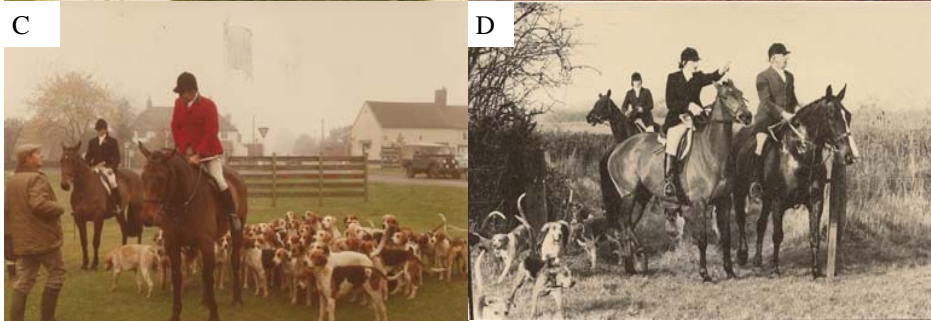
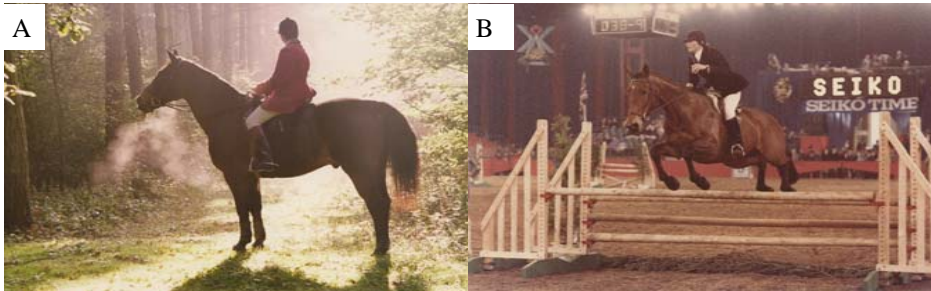


Photographs

- A) a Deerfold moment.
- B) Jackie at HOYS as part of the Croome Hunt Show Jumping Team in the 70's. Other team members included Mr John Firkins MFH.
- C) Jackie and her hunting hero, Huntsman Mr John Day at Hanley Swann.
- D) "Oy.....you on the scruffy looking grey.....shut that bl**y gate" Jackie with Mr John Aldersey MFH (Daniel's Grandfather) probably at Abbots Morton, again in the 70's.



Before

After



CROOME HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB



Spring 2009



www.cwwfoxhounds.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

16 Month old George enjoying the view from David Lane's 'Biggles' at the children's meet, his great Granny was also at the meet.



Peopleton Beef Supper



Guess who? Upton, Christmas eve.



A cheque for £2780.70 was presented to the air ambulanc from the joint meet with the Worcesters on 12.2.09

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.

“Jack the Whip” by our roving (or is that raving?) reporter Penny Forsyth.
 Jackie Bates has hunted with the C&WW for many years (how many exactly she couldn't or wouldn't remember!). A stalwart supporter in every sense, Jackie describes herself as a late starter; only hunting from the age of ten! Her interest was sparked from an Uncle, as neither her parents, who were farmers, were hunting folk. Jackie officially became an amateur whip from 1981, but remembers her first day, when going as usual to help John Day at the kennels, he casually informed her that she was to be whipping-in the next day. Protesting that she had neither coat nor horse (really, some people are so demanding), Mr Day provided both in the shape of a coat of his own and his daughter Val's pony. The meet being at the Rose and Crown, Severn Stoke and must have been a success for her as umpteen years later, she's still at it. Many thanks Jackie for agreeing to be interviewed and sharing some of your experiences.

Where and when were you born?
 “Redditch Hospital in July 1954” (despite much wheedling the exact date wasn't forthcoming!)

Married?
 “Yes thank you-twice!”

Children?
 “No, but hundreds of pony club kids”. Describing herself as ‘the Pied Piper of the Pony Club’.

What do you consider are your strengths?
 “I'm always happy to share my experience and am very approachable and would hunt anything that neighs with four legs and a tail”

What do you consider as your weaknesses?
 “Tricky one....I often take on too much. I'm just a girl that can't say no!”

