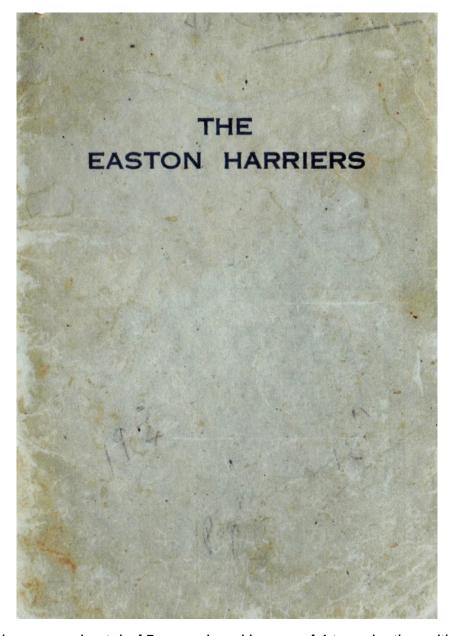
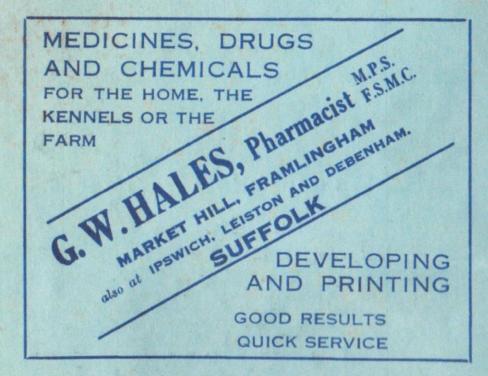
The Easton Harriers

The booklet reproduced below from a copy kindly supplied by Sue Piggott, is "The Official Handbook of The Harriers", dated approximately 1940. It contains a history of Harriers together with a number of historical photographs, Code of Conduct and an interesting assortment of advertisements of the time. Also of note are the telephone numbers of the advertisers, one of which is Framlingham 3.



(Original size, approximately A5, reproduced here on A4 to make the writing clearer.)

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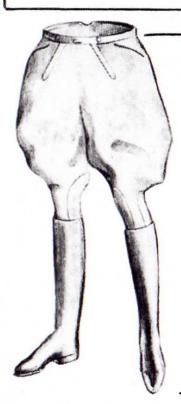
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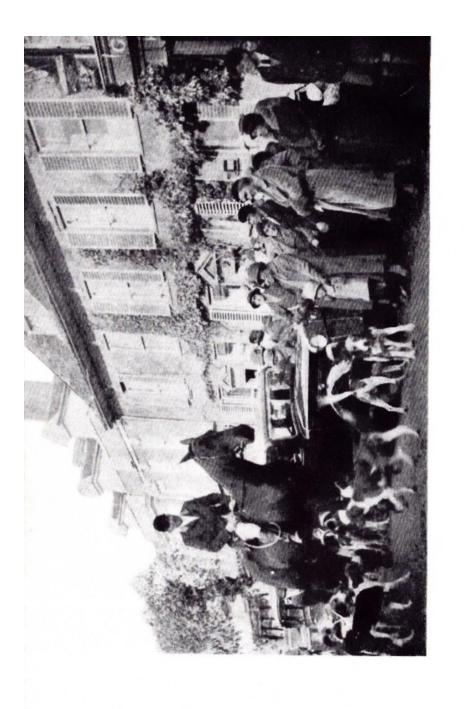
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THE EASTON HARRIERS

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Harehunting was the accepted recreation of the country gentleman, and ranked second only to the royal sport of Staghunting Much study was given to its science, and the old sporting writers, from Gervase Markham and Richard Blome onwards, directed much of their writings to this particular subject. An "Essay on Hunting," published in 1733, dealt entirely with Harehunting, and ignored Foxhunting altogether, and Beckford himself, in his famous "Thoughts Upon Hunting," gives a considerable amount of space to the subject of Harriers, which he himself had kept and hunted at one time.

