

Chapter Seven

Hunt Reports

Mardale Meet

Brilliant Weather and Record Muster

The annual Mardale Shepherd's meet, the most talked-of hunting gathering in the border counties, took place on Saturday, and all previous records were easily eclipsed. The dimensions to which this gathering has attained since it first began to boom twenty years ago, when Mr. Walter Baldry was at Mardale, astonished the annual devotees, and was an absolute eye opener to first time visitors. The eternal debate occurred a day or two beforehand which was the best way to get there. It was no use "going over the top." One might get stranded in No Man's Land (High Street) in November mists. It had been reached in all manner of ways. Men had climbed Blue Ghyll at dead of night in pitchy darkness, their only guide a trail hound. And men had been lost in the ghostly fastnesses of Thornthwaite Monument. Young bloods had gone over from Sleddale on "bikes." Stour shod tourists had descended by Nan Bield and Small Water. Ladies had been known to ride Gatesgarth saddleback. Hundreds had gone by motor and main road. One old veteran, the late Willie Greenhow, had walked over the top from Swindale and attended over 60 annual meets. Some had arrived with "Posty" from Askham or driven up in farmer's gigs. No one had yet flown, though it was rumoured that a reverend sportsman once struggled hard to perfect a machine to fly there. Young sports had "salooned" it from Manchester. All managed to get there somehow or other. It was only a case of direction. John Arthur described it as "down", Arthur John differed, and said it was "up", "oop yonder." The cocksure Fredrick in cautious non committal terms said "it all depended," and proceeded to look up a Bradshaw, but was told not to be an ass, as Mardale had not yet honoured a railway guide, though its fame had been sung in Loos sector and its levels figured out by Deansgate draughtsmen with designs on the fair lap of Haweswater. So it came to pass the argument was settled, and the party careered in some sort of a car over Shap Fell into the romantic recesses of one of England's loveliest and most lonely valleys, and in the grey darkness of a November evening ran swiftly by the shores of what is soon to be Manchester's newest reservoir, and in the dim light confused the silhouettes of Naddle Forest, Harter and Kidstye. Early on Saturday morning everyone was astir.

The Hunt

The landscape was bathed in almost summer brilliance, and Haweswater was a deep blue as the hunt assembled. And proceeded to divide themselves out, some on to Riggindale, others on Mardale Banks, and the majority went towards Branstree, where Joe Bowman cast off, and almost immediately a line was struck before crossing Woodford Ghyll. There was a joyous burst of music, which

crescendo into a thrilling chorus as Careless unkennelled a fox which was viewed from above by the Sleddale shepherds and was soon seen by the whole field speeding through the breast for Branstree—a streak of brown stealing along with incredible swiftness, with hounds in full cry. It was a fine lay-on, and reynard's life was not worth many hours purchase. At the same time a section of the pack unkennelled another fox, which led in the opposite direction into Harter Fell. Fox number one set his mask for Swindale, and was soon over the skyline but not before delighting the spectators with as pretty a bit of hunting as has ever been seen at Mardale. Climbing out by Hop Ghyll Head past the falls for Swindale reynard led his pursuers a cracking pace through Black Bells and round Swindale Head, encircling Gowder Crag, and back to Dow Crag, where hounds were so relentless he went to ground. Braithwaite Wilson, the untiring whip was soon on the spot, and the game little terrier, Gunner, was sent in. James Thompson was also present with some tools, and after an hour's hard work the fox was bolted and was viewed away by nine hounds, and after a short and merry spin was rolled over in the bottom near Parsonage Plantation. T. Coates of Mosedale picked up a fine young vixen, and the mask was presented to one of the youngest of the field, Master Norman Croft of Kendal. The second fox made right through the precipitous breast of Harter Fell, and appeared to be heading for Nan Bield Pass, thence swinging right-handed through Riggindale crossed the valley in full view of the field, on to Branstree, and almost got on the line of the first fox. A third fox was seen shortly afterwards tearing down from Woodford Ghyll towards Mardale Green, and this one too, a fine red beauty, got on the same line as the two previous ones. The crossing and re crossing of scent was baffling in the extreme, but two or three hounds stuck to the line of one and puzzled it out back to Harter Fell, and were still hunting late on in the afternoon, but without arriving at a tangible result. Of the young hounds none shaped better than Marjory, a descendent of the famous Marksman. The others were all in grand fettle. Chanter, of course was missing, this hound paying the full penalty for "fractiousness" at the mouth of a fox borran in the Selside neighbourhood last week.

