



## ETIQUETTE

**The purpose of hunting etiquette is to ensure that everyone has a safe and fun day, and that our landowners are happy. All members and visitors are therefore requested to observe the following at all times whilst out hunting with the Hamilton Bloodhounds.**

### Horses

1. Please do not bring a horse which you know or have any reason to believe may be unsafe or unsuitable for hunting in any respect. If your horse starts to behave dangerously or inappropriately or in a manner which may result in injury to you or any other persons, horses or hounds, please immediately leave the field.
2. In particular, if your horse is a known kicker, do not bring it hunting. If your horse may kick then it must wear a red ribbon and stay at the back of the field at all times. It is your responsibility to keep it well away from horses and hounds: do not leave it up to others to stay away from you.
3. If your horse is new to hunting, it must wear a green ribbon for the first few times you bring it out, until such time as you are confident that it will behave safely and appropriately both as regards hounds and in the field. Please give yourself plenty of space, and if you need to, stay at the back. Although others in the field will be aware that your horse is new to hunting, it is your responsibility to do your best to stay away from others: do not simply rely on them staying away from you.
4. If the Field Master or a committee member or senior member thinks that you or your horse are behaving dangerously or inappropriately or in a manner which may result in injury to you or any other persons, horses or hounds, they may ask you to leave the field, in which case please do so immediately and with good grace.

### Hounds

5. Please keep your horse at a safe distance from hounds, and always turn your horse to face hounds and hunt staff as they pass.

6. Do not over-ride a hound. If a hound is trailing behind, and near the mounted field, give it plenty of space and allow it to pass. If a hound stops to 'empty', please wait to allow this to happen before moving on.

### **The Meet**

7. If you are new to hunting, or to the Hamilton Bloodhounds, you are very strongly advised not to come to the Meet alone but to bring a friend or relative who can be on hand to help, and in the event of an injury, be with you and take you and your horse home.
8. The Huntsman and hounds will move off at the advertised time whether you are ready or not. Please therefore arrive at the Meet in good time to ensure you are tacked up, mounted and ready.
9. The Field Master for the day will give a short address at the Meet. This will include important instructions for the day. You must ensure that you are close enough to hear, that you listen carefully, and that you obey whatever instructions are given.

### **In the field**

10. Please remain behind the Field Master at all times.
11. Any instructions or messages must be passed up or down the field without delay.
12. Do not ride too close to the horse in front, and do not use it as an aid to stopping.
13. Ensure that you stay well out of the way of the Huntsman and whips, and allow them to pass when necessary.
14. Please ride only where instructed to do so. Do not take your own line. Do not 'go for a jolly' over other areas just because they look inviting.
15. Please remember that we are only able to hunt because the landowner has allowed us to do so. You must be courteous at all times to the landowner, and you must treat the land with respect.
16. Please allow plenty of room and space for horses to jump. If your horse is a sticky jumper, don't block the fence or ditch by trying to jump again and again. Let other horses through to avoid dangerous bottle necking. Move to the side quickly, and have another go once it is safe to do so.
17. If somebody falls, and you are one of the nearest riders, please wait and provide assistance where it is safe and possible to do so, summon back-up or contact the emergency services where necessary, and remain with the faller until they are safely remounted or help arrives.
18. If you need to go home, please stick to bridleways and roads as far as possible and do not cross parts of the land that we have not been given permission to hunt over.

### **Emergency Card**

19. Please ensure that you complete and carry with you at all times a Rider Emergency card. One can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the Secretary on request.

**The Public**

20. Always smile and be polite to all members of the public – even if it is not reciprocated!

21. If you hear a shout of 'Car Please' then move into the near side of the road. Always thank the driver and smile.