

CHSC Chairman's Report AGM 2010

Ladies and gentlemen thank you and welcome to the CHSC 2010 AGM. It is nice to see so many of you here tonight and I will try and keep the business end of the evening to the minimum. As usual the year seems to have flown by and once again we are looking back on a hugely successful and busy year. As your Treasurer will shortly set out before you, financially we have done exceptionally well this year, and were in a position to give the hunt a much needed advance payment of £6,000 at the last hunt meeting. I should mention that this was largely due in part to the enormous input that Michael Dungworth, Russell Nearn, and their team put into running the The Grumpy Huntsman at Garthorpe which made, over the five meetings, the sizeable sum of £4,700. Well worth running and an enormous undertaking, and this year they have run it once again at the Cottesmore and Belvoir with the Quorn, Melton and Meynell to come. Fingers crossed for good days. A big thank you to all those of you who contributed towards raising so much and I am very proud and pleased that once again we are in a position to be able to hand over to the hunt the sizeable sum of £11,000 which together with the £6,000 already handed over amounts to £17,000.

- Sadly as is always the case we have had to say farewell to a number of hunt supporters during the past year, namely; Robin Abel-Smith, the Earl of Gainsborough, Colonel Gilks, Richard Micklethwaite, Mrs Richard Scott, Jack South and Bill Reynolds, (a personal sadness since as a little girl we farmed at Pytchley and Bill was a father figure to me), If we could perhaps have a moments silence in their memory. Thank you.

- Although I reviewed last year's Open Day in the autumn edition of the Foot Slogger I would once again like to thank everyone associated with the day for their huge input, it does take a lot of people a lot of time and hard work to put on such a highly successful day. Please note this years date is Sunday 13th June.
- Once again Ketton Hunter Trials was a great success, energetically organized and run by Jenny Dale, Janet and Graham Mills and Russell Nearn and all the team. A good profit of £2,000 was made and the sun shone.
- Charlotte Stokes very kindly organized the Start of Season party at Halstead Farm which proved to be a very good venue and a very enjoyable evening.
- In the run up to Christmas Jan and Mike Saunders once again kindly hosted their ever popular Autumn drinks party, which as always was well attended and great fun with a considerable profit made. Our thanks must go to them both, for hosting this party for so many years.
- Greetham Valley was once again the venue for the Christmas lunch where 154 people enjoyed an excellent meal. A healthy profit of £2,000 was made with the tombola, run by Trish Holmes and Ros Rowley, raising £885. Trish Holmes and Jeff Lewin kindly donated the use of one their Marquees for auction which was purchased by Jenny Dale raising £500. As always the Hornblowing competition, judged by Jamie Hawksfield joint master of the Crawley & Horsham, was interesting to say the least, but Jamie was relieved to have adjudged the winner as Jack Bevan. The ladies blew well with Monica Tebbutt Wheat coming out on top with Charlie Coleman and Marcus Parsons coming equal first in the children's section.

- Our supporters club meet at the Kennels is always a very popular occasion and there appeared to be a large mounted field and definitely more foot followers than last year. We had a busy days hunting and Trish Holmes worked very hard to keep the urn on the boil all afternoon for the many people who came back for tea. Once again to all those ladies, and possibly gentlemen, who kindly donated cakes and sandwiches my sincere thanks, it is very kind of you all to keep contributing food for both the supporters meet and the Open Day and very much appreciated.
- Sasha and William de Gale very kindly offered to host our End of Season party at their lovely home in Tinwell, 110 people much enjoyed themselves with two extremely good singers entertaining us through the evening, one currently singing in Cats. Adam Cooke was the lucky winner of a bottle of champagne and Robin Smith-Ryland won a beauty session in Stamford! My thanks go to both Sasha and William and to all those who helped her, including Margot and Charles Sly for kindly donating the vegetables for the meal. The evening raised £1,200.
- Unfortunately, in retrospect, I appreciate it was more suited to hunt subscribers and their friends, for which I can only apologise and attempt to rectify this next year.
- With regard to the many different and varied social functions we run, I mentioned in my letter in January, that I was concerned that some of you were missing out on Get Togethers and rather than just being a fund raising arm of the hunt I should like to run more events for the core members, and asked for feed back. One or two of you did contact me with ideas, and I'm happy to say that Richard Besant is going to be running a Clay Pigeon Shoot on Sunday 20th June and I hope there will be a Quiz and supper evening at Toft in the summer, but it is something I am very well aware of, but would like to say that the aspirations of club members are very varied and we do try to strike a balance. On the one hand raising money for the hunt and on the other putting on parties, pub evenings whatever, if the balance has tipped, once again I can only apologise and try and redress the balance.

There are a number of key people that I would like to take this opportunity of thanking for their support and contribution to the success of the supporters club throughout the year, - namely:

- All the area reps for continuing to collect the membership monies and for distributing the Foot Slogger.
- Christine Abrames and Linda Wooley for turning out on a regular basis throughout the season to collect the car caps.
- Ken Hallam and Alan Comber for running the merchandise and the highly profitable whisky raffle, which raised £1,500 despite the fact that so many meets were cancelled, and to all those who donated bottles for the raffle.
- Max Stewart for continuing to keep the website so brilliantly up to date and interesting and Ros Rowley for editing the Foot Slogger.
- And last but not least I should like to acknowledge the enormous contribution that your committee put in towards making the supporters' club so successful and the huge amount of time and effort they put in towards raising so much money for the hunt. Thank you to you all.

Finally I should like to extend my thanks to your President, Jeanne Dungworth who behind the scenes works tirelessly for the benefit of both the hunt and the supporters' club. She is a person of enormous integrity, has a very wise old head on her shoulders and when asked has always given me sound advice and enormous support. Thank you Jeanne for all you do for the supporters' club and I look forward to another year working with you. Thank you.