

CROOME HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB

September 2011

Julia Hopkins (Jules)

Special points

Of interest:

- Mastership
- 100 Club winner announced

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death on 2nd September 2011 of Julia Hopkins following an illness which she

faced with characteristic fortitude and bravery.

There is very little in the Croome and West Warwickshire that Jules has not taken on during her lifetime's involvement with the Hunt. She was born into hunting, her parents Jack and Diana Baylis were Masters of this pack and she was brought up with hunting in her blood.

Jules was Master herself from 1989-1993 and also was Joint Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer for 10 years from 1985. This involved herculean amounts of work and not content with this, she also was Point to Point Secretary for many, many years and latterly when giving that job up became Entries Secretary for the Point to Point. Jules was also Hunt Campaigner and ran numerous Hunt Balls and Functions. You may wonder how she had time for anything else at all but she also raised two fantastic children, worked as a PA, hunted herself and did her own horse and managed to bring Cha out from a tiny tot on lead rein eventually graduating to bigger ponies, until she watched her jump big hedges with unmistakeable pride. All that time she instilled in her daughter all her foxhunting knowledge.

Jules was a graceful, brilliant rider and skier. She was supremely organised and efficient. When I took over from Jules as Hunt Secretary she handed over a meticulously organised job and helped me find my way into the role. She always put the Hunt first and was a proper foxhunter through and through.

She faced her final illness with great courage and her 'no fuss' attitude was pure Jules. She was determined and upbeat and insisted her children carry on with their lives over this summer. Autumn Hunting was Jules's favourite time and it so sad to think that she will no longer be out with us either taking Prince on the odd day or being dragged around by her black Labrador. However she would not want us to dwell or mope but carry on hunting and look after Chic and Cha and Sam.

She was a true foxhunting lady and will be so sadly missed by all of us who called her a friend.

AH

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Athlete on Foot

How many on the hunting field fully appreciate what goes on behind the scenes to enable a day's hunting to take place? Not only the contact with the land owners, fitness of the hounds and hunt horses but the essential condition of hunt fences to enable the field to enjoy the excitement of following the Field Master of the day over hedges, tiger traps, rails etc.

Over the years I remember the stalwarts of the hunt who have given up much time and expended a lot of energy to repair and build a wide range of fences. Allan Morris of Caddicroft who got together a regular group of followers (helpers) on a Sunday morning to work on fences and ride cut especially in Wadborough and Bowwood are-

as. Naturally we would end the session at the Coventry Arms (Bants). John Firkins was for many years the official hunt fence builder and built some pretty sturdy fences for all to enjoy. Have you heard of the Pegasus Club which was formed to raise money for fence building? If you were a member then you would have a fence dedicated to you –



see if you can see the white signs on fences in the Peopleton area such as Jones's Jump,

Randall's Revenge and Bailey's Topper – yes they are still there after more than 20 years.

During recent years we have seen new blood in the role of fence builders and Chris James has been doing a superb job in leading a team building and repairing hunt fences. The quality is of a high standard and Chris will remove a bent nail from a post or rail to ensure it's to his standard. His team is small in number but much has been achieved and their work should be appreciated by all who follow the hounds. It is this behind the scenes work that ensures a good day out for hunt followers.

Croome & WW 100 CLUB

This quarters' winner is
Emma Bogaard



Post Hunting Recipes

Recipe for Starter

Drunken Prawns (Prawns in Whisky) Serves 4

2 oz Butter

1 Medium Onion finely chopped

8oz Peeled Prawns

4 Tomatoes (skinned and Chopped)

4 Tablespoons Whisky

4 Teaspoons Lemon Juice

Salt and freshly ground pepper

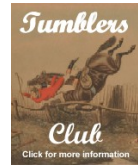
4 slices hot toast or boiled rice

1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley

4 unpeeled prawns

Melt the butter in a frying pan. Add the onion cook gently until soft but not coloured. Stir in the prawns and tomatoes and cook gently for 2-3 minutes. Add the whisky, lemon juice and seasoning to taste. Bring to the boil and simmer for 2 minutes. Spoon quickly onto toast or rice. Sprinkle with parsley and garnish with unpeeled prawns. Note sherry or white wine may be used instead of whiskey

Tumblers Party great success - no-one fell over!



