



CROOME HUNT
SUPPORTERS CLUB



Winter 2008



NEWSLETTER

www.cwwfoxhounds.co.uk

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the newsletter

The winter edition will be published in March, the closing date for your news, articles, adverts etc will be: 20.2.2009.

This is your newsletter, so please feel free to contribute. It would be lovely to hear from our supporters.

Please send anything you would like included to:

Charlotte Key, Hunters Lodge, Brewers Lane, Badsey,
Evesham, Worcester. WR11 7EU.



Mrs. Pat Allen at her 30th opening meet as master with her daughter Sara and grandchildren Megan and Oscar

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the committee, nor can the committee be held responsible for the accuracy of any advertisement or article. The editor reserves the right to edit or précis articles whenever necessary.

Pat Allen

Pat Allen Parents were farmers first in the North Cotswold country the Derbyshire and finally moving back to the borders of North Warwickshire when she was 4. Local schooling and a life spent working on the farm meant that Pat was able to hunt extensively. She became secretary of Studley YFC for a year then met her husband Neil. When they married in 1969 Roy Tatlow kindly brought hounds to the wedding. Pat and Neil became Joint Masters of the Croome and West Warwickshire in 1979.

Born? "Guy Fawkes day 1949"

Married to? "Neil who was joint master with me for 10 years"

Children? "One daughter Sara and three grandchildren Megan, Oscar and Elouise.

Strengths? "Pure love of, and dedication to, Fox Hunting"

Weaknesses? "Taking my fishing holiday during the hunting season"

Favourite horses? "I have always loved grey horses and my favourite was a horse called Glen bought at Leicestershire sales. He knew his job almost to perfectly and I have 8 wonderful seasons with him"

Good/Bad Time of Year? "Autumn hunting is, for me, the most rewarding. A bad time is trying to get in as many days hunting as possible when you have been up all night lambing."

Drink? "Anything but preferably Champagne, and always a good cup of thirst quenching of tea after hunting."

Pet Hates? "On a good days sport when you most need reviving and all around are empty flasks!"

Favourite meal after Hunting? "You can not beat home cooked food, but, as I'm the one that does the cooking, Saturday nights treat is a Chinese Takeaway, fetched by another member of the family while I soak in the bath with a cup of tea."

If you couldn't hunt what would you be doing? "I would be unbearable to live with, but I do have three lovely grandchildren to teach about the best things in life"

Funniest moment out hunting? "on one day, after a good breakfast and a very hospitable meet, we moved off and it seemed that, almost at once, all the ladies had to find a convenient bush. In the mean time, fox, hounds and huntsman were viewed going away in fine style down the vale, with the cry going out for the ladies to pull up their knickers and get on board! It was an awesome sight!"

Hunting tip? "Always be polite and keep smiling"

Best Kit Tip? "Try to afford a really well made pair of hunting boots rubber ones will not protect your legs from barbed wire or a kick. If your boot welt seams are getting thread bare and leaky, melt some boot polish and dribble into the offending area this will keep your feet dry and make your boots last longer.

Whom do you admire in the hunting world? Locally, John and Pat Aldersey for showing me the ways and wonders of hunting and Prince Charles, who rides to hounds in the face of adversity."



100 CLUB

Win £50 every quarter

This quarter's winner is

Simon Edkins

With ticket no

80

This is the last draw for this year, if you would like to buy a 100 club ticket for next year and be in with a chance of winning £50 see Kate Orme

Chair

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From the Chair

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Croome Hunt Supporters Club newsletter. I hope this finds you all in good health and not suffering too much from cold and flu.

First before anything else I would like to congratulate our Senior Master Mrs Pat Allen on her 30th Anniversary as a Master of the Hunt. I'm sure you will all wish her good fortune for the season and many more to come.

Following on from the September Issue, the supporters club held a number of events to get people socializing ready for the hunting season. The first event in the calendar was the Hound Racing held at the Kennels on 21st September. Following on from last year's success we decided to hold this again with the Puppy Show added on to the afternoon. I must give a big thank you to Peter and his team for all their efforts in getting the hounds to perform for us and making it a great and successful day.