Social Amenities

A record number partook of dinner at the Dun Bull and the assemblage of motorcars during the height of the afternoon was remarkable. In the evening the usual concert was held in the big room, when a number of fine hunting songs and folklore songs were given by the best native singers in the border counties. Mr. Norman Parry presided with Mr. W. C. Skelton at the piano. The shepherds' toast and health of Joe Bowman were honoured, and Dr. Eaton raised a cap of between £5 and £6 for "Hunty." Musical honours were given for the huntsman and his whip. Dr. Eaton, who as usual produced a new song for the occasion, for the pianist, for Mr. Noble Gregg, representing the shepherds, and the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs Daffurn, who along with their daughter and son in law Mr. and Mrs. Scott, spared no trouble in attending to the large gathering of guests.

Amongst those present at the gathering in addition to Joe Bowman, the huntsmen, and Braithwaite Wilson, his whip, were Mr. W. H. Marshall, Patterdale Hall (M.F.H.); Major Bush, Beauthorn, Ullswater; C.N. Parry, Ullswater; Dr. W. S. Eaton, Dr. E.P. Haythornthwaite, Ennerdale; John Boadle, Lamplugh; W. Mulley, Whitehaven; M. Sedgewick, R. Burton, Sedbergh. Croft, N. Croft, J.D. Meckereth, W. Cornthwaite, Kendal; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Freeman, Miss Mason, Ambleside; Mr. and Miss Irving, T. Heathfield, Forest Hall; Rev. F.J.H. Barham, T. Edmondson, T. Edmondson, Jnr., J. Simpson, J. Greenhow, R. Greenhow, Mardale; Capt. Storey, C.T. Robinson, Kirby Lonsdale; T. Burns Lindow, Egremont; H. Teasdale, J.N. Parker, B. Holliwell, W. Knowles, Cartmel; C. Bird, E. Thompson, Miss Bird, Miss Brass, Miss Broadbent, Appleby; J. Dixon, J. Braithwaite, W. Skelton, Windermere; W. Dawson, Burnside; B. and F. Black, L. Bowe, Ambleside; W. Butler Cole, Kendal; J. and T. Wilson, Middleton; Sharp, Barbon; Hodgson, Kirkby Lonsdale; Wilson, Kendal; Mrs. Richardson, Low Mills; Warton, Borrow Bridge; Edmondson, Swarthfield; T. Coates, Mosedale; H.W. Rigg, A. Parkin, Crosby Ravensworth; E. Hindson, F. Metcalf, G. Southwaite; T. Simpson, Dobson, R. Winster, Carl Winster, Leighton, S. Balmer, Shap; R. Hudson, Thornybank; Miss Newton, Knipe; Mr. and Mrs. C. Arniston, Penrith; Capt. And Mrs. Dawson Bowman, C. R. Farrer, W. Baldrey, O. Baldrey, Dalley, Howtown; T. Tyson, R. Walker, Shap Abbey; R. Craig, Truss Gap; T. Birkett, Swindale Heap; J. Winder, Tailbert; F. Little, Truss Gap; S. Barnett, Shap Lodge; W. and G. Scott, Shap Abbey; I Cookson, Gill Head; W. Noble, Bampton Hall; J. and M. Fishwick, J. and R. Nicholson, Longsleddale; T. Thompson, T. Lowis, M. Ion, Bampton; E. Wood, Bannisdale Head; Miss Allen, Reagill; Mrs. Thwaites, N. Dufton, Naddle; W. Airey, J. Hudson, N. Gregg, T. Storey, Troutbeck; T. Fishwick, Morecambe; T. Kitching, Measand; J. Davis, Rosgill; E. Willan, Tebay; J. Gregg, J. Kirkbride, J. Little, Helton; Tot Greenhow, Naddle; Harrison and son, Swindale Head; S. Hudson, Lowther; R. Ebdell, Thrimby; J. Bigland, Patterdale; Ch. Burns, Knipe J. Wilkinson, Gowbarrow Hall; G. Salked, J. Black, B. Gilpin, J. Gilpin, Robin Burton, Aikrigg; S. Bindloss, Kentmere; W. Allonby, Settera Park; Collinson, Langdale; C. Branthwaite, Helton; G. and V. Bland, High How. J. Nanson, Askham; J. Wood, Cooper House; S. Thompson, Garnett Bridge; C. Willan, Witherslack; E. Tatters, Abbot Lodge; T. Kitchen, Wythburn; R. W. Metcalfe, Borrowdale; H. Barnes, High Mosedale; T.W. Whitfield, Bretherdale; A. Metcalfe, J. Hudson, Wet Sleddale; J. Hodgson, Helton; Atkinson, Sleddale Hall; J. Ridding, Selside; Frank Edmondson, E. Dudley, Clapham; J. Pearson, Bowland Bridge; W.H. Scott, J. Barton, A. Grundy, Gorton, Ashton, Holland, Pilkington, Penrith; Colin Brown, Darlington; G. Smith, Grasmere; R. Burns, Shap.

