

# **SEASON 2021-22**

## **BHWC HOUND CLUB**

The Bicester and Whaddon Chase Hound Club will hold Meets for the purpose of hound exercise and line hunting from early September through to March. It is intended that Autumn Meets will commence in early September 2021.

**Please note the arrangements for Autumn Hunting detailed in clause 8.**

### **HOUND CLUB ARRANGEMENTS – SEASON 2021-22**

#### **1. Hound Club Subscriptions**

Subscribers are asked to pay the following minimum rates by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021:

- £ 2200 for one day per week (excluding Saturdays)
- £ 2500.00 for a Full Subscription (all meets incl. Saturdays)
- £ 4400.00 for a Family Subscription (all meets incl. Saturdays)

**N.B. there will be a limit of 90 Subscribers who can attend Saturday Hound Club Meets.**

#### **2. Young Subscribers (including older Pony Club members)**

Young subscribers between the ages of 18-28 are expected to pay half the minimum day rate.

#### **3. Children 18 years and under**

- a) The children of landowners, subscribers and farmers within the Country may attend meets as of right. When sending their subscription, landowners, farmers and subscribers are asked to indicate the number of children attending and the approximate frequency of their appearance.
- b) Other children may come to an arrangement with the Area Secretary, however if they are a members of the Pony Club this can be done through their District Commissioner.
- c) Children under 13 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 13 who are not accompanied, or are not those of a landowner, farmer or subscriber and who have not made any other arrangement with regards to adult supervision will not be permitted to follow hounds.
- d) Daily rates for children:
  - i) 13-18 years: £25 Saturday, £20 Weekdays
  - ii) Under 13: £20 Saturday, £15 Weekdays
- e) **Please note that children who come out hunting are expected to help open and close gates and assist in other ways where necessary.**



## 9. Family Subscription

A Family Subscription covers parents with children under 18 and entitles them to attend all Hound Club Meets. Children between the ages of 18 and 28 years are required to pay a Junior Subscription in accordance with paragraph 2.

## 10. Grooms

Grooms may ride to hounds on their principals' horses in the Autumn. After the Opening Meet they may ride to hounds on their principal's horses, providing he/she is a full subscriber, and an arrangement is made **in advance** with the respective Duty Secretary.

## 11. Subscriptions and Donations

- a) Arrangements for the payment of subscriptions and donations must be made through the Subscription Secretary and in accordance with the preceding paragraphs. Everyone is asked to settle with the Subscription Secretary before 30 June. **No one should come out with Hounds until this is done.**
- b) All communications should be addressed to the Subscription Secretary:  
Mrs P Beecroft, Forge Farm, Weston on the Green, Bicester, Oxon. OX25 3QN  
Tel: 07753 582482 Email: [susie@bicesterhunt.co.uk](mailto:susie@bicesterhunt.co.uk)
- c) Cheques should be made payable to 'Bicester and Whaddon Chase Ltd.' and returned to the above address along with your completed advice slip and liability disclaimer. Standing Order mandates are available on request from the Subscriptions Secretary.
- d) Payments may be made by Bank Transfer to the following account:

Account Name: Bicester & Whaddon Chase Ltd.  
Sort Code: 20-06-75  
Account No: 30963771

Please use the reference 'Sub' followed by your full name e.g. Sub John Smith.  
To assist with our administration, we also request that you email [susie@bicesterhunt.co.uk](mailto:susie@bicesterhunt.co.uk) to advise her that your payment has been sent. Please **do not forget** to send your signed liability disclaimer by post to the Subscription Secretary.

- e) When paying your subscription you are asked to give your Countryside Alliance membership number. It is a requirement that all those who wish to ride to hounds are members of the Countryside Alliance. Please note clause 13 below.
- f) Following on from the success of the scheme in recent seasons, there is an opportunity for those who are prepared to act as Gate Shutters or Trail Layers on a regular basis, to hunt with us on special terms. Please contact Mrs Sam Markham, [sam@bicesterhunt.co.uk](mailto:sam@bicesterhunt.co.uk), if this might be of interest to yourself, or others that you know and who are deemed proficient.

