

The land we hunt on:

- Always remember that we are on people's private land – respect it!
- Without the generosity and goodwill of our farmers, landowners and shoots we would not be hunting
- Anything which puts their goodwill at risk is unacceptable
- Do not ride on conservation headlands – if you are not sure DON'T risk it
- Keep to the edge of all crops when going on arable fields
- Avoid upsetting livestock – go round not through
- Car followers – don't drive on private tracks/land unless you have personal permission
- Car and mounted followers – keep off mown verges
- If there is rough grass and mown grass tracks, ride on the rough grass
- Don't walk through replanted hedges with young trees in plastic tubes – go round
- Respect public footpaths and keep to the edge – and avoid cutting up bridlepaths in wet weather, again, keep to the edge
- If you see, or cause, damage to a fence, hedge or gate – or anything else – please try and make stock-proof with the string (you should carry string in your pocket) and tell the field master or secretary asap

Safety first:

- If you are on an untried or young horse put a green ribbon in its tail and take care not to kick or barge others, or hounds
- If you know your horse may kick, put a red ribbon in its tail – BUT it is still up to you to prevent it kicking others or hounds, take care where you position yourself
- Don't run into other horses – if you run into another horse you may cause it very serious injury and get kicked yourself
- Turn your horse's head towards hounds when they pass and do not get in a position where your horse might kick hounds
- Make sure you have adequate brakes!
- Warn other riders of dangers e.g. holes or wire on the ground
- Slow down in farmyards and on all concrete
- Always wait by a horse when its rider remounts.
- Car followers – check carefully for oncoming horses or hounds before turning on engines, moving your vehicle or opening car doors
- If hounds are running towards a main road or other hazard look sharp and be ready to help, stop traffic etc
- If someone is in trouble then go and offer to help them – it could be you next time

What to wear:

- You should be smartly dressed and your horse turned out well to show respect to our hosts
- Normal dress for autumn hunting (or for children throughout the season) is light coloured breeches, tweed coat and coloured hunting tie or collar and tie
- Normal dress for the rest of the season is a black or navy coat for adults and light coloured breeches with a white or cream hunting tie (or as for autumn hunting)
- When wearing a jockey skull, please wear a black or navy silk
- For safety and smartness, tie back long hair and/or use a hairnet

Children:

- Children of 14 and must be accompanied by a mounted adult (except at special childrens' meets)
- If there is no suitable family member or friend available to escort a child, ring the secretaries in advance to enquire if any other arrangements may be made, but please be aware this is not always possible

At the meet:

- Always say 'Good Morning' to the Master at the Meet.
- Seek out the Secretary and have any money due ready (preferably in an envelope with your name and details of the cap/sub etc on the front)
- Arrive in good time and if unavoidably late ensure you seek out the Secretary to pay your dues even after hounds have moved off
- Park considerately and don't block others in without checking with them
- Don't block entrances to barns/gateways etc unless your host has agreed

Cars

- Car followers – please take care not to block roads near the meet or park in space at the meet which is needed for horseboxes or trailers
- After moving off, please take care to allow non-hunting vehicles to go about their normal business
- Please check carefully for on-coming horses and hounds before opening your doors
- You will earn the profound gratitude of the hunt staff and mounted field for opening and closing gates when this is requested!

In the field – jumping, gates, and bridges

- Make sure that the person after you is aware that a gate needs to be closed by clearly saying 'gate please' – and ensure they acknowledge this
- Never leave a person alone when they are closing a gate, stay until it has been shut properly
- Always wait for the next horse when closing a gate or going over a wooden bridge. Do NOT gallop off until the next horse has come through.
- If others are jumping a fence close to a gate then wait until they have all finished before opening the gate.
- When jumping keep straight – don't get too close to the one in front.
- Wait your turn at jumps and do not push in
- If you stop, get out of the way as quickly as possible and let other members of the field jump before you try again

In the field and away from it – general behaviour

- Move quickly to the side if the Huntsman/Whipper In/Master needs to pass you.
- If mounted, stay behind the Field Master at all times unless asked to go on point or otherwise assist
- If sent on point, once that covert is drawn return to the field (unless otherwise instructed by Master or Huntsman)
- Ask if you are not sure where you should be going on point or what you should be doing – ask, we want everyone to enjoy their day's sport
- Always be friendly and polite to everyone at all times.
- Keep the noise down at the covert side, others may be trying to listen to hounds and the horn
- Use hunting cries and signals ONLY as instructed by the field master
- Thank motorists, pedestrians and members of the public who give way with a wave and a smile.
- Don't block roads – not everyone has the time or inclination to go hunting
- DO NOT REACT TO "ANTIS" but alert one of the hunt officials to the issue
- Be careful and respect other people's privacy – consider carefully the content of any photos you post on Facebook etc



The Fitzwilliam (Milton) Hunt

GOOD PRACTICE OUT HUNTING

or what every follower knows (or should know) and what every person new to hunting would like to know!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HON SECS AT
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