Harehunting, in a country which is adapted for it, is one of the finest sports, and will afford ample opportunity not only for galloping and jumping but also for watching Hound work, which is one of the chief delights of the A hare is usually found quicker than true sportsman. a fox, and there is not the long and cold wait outside a covert that so often is the prelude to a fox hunt. away, a stout jack hare and a pack of Harriers will show as good sport as anyone could wish for, and though exceptionally long points such as sometimes occur with a fox may not be expected, a hare, once forced out of his country will run pretty straight. In this respect Harehunting differs from Foxhunting, for a fox will be more inclined to run straight in a country he knows, where he has a definite point in mind. But a hare is apt to twist and turn in her own country, but when she gets further afield she will run straight.



EASTON HARRIERS. M. O. SPRINGFIELD, M.H., MARKET HILL.

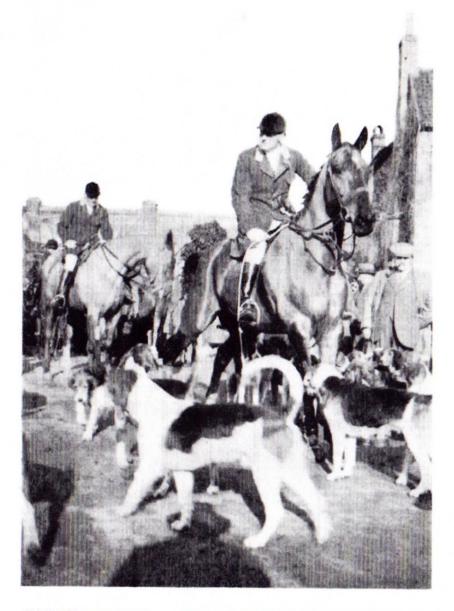
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The Easton Harriers hupt a country on the eastern side of Suffolk, whose extent is about twenty miles square. The nature of the country is typically East Anglian, being nearly all ploughland, which, however, unlike that of the neighbouring county of Essex, is fairly light and usually carries a good scent. As would be expected in an arable country, where the keeping in of stock is not the main consideration, wire is seldom encountered, banks and ditches being the chief obstacles met with. A horse must be well bred to go through the deep, for all plough rides deep on occasions; he must be capable of spreading himself over wide ditches, which may sometimes be somewhat blind. and he must be able to gallop on, for Hounds often run fast, and East Anglian hares are uncommonly stout. folk is an ideal Harrier country, its broad open spaces giving every opportunity for being with them and seeing what they are doing, and the sport shown by the Easton is always exceptionally good. Osbaldeston, himself, once remarked that Suffolk was the best plough country in Eng-Various packs of Harriers, mostly private ones, have bunted in Suffolk and Norfolk for the past two hundred years or more.

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Going back to the early part of last century, however, we find that from about 1845 onwards, Mr. George Mure was hunting his own pack of Harriers on the Newmarket side of Suffolk, extending his operations a considerable distance eastwards as well. Mr. Mure had formerly been Master of the Suffolk Hunt, from which position he resigned in 1845, when he was succeeded by Mr. Josselyn.

Fore's "Guide to the Hounds of England" for the year 1850, which was a forerunner of Bailey's Directory, gives three Harrier packs hunting in Suffolk at this time. There were Mr. Mure's, already referred to, hunting on



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EASTON HARRIERS. CAPT. MARRIOTT AT "FAIRFIELD."

the western side, and two other private packs, hunted by Mr. Robert Buck and Mr. Sam Buck respectively, both of which appeared to have hunted the country lying east of Bury St. Edmunds and Newton.

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THE WOODLAND, AND THE HAMILTON HARRIERS.

The history of the Easton country as a distinct unit starts with a pack owned by Colonel Barlow and known as the Woodland, which were kennelled at his residence at Hasketon.

These hounds passed into the possession of the late Duke of Hamilton in or about 1870. Augmented by the purchase of a Welsh pack from Sir Thomas Boughey, they formed the nucleus of the Hamilton Harriers and were kennelled at the Duke's seat at Easton.

