

MASTERSHIP 2021-2022

James Galbraith retires as a Joint Master at the end of this his 7th season. He has been an invaluable support to The Duke of Buccleuch Foxhounds and in particular to Tim Allen and we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to him.

When a master stands down the Mastership dissolves. Since May 2020 Tim Allen and Pam Over have advised the Committee that they are available to carry on as Joint Masters for the season 21/22. Tim would continue full time, fully committed and self-financed amateur huntsman; Pam as joint-master. The current practice of experienced members acting as Field Masters would continue.

This proposal offers the subscribers the following benefits;

1. A FULL TIME HUNTSMAN.

It is our view that the role of huntsman requires full time commitment for the following reasons;

- For access to country the support of the landowners is critical. The Masters have invested significant time and effort to maintain trust and confidence with those over whose land we hunt. Given the increased monitoring and adverse political climate it is essential that landowners know we hunt within the law. This trust requires time and effort to maintain, communication being the key. Whilst we currently have the support of the vast majority of landowners, were we to fall foul of the law access to country would become increasingly limited. Inevitably, hunting within the legislation is slower than it was pre legislation but Tim has been ably assisted by a number of field masters who will continue to support us in the event of our appointment.
- It takes two days preparation for each day's hunting with the master, (who may be Tim depending on the area) opening country and Tim visiting those critical to the day including farmers, landowners and keepers to provide reassurance to all that we respect their wishes and hunt within the law. In addition to the JMs Dougie Veitch has agreed to continue his current practice of assisting with opening country in his area.
- Maintenance of good relations and communication with the police is essential as they often receive calls from the public on hunting days.

2. REDUCED FINANCIAL RISK

- The Masters' guarantee has been relatively unchanged since 2016 (other than a 2.5% increase last year) to meet all hunting costs. The guarantee does not cover all costs and the Masters cover the shortfall. The arrangement benefits hunt subscribers significantly by removing financial risk. The Committee have confirmed that they are satisfied that the Masters run their account economically and efficiently.
- Throughout his tenure Tim has maintained high standards in every respect whilst running a tight ship financially. He has also provided his own horses at his expense as well as the hunt lorry and a quad bike. As a consequence of reduced number of subscribers, a cancelled point-to-point, the effects of the pandemic and other challenges we understand Hunt reserve funds have been depleted. The financial condition of the hunt is the Committee's responsibility, not the masters, although the masters support all money raising ventures promoted by the Committee and hunt supporters. It is our view that, if the part-time option is agreed, the hunt will face additional running costs as well as a significant initial outlay for the provision of horses and equipment currently provided by Tim. The hunt's financial security will be at risk.

3. SUPPORT OF THE GUNS

- As a pest control service we rely on the team of guns who work tirelessly to assist us. All of them respect and support Tim Allen and appreciate his full time commitment.

4. HORSES

- Tim provides his own horses at his cost. These would have to be replaced for a part-time huntsman.

5. PROVEN HUNTSMAN

- It takes a huntsman no less than five seasons to get to know a new country, understand those who are involved (subscribers, landowners, farmers etc.), appreciate the nuances of the hunt and bring the hounds to a pitch that suits his style of hunting. Tim has been through the learning period and is well placed to take the hunt forward.
- Under Tim's watch the Kennels are immaculately maintained, the hunt horses are fit and beautifully presented and hounds have hunted exceptionally well.

We ask subscribers to support the full time package we propose for the reasons outlined above and to safeguard the Hunt. A package comprising a part time huntsman with full time employment elsewhere would expose the hunt to considerable risk on a number fronts.

Members now have a clear choice:-

- A package led by a part time huntsman who all acknowledge has other commitments.

OR

- A package led by a full time huntsman whose sole concern and commitment is to the Buccleuch Hunt.

Tim Allen MFH

Pamela Over MRICS MFH