



# The SaddleMag

THE VALE OF AYLESBURY WITH GARTH AND SOUTH BERKS HUNT

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your time -whatever the occasion  
- to eat, drink and enjoy!

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### The SaddleMag

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The views expressed herein are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the magazine. While every care is taken to ensure accuracy, regrettably we cannot be held responsible for any errors.

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If you would prefer not to receive this magazine in future, please notify Susie Bell.

With special thanks to all our contributors. If you would like us to publish your story, article, news or photographs, please contact Susie Bell (see left).

Cover Photograph by John Bell: two riders taking part in the Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride fly over the aeroplane fence at RAF Halton in fine style.

Copies of most photographs in this magazine may be purchased. Please contact Susie Bell for details.



## WELCOME

If you've just received this magazine for the first time, it's probably because you've been involved in one of the many events organised by the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt (the Vale of Aylesbury Sponsored Ride, Shire Lane Hunter Trials, point to point racing etc). We hope you enjoy our new-look magazine! Regular readers rest assured that despite the new coat of paint and broader outlook, there'll still be plenty of hunting news and views. JB & SB



Miriam Smith retires as editor: the contribution and dedication of Miriam Smith (right) to the Hunt magazine cannot be emphasized too strongly. She has worked with and supported me as editor since 1997, and before 1997 she assisted Daphne Aidley for many years. Miriam typed all the copy (32 pages including the adverts) and she was the driving force behind the advertising, without which we could not have produced the magazine. She was also responsible for the finance of the magazine which she handled with great efficiency and diplomacy – not an easy job when funds are difficult. We worked as a great team and I personally would like to thank Miriam for all the help she has given me and the magazine over many years. WS

Congratulations to John and Susie Bell who have re-designed the magazine and given it a fresh, modern image which we hope will attract many new readers and advertisers. The magazine committee's aim is to broaden the circulation of the magazine and reach other equestrian disciplines as well as hunting. We hope all our loyal readers and contributors will continue to enjoy the magazine in its new form – and that it will inspire many more contributors and advertisers to come forward. WS

You may have missed the Vale of Aylesbury sponsored ride at RAF Halton on 25th March, but there's still time to enter the Garth Hunt Club Spring Ride on 27th May

at Marlston Farm. Details from Amanda Stewart on 01491 684151 or e-mail amanda.stewart@btconnect.com. SB

Ben Sargeant is running the London marathon on 22nd April to raise funds for the Countryside Alliance. You can sponsor him via [www.countryside-alliance.org.uk](http://www.countryside-alliance.org.uk) or phone 01672 519470. Michaela Pulman (Mrs Ryde) is also running the marathon, in aid of Spinal Research. Sponsor Michaela at [www.justgiving.com/michaelaryde](http://www.justgiving.com/michaelaryde). Both are causes close to our hearts! SB

Olivers kindly loaned the Hunt a quad bike for the 2006/7 season and it has proved itself invaluable. It is for sale now at the very reasonable price of £4,850. All enquiries to Olivers on 01923 265211 (see also their advert on p8). The previous Hunt quad bike was raffled on Christmas Eve to raise funds and the lucky winner was Zara Vitry Trapman of Ley Hill. SB

Our apologies to everyone who has sent us articles or photos for inclusion which haven't appeared in this issue. Please don't let that put you off sending us material for the next issue – we will try to fit everything in next time! The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is Friday 15th June. JB



## with Alan Jackson, chairman of the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt

### Q HAVE YOU RIDDEN ALL YOUR LIFE?

A I was born in Chesham and introduced, at a very tender age, to gymkhanas (remember them?) and the occasional hunt by a horse-mad sister. However education and a career intervened firmly until 1980 when I thought 'it would be nice to take up riding again'. One horse and some hunting, and then more horses followed rapidly. Since then, I have been a subscriber to both the Vale and the Bicester hunts but I have not always been able to hunt as often as I would like because of my work commitments.