Mulcaster, who had been the Duke's jockey in his younger days, acted at Huntsman, followed by Tom Nevard who lives in retirement at Leiston.

In 1895 the Hamilton Harriers came under the joint Mastership of Messrs. L. Digby and G. Goldfinch, who had previously hunted stag over this country. Mr. Goldfinch hunted hounds whilst Mr. Digby whipped in. Mr. Goldfinch went as Master for one season to the Ripley and Knaphill Harriers but, returning to the Hamilton, the Digby and Goldfinch joint Mastership continued until the outbreak of the South African War—for which both Masters volunteered.

The late Duchess of Hamilton took over the hounds, Mr. Plant Wolton acting as Field Master and Mr. H. R. Smith as Honorary Secretary, with Weaver as huntsman.

The Duchess handed over the Mastership to her daughter, Lady Mary Hamilton—now Duchess of Montrose—in 1905. Mr. Plant Wolton continued to act as Field Master, whilst Mr. H. Beard hunted hounds.



THE DUKE OF HAMILTON

On Lady Mary giving up, two packs came into existence—the Oakley Park, a private pack owned by Mr. S. Hill Wood, hunting the Waveney Valley side; and the East Suffolk Harriers, which had Major Sowler, Mr. Percy Crossman and Mr. C. A. Branfill as Masters, for one, three and one season respectively.

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THE EASTON HARRIERS.

In 1911 the Marquess of Graham, now Duke of Montrose, and Mr. Percy Crossman, undertook to hunt the country as Joint Masters under the name of the Easton Harriers Hunt—an amalgamation of the Oakley Park and East Suffolk. The funds standing to the credit of the old Hamilton Harriers were transferred to an account in the name of the Easton I-larriers Hunt, and the Kennels at Easton were re-commissioned.

This joint Mastership lasted until 1915, when Lord Graham and Mr. Crossman resigned. Mr. Crossman subsequently joined Brigadier-General G. H. Hoare-Nairne and Colonel Nutting in the joint Mastership of the Essex and Suffolk Foxhounds, this being in 1918. Mr. R. Nesling followed in the Easton country; his first Mastership of the Easton Harriers lasted for four seasons, during which period he nursed the country through the difficult years of the War, and earned the grateful thanks of all for so doing.

At a time when all huntservants, except the superannuated, were on active service, and the problem of feeding Hounds was almost insuperable, not to mention the lack of subscribers, the efforts of Masters of Hounds in those years, in the face of appalling obstacles, were beyond all praise, for there is little doubt that had hunting been allowed to lapse, it would in many cases have been almost impossible



DUCHESS OF HAMILTON

to start again. Hound breeding was reduced to the barest minimum, as anyone who remembers the fantastic prices that were fetched in the early days of peace, will vouch for.

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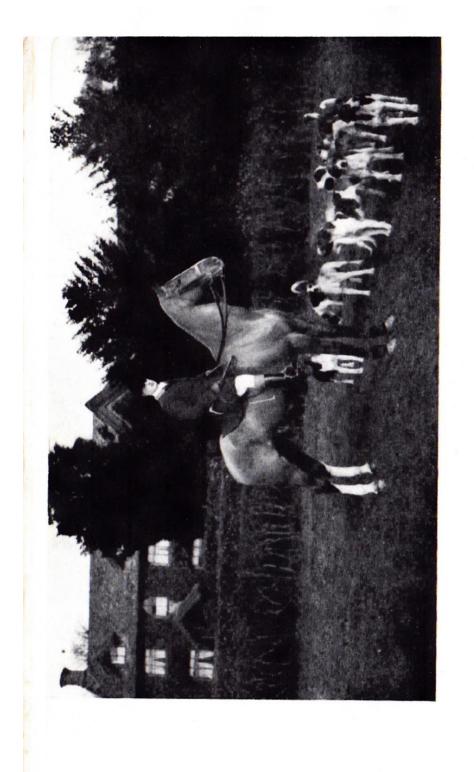
Mr. Nesling resigned in 1919, having steered the Hunt successfully through this period, and there then followed two short Masterships, those of Mr. W. J. H. Chapman, and Lt.-Col. Abbay, who remained for one season each.