## 12. Disclaimer of Liability

Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of Bicester and Whaddon Chase Limited ("the Company") or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the Company, the organisers of any activities of the Company nor any agent, employee or representative of the Company accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners,

or property whatsoever, whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever.

### 13. Membership of the Countryside Alliance

The Bicester Hunt with Whaddon Chase, along with other hunts requires all those who hunt to be members of the Countryside Alliance for the simple reason that they are the ONLY body representing our interests. In order to assist us in satisfying this requirement, we will forward details to the Countryside Alliance, who may contact you in due course in regard to your Membership. You should know that we have entered into, as have other hunts, a Data Sharing Agreement which means that the Hunt is fully compliant with GDPR regulations.

### 14. Dress

We are ever mindful of the fact that without the tremendous support of Landowners we simply would not be able to hunt. As a mark of respect to the Landowners, the Joint Masters request that all mounted field followers dress correctly and tidily.

For Autumn Hunting, “traditional rat catcher” i.e. tweed hacking jackets, shirt and tie are the preferred mode of dress. It is requested that shooting coats and waterproof type jackets are only worn in the very wettest weather or when on gate shutting duty.

From Opening Meet, all mounted followers should wear either black, navy or green Hunt coats, white or cream stock, white or cream breeches, well-polished black boots (optionally with brown mahogany tops if you qualify) with correctly fitted spurs. Scarlet coats are to be discouraged for the field unless specified by the Masters on specific dates. All horses should be neatly turned out and plaited.

For the avoidance of doubt, if you only have a tweed coat due to previously issued directive, these will continue to be acceptable as long as they are clean and tidy.

It is optional to wear a Patey style cap, with or without a chin strap or a crash hat with a black or blue velvet cover. Ribbons on the back of any hat should be sewn upwards apart from Masters and the Hunt staff whose ribbons should point downwards. Ladies should always wear a hair net. We hope this direction is clear but do not hesitate to contact any of the Secretaries if you have any doubts.

### 15. Hunt Buttons

Those who have been granted the privilege of wearing the Hunt Button may choose to wear the Bicester Hunt with Whaddon Chase buttons. Black hunt buttons may be purchased from Country Equestrian Ltd, Home Farm, Poundon, Bicester, Oxon. OX27 9AY Tel: 01869 277742 and Harley Equestrian, Dairy Farm, Eydon Road, Woodford Halse, Northants. NN11 3RG Tel: 01327 260818. **Please note that brass buttons are for Masters and Hunt Staff only.**

The newly introduced Junior Hunt Button (in the form of a badge) is awarded to those children under the age of 18 years who have shown particular interest, enthusiasm and commitment to the BHWC. They will have demonstrated an understanding of our hunting activities, shown a willingness to assist the Masters and Hunt Staff and have a good understanding of hunting etiquette.

## 16. Website & Forthcoming Events

Everyone is encouraged to use the Hunt website [www.bicesterhunt.co.uk](http://www.bicesterhunt.co.uk) for up to date information regarding forthcoming events. Tickets for many of our events may be purchased securely online through the website. The very latest Hunt news is also published along with other articles of interests, photographs and links to associated websites.

Information of particular relevance to subscribers and supporters of the Hunt is published on the Members Forum. Those eligible to join the forum are asked to create their own login and password details. Once these have been approved, full access to the forum is available.

## 17. Meet Cards

To keep administration costs to a minimum, meet cards will only be available through our website via the Members Forum.

## 18. Contact Details

It would be much appreciated if Mrs Sam Markham ([sam@bicesterhunt.co.uk](mailto:sam@bicesterhunt.co.uk)) or your Area Secretary is kept informed of any changes to your contact details. This is of great help in keeping our database up to date.

## 19. Supporters Club

The Supporters Club plays an important role in providing support for the Hunt in the form of social events, fundraising and the sale of merchandise. The Club raises substantial funds each year and supports the Hunt via donations, or the purchase of particular items such as horses or vehicles.

