

IMPORTANT - HUNTING ETIQUETTE, RULES AND INFORMATION

You are only allowed to hunt because the Landowner/Farmer has given you permission for the hunt to cross the land.

Whenever possible, do not unbox at the meet and make sure you do not cause any obstruction to nearby residents when parking. Hacking to the meet from a distance warms your horse/pony up and gives you the opportunity to cool him down at the end of the day.

At the meet find the Hunt Secretary immediately and pay your cap. (Currently £15)

Always say cheery "good morning" to the **Hunt Staff and the Masters**. Find out who the field master is for that particular day and say good morning to them as well. You must follow the field master at all times, and listen out for any instruction during the day. Should you become separated from the field make your way quietly to the nearest road and catch up that way. Never go on land that you are unsure of.

Keep your horse's head towards the hounds as they pass by, move completely out of the way if possible. Kicking a hound is frowned upon and in some cases you could be sent home. Should your horse kick a hound or another horse, if it is appropriate and not a danger to anyone else, smack it once, hard. Or turn it away from others whilst you do so. Always immediately alert one of the masters if a hound does get kicked.

You should not knowingly bring a horse that dangerously kicks out at all. A red ribbon should be worn on your horse's tail, should you worry that it may kick. You should also keep this horse to the rear of the field and away from others. A green ribbon can be worn on the tail for a young or inexperienced horse.

Do not disturb livestock and keep to the edge of sown fields and young grass fields when following hounds. Always look at the terrain you are about to ride on.

Always repair a broken fence/gate to make it stock proof (string comes in very handy!) Report any damage immediately to the masters or secretary. You will have to pay for a new gate should you damage one, so only jump it if you know you and your horse are able to.

When on the road keep looking behind you and make sure NEVER to obstruct the traffic. Shout in a loud voice, "CAR PLEASE". Always thank all traffic, even those following by car.

It is the duty of every mounted follower to make sure that on passing through an opened gate he or she either SHUTS THE GATE or ensures that SOMEONE ELSE WILL DO SO. Do not repeatedly shout "Gate please" over your shoulder, always do your fair share of shutting the gates whilst you are out. Always thank someone if they are doing the gate for you. We are watching!!

You hunt at your own risk. The Flint and Denbigh Hunt or Pony Club accept no responsibility for any damage to you or your horse. Always look carefully where you are going particularly before you leap!

Hunting dress code is tweed jackets, white shirt and PC tie and badge, a stock can be worn instead of shirt and tie. Stocks are advisable as they keep you warm and give your neck a little more

protection. (They also can come in handy too as a bandage should you or your horse need one.) Fawn coloured jodhpurs or breeches, no jazzy coloured numnahs, clothing, girths or browbands are acceptable whilst hunting. A good pair of brown/black/fawn waterproof gloves, (keep a spare pair in your pocket for rainy days.) A hair net for those with long hair. A properly fitted and tagged riding hat and brown/black boots.

Your horse should be fit enough to hunt and correctly turned out, with tack that fits properly. Should your pony not be suitable or properly presented for hunting you may be asked to return home.

You should carry a piece of paper with your parents' mobile number on in your pocket in case of emergencies. Your parent or whoever has brought you and your horse out, should be in the vicinity of the hunt and not gone shopping or back home.

Always remember to be polite to everyone you come across and always remember to see the needs of your horse and others before yourself.

At the end of the day for you, ALWAYS say "goodnight" so we know you have gone home, and walk your horse home quietly. NEVER JUMP your way back to your box!

Good idea to have a bar of chocolate in your pocket,

If you hunt regularly it is a custom to tip the hunt staff at Christmas time. A "Christmas box" is always very welcome. The hunt staff work long hours and give up the majority of their Christmas to entertain you!

Please let either Louise (01352 711722 or 07780971681) or Lucy (01745 582421 or 07850593168) know if you are wishing to come out hunting, just so we can keep a look out for you. Please come and find us at the meet. HAPPY HUNTING!