In 1922, Mr. Nesling came back to the Mastership once more, and the following season he was joined by the Earl of Cranbrook—this joint Mastership lasting till 1924. There then followed the one season Mastership of Lt.-Col. G. Nutting, who retired in 1925.

The following season, Mr. W. H. Brunskill began his Mastership, which was to last for six seasons. There were at this time nineteen couple of Hounds in kennel at Easton, hunting two days a week. Mr. Brunskill hunted Hounds himself, and good sport was shown. The Honorary Secretary was Mr. R. E. Walford, of Hasketon. Woodbridge, who held office for 17 years.

Mr. Brunskill remained till 1931, in which year he resigned, and the following season took the Mastership of the South Oxfordshire. He was followed in the Easton country by Captain C. G. L. Marriott, of Abbey House, Monk Soham, Woodbridge. After one season alone, Captain Marriott was joined in the Mastership by Major G. S. Crofton. Captain Marriott hunted Hounds himself, Ned Watts being kennel huntsman, and J. Orbell second whipper-in.

This joint Mastership came to an end in 1934, in which year both Masters retired, and Captain Marriott went to the Essex and Suffolk as joint Master with Dr. Franey and Lt.-Col. Mangles, Captain Marriott carrying the horn in his second season.



DUKE OF MONTROSE (formerly Marquess of Graham).

Mr. M. O. Springfield, of Easton, then took over the Easton Harriers and hunted hounds himself during a Mastership which lasted from 1934 till 1939. years he had been Master of the Shanghai Hounds in China and, as the son of the late Mr. Tom Springfield, was well-known in the country. Ned Watts remained on the Hunt staff, and for a time also Jim Orbell. Orbell left, Messrs. G. T. O. Springfield, of the Suffolk Regiment, and H. Spalding acted as amateur whips-until Mr. Springfield left to join his regiment in India, when he was succeeded by Miss Esther White. In 1936 Mr. Springfield was joined in the Mastership by Mr. A. W. Burkill, of Bracknell, a former Master of the Shanghai Draghounds in the pre-war days when that Treaty Port in China boasted 2 packs of hounds.

Colonel W. R. Styles, M.C., of Hill House, Wickham Market, accepted the Mastership in 1939. He had experience of East Anglian hunting conditions whilst quartered at Norwich with his regiment, the 12th Royal Lancers. He brings with him as kennel huntsman, Ned Oxtoby, who had 8 years with the Henham Harriers, and previously with the West Kent Foxhounds, under the Mastership of Miss Styles, our Master's sister.

Mr. W. B. Harsant was Chairman of the Hunt from 1912 until 1926, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. Woodgate, of Framlingham, who held office till 1938 and did great service to the Hunt by putting its finances on a sound basis. The present Chairman is the Earl of Cranbrook, formerly joint Master of the Hunt. The Deputy Chairman, Colonel E. P. Clarke, D.S.O., of Sweffling, has been actively associated with the Hunt since its earliest days.

Mr. Hugh Clarke, of Saxtead Lodge, was Honorary Secretary from 1927 till 1938. He still holds office as Honorary Secretary to the Point-to-Point Committee, the success of whose Meetings has been largely due to his administration. Mr. Archibald Rose, The Moat Farm, Badingham, became Honorary Secretary of the Hunt in 1938.

There are sixteen couple of S.B. Harriers in kennel, the standard being about twenty inches. The Hounds belong to the country.

Hounds are out two days a week, on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the season. The Kennels are at Easton, near Woodbridge. The minimum subscription for those hunting with these Hounds is £5 5s. Od., and a cap of 10s. is taken from non-subscribers. The Hunt uniform is a green coat with fawn collar.

