

**MEETING OF THE MFHA COMMITTEE TO BE HELD on
THURSDAY, 30th April 2020 on ZOOM, at 11am**

PRESENT:

Felicia Busby	Jessica Leigh-Pemberton
Richard Gurney	Suzie Goess-Saurau
Adam Waugh	Tom Lyle
Willie Shorthose	Sean McClarron
Charles Shirley-Beavan	Charles Clarke
Lord Mancroft (Chairman)	Richard Tyacke
William Bryer	Andrew Osborne
Camilla Corrie	Robin Vestey
Polly Portwin	Paul Hancock
Mark Hankinson (Director)	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alice Bowden (Director Hunting Office), Polly Portwin (CA)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Jacky Thomas

1. Minutes of meeting held 30th Jan 20

The Chairman welcomed the 4 new members and thanked their outgoing for their good work. Minutes of last meeting were agreed. The Chairman asked the Committee Members to read the Director's reports and highlighted the role of the Executive Committee.

2. CA/Hunting Office Strategy Group

Andrew Osborne reported on a meeting that had been held on 16th April. The aim was to re-establish the former good relations between our two organisations and to move forward with a positive campaign for the future of hunting. This needed to target both the hunting community and the politicians. He had stated to the Joint Committee that the implementation of standards was the Hunting Associations remit, not the CA's. The group had agreed that further members could be co-opted when necessary. Richard Gurney added – that we should communicate and publicise that this committee had been formed and what its purpose is, which should restore confidence in the Hunting Community about the work being done by both organisations. The Hunting Joint Committee will work on establishing, finalising and agreeing the MoU between the HA and CA.

3. Vote OK

The Chairman was concerned about allowing Vote OK to die as it had been very hard to resuscitate it in the past. He proposed that if the MFHA, the CA, and William Aster would each contribute £6K it would allow the database and essentials to tick over. This would be very necessary to help with next year's PCC elections. Jessica Leigh-Pemberton asked that George Bowyer provide a budget for the proposed £18K as well as provide previous accounts. ACTION: Jess Leigh-Pemberton

4. Postponed AGM etc.

All training and Seminars had been postponed and sadly many are likely to be cancelled. The AGM would be run if possible, in the autumn. However, if that wasn't possible, some form of online quorum would be needed to ratify the essential items of business.

5. Finance

The Treasurer was keen to highlight 3 points.

1 – the Hunting Office was saving £8K by furloughing staff on a Rota System during the months of April, May, June and July.

2 – Despite the increase from two Directors to three Directors employed, there would in fact be a £45K saving budgeted for in the next financial year.

3 – MFHA fees would remain the same for the coming season even though legal fees were increasing by 10%. The Hunting Office would be swallowing the cost of the increased premium as it was felt we should not put increased financial burden on hunts this year in light of the current Covid situation.

6. Sub Committee on Chairman Succession

Robin Vestey reported that no successor had been agreed yet but that negotiations were ongoing and that he would update once an agreement had been reached.

7. Vico update

The Chairman stated that Vico's work was slowly coming to an end. They were still helping with communications and were willing to continue to be available for advice if needed in the future. In the absence of an AGM the Chairman was sending out a 'state of the nation' letter which they were helping to draft. Alice Bowden added that their help had been invaluable, and it had been money well spent.

8. SFHA

Andrew Taylor (Chairman SFHA) had approached the director with a proposal to have the SFHA absorbed into the MFHA. The committee agreed in principle that the SFHA should be affiliated. The Executive Committee would work at the details regarding both the Secretaries and the Chairmen, for submission and approval by the MFHA Committee.

ACTION: Mark Hankinson

9. Updating MFHA Rules

Following the suggestion by Vico Partners, to review the Association Rules as well as incorporate the disciplinary code which was agreed in 2018, the Director and Richard Tyacke have revised and updated them and made some additions. These are being assessed by Michael McNally (for legal purposes) and the necessary amendments are being made, before approval by the Chairman. They will then be circulated to the committee for their comments and a Zoom meeting is planned for early July to approve the final version.

10. Point to Point

The Chairman outlined the PPA's plan to have 6 early meetings starting on Saturday 24th October with the East Devon. He was keen to stress that this was a 'one off' not a trial. There still appears to be a question mark over how the grants are allocated and where some of the funding will come from. Jessica Leigh-Pemberton pointed out that 98 meetings had been abandoned this season due to Covid-19.

11. Prosecutions

The Director reported that there were relatively few new prosecutions (which was normal at this stage of the year). One West country KH was being charged for Road Traffic offences, and there was the ongoing appeal over the use of a Static Camera. The biggest concern at present was the arbitrary use of Community Protection Warnings by some Constabularies.

12. Social Media Update

Polly Portwin reported that there had been some good, fun initiatives on social media by hunts. Many had used the lockdown to galvanise support and get new people involved. Facebook remains the best platform for this. A new push was planned for the Autumn.

13. Any Other Business

Jessica Leigh-Pemberton raised the issue of National Trust AGM. The CA have been encouraging the right people to apply for key positions within the trust. They are fairly certain that they will be a hostile motion put forward at the AGM.

Willie Shorthose said it was highly likely that there would be legislation to tighten restrictions in Scotland after election (driven by SNP and Greens)

There was a vote of thanks to Tim and Lizzie, Edward Foster was authorised to buy Tim a leaving present to the value of £2,000.

14. Dates of Future Meetings:

Committee	Thursday 10 th September 2020	Calvary and Guards Club
Committee	Thursday 26 th November 2020	Calvary and Guards Club

,