Following close on it's heels was the Croome Supporters Club Annual General Meeting held on 25th September. You will be pleased to know, or maybe not!, that I have stayed on as Chairman with the majority of the committee also continuing. We unfortunately say a farewell from the committee to Sally Robinson (Polo) who has stepped down due to other commitments but who continues to be a valuable supporter and great photo taker. Thank you to Sally for all her hard work over the years.

We have had a drop in numbers of committee members in previous years but this year we were able to cajole, arm twist and beg four people to join us on the committee. I would like to welcome Lesley Hemmings, Bill Salmon, Alex Roulan-Miller and Pippa Gowenlock onto the committee and hope that they enjoy the experience and hard work that we all put in to support the Hunt.

Subscriptions were due at the AGM for the 2008/2009 season so if you haven't paid for your subscriptions for this year, more details inside the newsletter, please get them to charlotte as soon as possible. This subscription pays towards the production of this newsletter.

Our next event was the Annual Hunter Trial at Hilltop Ledbury, once again brilliantly organized by Anna. The day was a great success with well-earned money going into the coiffures. Thank you to all the fence judges to whom we owe the success of the event to as without them we would be unable to hold it. Following the Hunter Trial was the Quiz held on 12th November. Not as popular this year as previous years but still a good social night for those that attended. Thank you to them for supporting us.

Onto hunting. We've had a good number of Autumn Hunting meets running up to the Opening Meet at Ragley Hall on 15th November. This was a fantastic day, especially for Mrs Allen who was presented with a number of gifts from the hunt and other people to celebrate her 30 years. Around 70 of us enjoyed a celebratory breakfast with Pat at Ragley with a big thanks to Lord and Lady Hertford for their hospitality. There were over 100 riders out that day with countless foot followers.

Other news - Peter was seen at Cheltenham Race Course on Countryside Race Day atop Rudolph in the Hunting parade along with over 30 other huntsman. Always a spectacle to see so many of them together.

Also some not so good news, the Worcestershire Huntsman, Ian Starsmore has had a serious fall during the week of 24th November. At the time of writing he is still in hospital and heavily sedated. I know that a lot of you will have Ian in your thoughts and prayers and wishing him a speedy and successful recovery. Let's all keep our fingers crossed.

Onto some future events. Please support us at the Christmas Meets at Upton Upon Seven and Pershore, any help would be gratefully received to hand out Mince Pies and also please keep in your diaries the Farmers Beef Suppers to be held around the Hunt Country during January and February, Dates and venues to be confirmed but once again support is greatly appreciated either in the form of attending and paying for yourself and a farmer or helping the supporters club with the catering.

A little reminder to all foot followers that I will be collecting a car cap at each meet for £2 per person, or the preferred option is that foot followers pay a yearly subscription of £25 for the season to follow hounds (very cheap when you put it in context with a mounted subscription of £800). This income goes to help feed and provide all the hounds needs throughout the open and closed season. Please ensure that you do contribute each week or seasonally.

All that leaves me to say is enjoy the newsletter, hope to see you at some of our social events and see you out on the hunting field.

Catherine Hurley
Chairman

Committee News

Sally Robinson has retired from our committee after many years of hard work. Sally can often be found at our events either selling our merchandise or with her camera in her hand, sometimes both!! We would like to thank Sally for all of her hard work over the years, our meeting's will not be the same with out the latest of Sally's photos to look at.

We are very pleased to welcome 4 new members to our committee, they are Lesley Hemmings, Pip Gowenlock, Alex Rulon-Miller and Bill Salmon, we hope they will enjoy being part of the committee.

One of our new members, Lesley Hemmings, has kindly agreed to take over the merchandise now Sally has retired. We have just added some more items, they include sets of glasses with wildlife engraved on them, Cups, a Hipflask set to name a few. If you would like to see them or order anything please contact Lesley, details below. We get our clothes via a company called a4apparel so if you would like to see a larger range of clothes that are available with the CWW Foxhounds logo on, go to www.a4apparel.co.uk Make a note of the order number and talk to Lesley and we will be able to get it for you.