The Tumblers Party raised the amazing total of £1000 which will be donated to County Air Ambulance.

This is brilliant news as the Air Ambulance relies solely on donations to keep flying and it is such a topical charity for a Tumblers club. We did have occasion to use their services last season but luckily not often.

There was a good turnout of Tumblers and non Tumblers and some friends and neighbours of Antony's too. He had a live band and a disco and all involved had donated their services free to help the Charity which is so good of them. Food was good, a whole pig, vege kebabs, burgers, sausages and the drink was flowing - particularly the Cider which was pretty lethal stuff. Well so Mr Haynes found out anyway!

Tumblers Awards were given out and Emma Bogaard was Chief Tumbler which she took with great grace and received her bottle of Tumblers Tonic, if the Tonic has the cider in it then it will probably lead to another tumble. Mrs Weaving won the most Spectacular tumble award for her memorable immersion in Ragley lake. Our most dangerous Master to follow award was a close run thing between Mrs Weaving and new Master Chris James. Chris James just shaved it with 11 tumbles on the last meet of the season. He received an even larger bottle of Tumblers Tonic. Remind me to only go out with Mrs Allen and Mrs Ralph!

Everyone in good spirits and looking forward to the new season, the Tumbleometer is rewound to 0 and starts now. The Tumblemeister will be watching Autumn Hunting closely. Fresh horses and hard ground - ouch!

Foot note—Thank you to all the helpers and special thanks to Mr and Mrs Bomford who donated £250 of the total sum raised on behalf of the Midland in Hand horse show.

Sketches in Stable and Kennel



The story of St Hubert, The Patron Saint of Hunting.

On [Good Friday](#) morn, when the [faithful](#) were crowding the churches, Hubert sallied forth to the chase. As he was pursuing a magnificent stag, the animal turned and, as the [pious](#) legend narrates, he was astounded at perceiving a crucifix between its antlers, while he heard a voice saying: "Hubert, unless thou turnest to the Lord, and leadest an holy life, thou shalt quickly go down into [hell](#)". Hubert dismounted, prostrated himself and said, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me do?" He received the answer, "Go and seek Lambert, and he will instruct you."



Many places in Europe are named after our patron saint. In Chamonix, at the start of our holiday of le tour de Mont Blanc (eleven days walking round the Alps, we had our first large meaty french stick from le boulangerie Saint Hubert .



There is also a Hound called le Chien de Saint-Hubert. This breed is more than one thousand years old. It was perfected, not created, by monks of St. Hubert in Belgium. Later the dogs were brought by the Normans into England and then to the United States. It is also known as the Flemish Hound. Throughout the world, breeds such as the American Coonhounds, Swiss Jura Hounds, Brazilian Fila Brasileiro, Bavarian Mountain Hound, and many others trace their lineage back to this

ancient scent tracker. Today, all Bloodhounds are black & tan, or red, but in the Middle Ages they were solid in color. The white variety, which existed in medieval Europe, was called the Talbot Hound, who became extinct in the 1600's, but contributed to the development of many other breeds including the white Boxers and tri-colored Basset Hounds. The Bloodhound thrives on the hunt rather than the kill. It takes great pleasure in tracking and has been used to hunt animals, criminals, runaway slaves, and lost children. Although it has a pleasant temperament, it is not easy to obedience train, most likely largely due to the fact that it gets distracted from human command, more interested in all of the exciting strong smells around him. Today, this slow mannered, rich sounding breed is both tracker and companion. When I was a soldier I enjoyed many a day's hunting in Germany with the Weser Vale Bloodhounds owned by the Household cavalry. I have to say they do have a fabulous voice like the hound of the Baskervilles. After a good day's hunting of a naughty but very fit soldier (running for his life of crime) there was always a party in one or other of our officers' messes where we got heavily into wine, women and song, not necessarily in that order.

Perhaps I should end with a little prayer?

Heavenly Father

We thank you for your creation in seasons good and bad.

We thank you for our countryside for creatures great and small and those we've lost and had.