### Q HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN PART IN ANY COMPETITIVE RIDING?

A During the 1970s and early 1980s, I worked for Whitbread, who sponsored the Badminton Horse Trials, and Beefeater Steak Houses (part of Whitbread) sponsored team chasing and inter-hunt relays. I had a lot of fun team chasing with the Beefeater Bouncers team – made up of some well known but now sadly departed riders from these hills. We were not called the Bouncers for nothing...

My work meant I spent quite a lot of time in Canada, western USA and Australia and I became acquainted with quarter horses. I was even offered the chance to do some bulldogging at a local rodeo near Vancouver until I found out what it was!

### Q WHAT IS IT ABOUT HUNTING IN PARTICULAR THAT ATTRACTS YOU?

A My early rationale for hunting was to escape the pressure of the commercial world. A horse is great leveller and has no respect for status: fail to concentrate and you'll see just how quickly you and said horse can part company and how brutally fast the ground

appears – I know this to my cost, not that it deters me in the least. I soon learnt that the price of a hunting fall was that your flask was always empty once you were re-united with your horse. You can't really think about anything else when you're hunting, and that's the beauty of it. I am currently Chairman of several companies and still have to do quite a bit of diary juggling to fit my hunting in but I try to get to as many meets as possible. So far, the season has gone well.

### Q WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT HUNTING OR WORKING?

A My wife Lesley and I quietly farm what would no doubt be called a 'hobby farm' by most people. Lesley breeds Hereford cattle which she greatly enjoys showing on the county show circuit. As we currently have over seventy head of cattle 'hobby farm' is perhaps a bit of a misnomer – 'money pit' would be more appropriate!

### Q DO YOU ENVISAGE A ROSY FUTURE FOR HUNTING?

A Over the last twenty-five years I have seen first hand the changing face and fortune of the countryside, farming and hunting and count myself fortunate to have hunted when antis, bans, bypasses and rural development were all in the future. However, we cannot live in the past and progress is a matter of fact: even within the constraints of the current ban I firmly believe we are blessed with some wonderful country, and a young, enthusiastic team at the kennels should encourage as many people as possible across the social spectrum to join us and enjoy hunting in its latest form.



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# INTRODUCING THE NEW ENTRY

*The Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt began the 2006 season with a new huntsman, whip and countryman. Gerald, Josh and Mark are profiled here.*

## GERALD SUMNER

Gerald is our new huntsman. He was born in Chipping Norton and as a child hunted with the Heythrop with Tony Collins. He gained valuable experience whipping in as an amateur to Anthony Hopkins at the Heythrop.

After completing three years at the Shuttleworth College of Agriculture, Gerald worked for ten years as an agricultural contractor, farming in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Norfolk. Returning to hunt service, he acted as amateur whip for three seasons at the Cotswold for huntsman Julian Barnfield. This was followed by four seasons as kennel-huntsman at the Puckeridge.

Gerald is married to Kerry and has a delightful son, George, who is nearly 18 months old.

Gerald has brought Phoenix, a black and tan hound from the Puckeridge, who has hunted with us this season. On the subject of hounds, Gerald has asked if a few more puppy walkers would like to come forward. Puppy walking is a very important part of a hound's education and you would be doing a great service to the hunt and its future. Please get in touch with Gerald at the kennels if you are interested in finding out more about puppy walking.

## JOSH BENTLEY

Josh has joined us this season as our whipper-in. He has hunted since he was a child and grew up around hunt kennels. He comes from a hunting family and was brought up near Scarborough and, after leaving school, he went straight into hunt service.

He served two seasons with the Middleton and one with the Suffolk before coming to us.



## MARK NORRIS

Our new countryman comes from Enfield Chase country in Hertfordshire. As a teenager Mark whipped in to the South Herts Beagles and then he worked in a rescue kennels for four years. This was followed by working as an animal technician at a research centre.

Having worked on a farm and as a landscape gardener, Mark returned to hunting as a kennelman at the Quorn and he has helped with the terriers both at the Puckeridge and the Hampshire Hunts.

He is engaged to Sarah Valentine and they have two daughters: Lily, who is three and a half years old and Molly who is ten months old.