Monday's Hunt

An absolutely perfect day followed a night of hard frost and the landscape was bathed in sunlight and shadow with not a fleck of cloud in the sky of blue as Joe cast off on Castle Crag. Soon a light coloured fox was viewed away from the rocks and sped round Dog Crag, Flake How Crag, and Lady's Seat. Cracker led

the pursuers as they gathered quickly together and drove reynard right-handed towards Dry Syke Ghyll and Birk Crag, right through the rills and ginnels of Welter Crag. Another fox then appeared on the scene and there was the spectacle of two hunts going, one behind the other. Comrade, Careless and Cracker leading one consignment back into Castle Crag and the other section led by the mellow voiced old Fullerton doubling back from Basin Crag, through the strong places of Welter and again through Birk Crag towards Castle Crag, but driving reynard to ground in Dry Syke Ghyll, where he refused to bolt, he paid the penalty underground. The other fox was then viewed by the field crossing the meadows at Flake How, being nearly met by Mrs. Edmondson and her daughter, and speeding away through the sheep, crossed the valley on to Mardale Banks as if aiming for Swindale, but hunting being rather difficult hounds could not cope with it after crossing the road.

27th November 1920



Shepherds Meet, Mardale 1921

MARDALE MEET
A STORM RIDDEN GATHERING

Visitors to Mardale Shepherds' Meet - and they came from all parts of England, from Kent to Newcastle, are not likely to forget this years experience as the weather was of the vilest and stormiest character. Nevertheless this did not deter a large gathering from assembling for this time-honoured institution, and the visitors included many who have attended the gathering for very many years. The first arrivals on the Friday were Mr. Matt Sedgwick and party from Sedbergh, who accomplished the thirty-mile journey by "coach and four." Mr. Sedgwick was driver and Mr. E. Beckett rode postilion. The old "Dillgence" - to

give the chariot its full name used to convey the Upton family to christenings during the past 200 years.

