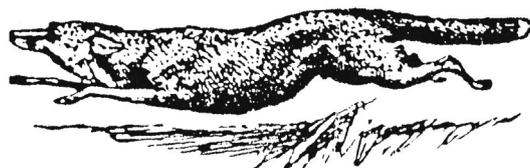


BOSWELL'S

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter
November 2017



www.surreyunion.com



"Going strong since 1798"

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

From the kennels



Writing this now, as Christmas nears, the start of Autumn hunting back in mid August seems like a lifetime ago! Hounds started off very well and we enjoyed some lovely early mornings and even the occasional evening.

As September started things became a struggle, but as October approached scent improved and the hard work started to pay off. In the run up to Opening Meet we were flat out building jumps and trimming hedges ready for the day. Nearly 100 people turned out mounted for Opening Meet at Gosterwood, with 400

foot followers enjoying the hospitality of our generous hosts, Les and Nadia Edgar. A great day was had by all with hounds finishing in the dark.

Since then scent has been pretty non-existent but hounds have worked hard. All the puppies have entered very well and I am extremely happy with them — a testament to all the puppy walkers' hard work. It will soon be Christmas time and I hope we enjoy a festive period of good sport as scent improves with the arrival of the cold weather. - **Harry Beeby, Huntsman of the Surrey Union**

Saturday 16th December 2017


Christmas Carols

at Slades Farm, Thorncombe Street, Bramley GU5 0LT
by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Edward Hutley
Arrival at 6pm with Sleighs at 9pm

Traditional Carols accompanied by a pianist
Gathered around the Christmas tree
In front of a roaring log fire with a glass of Mulled Wine

*Plus the infamous Mince Pie Competition...
Can you tell the difference between a luxury, standard & basic mince pie!*

SUHSC Bar / Raffle / Wear Your Christmas Jumper
Suggested Donation to attend £5 per person with children free
Please R.S.V.P. to lulu@hutleyland.com

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

Peterborough here we come!

I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous about taking hounds to the Festival of Hunting at Peterborough. We haven't shown hounds there in over 25 years and I knew we would be up against the 'big boys' of the hunting world. If I'm being really honest, I didn't want us to be an embarrassment.

The Surrey Union hounds are typically a little smaller than other foxhound packs, as we need a smaller, more nimble hound to cross our varied country. We have always bred for the perfect hunting hound not necessarily the perfect showing hound, and unfortunately there is a difference.

In previous years we have had a little success at hound shows, but nothing much to write home about apart from our one dog hound Amazon who in his younger days wiped the floor with his rosettes. This year our two bitch hounds Starlight and Stardust had shown huge promise, with Starlight winning Champion Bitch at our hound show and again at the South of England show with Stardust second, and the pair winning Bitch Couples there. Everyone encouraged us to enter them at Peterborough and with Harry's



enthusiasm and confidence there was no stopping us!

Our hounds and Harry did us proud. We won rosettes in the Unentered Bitch, Unentered Doghound and Doghound Couples classes, and our two bitch hounds came 3rd in the Bitch Couples class. It was a very special day not only for me, but for the Surrey Union. Were we now able to call our relatively small hunt one of the big boys? We were there, rubbing shoulders with them and beating them! Watch out England, because the Surrey Union are going strong and there's no holding us back now. - **Alice Dunsdon MFH**

Sponsor your favourite hound (or horse)

The Surrey Union Hunt is fortunate to have a superb collection of hounds — about 80 or so in Kennels, as well as this year's litters of puppies. And they all need looking after, day in day out, and year on year!

The 2017/2018 season sees the reintroduction of the SUH Hound (and Horse) Sponsorship Scheme. Sponsorship of one or more hounds, who you can spot while you are following, is a rewarding way in which to connect with the animal at the very heart of hunting.

Sponsorship is available with a donation to the Surrey

Union Hunt of £25 per hound, £40 for two hounds, £20 per hound for puppy walkers, and £50 per horse.

Either choose your favourite hound or horse, or we can allocate one to you. As a thank you, you will receive a certificate and photo of your hound or horse and be invited to a 'Meet Your Hound' tea in the spring.

If you have not already received a sponsorship form, please contact Mrs Sue Beech by email on slb_strawberryhill@yahoo.com, or by message on the SUH Facebook page.

