

July 2023

Dear Member,

MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR THE 2022/2023 SEASON

The Directors, Masters and Secretaries of the Old Berkshire Hunt Ltd would like to thank all our subscribers and members for their welcome and much appreciated support last season and hope that you have been making the best of the summer. We were extremely pleased to regain a sense of normality last season and I am sure you will all agree that we had many enjoyable days trail hunting. With the new 2023/24 season fast approaching the team is busy preparing to kick start it with much enthusiasm. Hunting costs have had to increase this season by around 10%, to attempt to keep pace with our cost increases, though we have kept caps for younger members unchanged. We continue to actively work to minimise costs, alongside providing quality hunting.

Hunting subscriptions with the OBH continue to be great value for money, and we managed to enjoy many days autumn and winter hunting last season. We are hoping to have a full and very enjoyable season ahead (weather permitting!)

This season we look forward to welcoming members, subscribers, subscribers' guests and visitors to the OBH. We require that **ALL** mounted followers **MUST** have Third Party Liability, and preferably Personal Accident Insurance. Individuals are responsible for ensuring that they have the cover. Membership of the Pony Club or parent(s) membership of the Countryside Alliance, generally provides the cover required for children. Membership of the Countryside Alliance for the individual provides cover for hunting. Proof may be required from non-members prior to a day's hunting.

OBH Membership

This is set at £170 (ie equivalent of a little over £5 per week for the season).

All followers, whether mounted or on foot, who wish to share the hunt's permissions to cross private land are required to be members of the OBH. Membership is automatically included within a Subscription.

Foot follower members wishing to go onto private land, particularly in vehicles, must check with the Master in charge of the day exactly where the Hunt has permission to go.

Please note OBH Supporters Club membership does not entitle you to this access and we request that OBHSC members please stay on highways and public rights of way.

Subscriptions

The rates shown are for mounted followers, except they do not apply to Farmers and Landowners of 100 acres or more, in the area hunted by the Old Berkshire Hunt Ltd. However, Farmers and Landowners are asked to donate as generously as possible, bearing in mind these rates.

Subscription rates or use of tickets apply to the individual or family members - they do not cover guests riding subscribers' or ticket holders' horses – please contact one of the secretaries in advance to agree a "guest donation".

Type	Description	Amount	Includes
Family Subscription	2 Adults + 2 Children mounted (17 yrs & under)	£3,960	All hunting OBH Membership OBHSC membership
Couple Subscription	2 Adults - mounted (residing at the same address)	£3,385	All Hunting OBH Membership OBHSC membership
Individual Subscription	Single Adult – mounted	£2,030	All Hunting OBH Membership OBHSC membership
OBH Club 18-30 Subscription	Single Adult 18-30 years old - mounted	£770	All Hunting OBH Membership OBHSC membership
OBH Junior Subscription	17 yrs & under - mounted	£450	All Hunting OBH Membership OBHSC membership
OBH Hunt Membership	Single Adult membership	£170	OBH Membership OBHSC membership access to Members' cap rates
Membership Tickets	Single Adult – 8 tickets	£1075	8 x Hunting tickets (does not include Autumn Hunting)
Point to Point Qualifier	Subscription per Horse @BHSA rate payable to Weatherby's		Rate as approved by BHSA & PTP Authority

This season we will continue to offer a standing order payment option; details are in the enclosed subscription form.

Subscribers' children, or grandchildren being escorted on the day:

- Individual Membership Subscription – one child (17 years and under) hunts for free
- Family Membership Subscription – two children (17 years and under) hunt for free

AUTUMN HUNTING

The OBH intends to start Autumn Hunting from early September 2023, subject to harvest etc. It is the intention of the Masters that during autumn hunting, hounds will meet up to 5 times per week. Weekday meets will predominantly be early mornings, but it is hoped there will be opportunity to provide popular Saturday afternoon meets too.

Caps for autumn hunting will be payable from the commencement of autumn hunting and will be as below:

AUTUMN HUNTING	OBH Members & OBH PC members	Non-Members
Adults (18 and over)	£45	£65
Juniors (12-17)	£20	£30
Juniors (12 and under)	£10	£20

Please note:

- Subscribers enjoy Autumn Hunting for free, provided the subscription has been paid prior to coming out.
- Member Cap rates apply provided Membership has been paid prior to coming out. (Members tickets (see Main Hunting Season below) do not include autumn hunting).
- Non-members are subject to Non-Members autumn hunting cap rates.

