



South and West Wilts Hunt

Gamekeepers and Earth-Stoppers Entertained

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Gathering at East Knoyle

By invitation of the Master of the South and West Wilts Hunt, Mr. I. Bell, some eighty gamekeepers and many well-known hunting gentlemen, followers of the Hunt, met at the Seymour Arms East Knoyle for the annual clay bird shooting competitions and dinner. The weather was ideal, especially for haymaking, and in consequence many prominent hunting farmers, who had never previously missed this enjoyable Hunt function, were unavoidably prevented from being present.

At the excellent course dinner, served by Mr. Sanson, the toast list was conspicuous by its absence, but in expressing his great pleasure in again entertaining the gamekeepers and earth-stoppers of the Hunt, the Master warmly thanked them for their care and preservation of foxes. Amid hearty laughter he said he knew of only one cub being shot, and as it had a collar round its neck, it was probably somebody's darling, so the destroyer would have to reckon with the owner and not with him (the Master).

Later in the proceedings, which included a jolly smoking concert, Captain Holland Hibbert's toast of "The Master" was accorded an enthusiastic reception and musical honours, with cheers for Mrs. Bell and Miss Diana Bell. Those who contributed vocal and instrumental music and anecdotes to the evenings' programme included Mr. C. H. Tremlett, Captain Holland Hibbert, Mr. E. Flower and Mr. M. C. Marvin. Mr. J. N. Johnston again proved a prime favourite with his Scots songs and Mr. George Francis amused his audience with quaint stories told in the Wiltshire dialect, of an old Wiltshire couple's visit to London.

Shooting Events

The Clay Pigeon shooting competitions resulted as follows:

Gamekeepers' Championship (on two stages of 10 birds each stage) 1. D. Blake (keeper to Lord Arundell of Wardour) 17 kills out of 20. 2. J. R. Hames (keeper to Marquis of Bath) and W. Barnard of Stockton tied with 14 kills. The shoot-off resulted in Barnard taking second place. Five keepers qualified for the fourth position: V. Gray (Mr. John Hastings), W. Escott (Lord Arundell of Wardour), L. Lever (Colonel Herbert), G. Dulake (Duke of Somerset) and H. Poole (Sir Henry Hoare). The shoot-off gave W. Escott the fourth place.

A match between the Hunt members and Hunt keepers was won by the latter with 30 kills out of 50, and the pool shoot between Hunt members and Hunt keepers was won by W. Escott. The open sweepstake was won by L. Lever; G. Veasey of Upton Noble, being second and W. Buckett (Marquis of Bath) third. Captain H. Reynard won the second open sweepstake and a match between Captain Reynard, G. Dulake, H. Poole and J. Hames was won by G. Dulake. The prizes were presented to the winners by the Master.

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