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

A message from the Point to Point Committee



The South East Area Point to Point meeting signed off in style with six thrilling and competitive races held at Peper Harow on 13 May. After months of preparation and a hectic week of setting up, the day was under threat from a Great British spring shower. That threat became reality as the picnic table cloths took a soaking just before the first race!

Fortunately, the clouds broke as the first of the horses made it onto the racecourse for what turned out to be a fabulously warm and sunny afternoon. As the sunshine made its appearance racegoers flocked to the bar for some liquid refreshment and visited the many eateries on offer. As the drink began to flow the need to shop became more apparent – the forty plus trade stands and fashion outlets did great trade! The racing was competitive with some very close results.



As well as the racing, the Surrey Union hound parade was a popular spectacle with families, as dozens of revellers hacked over to welcome the hunt staff and

hounds. Some took it one step further and decided to impersonate them!

Following on from the great success of 2017, the Point to Point Committee have begun preparations for the 2018 meeting which will be held at Peper Harow on Saturday 12th May 2018. Having had such a fantastic response, the Committee have already managed to confirm sponsorship for three races from Downs Solicitors, Clarke Gammon Wellers and Skinners for 2018. However, we still have a number of races to fill and any introductions or suggestions will be warmly welcomed.

As the event has continued to grow you will recall that the Committee introduced a new e-ticketing system which proved to be invaluable in getting record numbers of racegoers through the gate on the day. For those of you that didn't use this system this year, the Committee urge you to for next year's event – it really does help us with our huge accounting task and traffic management.

When up and running the tickets will be available from www.surreyptp.co.uk. The system is secure with tickets being emailed either to be printed at home or scanned on a mobile device on the day. If that wasn't good enough, the tickets are discounted too!

For those of you who haven't seen the photo gallery or superb drone footage and video from this year's event, do visit our designated website. Finally, if you have any questions or would like to be involved on the day, then please email the Surrey Union Hunt Point to Point Committee at info@surreyptp.co.uk

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

The less glamorous side of Mastership

I took on the role of Master in charge of the animal collection service operated by the Surrey Union Hunt on 1 May 2014. Mr Clarke, our treasurer, devised a new system on Excel for the accounts and invoicing, and I was up and running. At least that was what I thought!

It is a sad truth that death comes to all of us, animals as well. We at the Surrey Union make the whole procedure quite straightforward, I hope. Sadly, often the animal needs to be despatched (a nice expression for shot.) For this we use a bolt gun. This results in instant death and is so much better in my opinion than lethal injections carried out by the vet. The animal is then removed and taken to our kennels. Here the carcass is butchered for our hounds' meals, rather similar to us ordering the fillet of beef from our friendly high street butcher.

We deal with mostly cattle and horses in our hunt country, offering this service to our farming friends whose land we cross at a discounted price, and we aim to offer a same day service. We also work very closely with Defra, ensuring that we meet with all their regulations. Farm animals are all ear tagged, and when deceased, the farmer has to be in receipt of a movement ticket which basically means that the animal has left the farm to be taken to an animal collection centre. The Kennels is a Defra registered centre. We issue this paperwork, a copy of which is opposite.

We then have to deal with animal waste, which is classified as category one and category two matter. This has to be collected or delivered to another Defra approved collection centre. We use a company in West Sussex who provide us with special bins and all the leftovers, such as bones and offal, are put into these containers, which are then taken away when they are full. The bills we pay for waste material are very high and are based on weight; we are charged by the kilo. We also collect a high proportion of sheep which we do not feed to hounds, and which are put directly into bins for collection.

To carry out the animal collection service we own a Toyota Hilux, a specially adapted high sided Ifor Williams trailer fitted with a winch, and a specially sealed unit to collect any fluids. We also have a special

building at Kennels where the rather ghastly job of meal preparations take place with another high powered winch in place for skinning purposes, and a chiller unit for storing meat in the warmer months.

I do monthly accounts for our bigger farmers — again, Excel has saved many hours as I prepare invoices which are sent by email. For individual customers an invoice is issued at point of collection and they are asked to pay via bacs or cheque. I spend a good deal of time reconciling my accounts with our bank statements, as very often a differently named person will pay online, and people rarely manage to reference the payment 'Flesh' as requested!

