

ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS OF HARRIERS AND BEAGLES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles
held after the Annual Conference on Saturday 1st July 2017
at The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Lambeth, London.

A minutes silence was held for those members who passed away during the year:

Robin Leach, Vice President	John Smith	Roger Wood
Martin Salter, Vice President	Brigadier Colin Bowden	Richard Mousley
Andrew Jennings, Vice President	Pheme Angus	Stephen Vincent
James Haigh	Margo Wiffin	Colonel Donald Easton
Stan Ellwood		

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Nick Bannister; Michael Bannister; Jenny Dereham; Michael Caps; Susan Parsons; Ian Storer; Philip Amery

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 18th June 2017

These had been distributed to Members before the meeting though copies were available on the day.

3. Matters Arising

None

Jonnie Andrews proposed that the Minutes be adopted, seconded by David Brooks. The Minutes were adopted.

4. To receive the Chairman's Report

This had been brought forward into the Conference and heard earlier in the day. The Chairman reported that he had nothing more to add.

5. To receive the report from the Registrar of Countries

Paul Jelley reported that the Per Ardua Beagles had disbanded and a Hunt Club formed. Packs would be invited to hunt the Country. The Colne Valley and Holme Valley Beagles had formally amalgamated to form the Holme and Colne Valley Beagles. Paul also reported that the digital mapping of countries was complete. He had asked Packs to comment where they suspected anomalies regarding their boundaries by 31st January 2018.

6. To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year to 30th March 2017

Members had received the certified accounts to 30th March 2017. Julian Chadwick proposed that the accounts be approved. Richard Bramley seconded the proposal. The accounts were approved.

7. Adoption of Amendments to the AMHB Rules 2011

Proposed amendments had been circulated to members in line with AMHB Rules. The Chairman reported comments about the change in Rules regarding the retirement of hounds: some

members felt the rule should have been extended to include subscribers on the list of those allowed to receive retired hounds; other members including Ian Cunningham had felt hounds should not be retired outside kennels. Jonnie Andrews proposed the amendments to the rules as tabled, seconded by Julian Chadwick. The amendments were approved.

8. To receive the Director's Report

The Director presented her Annual Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

9. Appointment of President

Max Rumney reported the appointment of Richard Bramley as President of the AMHB 2017-2018. He thanked Ian Kibble for his valued input during the last year.

10. Election of Committee Members

1) Harrier Representatives:

Nick Bannister and Annette Grundy were due to retire from the Committee. Annette Grundy had agreed to stand again. Max Rumney thanked Nick for all his work in his absence.

Three nominations had been received by the Director for two places on the Committee:

- a. Annette Grundy – nominated by Matthew Higgs seconded by Sue Simmons
- b. Martin Kirby – nominated by Max Rumney, seconded by Jonnie Andrews
- c. Melanie Brook – nominated by Wayne Burrow, seconded by Karen Kenyon

A vote was held and Annette Grundy and Martin Kirby were duly elected.

2) Beagle Representatives

Mark Campbell resigned part way through the year due to work commitments and George Alder and Marcus Wright were due to retire. Marcus Wright has agreed to stand again. Matthew Higgs and Ken Henderson, currently co-opted members of the committee, had agreed to stand as full members. Hence nominations for the three places on the committee were:

- a) Matthew Higgs – nominated by David Brooks seconded by Tim Hurdley
- b) Ken Henderson – nominated by Sue Simmons seconded by Paul Jelley
- c) Marcus Wright- nominated by Matthew Higgs seconded by Tim Hurdley

Those nominated were elected to the committee

3) AMHB Chairman

Max Rumney confirmed the appointment of Matthew Higgs as Chairman Elect to take the position from September 2017

11. AOB

Mike Smith asked the Chairman whether the AMHB had considered the difficulties some Packs would incur with the development of the HS2 train system through Central England. It was agreed that this would be considered at the relevant Regional Meetings in the autumn 2017.

