

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNT WITH ENFIELD CHACE

October 2020

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS AND GUIDE FOR FOLLOWERS 2020-2021 SEASON

Introduction

This guide is aimed at helping us all keep safe in these unusual circumstances, staff and officials, followers, our hosts and landowners and also the general public. Please direct any general queries concerning this guidance to Henry Herdman and any queries regarding Field money/tickets/caps etc to either Tim Ireson or Diana Nelson. Our guidance to you is based on information provided by The Hunting Office on behalf of the MFHA and compliance is required by all of us, at all times.

Not only do we need to do the right things, we need to be seen to do the right things (by the general public and our opponents) and act responsibly if we are to have the opportunity to carry on our sport as usual. We may need to limit numbers at times, either in total or in terms of numbers within groups during the day, to comply with government guidance. Please keep a careful watch on hunt emails for updated information and call one of the secretaries if you are unsure of anything.

Key points:

- Until further notice, **ALL MOUNTED AND FOOT** followers must contact Tim Ireson or Diana Nelson by email or text, well in advance of a day you wish to hunt to book a space and at latest by 7pm the day before. So that they can book you in, add your details to the track and trace list and for all mounted followers to pre pay.
 - Keep yourself up to date with government guidelines on social distancing, self-isolation and hygiene – if you live in, or keep your horses in, a local lockdown area do not come out hunting, and if you are not in a lockdown area do not drive through one en route
 - If you have any suspicion that you have Covid-19 symptoms, or have been in contact with anyone with Covid-19 symptoms or a Covid-19 diagnosis, do not come out hunting in any capacity but follow government guidance as regards self-isolation and follow any medical advice
 - Wash your hands before leaving home and sanitise hands regularly during the day.
 - Always keep an appropriate social distance from other people whether mounted or not, and only travel out hunting with other people if allowed by government guidelines
 - Carry with you masks/gloves/sanitiser sufficient to fulfil your own needs and also to enable you to assist in an emergency or more generally, by e.g. sanitising gate catches before and after use
 - Follow any instructions given before a hunting day or out hunting by Masters/Officials or Hunt Stewards, and in particular avoid congestion in gateways/tracks/roads
 - If any person from Police, Local Authority or Health and Safety Executive (or any other government agency) attends and has queries re Covid-19 compliance, please direct them to speak to one of the hunt secretaries or masters.
 - As ever, do not engage with hunt saboteurs in any way
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Social distancing

Booking in and checking in

Until further notice, any person wishing to attend a hunting day mounted must contact either Tim Ireson or Diana Nelson well in advance of the day in order to book in, and no later than 7pm on the day before. If you find you cannot attend a day you have booked in for, please let Tim or Diana know as soon as possible so your place can be made available for someone else. Anyone turning up on the day without booking in risks being sent home

ALL MOUNTED FOLLOWERS - To avoid the handling of cash on hunting days when you phone up to book in for a hunting day you will be given the bank account details so that you can transfer the money across online.

Until further notice, mounted visitors will only be able to join us if there is space, they have booked in (as above), paid in advance as above. If you have contacts who want to come out, ask them to contact Tim or Diana in good time to check whether they can be accommodated on a particular day – or they risk being asked to leave. Visitors being allowed to join us could change at times depending on government guidelines and advice from the hunting office and the MFHA.

General social distancing

We will need to follow whatever government guidelines are in place at the time of each hunting day. All of us need to take responsibility for our own safety, and help others around us to stay safe. If you are feeling unwell, with a fever or any symptoms that could be Covid-19 related, stay on the side of caution and do not come out (whether car/foot/mounted) until you know that you are either recovered or definitely do not have Covid-19. Please refer to government and NHS guidance for more details on symptoms and self-isolation periods.

If you live in a lockdown area, or keep horses in a lockdown area, you must not come out hunting until the lockdown is lifted. Do not drive through any lockdown areas to come hunting, either stay away or take a suitable diversion.

Only travel with members of your household wherever possible. If you do need to share vehicles, do so only to the extent that social distancing can be observed and take added precautions with face masks, appropriate positioning and ventilation and regular sanitising.

At all times during the hunting day, whether mounted or not, always be cautious and maintain appropriate distancing and hygiene. Until further notice, wherever possible maintain a two metre distance, or a minimum of one metre distance when mounted outdoors and not face to face, or when wearing a mask. Observe these precautions at all times and avoid face to face positioning.

If you wish to wear a mask or other face covering for personal protection, please do so. You may be asked by Master/Officials/Stewards, whether mounted or not, to wait in groups of restricted size at certain points in the day and distance between the groups. Please move promptly when requested,

Children

All children under 14 years old and mounted must be accompanied by a mounted adult who is responsible for them. If you are accompanying a child, you are responsible for ensuring at all times that this guidance is followed by them. The parents or guardians of anyone aged 14-16 years old hunting without an adult to supervise are responsible for ensuring the child understands and is capable of complying with this guidance.

Parking

Where possible please can foot followers avoid parking in the same place as mounted followers and please can everyone parking try and park as sensibly as possible to allow for social distancing at all times.

Meets and food and drink during the hunting day

Information on where/when hounds will meet will be provided through our usual communication channels. Meets will be very brief and will simply allow appropriate organisation of the field by the Field Master, so please will mounted followers be prompt and wait suitably distanced until given instructions to move off. Car/foot followers should not congregate at meet locations but wait at a safe distance, socially distanced, and move off after the mounted field. During autumn hunting there will be no refreshments served before or after hunting, and this will continue to be the case for the main season until further notice.

At the meet, during the day and at the end of the day there must be no sharing of food, except with others of your own household, and no sharing of hip flasks with anyone at any time until further notice.

Respect for landowners and general public

Courtesy to all non-hunting people is more important than ever, please take great care not to block roads at any time and keep your distance from any non-hunting person you meet. Also please acknowledge and thank cars which get stuck behind us out roads or which give way to us etc.

Without the kindness of land owners, farmers etc throughout our hunt Country we wouldn't be able to continue, and we are always grateful for their generosity. This year, and while this virus continues, we might be more limited as to where we are allowed to go, so it is important that you listen to any instructions given by the Master. Do not assume that we will take the same route as previous years, or that trails will be have been laid in the same direction.

Do not lean on fences or gates and if opening or closing a gate, either wear a clean glove which is then put in a bag for later disposal/sanitising, or sanitise gate latches handled before and afterwards.

Masters will give instructions to the mounted field as regards gates, but help from foot and car followers with gates (as they can more easily sanitise catches etc) will be even more appreciated than usual!

Cars

Car followers must not drive onto private tracks or other land but must remain on tarmac roads or adjacent verges. Unless you are certain it is a place you have permission to be. This is important due to the restrictions we have to work to.

Photography and Social media

It is of great importance that everyone takes great care not to post and comment on pictures that may be taken (or misrepresented) to show government guidelines and safe practice are being breached, or that we are behaving in an inconsiderate manner in this very difficult situation.

Many thanks for your co-operation. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

The Joint Masters