Everyone at the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks Hunt offers a warm welcome to Gerald, Josh, Mark and their respective families and we very much hope that they will all enjoy life at Kimblewick for many years to come.

**TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT:** Gerald and Josh on hound exercise, The Kennels, 12th August 2006

**OPPOSITE TOP:** Gerald and hounds at Woodrow Farm, Wigginton, 2nd November 2006

**OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Josh at Northfield Grange, Aldbury, 15th February 2007

**OPPOSITE:** Mark, with two of his terriers



# ROSGAN SHOWJUMPERS: FROM MUD TO GLORY

Judy Ross lays bare Whelpley Hill Farm's best-kept secrets

Many of you will have ridden very close to my farm and never realised that the hairy horses in the fields carry some very serious long-term hopes for show jumping success!

Whelpley Hill Farm, high up on the Chiltern Hills between Berkhamsted and Ashley Green, is the birthplace of Rosgan horses. My late husband and I decided some years ago to start a breeding programme for show jumpers to continue our shared interest in the sport after our own riding days.

Having bred Irish Draught-cross horses for some time we realised that to obtain the level of performance we required, we needed to change to European blood lines and to selectively collect a few extremely well-bred mares.

Our very first purchase was a three-year-old Selle Français mare by the World Champion stallion Galoubet. Divine des Cabanes started in the ring with me riding her and we achieved considerable success at Novice level.

The ride was then passed onto Simon Crippen (then only 16 years old!) who went on to have phenomenal success with her. They won the Newcomers final at Horse of the Year Show, were 6th in the 7-year-old Final and also the grade C, and were 8th in the Foxhunter, all in the same year – a still unbroken record for any horse to qualify for four National Finals in the same year let alone win or be placed in all of them. Cabane went on to compete on the British Young Rider squad for all of Simon's three years in that category. She is now a part of my stud and we have just broken in her eldest progeny – a three-year-old filly. Look out for Rosgan La Divina, Rosgan Divinity and Rosgan Viva La Diva in the future!



**RIGHT:** Tjelke L winning the 6-year-old championship in 2006

Since then, purchases have included Graine de Quito by Quito de Baussy (Team World Champion), Genette Kervec by Laudanum, Juanita by Papillon Rouge and Tjelke L by Hors La Loi. Graine has bred four foals while Genette is Grade A and has jumped up to International Trial level. She may retire to stud in 2007. Juanita is Grade B. Tjelke L is currently 6 years old and won both the 5- and 6-year-old Grand Prix at the Festival of Show Jumping at Arena UK in 2005 and 2006. There are also several young horses who are just starting their competition careers.

Of the original Irish draught-cross stock we retained just one brood mare, Rosgan Reward, who produced two excellent progeny when crossed to the warm blood Lars Irco G: Rosgan Irco Lara is a successful dressage horse for her new owners in Staffordshire and Rosgan Irco Dora now a Grade A show jumper who was placed at her first International show recently with Simon Crippen. Dora will remain here at stud after her competition days.

Since the death of my husband, Terry, I have continued with the breeding and I

have three mares in foal for 2007 – two to Solitaire, a Dutch bred stallion by Voltaire, and Divine des Cabanes is in foal to Couleur Roubin, a Holstein Grand Prix show jumper ridden by Ludger Beerbaum.

With few exceptions I shall only breed with mares that have top class bloodlines, attain Grade A show jumping level themselves and are sound and of good temperament. I use top class performance stallions from Germany and Holland and all the studwork is done by Artificial Insemination.

This is not a cheap way to breed. Not only are the purchase and import of semen expensive, but it is essential to use veterinary surgeons that specialise in this type of work. (The mares are scanned every six hours, day and night, when using frozen semen!) However, I hope and believe that this is the right way to maximise the success of my stock.

Next time you pass by – perhaps on one of the bridleways near us, please look at those muddy, hairy, monsters and think that somewhere under the mud there may be the next winner of Olympic Gold!




**Linda Barker**

For your nearest stockists please call 01707 635 201 or visit [www.ashleywildegroupp.com](http://www.ashleywildegroupp.com)

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