What are your best and worst times of the year?
 “That's an easy one....the best time is the start of the season and the worst is the end!”

What's your favourite drink?
 “A gin and tonic”

What are you pet hates?
 “Generally poor hunting etiquette; people riding up my horses a**e, people not getting out of hunt staff's way when needing to get past, not opening or shutting gates and most importantly not offering me a drink!” Take note all...get those flasks out.

What is your favourite meal after a day's hunting?
 “Anything that I don't have to cook myself!! Preferably fish and chips from Evesham chippy”.

If you couldn't hunt what would you be doing?
 “I'd be very grumpy and miserable. What else is there? I'd probably go shooting”.

What's been your funniest moment?
 “Getting stuck in a stone wall enclosure up on Bredon with Simon Smith. We'd jumped in but couldn't jump out again because of a big ditch. We had to get off and fiddle about with a gate that had been tied up with allsorts then Simon couldn't get back on. In the end he had to climb on my smaller horse then scramble across onto his own.” Jackie also mentioned an incident regarding someone losing their false teeth in a ford, but again, despite generously topping up her glass, was reluctant to give a name.

Any hunting tips?
 “Have two sets of tack. Boot soles can be made to last longer by rubbing polish into the stitch holes with a toothbrush. It stops the thread rotting”.

Who do you admire most in the hunting world?
 “I suppose I've always admired John Day. In his time he was one of the best huntsmen ever. He didn't say an awful lot...but he didn't have to, but those days were different”.

What do you do on your non hunting days off?
 “Horses, horses and more horses! When we finish the season it's Pony Club, and I do two days cooking at Hayles Fruit Farm in Winchcombe”.

What has been your most memorable run?
 “Probably from Peopleton Rough to Crowle Thrift. Unfortunately the horse (that belonged to John Firkins) lost both front shoes and was never the same again. We got a b*****ing for carrying on when the pack had split!”

What has been the best time of your life?
 “Probably hunting the Croome hounds when Simon Smith was unable to. It was also the best scenting period of the season and was the most incredible experience. Having all those little people (hounds) working for you; wanting and trying to do their best”. Ahhh.

100 CLUB

Win £50 every quarter

This quarter's winner is

Rob Adams

With ticket no

61

This is the first draw for this year, if you would like to buy a 100 club ticket there are a few numbers left please see Kate Orme

Chair

Catherine Hurley

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Vicky Ash

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Kate Orme

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Bill Salmon

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Pip Gowenlock

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Lesley Hemmings

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Welcome to the Spring

Edition of the newsletter

The summer edition will be published in June, the closing date for your

news, articles, adverts etc will be: 25.6.09

This is your newsletter, so please feel free to contribute.

Please send anything you would like included to:

Charlotte Key. Hunters Lodge, Brewers Lane, Badsey,

Evesham, Worcester. WR11 7EU.

From the Chair

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Croome Hunt Supporters Club newsletter. The weather is getting warmer and the bulbs are all showing which means that we are nearly at the end of another Hunting Season.

I left you at the end of the Winter Newsletter looking forward to the Christmas break, which heralded a run of 'catering' events to follow over the next few months. We had some great support off the General Public at the Christmas Meets in Upton upon Severn and Pershore. The usual 1,000 mince pies were handed out, thanks to Sally Polo for organizing these and for those people who helped to hand them out.

We then followed on into January and February with the bi-annual Farmers Beef Suppers. A slight change around this year with the West Warwickshire taking on the Bishampton one along with their usual Alcester one and we went across the water and took on Di's Hanley Swan supper to compliment the one we have always done in Peopleton. The Peopleton one was first and then Hanley with both going off brilliantly. Everyone worked very hard on the committee to which I thank them all. I would also like to thank Penny and Bruce Forsyth, Jackie Bates, Helen Payne and Margaret Boyd in particular for helping on the two nights with the washing up (I hope I haven't missed too many out on that list) and also to the beef cookers and carvers, to Debbie Icke for the use of her kitchen and to Kit Bamford for the use of his catering trailer. Without these people these beef suppers would be a lot harder to do.