The AGM closed at 1pm

EAP 03 07 17

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Annual Report 2016/2017

2016 / 2017 was not a red letter season for most Packs but scent picked up during December and after Christmas many Packs showed good sport. One prominent beagle pack however reported the best season for many years. As always beagles reportedly handled the poor scenting conditions better than the foxhounds. The season was open in terms of weather, few days being lost to fog and frost and a much drier season than the last few years.

The number of packs of Hounds registered with the Association was 75: 57 packs of beagles; 18 packs of Harriers and 3 Hunt Clubs. The Royal Rock held its first full year as a Hunt Club with success and many Hunts visited this area of North Wales.

The Service agreement to the AMHB by the Hunting Office continues to work well with excellent administration provided by Dilys Hart and Lesley Courteney allowing me to spend more time on Hunt matters.

Joint Courses for members of the MFHA and the AMHB were held during the summer of 2016. These included a New Masters Course, two Kennel and Hunt Management Courses and a Hunt Staff Hound Husbandry Course. The AMHB also held two Hound Handling Courses at the Oakley Foot Kennels and the Pendle Forest and Craven Kennels and a Whippers in Course at the Park kennels.

The Joint Courses, though excellent, were not well attended by members of the AMHB, and your Committee has decided that the AMHB will continue to hold courses separately from the MFHA although members will still be invited to attend some of the very good courses held by the Hunting Office for Members of both Associations.

The Annual Conference and AGM was held at the Lygon Arms in Broadway in June. Conference topics concentrated on Hunt PR and how to attract new members. The AMHB Harrier and Beagle Show was again held as part of the Festival of Hunting at Peterborough in July and, on a beautiful summer's day, was a great success; Jackie Thomas doing a wonderful job as Honorary Show Secretary.

Eleven Regional Meetings were held throughout the country in September and October. These were well-attended.

The Committee is concerned about the relatively small number of Stud Book and West Country Harriers. Edward Knowles, ex Master of the Waveney Harriers and currently Master of the Tedworth Foxhounds has investigated the bloodlines currently within Stud Book Harriers and will provide a report shortly. A meeting was held in the West Country with representatives of all West Country packs and we hope to examine the bloodlines from these packs too so that we can consider what support the Association can provide. Sue Simmons will spearhead this work.

Anti-Hunt Demonstrators continue to increase their actions to try to disrupt hunting activities and to provide evidence of hunting illegally. Foot packs suffer less from anti activity than mounted packs but a number of AMHB packs have had allegations of illegal hunting made against them and have been asked to attend interviews at police stations. No prosecutions were brought against AMHB packs in 2016 – 17.

The use of Social Media by the antis continues to grow and Hunts need to be vigilant in relation to actions by staff and supporters which might be filmed and with regard to items and comments posted on social media sites by staff and supporters.

The kennels belonging to a foxhound pack in Herefordshire was filmed covertly. The film was provided to the police and the people involved are under investigation. All packs must ensure that everything they do is of the highest standard of animal welfare both for the sake of the hounds and for the public perception of Hunts, Hunting and the Hunting Community. This incident damaged Hunting's reputation.

The Kimblewick Foxhounds stopped hunting due to an outbreak of bTB in their hounds. Much of my time since February has been spent on this issue. bTB is rare in canines. The science is sparse and unclear. Canines are regarded as spill over hosts. They do not pass the infection to other animals and will not spread bTB in normal hunting activities. Defra has not placed any restrictions on the Kimblewick hounds or their activities. The MFHA is to hold an enquiry into the Kimblewick outbreak. The first meeting of the Enquiry Panel meets on Monday.

Finally the long-awaited Hunting Office Website is under construction. It will include public pages for the AMHB and the MBHA. There will be a large section where Masters will be able to read and download many of the documents providing advice, templates and information held at the Hunting Office. I am the lead in this project and intend the website launch to happen before the start of the 2017 – 18 season. It is however a very big task.

Thank you

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