

**ROSS-SHIRE HUNT**

Some Gentlemen of this County, who wish to make the Experiment of establishing and keeping up a PACK of HOUNDS within the County, by a voluntary Subscription, of such Gentlemen as have pleasure in hunting, whether belonging to the County, connected with it, or resident in the other Counties in its close vicinity, --- They are of opinion, the measure will be attended with many advantages, not only to the health of the Individuals, who will partake in that manly recreation; but by promoting a frequent and social intercourse betwixt the Gentlemen of the different ends of the County, produce much harmony and good will, be an additional spur to an attention to their intimate police, and be attended with many unforeseen good consequences: impressed with these ideas, they have made some enquiry into the probable expence that would attend on such an institution, and have turned their minds upon the best plan for carrying the measure into execution; and what follows is the result, which they submit altogether to the first meeting of Subscribers which may be held, after the plan is communicated to such Gentlemen as it is expected may contribute, who may alter or add to the Regulations as they see proper.

It is in the first place calculated, That it will take the sum of *Three Hundred Pounds Sterling*, to purchase the Hounds and Horses, necessary to pay a Huntsman and Whipper-in, and to maintain the Horses and Hounds for One Year, with preparing Kennels and Stables.

And, 2d. That *One Hundred and Fifty Pounds* per annum, will be sufficient to keep up the Pack after it is established, maintain the Horses and pay the Servants.

3d. That it will be necessary to have THIRTY SUBSCRIBERS, before the plan is carried into execution; as it is considered absolutely necessary, that every Subscriber should be on a perfect equality, and that the subscription should be so moderate as to be no burden to any of the Gentlemen who may chuse to participate in the sport.

4<sup>th</sup>. That the subscription shall be for *Three Years* certain, at the rate of *Ten Pounds* the first, and *Five Pounds* for each of the two other years.

5<sup>th</sup>. That the management and expenditure of the money shall be intrusted to a committee of Three Persons, members of the Hunt; who are to be annually chosen by a full meeting of the Subscribers; who are to make up the accounts annually, and pay in any surplus funds that may be in their hands, to the committee to be appointed for the subsequent year.

6<sup>th</sup>. That the hunting season shall commence the last week of *September* annually, if the harvest is sufficiently advanced for that purpose, and continue during the good weather throughout the winter and spring, till the 15<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of *May*.

7<sup>th</sup>. That the Huntsman and Hounds, shall hunt for the first fourteen days of the season the first year, in the Western District of the County, and the second fourteen in the Eastern District; and so on alternately, during the good weather. And, for this purpose, that one Kennel and Stable shall be established, some where betwixt *Ferintosh* and *Tarradale*, which will be convenient to the Gentlemen of the West, and the other at *Tain*, for the conveniency of the Eastern District: the two great hunting fields being the *Black-Isle* to the West, and from *Balnagown* to *Tarbat* in the East --- That to preserve equality as much as possible, the hunting shall commence the second year at the East, the first fourteen days, and go to the West the ensuing fourteen; and so alternately as above.

8<sup>th</sup>. That Two Stewards shall be annually elected, who shall alternately preside at all meetings of the Hunt; shall be umpires in all disputes that may occur, but shall have no power to infringe any of the fundamental Regulations of the Institution.

9<sup>th</sup>. That there shall be an Ordinary at the Inns of *Tain* and *Dingwall*, while the Hunt continues in the vicinity of either, which Gentlemen who partake of the sport, may attend of not as they find convenient; only, it should be expected, that they do send some notice to the Inn-keeper, whether they are or not to dine during the week or fourthnight, some days before.

10<sup>th</sup>. That the Ordinary shall be provided at as cheap a rate as possible; and there shall be some Subaltern Regulations formed for its conduct and management.

11<sup>th</sup>. That the Huntsman shall regularly cast off his Hounds and hunt, at a certain hour to be hereafter specified, whether the Gentlemen do appear or not. And that the majority of the field, at the close of the Hunt, shall fix where the Hounds are to cast off the next hunting day; and notice of that circumstance, shall be put up in the Dining-room of the Inns.

12<sup>th</sup>. That all Strangers shall be welcome to partake of the sport, but are not to dine at the Ordinary of the Hunt, unless invited by one of the Stewards; or in their absence, unless a majority of the field shew a disposition of asking them.

13<sup>th</sup>. That Field-money shall be allowed to be collected, from every Gentleman who hunts, whether a Subscriber or not.

[Undated, but probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century]