The next catering opportunity was the Supporters Club meet at the kennels. We entertained a good amount of people with hot punch and pork rolls to which I hope everyone enjoyed. Thanks to Peter for letting us take over his home once again.

We had planned to hold a skittles evening in February against the Worcestershire Hunt but unfortunately all the free dates with us clashed with their Beef Suppers so we were unable to hold it. However we have an opportunity to beat them at skittles at the inter Hunt Competition on Thursday 19th March at the Worcestershire Hunt Kennels where there will be 6 hunts skittling off to be the 08/09 champions. If you would like to come please do for around 7.45p.m.

We've held off on the social events due to the busy catering side of things but the next one is the End of Season Supper and Arrow Mill. More details within the newsletter but please come and support. It's the official end to the season to which everyone can reminisce about what has happened over the last few months.

Onto other news, we have had two unfortunate resignations from the committee from Steve Gowenlock and Pippa Gowenlock for personal reasons. I would like to thank them both for their continued support over the last few years. You will both be sorely missed. The Hunt AGM was held in January with confirmation of the Mastership staying the same for next season with Chris James stepping forward to carry out some Field Mastering work for John Firkins.

Also some good news from the last newsletter regarding Ian Starsmore, Worcestershire Huntsman. He has been out of hospital for some weeks now and making good progress everyday and could be seen on the back of a quad bike out hunting in the latter few weeks of their season.

All that leaves me to say is enjoy the newsletter, look out for the dates for diaries page so you can keep a breast of up coming events and hope to see you at some of these events whether it is enjoying yourself or helping out at some of the horse ones.

Catherine Hurley
Chairman

Hunt Jumps

The initial inspiration for the initiative came whilst out on exercise during the 2007-2008 season. This was the first season that I returned to the hunting field after a break of approximately 10 years, when I stopped hunting regularly due to work commitments and the lack of daylight to keep horses fit during the winter months.

The route I took out exercising around Peopleton & White Ladies Aston took me past a number of jumps that I had fond memories of jumping years ago, but you had to look long and hard to work out exactly where some of the jumps were, and in some cases the timber had almost completely disintegrated. I thought it would be nice to open them back up again over the summer and reduce the number of times we HAVE to stop to open a gate, as well as putting something back in to the sport that had already given me so much fun. I had in-mind (somewhat naively) restoring 5-10 jumps and that would be about it!

The summer then came and it was sometime in June before I started to get organised with materials (by which time summer as we know it was well and truly over!). I had offers of help from the Hunt Chairman Bill Jones, the Huntsman Peter Astle, Tony Jones and Ernie Holloway. Thanks to their help, we managed to restore and repair over 60 jumps in and around the Peopleton area. Then the rain arrived and water came in over the top of our wellies, at which point we called it a day at the end of August. I have included some photos below of the work carried out. Over the summer months this year there is plenty more to be done, living up to promises of improving jumps further-a-field. If you'd like to help during the off season, please get in touch.

Chris James.

Photos on back cover. Chris is offering a small prize for the first person to guess where these jumps are. Email your answers to joceyfc@yahoo.co.uk or phone Charlotte on 07765 250996 Answers in the next news letter. Good Luck!

Dates for your Diary

End of season supper Saturday 21st March, Arrow Mill
Bredon Fun Ride 19th April
Kennels Open Day 28th June
Horse Show 31st August, Chadbury Farm
Hound Racing 20th September, Kennels
Hunter Trial 18th October, Hilltop

Bredon Hill Fun Ride

This year the fun ride is on the 19th April, Jackie has very kindly offered to sort the route for us. Vicky and Alex have taken over the running of this event and are looking for people to help steward on the day, if you fancy a nice day out on Bredon Hill please let one of them know, (details on page 10) We would be very grateful for your help.

If you would like to ride you can download an entry form from the website (address on front cover) or send a SAE to Charlotte Key, Hunters Lodge, Brewers Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 7EU

Dorothy Ann Cookson

I write on behalf of myself and other two sisters; Melanie and Emma to thank all of the Croome Hunt for the support at our mother's Service of Thanksgiving on 9th January 2009.