For membership, please refer to the website where you can join online or send a cheque for £15 made payable to "Bicester & Whaddon Chasers Supporters Club" to Miss Bev Byrne, 4 Station Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon. OX26 5DS

## 20. Tumblers Club

Rates per 'unplanned dismount' remain unchanged this season at £10 for adults and £5 for those aged 13-18. Those who suffer from a lack of 'stickability' might wish to consider our insurance premium for the season at £25. The scheme is entirely voluntary and designed to provide fun, whilst at the same time supporting the Air Ambulance Service. Prizes (details to be announced at a later date), will be awarded at the end of the season and reports posted on the BHWC Tumblers Club Facebook page and Hunt website.

## 21. Conduct

It is imperative that the mounted field follow the Field Master. Areas where the Hunt may not go on any particular day will only be known to the Field Master and anyone taking an alternative route runs the risk of breaking an agreement between the Hunt and Landowner, or interfering with the work of hounds. Anyone opening a gate different from the Field Master's route must shut it. **It is not the role of the Gate Shutter to shut gates opened in these circumstances.**

## 22. Gate Shutting

**All those who ride to hounds are required to take their turn gate shutting regardless of the level of their subscription.** However, those over the age of 65 and children under the age of 13 are exempt.

Please email Mrs Sam Markham on sam@bicesterhunt.co.uk with your preferred date, area and the name of the person with whom you would like to gate shut, before 1 November 2020. We will always try to accommodate your wishes where possible. Should we not receive your preferences by this date, we will allocate you a date.

If for whatever reason you are unavailable on your allocated day, it is your responsibility to find a competent, fully briefed replacement with a suitable horse, to take your place. **You must then advise the Secretariat of the changes made to the rota.**

On our busier days it is intended that there will be 3 people gate shutting. It is important that at least two of these are able to get on and off easily to deal with difficult gates. If you wish to bring a competent groom or friend to help on the day, this is acceptable provided this is done with the prior knowledge of the Duty Secretary.

**Please note that it is a requirement that Gate Shuttlers must report to the Duty Secretary before hounds move off and remain on duty until 3.00pm. At which time they should confirm their departure with the Duty Secretary (or Field Master). This will ensure there is a proper exchange of information regarding damage, or any other issues which may require further attention, before they leave.**

## 23. Damage

- a) **Individuals are responsible for reporting at the first opportunity to the Duty Secretary or the Gate Shuttlers if they break a gate, rail, wire, or make a gap in a hedge.**
- b) In the event of there being stock in the field in which damage is caused, then the gap becomes the equivalent of an open gate and the individual responsible for the damage is required to carry out temporary repairs IMMEDIATELY, to make the gap stock-proof. **Do not rely on the Gate Shuttlers to do this. Seek assistance from other Hunt followers if necessary.**
- c) Anyone breaking a gate is required to pay £150 without debate.
- d) **Any individual leaving a gate open, riding carelessly on seeds, grass margins or not complying with the simple rules found in this publication may be sent home and/or find that their subscription is not acceptable in future seasons.**

## 24. Bad Weather/Information Chain

In the event of fog, Hounds will go to the meet as arranged. If there is any doubt about riding to hounds on account of frost or snow, information **will be sent out by email by 9.00am**. For those without email access, please do not telephone the Kennels, but contact the relevant Area Secretary by telephone after 9.00am.

## 25. Liability Disclaimer

When completing and returning your subscription form please also sign and enclose the Liability Disclaimer.

## **26. Parking**

Guidance as to where to park boxes and trailers on a hunting day is available on the Hunt forum. Should you wish to park elsewhere (on private property) you must seek permission beforehand. Please never leave boxes or trailer in villages and always park courteously, never blocking access or inconveniencing other road users.

## **27. Car Followers**

Followers in cars are requested to take the greatest of care not to interfere with ordinary road users and must be mindful of both hounds and the mounted field.

You are requested to park all vehicles on the same side of the road and to turn off engines when in the proximity of hounds.

Car followers are requested to remain on the road at all times. You may NOT drive across fields or along private driveways/tracks without the express permission of landowners. Please do not block gates or jumps.