The image shows a 'Surrey Union Hunt Animal By-Products Commercial Document' form. The form is white with blue and black text. It includes fields for 'Name & Address of Consignor/Sender', 'Details of Consignment' (Category of Material, Description of Material), 'Details of Haulier', 'Details of Consignee/Receiver', and 'PAYMENT to be made by either: Monthly Account, Track Collection, Kennels Invoice, Cash, Cheque, or This Invoice'. The form number 'No: 1551' is visible in the top right corner.

I am always rather fascinated by what our bankers think we get up to with all this talk of 'flesh'. One thing is for sure — prostitution would be a good deal better paid, with not quite so many expensive overheads!! I do also spend a good deal of time chasing payments as every small business will attune to. People don't like paying for services, especially when they have nothing to show for it.

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter



Our specially adapted, high sided trailer

A good deal of my time is also spent talking to folk who are having much loved pets, their horses, sent to pastures new. I think it really helps when you have used this service countless times to allay their fears and tears.

So do please spare a thought for our staff who have to deal with these sad times in people's lives. They are brilliant at it, well done to them!

So, although not a very glamorous job for me, it does have its bonuses. I maintain a rapport with all my farmers, and they are kind to me when I ask to cross their farm for the umpteenth time that season! It challenges my addled brain and my computer skills. I do still struggle with excel and keep vowing to go on a course, but it just never seems to happen. Finally, here are a few photos for you, which just illustrate the above ramblings. - **Lizzie Calvert MFH**

Spotted in Surrey



Our huntsman communes with nature on a day out in autumn

Already the tumblers have started to join the 2017/2018 club. Our Hon. Secretaries did well in terms of monies even during Autumn Hunting, and Opening Meet topped up the Tumblers' fund yet further. A recent meet only served to show that you don't have to be mounted to deliver a dramatic tumble!



Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

A slice of Surrey history

The Surrey Union recently finished a day's hunting in the dark at 'The Fox Revived' pub, in Norwood Hill. Our hunt Historian has very cleverly managed to dig out from the archives the image, as featured in the pages of 'The Tatler'. It is of the Surrey Union hounds leaving the meet at 'The Fox' (long before it was 'revived', he points out) on Wednesday 21 March, 1906.



Above: Surrey Union hounds leaving 'The Fox' in 1906, having arrived at Holmwood Station by train.



Left: Surrey Union followers finishing at 'The Fox Revived' in 2017.

Leave a lasting legacy

Writing a will can be a difficult task. But not writing one could end up being even worse than the stress of working out what you'd like to happen to your estate if the worst came to the worst. It is estimated that half of people haven't written a will at all – which might end up meaning that your entire estate reverts to the government.

Perhaps it goes without saying that the Surrey Union are always hugely grateful if someone chooses to remember us in their will – but it can sometimes seem like an awful lot of both time and effort to make any changes. The good news is that it needn't be that difficult. The simplest thing to do is to write a codicil and include it with your existing will. And why would you want to

leave any money to the hunt? Well, in case it wasn't an obvious choice, we came up with this jaunty jingle as encouragement:

*As you care for horn and hound,
Please mention 'em in your will
Before you go to ground.*

In all seriousness however, we have plenty of plans in the pipeline to try and re-develop the Kennels site. But as optimistic as our plans might be, it sadly boils down to funding. We know that everyone has plenty of people vying for their attention. But please do at least consider us before leaving everything to the RSPCA!!

Surrey Union Hunt Newsletter

Diary Dates

Lawn meet

Saturday 16 December, 11am

Wheeler's Farm, Thursley, Godalming, GU8 6QE

Christmas Carols

Saturday 16 December, 6pm

Slades Farm, Thorncombe Street, Bramley, GU5 0LT

Traditional carols accompanied by a pianist; mince pies and festive cheer. Please RSVP to lulu@hutleyland.com

Pub of the Month

Wednesday 20 December, 7/7.30pm

The Parrot, Forest Green, RH5 5RZ. *Please book in with Norman and Jane on norman-janestuart@hotmail.co.uk*

Children's Meet

Friday 22 December, Midday

Radnor Farm, Ewhurst, GU6 6PJ (please no mounted adults. Foot followers welcome!)

Boxing Day Meet

Tuesday 26 December, Midday

The Kennels, Okewood Hill, RH5 5NE. Full licensed bar, hot food and hedge hopping

Lawn Meet

Saturday 13 January, 11am

Stockbridge Pond, Tilford, GU10 2DA

For more information, please see the website: www.surreyunion.com



"Going strong since 1798"