



THE ADELAIDE HUNT CLUB

Est. 1840

the Fox and Hound

the Newsletter of The Adelaide Hunt Club: Early Winter 2010

Dates To Remember

WEDNESDAY 23 to TUESDAY 29 JUNE. Ellerslie Invitation Hunts in Victoria. Contact Andrew Gray for further details.

SATURDAY 10 JULY 10.00am Wellington Lodge Childrens' Hunt/Evening Woolshed Party **6.00pm.** Great family weekend. Overnight accommodation available.

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST 7.00pm Hunt Ball at The InterContinental (formerly Hyatt). An Adelaide social highlight since the 1840s featuring the colourful and unique Dance Of The Lancers.

Colourful Start To The Season



Blaze Of Glory: Adelaide Hunt Club's opening hunt cuts through the vineyards of Leigh and Simon Haigh's Woodside home Three Oaks where stirrup cup was held. The hunt started and concluded at Henry Ringwood's nearby property Yullundi.



Want To Have A Ball?

A reminder that tickets to the Hunt Ball on August 14 are sold as tables of 10, although composite tables are also available. As usual The InterContinental is offering discounted accommodation for those who want to party into the wee hours. To purchase tickets and further information please call the Adelaide Hunt Club. Phone 8388 6084 or email ahgray@bigpond.com

MASTER'S REPORT

Despite being abandoned for a couple of weeks by the first whip/wife (or should that be the other way around?) at the start of the Hunt season, all is in order and the hounds are going well. Yes, for the first time in 18 years my right hand woman avoided new-season stresses by attending her brother's wedding in Scotland. (We didn't want her to feel left out so we kindly left her a few horses to clip when she got back).

Opening Hunt on Sunday May 23 brought with it cooler weather but it didn't stop some 40 riders turning up, beautifully turned-out, to Henry Ringwood's property Yullundi at Woodside (see social pictures following). A great showing from Salisbury, Fleurieu and Strathalbyn Hunts joined Adelaide members and seven couples of hounds to traverse the scenic countryside.

As usual there were carloads of enthusiastic followers cheering and watching on. All made it back safely and enjoyed a barbecue bonfire to keep warm and nourished. Only a small number of hounds attended, despite having a much bigger pack at the kennels (we have an unusual amount of pups this year not appropriate for big days out, as well as some older hounds that are not so quick on their feet anymore).

In other news, the Children's Hunt on May 16 was also a great day, attended by 18 junior riders and a few seniors. The field enjoyed a spin around the paddock on hound exercise followed by jumping for those who wished, with terrier races and pancakes providing entertainment and sustenance.

Hunting continues twice weekly throughout the season and all are welcome at the Kennels at any time for hound exercise.

Andrew

Hooray For Hounds...And Their Sponsors

Hunting just wouldn't be the same without the amazing pack of Adelaide Hunt Club hounds. Following is the 2010 roll call and the very generous sponsors who support each hound. And for (almost) everything else you need to know about the hounds please see our special feature on page four.



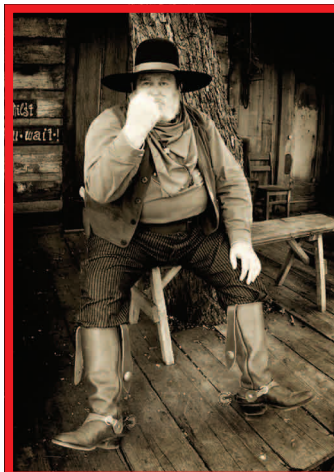
DOGS

Balfour (Stephen Young); Wallace (Mark and Belinda Lindh); Walker (Lucy and Hamilton Walker); Noble (Hamish Woodcock); Norfolk (David Darke); Nickel (Chris Hocking's Bull Rentals); Potter (Richard and Sophie Mintz); Jockular (John McCoy); Justice (Liz Holland-Clarke); Wetherby (Terry Clausen); Bishop (Phillip Archer); Biscuit (Michael Hayward/Ecoplus Water Tanks); Selkirk (Motorlab Pty Ltd); Lamington (Kai Pottharst/Carpet Burners); Lincoln (Oakbank Veterinary Centre); Lofty (Amanda and Wayne Dyer); Lancer (Frank Collard); Logic (Power Mower Services); Label (Two Hands Wines); Lucerne (Duncan and Oopy MacGillivray); Lignum (Ron Corso);

(Dogs cont..) Lager (Hagen Arms Hotel); Lattice; Woodman (Nick and Natalie Roberts).

BITCHES

Boston (Wellington Hotel); Bracken (Phil Steer/Summit Airconditioning); Joplin (Graham Reynolds); Worship (Barbara Chapman); Berry (Fleurieu Hunt Club); Nettle (Wellington Road Veterinary Clinic); Nina (Bill Vis/VIP Home Services); Possum (David Lindh); Portrait (Phil Capon); Painting (John and Gwen Havard); Sapphire (Jo and Clinton Alcock); Walford; Wilderness (Travis Tremellen); Wilga (Lee Cataldi); Willow (Mattens Saddlery); Whisper (David and Lynette McFarlane); Jigsaw (The McGregor Boys); Lotus (John Rowley); Shiver (Sharon and Skye Reeves); Scarlet (Margaret Lee); Saharah (Tom Galbraith); Salute (Bridget Lewis); Blossom (Annie McGregor); Bramble (Glenda Couch-Keen); Wiggle (Coopers Rural and Hardware); Wrinkle (Millie Brennan); Widget (Penny Galbraith); Lilac (Chris Verco); Lavender (The Bridge Hotel – Langhorne Creek); Lupin (Steve Milham and Family); Linen; Wonder (Bruce Dumbrell/Leader Products); Paper (Sydney Bickerton); Lisa; Lara (Oakbank Hotel).



