances, whilst bank charges are incurred at the same rate for the accounts.

3 Given the core events may well be very limited what savings are contemplated from other sources.

Answer: Your Hunt Executive have put together a plan to minimise costs across the board in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. These include reducing our staff levels from 2 to 1; reducing our livery costs and keeping horses turned away for longer; delaying certain capital projects at Kennels as well as general housekeeping issues. We expect that these measures on a combined basis will reduce our outgoings by £15,000 in 2020/21 compared to the current financial year.

4. How have we incurred Bank charges of £403.00 when the previous corresponding period they were nil and in 12 months before that only £90.00

The Hunt first started to incur Bank Charges with Barclays Bank in January 2018 and been incurred every month since then. Bank charges started to be incurred when they moved through the £100,000 activity threshold level set by Barclays. Only one Bank has offered a free club account but in addition to requesting credit checks for all officers and committee members they have continued to ask for further lists of information. We complied with these as they arrived but eventually felt that they exceeded any reasonable grounds; we take it that our organisation is not a welcome addition to their client base and they were employing blocking tactics. We have therefore made the decision not to pursue this avenue.

5. Nothing is shown under Campaign. As we no longer collect for the campaign presumably the money collected at Meets is shown elsewhere.

You will see that Campaign monies are recorded in the Treasurers report circulated ahead of this meeting. Campaign monies being shown for Jan, Feb and March 2020.

6. Where is our £40 k. If in a Bank the interest rate will be pitiful. In 8 months we won £550 and previously £525 and before that £850 in Premium Bonds .have we got any Bonds at the

moment, and if not perhaps our monies should be invested in them as past performance has proved much better than anything else.

Our £40,000 of reserves is split between £15,000 of premium bonds, and £25,000 in a 35-day notice account with Redwood Bank (which is FSCS protected). The monies in the Redwood account carry an interest of 1.65% which compares to the average pay-out on premium bonds of 1.2%. The interest on the Redwood Account is re-invested (on an accumulation basis) so the capital sum will be increasing. We will record this with the full year accounts.