As you are aware mum passed away peacefully in her sleep on 11th December 2008, that day she was due to fly back home to England for Christmas and be with her family. Sadly, this was not to be. She was cremated in Spain and we were able to bring her ashes back to England before Christmas.

Mum as you all know was a fun loving person, who loved life and would always help if she could. When she married Richard 'The Croome' as she fondly called you all, became part of her life, and you all welcomed her with open arms, I know she really appreciated this and she loved the atmosphere and social side of the hunt. She supported you when she could, held many posts on the committee and social committee; and even came on the Countryside March.

Mum spoke of her love of The Croome often when she was in Spain and told all her neighbours about you all. She even displayed a John Kings painting with members of the hunt that she knew painted on it. She was very proud of her connections. When she came to England she would always come and see you all at the Boxing Day Meet in Pershore and then went with Rosemary and friends to Cheltenham Races on New Years Day.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for the kind messages of condolence we have received, donations to St. Richards Hospice, the support you gave mum even in her passing and Bill Jones for his wonderful catalogue of memories that he so eloquently gave at the service. All of these contributions helped round mum into the person she was and we will always remember.

Our sincere thanks once again, to you all for the friendship you gave mum over the years.

Wishing you all the very best for the future.

Caroline, Melanie and Emma

Daughters to Ann Cookson

Bill Jones Diary

On February 5th 1983, Rachel and I set off on what was then a long journey for us to Wootton Hall, the home of the Allen family. This was a joint meet with the North Warwickshire, and it was a spectacular sight with so many red coats in front of the Hall. The North Warwickshire had three lady masters, all in red coats, unusual in those days. This hunt was soon after incorporated with the Worcestershire.

As to the hunting which ensued, Rachel and I were well out of our ares and had no idea where we were and the best thing I can do is to quote from the account written by "Tag", also known as Mark Allen, who knew the area somewhat better.

*"Finding quickly in stoopers, hounds ran nicely to Round Hill. With earths well stopped, Charlie ran on by Mr. McCall's farm to Mays Wood. Not dwelling, they swept on across Mr. Steele's farm to Owl Wood and on over Wawensmoor Road. Skirting Banhams they went on by Morton Bagot to Mars Hill. With pace quickening by Clarke's Green, hounds raced on by Gattex to Mappleborough Green to mark this fine fox to ground. Hounds scored a 6 mile point and doubled as they ran".
(No prizes for guessing who stopped the earths so well!!)*

So that's where we went! All we knew was that something special was happening and we had to kick on and follow the three "redbreasts" for all we were worth over some good grass country with plenty of jumping. We had a long wait on the outskirts of Redditch while the fox was dealt with and most people dismounted to let their horses recover. While on my feet, I received a severe kick to my elbow, but nothing seemed to be broken and I carried on heroically.

We then hacked back to West Warwickshire country, finding at Newnham, but things got rather confusing for the field when the fox crossed the canal and we could not follow. Furthermore, the pack had split and we went in entirely the

towards Wootton Wawen. Being nearly back at the box, Rachel and I decided to give it best. The field took a long time to find hounds, finally finishing through lack of horsepower near Shottery. Described by "Tag" as a "Grand red letter day".

The fun was not yet over for us. After we had boxed up, a heavily moustached gentleman came out of the front door of the Hall and invited us in for refreshment. He was of course, Jimmy Edwards, a friend of Bill and Jackie Allen and famous to my generation for his radio shows and latterly TV. He confronted poor Rachel and asked "Do you know who I am?" She had to confess she didn't. "Haven't you ever seen Whacko?" Again the answer was "No", I suppose she was 14 or 15 at the time an he had been out of circulation foe quite a long time.

Anyway, all was well, Jimmy Edwards proceeded to entertain us as only he could, playing the trumpet at one stage, and, having been very well fed and watered by the Allen family, we set off on the long and dangerous journey home, very pleased with our day.

Croome and West Warwickshire Supporters Clubs

End of season Beef Supper

Saturday 21st
March 2009

At

Arrow Mill

3 course meal
Guest Speaker

Tickets £22.50

7.30 pm

Contact: Charlotte Key: 07765 250993
or email joceyfc@yahoo.co.uk