Cross country driving is confined to the Countryman and official Hunt vehicles.

Car followers are important members of the hunting community and as such are requested to help in any way when requested.

## **28. Leaving a Legacy to the Bicester with Whaddon Chase**

The BHWC has been very fortunate to receive legacies from supporters in the past. Such legacies are a very welcome addition to the hunt's funds. We would therefore invite you to consider leaving something to the hunt in your will.

Legacies should be to the benefit of the Bicester with Whaddon Chase Ltd, c/o of The Treasurer, marked confidential. This is easily done by a simple codicil to your existing Will, carried out by your solicitors.

Legacies of this nature can enable the hunt to consider projects that are beyond the scope of normal expenditure, and when put into effect, can be attributed to the donor as appropriate.

Further details can be obtained from the Hunt Treasurer in confidence.

## Conduct for Mounted Followers

- Always remember that we ride across other people's private land. This is a great privilege and to be treated with the utmost respect. Remember that without the generosity and goodwill of our farmers and landowners the sport we love would be denied to us. **Anything** which puts that goodwill at risk is unacceptable.
- Always be friendly and polite to everyone at all times. Thank motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and members of the public with a wave and a smile. Remember, the person holding a gate open for you may well be the owner of the land over which you happen to be riding.
- At the Meet you should be correctly dressed with clean tack and a well turned-out horse. This shows respect to our hosts. Do not forget to carry a penknife and some string.
- Arrive at the Meet in good time. Make a point of saying 'Good Morning' to the Master, Duty Secretary and Hunt staff.
- Never park your vehicle in such a way as to cause inconvenience to others.
- Never ride across the middle of seeded fields. Be mindful of stock in a field, walk around the side rather than cantering through the middle of livestock.
- **Make sure that the person after you understands that a gate needs to be closed by clearly saying "gate please" or, if out of earshot, by raising your arm. DO NOT MOVE AWAY until they have clearly acknowledged that the gate needs to be shut.**
- Don't leave a mounted follower alone when they are closing a gate, offer assistance and stay until it has been shut properly.
- Always wait for the horse immediately behind when crossing a wooden bridge. Do not move off until the horse behind has crossed safely.
- If others are jumping a fence next to a gate that you intend to use, wait until all have finished before opening the gate.
- Move quickly to the side if the Huntsman, Whipper-In or Master comes past you. Let those ahead know if any of the above need to pass.
- Always turn your horse's quarters away from hounds when they come close to you. Do not give your horse any opportunity to kick a hound.
- Stay behind the Field Master at all times and follow his or her instructions.
- Do not talk loudly; others may be trying to listen to hounds. Keep your mobile telephone on 'Silent'.
- Make sure your brakes work well. The Hunting Field is not a race circuit and the horse in front is not there for use as your personal rail track buffer!
- When jumping, keep a straight line and give yourself enough room to react if the horse in front refuses. Wait your turn and do not push to the front of the queue. If your horse stops, get out of the way as quickly as possible, to avoid impeding others before trying again.
- Warn others behind you of hazards such as holes or wire.
- Always walk through a farmyard (especially if there are livestock in buildings), or across smooth concrete.
- Keep a safe distance from the horse in front, don't trust it not to kick.
- Red tape on a tail means the horse has been known to kick. Green tape means the horse is young or inexperienced (and may kick out if frightened). Give both plenty of room.
- Putting red or green tape on your horse's tail does not absolve you in any way of responsibility for your horse. If you think your horse may kick, keep it away from others and to the rear of the field. Should you find yourself surrounded by others, then one hand held behind your back will warn of the need for extra space.
- If someone has fallen off or is in trouble, offer to help – it maybe you next time!
- In the event of provocation from 'Antis' **do not engage** under any circumstance. Another clip on YouTube showing a Hunt follower losing his (or her) temper, will do our sport no favours.
- When going home it is polite to say "Goodnight" to the Master. Before leaving, please check with the Master or Duty Secretary to confirm that your intended route back to your box doesn't cross land not accessible to the Hunt on that particular day. Please remember to leave gates as you find them and to thank all road users as they slow to pass you.