MAIN HUNTING SEASON

Day Cap Rates

All mounted followers are subject to day cap rates, excluding Subscribers, and Farmers and Landowners as above.

Cap payment

Caps may be paid by BACS in advance, given to the Secretary as cheque or cash on the day, or taken by card/phone reader on the day. The Secretaries require that you or your visitors register with the Secretaries by the evening before (bank and contact details on subscription form).

A **maximum** of three days' hunting will be permitted (whether by invitation, payment of cap etc) before either a Subscription, or Membership plus a book of Members' Tickets will be required. Please speak to the Secretaries to discuss your options; credit will be given for day caps already paid.

	OBH Members & OBH PC members	Non-members
Saturdays, Boxing Day, Christmas Eve		
Adults over 30	£110	£165
Adults 18-30	£55	£75
Juniors (17 and under)	£20	£30
Weekdays		
Adults over 30	£90	£130
Adults 18-30	£45	£65

Juniors (17 and under)	£20	£30

Detailed caps for children

These rates apply to those who are 17 years and under. It is hoped these packages may encourage children who would like to come hunting with the OBH, but do not have family support to enable this. Caps will remain the same whether for a weekday or a Saturday.

Child cap rates	
Child led, leader on foot	£10
Package: Led child, leader mounted	£55 (covers leader and child)
Package: Child off leading rein, but needing 1:1 chaperone	£65 (covers chaperone and child)

A **maximum** of three days hunting will be permitted before a child's parent must become an OBH Member.

Chaperones

Please contact Jess Simpson monksfarmhendred@gmail.com who may be able to help find a chaperone.

Arrangements will need to be made between parent and chaperone, which will be a private and independent agreement. We ask that you inform the Secretaries prior to a day's hunting what your intentions are, and to discuss cap for the day.

It is not the responsibility of the Secretaries or any other member of the field to look after your child, unless personally agreed.

If a chaperone wishes to stay out after their charge has gone home, then permission will need to be sought from the Secretary and/or Field Master of the day.

The British Hound Sports Association - Supporters Club

The Directors and Masters encourage to all mounted, foot and car followers join the BHSASC if you have not already done so. The BHSA brought together the governing bodies of hunting with foxhounds, beagles, harriers, basset and stag packs in the United Kingdom, to preserve, protect and promote the future of hunting with hounds.

The BHSA supports trail hunting and exempt hunting and has accredited 242 packs of hounds, supporting the welfare, conservation of hound breeds and registered hunts. It advises hunts how to deal with anti's, how to manage laying of trails and is conducting a review of terrier work. The BHSA Campaign for Hunting sets out the

issues and challenges that are faced and needs members to fund its work to protect hunting. Please go to www.bhsa.org.uk to find out more.

Countryside Alliance

The Directors and Masters encourage all mounted, foot and car followers to support the Countryside Alliance.

Gate Shutting

The Mastership advises that there are no allocated gate shutters during a day's hunting, **it is the responsibility of EVERY follower, mounted or otherwise, to ensure that ALL gates are properly closed during a day's hunting.** We are exceptionally fortunate to have farmers and landowners that allow us to cross some of Oxfordshire's most beautiful country; please **respect this privilege and be aware at all times.**

Fund Raising Events

As you are all aware, fundraising events provide a large proportion of our income, the Directors, Masters and Secretaries would like to thank you in advance for all your support, through sponsorship, volunteering or attendance during the 2023/24 season.

Events need an army of willing volunteers. If you are able to offer time and energy to assist or to lead any events please contact the Secretaries who will forward your details as appropriate.

Equally, if you have any ideas / thoughts on potential fund-raising events which you would be willing to help organise in the future, please add these to the fundraising section of the subscription form.

Confirmation

By returning the subscription form, with your payment, you confirm that you wish to become a Member of the Old Berkshire Hunt Ltd, subject to the provisions of the legal documents by which the company was set up; if you wish to see any of these documents, please contact one of the Secretaries.

Yours sincerely

Laura Caudle, Chris Brown, Alice Margey

Joint Honorary Secretaries
obhsecretaries@gmail.com