



## **CONISTON FOXHOUNDS** **NEWSLETTER**

Another season is coming to an end and the hope of a repeal of the Hunting Act comes ever closer, we have to continue to pull together, support our cause and safeguard our future. Michael, after over 18 years of service to the hunt both as whipper-in and huntsman is retiring at the end of the season. We thank him sincerely for his sterling work and wish him, Helen, Hector and Aimee all the very best for their future. **A TESTIMONIAL COLLECTION** is being organised and we are asking for donations for Michael to be sent to **Mr. E. Shepherd, Broad Oak, Crosthwaite, Cumbria**. A presentation will be made to Michael & Helen at a **DINNER DANCE**, to be held at the Windermere Hydro on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Numbers to the dance are limited and will be supplied on a first come basis. Tickets are priced at £25 and are available from **Mr. N. Salisbury, Betty Fold, Hawkshead Hill, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0PS**. Cheques for both are to be made payable to Coniston Foxhounds. The Hydro will provide a discounted rate for B&B for people wishing to stay over, otherwise there are several B&B's within walking distance of the hotel.

### **OWEN BALDING**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Owen Balding as our new huntsman. Owen's hunting roots go back to the Glaisdale Foxhounds country in North Yorkshire, as a child he would walk or bike to the Glaisdale meets. The whole Balding family were keen on hunting and always took their holidays at Easter in the fell country where the hunting bug truly hit Owen, Owen spent a huge amount of time with the late Johnny Richardson, learning and growing his obsession for hunting.

Owen's first job in hunting was kennel man with the York and Ainsty (South) moving to the Derwent, Near Scarborough as 1<sup>st</sup> Whipper-in and kennel huntsman for eight seasons. He is currently completing his thirteenth season as huntsman with the North Tyne Foxhounds in Northumberland.

Owen and his partner Rosslyn with children, James, 9 and Laura, 6 will move to Huntsman's Bungalow on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. We wish Owen and family every happiness in Coniston country and hope you will make them welcome.

### **Michael Burton**

Michael Burton will also join Coniston Foxhounds as Whipper-in on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Michael wishes to make a career in hunt service and has taken an active part in helping Michael Nicholson every weekend and during school holidays. We have been lucky to obtain a bursary

for Michael through the Master of Foxhounds Association. This is an apprenticeship scheme in animal

health care at NVQ level 2. Training will be delivered by the huntsman and assessed by Haddon training.

### **CONISTON COUNTRY FAIR**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**This event is our biggest fund raiser and we have had 2 very successful years, in spite of the appalling weather. This year the committee have handed £14,000 over to the hunt. We do need more help however and would appeal for all our followers to contact a committee member to offer their services, even if they can't make it on the day, help is needed both before and after the event. Please contact Steve Kennedy with any offers of assistance.**

### **The History of the Coniston Foxhounds 1825 - 1925**

#### **'In the Steps of Might Men'**

This book was published last summer and has already raised over £2,000 for the hunt. We had 1,000 copies printed and there are still plenty left. It costs £25 with £4.95 p&p and is available from Neil. It is a must for every supporter of the hunt and offers a fascinating insight into the early years.

### **FORTHCOMING DIARY EVENTS**

#### **Betty Fold Open Gardens**

#### **Kentmere & Staveley Hound Show**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Details from Ronnie Bell 015398 21114

#### **Rydal Show**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Car Treasure Hunt – Witherslack**

Contact Mike Clifton 015395 52314

#### **Intake Show**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

At the football field, Troutbeck

From 1.30 pm

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you haven't paid your subscription yet, please do so before the end of May – send to Claire Salisbury, Betty Fold, Hawkshead Hill, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0PS

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