



Submission to Lord Bonomy's Review of 2002 Act

To: Lord Bonomy

Having just completed my 35<sup>th</sup> season hunting with the Duke of Buccleuch's Foxhounds (my first being when I was 7 years old) I feel compelled to make a submission to your review.

I have also just completed my first season as a Joint Master of the Buccleuch; this changed my way of hunting this season as following 4 years of "nannying" my two daughters, now 11 and 13 years old, out hunting, I suddenly was charged with the responsibility of "entertaining" an entire field of followers.

My role, as Master, means that I have to "manage" an area of country which means regular contact with farmers to ensure that we have permission to ride across their land and also to ensure that we are meeting their needs. They will guide me to where the fox control is required as well as discussing the best routes across their land. They are always welcoming and grateful for our visits as we provide an invaluable service to them.

On the hunting field I find my role is split into three parts, the equestrian entertainment for those who want the challenge of riding across country and jumping fences, some of which are purpose built, but the majority not, hence the challenge! The second part is instructing responsible members of the field to help in the hunting of the hounds, predominantly surrounding the covert to help hounds flush the fox to the waiting guns safely. Thirdly to educate those in the way of hound work, many enjoy seeing hounds work in their natural habitat, doing what comes naturally to them working as a pack. The field is split between those who want the excitement of crossing the countryside and those who enjoy watching the art of foxhunting and seeing hounds work. This would not be fulfilling with two hounds, also directing a fox to guns with just two hounds would be very difficult indeed.

As I mentioned earlier, I started following hounds on horseback at the age of 7, likewise my children have. They are very keen fit young ladies, they have learnt their fantastic horse riding skills on the hunting field, they are social, brave and most of all not an electrical device in sight on a Saturday, the plague of modern childhood!! It is our family hobby each Saturday during the autumn and winter, exercise, fresh air, education and being part of the countryside is vital for us.

As a Master and a follower of the Buccleuch I feel no demand for a change in the current act as we are undertaking an effective method of fox control within the law, providing a popular activity and pastime for both young and old which is a way of life and well supported.

Emma McCallum MFH  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2016