POINT-TO-POINT MEETINGS.

The Easton country is predominantly arable, and some difficulty has been found in the past in finding a Course that appealed alike to owners, riders, and the public. was not until Mr. Woodgate placed at the disposal of the Hunt his property at Badingham that the Hunt Race Meetings became really popular. Meetings were held on the Badingham Course until 1938, when an essential ploughing of some of the pastures necessitated a move. The Hunt has had the good fortune to secure an ideal all-grass Course at Brook Farm, in the parishes of Brandeston and Kettleburgh. It is a fine sporting Course, with short metalled approach to a magnificent natural grand-stand on a dry, sandy hillside. Mr. John Goddard, Clerk-of-the-Course, has made the most of the outstanding natural advan-Mr. Gallienne, the owner, has agreed to afford continuity of racing over a period of years, and the Hunt will thus be enabled to develop to the full the natural features of a first-rate Course.

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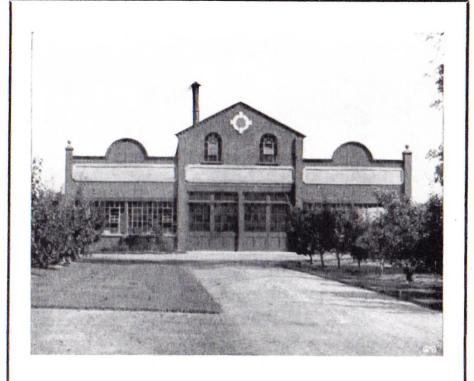
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EASTON HARRIERS.

By arrangement with Mr. J. A. Gallienne the Easton Harriers held their meeting at Brandeston on April 15th. RESULTS, 1939.

Adjacent Hunts' Farmers' Race.—Mr. S. Cole's (Norwich S.H.) Gay Battler (Mr. A. Parker), 1; Mr. W. Newcombe-Baker's (West Norfolk) Eastern Moon (Mr. P. Gow), 2; Mr. J. Bloom's (Norwich S.H.) Royal Princess II (Owner), 3. Eight ran. Ten lengths; one-and-a-half.

Adjacent Hunts' Light Weight Race.—Mr. R. Hoare's (West Suffolk) Rondelay (Captain Smith), 1; Mr. R. Cook's (West Norfolk) Ballyhoo III. (Mr. P. Gow), 2; Lieutenant-Colonel W. Vincent's (West Norfolk) Braken (Mr. Bullard), 3. Seven ran. Three lengths; four.

Nomination Race.—Major B. Gooch's (Norwich S.H.) Vallencourt (Mr. Parker), 1; Mr. M. V. B. Riviere's (Dunston) Notice Board (Owner), 2; Mr. J. Ward-Harrison's (Suffolk) Cherish (Owner), 3. Six ran. Distance: five lengths.

Eastern Command Race.—Captain Mile's (Essex and Suffolk) Winchester (Captain Anderson), 1; Mr. D. Stancomb's (South Oxford) Brown Sugar IV. (Owner), 2; Mr. E. A. F. Widdrington's (Bicester) Big Ben III. (Mr. C. H. Blacker), 3. Ten ran. Three-and-a-half lengths; two.

Members' Race.—Mr. M. O. Springfield's Liscarney (Mr. G. T. O. Springfield), 1; Mr. C. J. Comins's Better Days III. (Mr. R. J. Clarke), 2; Dr. J. Vincenzi's Rossa (Owner), 3. Six ran. Three lengths; neck.

Adjacent Hunts' Heavy Weight Race.—Mr. R. J. Read's (Dunston) Lucifer Race (Mr. P. Gow), 1; Mr. W. Wales's (West Norfolk) Vain Prince (Owner), 2; Lieutenant-Colonel W. Vincent's (West Norfolk) Sandy Mack (Mr. Bullard), 3. Six ran.

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Twenty-one

HUNTING WITHOUT TEARS.

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Hunting is carried on by a combination of subscriptions and goodwill.

