

A very warm welcome from the Joint Masters to all Members, Supporters and Followers of the Badsworth & Bramham Moor Hounds

As a Mastership we thought it would be a good idea to have a newsletter done very informally to keep you all in touch with certain aspects of our sport and also to give you the opportunity to ask questions (which if not too difficult!) we could endeavour to answer.

It is not always the easiest or best place to approach a Master on the Hunting field as they normally have their minds on the day ahead; fresh horses and a field of over excited members and subscribers are a very good way of concentrating even the most expert of Masters and Field Masters! But with the aid of this email you can field your questions in your own time and hopefully learn a bit about the job as seen through the eyes of the ones at the sharp end!

We have had an excellent start to the season already, (from August to November) with all records being smashed for numbers joining us for our Autumn season. Although this is the time of year in which our Master and Huntsman educates his young hounds, it can also be a very enjoyable and social one, (very good after hunting breakfasts!) We have been blighted with very little scent this Autumn as have other packs, with temperatures reaching and all time high of 29C at Arthington this year. All credit to our Master and Huntsman Nigel Dickson for keeping his "cool" in the sweltering conditions.

This season also saw the return of the Antis, joining us from the off at our Kennels meet in August. This I am afraid is going to be an on-going situation, but we would like to thank you all for your cooperation in helping us deal with this situation. No one is comfortable with most of our Saturdays being plagued by them but we have had tremendous support from the Police and from you, and although it is not ideal we feel we are managing it as best we can. The good news is we do now appear to share these with other local packs, some of whom have never been subjected to Antis before, and this gives us and our landowners a well needed let up day.

Life at the Kennels is very busy; we have a new "Bursary Boy" in kennels this year to help Mark (our Kennel Huntsman) and Vicky (our Stud Groom). Tom has come to us from deepest darkest Wales! And has settled in very well, many of you will have seen him out this autumn. B&BMH will, we hope be the first step into a career in Hunt Service for Tom, and as a Hunt it is great to watch the success of this scheme. We are now on our third "Boy" and both Robert and Jo who were with us before have good jobs with the Cottesmore and Percy Hunts.

On the subject of the Kennels, we have this year a bumper load of "pups". We are always looking for people to walk them, no experience required! But perhaps a love of long country walks! It really is just a question of asking to walk some, and it is certainly open to all, please don't be shy!! Mark and his team do a great job looking after the hounds but it is so much better if pups can have a few weeks out at walk to learn a little bit of life away from the kennels.

Both Wayne Burnell and Katie Carr are now in training for their race day at Doncaster on November 25th, we wish them both well and hope that one of them wins! (No pressure guys!) It should be a good day out and if you fancy a nice lunch and a very social afternoon we might see you there, I am sure they would appreciate the support.

We hope that you enjoy your season with BBMH, as a Mastership we enjoy setting it up for you, and a big thank you to our farmers and landowners for allowing us to enjoy our sport. As we are now into our season proper let's hope that we get good scent and Hounds fly! Kick on and have fun. In your haste to be first over your rail or hedge spare a thought for the chaps in front who will have walked it for you and give us a bit of room!

The Masters

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