We thank for all country folk whose fun and frolics stem from you.

We thank you for our love of friends, for fellowship, for farming, for feasts and all we do. We thank you for St Hubert and all he did to make us think of you. Amen.

Perhaps this prayer may save from the tumblers club next season!

Best wishes and good hunting

Clive Fairclough your hunting vicar!

Chairman's Corner

Hi everyone

Sadly after a 10 year Mastership with CWW Robin Palmer has decided to resign with immediate effect. Robin's personal statement detailing his reasons follows below:

Happily for the CWW Chris James has agreed to join the Mastership and continue the excellent job he did last season running the Peopleton area. Chris is already known to you all and will, I have no doubt, prove a valued addition to the existing team of Masters. I am sure you will all give him your support and look forward to following him again this season.

ROBIN'S STATEMENT

It is with great regret that I have decided to resign as a Joint Master of the Croome and West Warwickshire Foxhounds. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be a Joint Master for the past ten years and I have always endeavoured to give my best to my fellow Masters, farmers and subscribers. However, after a full knee replacement and having recently taken medical advice, I feel that I cannot continue to fulfil my responsibilities to the level I would wish and therefore feel it best to step down.

Having hunted with the Croome for almost 50 years it is my intention to continue hunting in the future but will be giving Chris James some space to get on with the job this coming season. As Chris has already done a sterling job as Fieldmaster in the Peopleton area he takes no introducing and will I am sure give his best as a Joint Master. As Chris has my horse Santa on loan for the season I will be keeping in touch and maybe even get the occasional day out!

I would like to thank everyone associated with the Croome and West Warwickshire Foxhounds for all their support and assistance over the years and to wish you all the very best for the future.

Robin Palmer

Kind Regards, Alli Haynes

Brownswood Equine Services

Do you have horses and sometimes need an extra pair of hands?

Do you work full time and cannot make it for a farrier visit, vet visit or even just turning them out and bringing them in?

Are you going on holiday and need someone to look after your horses?

Do you need that extra pair of hands at a show with your horse/s from preparation to the show ring?

Then help is at hand!!!

I have worked with horses for the last 30 years from Pony Club, to Hunting(28 seasons) to the County Show Circuit (10 years) and I know how

difficult it is to keep all balls in the air sometimes when it comes to horses, family and work!

If you are looking for help, albeit 1 hr, whole days or even a week/s then

Call Marie Brown on **07961 584325**

The Winter edition will be published in November, the closing date for your

news, articles, adverts etc. will be: 25th October 2011 This is your newsletter, so please feel free to contribute.

Please send anything you would like included to:

Antony Kent, Home Barn Sale Green, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 7LN

www.antkent@aol.com



From the Supporters Club Chair

We were all terribly saddened by the loss of one of the hunts greatest supporters Jules. Jules was an amazing help to all parts of the hunt and always helped us in our hour of need. Our deepest sympathies go to all of her family and friends .

Jules and her family will be in our thoughts particularly now with the Autumn Hunting underway.

More sad news was the death of Gerry Anderson. Gerry was an incredible supporter and follower and will be terribly missed.

Since the last newsletter the supporters club have had a fairly quiet summer, We had a stand at the Point to Point we sold some merchandise and had a very enjoyable day. We also held hound racing at the kennels, on the Sunday after puppy show. A huge thank you to our master/huntsman Tim Allen, Richard, Jackie and Kim for all their hard work. Thanks also to all who helped on the day and a special thanks to the people who came along your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you to all that helped at the horse show and the fun ride. Mr Stanley helped us with the use of the pony club field due to the going at Chadbury being so firm.

Helen Payne did a fantastic job at the fun ride through Pirton. Thank you so much to all that helped with both events.

Our Hunter Trial will be at Hilltop on 23rd October. This year Lizzie Powell is helping Anna organize this event, you can find a schedule on the Hilltop website or the hunt website. Once again we will be looking for people to help us fence judge, either a half or full day. There will be a bonfire at Andrew Forrester's on Friday 4th November, please make a diary note for both of these events.

All that leaves me to say is enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forwards to seeing you at one of our events, or out autumn Hunting.

Charlotte.