“I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to become a vegetarian”

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Member Profile



Clinton Alcock

EARNs A CRUST AS:

Owner/operator of Grand West Insurance Brokers

HOME TOWN:

Adelaide

HOME SUPPORT CREW:

My lovely wife, Joey. I certainly wouldn't be hunting without her support

CURRENT HORSE(S):

Rose, an 18.2 Warmblood mare and Marg, a lovely Percheron cross

STARTED RIDING:

When I was 30...but I truly wish I had started much earlier

WHAT LED TO HUNTING:

Great friends Ron Harland and Pat Shaw, for which I am extremely grateful

MOST MEMORABLE HUNT/WHY?:

There are quite a few, for all the wrong reasons - I used to ride a crazy Warmblood that spent more time in the air than on the ground. The two best hunts, however, are probably this year's openings for Fleurieu and Adelaide. They were my first opening hunts and both horses went very well.

DRINK OF CHOICE:

An icy cold beer off the wood with mates or a big Noon's red.



THE OPENING HUNT IN PICTURES (clockwise, from top left): Long-time member Christobel Walton; Imogen, 2, with grandpa David Lindh; Jimmy Hailstone and his pony Pageant; Master Gray and Smudge lead the field over a cap; The crowd gathers for pre-hunt stirrup cup; Richard Cooper and Clinton Alcock having a chat; Greg Hailstone keeping steady on Bundy.



Foxy Facts About The Adelaide Hunt Club Hounds

Hounds are traditionally referred to as 'hounds' and not dogs, however the male hounds should be called dogs and the females called bitches (even if they're actually quite nice....). On the hunting field any non-hounds are known as cur dogs.



The number of hounds in a pack is always counted in pairs, known as 'couples'. Any odd number is called a half, ie. a pack of 20 hounds is ten couple and 21 is ten and a half. The term comes from the practise of pairing-up hounds during training.

No gender of bound hunts better than the other. The Adelaide Hunt Club's bound gender breakdown is currently one-third dogs and two-thirds bitches but it is usually fifty-fifty. There is no one top dog or 'alpha male' – this role is usually transferred to the Huntsman (who is the keeper, trainer and breeder of hounds).



Taking care of hounds is an around-the-clock affair, twelve months of the year (unlike horses, which can be turned out in a paddock when they are not hunting). They must be kennelled and tended to, morning and night, and turned out for exercise in the hound paddock during the day.

As well as providing dry dog food and mince, the cost of keeping hounds includes worming and vaccinations and the upkeep of the kennels. There are also staffing costs to ensure the kennels are kept clean and hygienic and the pack is supervised to avoid any in-fighting or aggression.

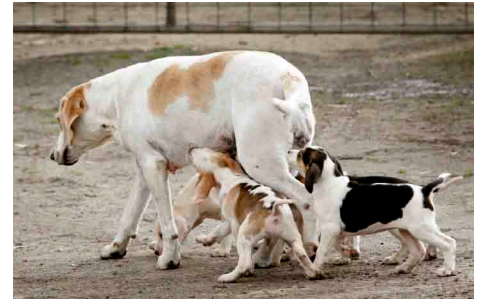
Hounds fall into two distinct categories: those bred for speed and those with a good nose for following scent. A good hound pack will have a balanced spread of hunting characteristics. Breeding programs are based on what hunting strengths need enhancing or maintaining.



Bitches and dogs chosen for breeding are mated early spring, as soon as the hunting season is over. Gestation takes 63 days and the puppies are weaned and off playing around the kennels within eight weeks of birth. The average litter size is eight to ten puppies.

On hunts the hounds controlled and guided by the Master. Designated hunt riders known as 'whips' assist the Master to keep the pack on track.

The summer break for hounds lasts six and a half months. For the five and a half months they are in work they are slowly brought up to hunting fitness by exercising with the horses six days a week. Pups don't officially hunt with the pack until they are 12 months old.



The Adelaide Hunt Club pack comprises around 20 couple (40 hounds). Most hounds are descended from Ellerslie Hunt (Victoria) and the former Silpark Hunt (South Australia). These packs were formed using imported bloodlines from the USA and UK. Current hound Ellerslie Lotus (pictured above) was a gift from Master John Goold, out of his hound Midlands Linton - itself a gift from USA Master Mason Lampton. Linton was sired by the best dog hound owned by USA legendary huntsman and hound breeder Ben Hardaway.

Hound names always start with the same first letter as their mother. They are also two or more syllables and sometimes the result of a Google search by the Master's children. Nothing is officiated until the hound begins hunting, when its full name is also prefixed by the hunt, eg. Adelaide Logic.



Hound puppies usually take two or three seasons (around age four) to become competent hunters. Every hound that is bred at the kennels goes on to hunt and will hunt for around a decade.