The former is an affair of the pocket and "it is clearly the duty of every man to subscribe to a pack of 'ounds, even if he has to borrow the money" and "no one should be allowed to whoop and holloa, or set up his jaw, wot hasn't paid his subscription."

The latter on the other hand is an affair of the heart and, in spite of many beliefs to the contrary, cannot be bought by the deepest pocket.

Goodwill is a delicate plant but, given an atmosphere of mutual understanding and regard among all those connected with the sport of foxhunting—whatever their status or occupation—will flourish exceedingly.

It is the plain duty of those who hunt to maintain this atmosphere by every means in their power.

Whether you ride to hunt or hunt to ride, sufficient knowledge of both hunting and farming is required to avoid—at the very least—being a nuisance to the Hunt and an unwelcome guest of the owners and occupiers of the land over which you are privileged to amuse yourself.

The number of "incidents" which occur during a season's hunting show that the standard of knowledge required is higher than is commonly supposed.

Twenty-two

OUR DUTY TO OUR HOSTS.

1

CARE OF CROPS.—Damage to farmland, whether arable or grass, may be caused either by breaking plants above ground or by damaging their roots.

If the plants are broken they will, provided their roots are sound, generally shoot again. The degree of damage from this cause is therefore dependent on the time taken for the new shoot to make up the delay in growth.

Root damage is more serious and may be caused, not only by the plants being lifted out bodily by a horse's hooves, but also by the roots being rotted by water collecting in the hoofmarks.

The faster the horse is travelling and the heavier the going, the greater the damage.

Grassland may be ridden without risk of damage except when the going is very heavy or when the land is laid up in the spring for hay.

Arable land on which crops are growing should never be ridden.

WHEN IN DOUBT,
RIDE THE HEADLANDS.

Twenty-three

THE ANTIENT HUNTING NOATS WITH MARSKS ADDITIONS

NAMES OF THE NOATS

- lone. ^ ton o lavern, & ton tavern, & ton-ton tavern 40

To call the Company in the morning

The Stroaks to the Field

To uncouple the Hounds

When the Hounds hunt a Game unknown

When the Hounds hunt a Game unknown

The Joseph Joseph

HUNTING CALLS.

From Rd. Blome's "The Gentleman's Recreation."

Twenty-four

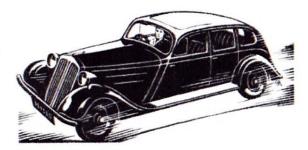
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(With deep apologies to Mr. Rudyard Kipling).

If you can keep your head when hounds first open, And a clinking halloa tells you he's away!

If you can ride a four-year-old, half broken,
And lie up with the thrusters—come what may—

If you can go to anyone's assistance,
Catch a loose horse when hounds are just ahead,
Or fetch a doctor—never mind the distance—
When some poor devil's lying out for dead.

If you can give your wife a stud of horses,
And bear to hear her blame them all in turn.
Exchange, or sell them with appalling losses,
And hear her say, "you've a lot to learn."
If you can force your nerve and heart and sinew
To follow, if she jumps a five-barred gate,
When nasty sickly feelings spread within you,
Maybe the moment's come to meet your fate!

If you can see your income quickly dwindle
Through unemployment doles when miners strike,
Through taxes on your land or some such swindle,
And to have to part with most things that you like,
If you can say "goodbye" to all your hunters,
And when you raise a bit to buy a screw,
Can show the "field" they nearly all are funkers
(this is not very difficult to do!)

If you can dine, and, as the wine flows faster,
And unforgiving things are being said
About your friends, the huntsman or the master,
Can presently say something kind instead.
If you have gone from field to field as hounds ran,
And thrown no hint that you alone were there,
My estimation of you as a sportsman
Will be greater for than most who hunt can share.

Everything for the Horse and Stable to be obtained

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To round off the enjoyment of a day in the field you cannot do better than purchase your wines and spirits from Messrs. Carley & Company (see page 17).

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Twenty-eight

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