Lesley Hemmings
01905 357502 (after 6pm)
Email; lesleyhemmings@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Skittles 18th December Worcs Kennels
End of season supper 20th March, Arrow Mill
Bredon Fun Ride 19th April
Clay Shoot 15th May Venue TBC
Kennels Open Day 28th June
Horse Show 31st August, Chadbury Farm
Hound Racing 20th September, Kennels
Hunter Trial 18th October, Hilltop

Subscriptions

As I am sure you are all aware your subscriptions for the supporters club became due at the A.G.M. Thank you to all those who have already paid. An individual subscription is £10 & a family £15 for this you will receive a membership card, car sticker & 4 newsletters a year.

I am updating my records, so if your address is incorrect please let me know. Also if you no longer wish to be a member of the supporters club let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list, if I have not received your subscription by the time I send out the next issue of the news letter I will assume this to be the case and remove your details from my list.

You can contact me at the address below:

Charlotte Key. Hunters Lodge, Brewers Lane, Badsey, Evesham,
Worcester. WR11 7EU. 07765 250993 email: joceyfc@yahoo.co.uk

Croome & West Warwickshire Foxhounds

Puppy Show 2008

The puppy show was originally scheduled for 14th July 2008, but unfortunately was not held on this date due to Kennel Cough. The Puppy Show was re-scheduled to the afternoon of the Hound Racing, held on 21st September 2008.

This year we had a large entry of hounds with 23 in total. There were 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ couple of dog hounds and 6 couple of bitches to be judged by Derek Tyler, MFH of the North Ledbury Hunt and Johnny Holliday, Huntsman of the Ledbury Hunt. (photo on back page)

The judges came to the following decisions:

Dog Hounds:

1st Merlin - Walked by Sally Millington

2nd Mercury - Walked by Sue Watt

3rd Meddler - Walked by Alice Jessica Stevens

Bitches:

1st Melody - Walked by Emily Jessica Stevens

2nd Frisky - Walked by Peter Brown and Laura Fiddes

3rd Freckle - Walked by Megan Bates

The champion hound was Melody

(photo on back page)

Other Prizes:

Best First Season Dog Hound was Sailor, Walked by Sally Millington.

Best First Season Bitch was Polly, Walked by Dave Pugh.

Thanks were given to all of the Puppy Walkers for all their support and help with this seasons new entry.

Peter's Swim!

It was a wild, wet afternoon, Peter and I decided to go wildfowling in the evening. We approached the river and I began to put out the decoys, two or three decoys broke free and started to float off down stream, 10 yards down they floated round towards the bank. Peter noticed the decoys drifting towards him and instinctively leant out over the water to pick them up. **SPLASH** in went Peter, he disappeared. I, worrying that the masters would not be too happy if I drowned the huntsman at the start of the season, went to offer assistance. Peter's hand came out of the water like Excalibur running from the waves.

Having decided that the insurance pay out was not likely to be very much I helped Peter scramble onto the bank. Peter stood on the bank looking like a drowned rat, a few moments later he saw the funny side and we were both laughing. Before he went down with exposure we packed up and went home with Peter having a new respect for the wet work of the Mink hound staff!

Best Supporter's Cup

Each year at our AGM we award a cup to the person who has helped the supporters club through out the year. This year the cup was awarded to Sally Millington and presented to her at the opening meet at Ragley Hall (photo on back page) Sally has been at most of the events we have run lending a helping hand, cooking, feeding the fence judges at the Hunter Trial and helping Anna with the accounts. **THANK YOU SALLY .**

Hilltop Hunter Trial

After all the wet weather we had through the summer, we still were able to run our fourth Hunter Trial at Hilltop cross-country course, Ledbury on Sunday 19th October. On this day the weather was very kind to us and we had a good number of entries in each class.

The first little hiccup we had was a couple of the fence judges went to the wrong course, but we had some reliable substitutes to stand in so we could get started on time! Other than that the day ran very well with the exception of one accident where we had a visit from the air ambulance. The rider involved returned home that night with just a few bruises and could not wait to get back and jump that particular fence.

Congratulations must go to Chris and Izzy Lole who picked up the cup for best placed Croome Hunt Members. This was awarded to them both as they came second in the pair's class.

A big 'THANK YOU' goes out to all of the fence judges and helpers on the day. Without you the supporters club could not run an event like this and it makes my job easier as the Secretary to get on with taking the entries.

Please note the date for the 2009 Hunter Trial is Sunday 18th October. I will be in touch nearer the time!

Anna Millington