Its motto "Sumpter paratus," was as appropriate as ever and the journey was accomplished in splendid time. The party included Messers. M. and T. M. Sedgwick, J. Lancaster, Miss E. Sedgwick, Messers W. Sedgwick, E. Beckett, W. C. Skelton, J. Airey and H. Relph. The journey as made by Firbank, Beckfoot, Greyrigg Hause, Low Borrow Bridge, Tebay, Orton, Shap and Bampton. Amongst the visitors who resumed acquaintances with the meet was Mr. Norman C. Parry, who is acting as huntsman for a pack of foxhounds in Kent. Early on Saturday morning motor cars began to arrive in great numbers and the road from Chapel Hill to the Dun Bull Hotel was completely occupied by parked cars. The raison d'etre of the meeting-the exchange of stray sheep-is always a feature at Saturday's proceedings, but owing to the terrible weather, which prevailed, the number of waifs and strays of the mountains was less than usual. However, over 90 were identified by their sheep marks and restored to their rightful owners. As usual, Messers T. Edmondson, and R. Ebdell, were in charge of the fold and flockmasters from all parts of Westmorland were present. The Mardale Shepherds' Meet may be classified in three epochs. There was the ancient period of Mardale, when tradition says its prestige began with the outlaw Hugh Holme who took refuge from a persecuting monarch in a cave, which today bears his name though the tenant nowadays is generally a fox. The next period may be termed the "Joe Bowman Chapter", and this is how Mardale has won its popularity. Its giant hills and peculiar mountain solitude have ever had an attraction for lovers of all that is best in nature, but it remained to Joe Bowman and the Ullswater Foxhounds to introduce these charms to the world outside. The writer remembers Mardale Shepherds' Meet when, at the height of the proceedings on the Saturday afternoon, the roll would not have exceeded thirty or forty. Nowadays, the motorcars themselves number about a hundred. The next period may be classified as the Manchester Waterworks regime, for the Corporation has secured Mardale's romantic lake for its supplementary water supply and the work is to commence next year. When completed it is stated, Mardale Church and the "Dun Bull" will be twenty feet below the surface of the water.

THE FOXHUNT

This year produced one of the most thrilling foxhunts ever experienced in the history of the meeting. It was the first Mardale Shepherds Meeting with the new huntsman, Braithwaite Wilson, in charge of the foxhounds. He was accompanied by his young whip, J. Wear, and the hunt secretary, Mr. C. R. Farrer. The veteran huntsman, Joe Bowman, was also present, as cheery and breezy as ever, and he was the central figure as the "field" moved towards Chapel Hill where Braithwaite Wilson cast off into the wood. Throwing forward, a cold line was struck which led over the wall into Holmes pasture. Within a few

minutes a ringing halloo from the top of Riggindale proclaimed that a fox was on foot. Major, Lilter and young Music led the pack, and a beautiful line was seen as the pack took up the running over the mountain ridge. Reynard then doubled back and came down nearly to the "Dun Bull" next climbing Dudderwick and speeding through the pasture where he was first roused. He raced the full length of the pasture with Merry, Leader and Major leading the pack at a terrific rate. The hunt led up Long Stile, past Hugh Holmes's cave, over Capstal Rake and under Rough Crag to Riggindale Head. It looked as if Reynard was making for High Street but on climbing out, he changed direction for Bleawater. The hound Merry had now taken the lead and the pace was a cracker. The fox was pursued back to Holmes's Pasture and went to ground. The huntsman and several hunters were quickly on the spot and terriers effected a bolt. The fox left his hiding place amidst a volley of halloos and hounds ran him to view along the mountain breast. Merry, Lilter and Leader outpaced the main pack as they followed the fox up Dudderwick and then they turned him into Riggindale. He crossed towards the farm, but before he could get to ground again was run into and dispatched. The mask was presented to Capt. Seymour; the only lady present at the kill was Miss Thompson of Penrith. Others who were in at the death were, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Eaton, Dr. Haythornthwaite, Capt. Digby Seymour, and Messers. B. Wilson, J. Wear, C. R. Farrer, J. Bowman, W. C. Skelton, Capt. Scott, Messers. A. T. Metcalf Gibson (deputy master), T. B. Nelson, G. S. B. Mack, F. Dixon, C. N. Parry, G. Hellewell, W. Porteus, J. Hopper (Leeds), M and T. Sedgwick, E. Beckett, T. Sedgwick, Jnr, and others.

THE HOUND TRAIL

The rain was descending in torrents and it was blowing half a gale as the time approached for the hound trail. Many of the trailers had an awful experience in crossing the fells, but perhaps the pluckiest achievement was that of a lady, Mrs James Wilson, of Troutbeck, who brought Barrow's Bendigo over the mountains. She lost her bearings in the mist and tempest and got down into Martindale and landed in time for the slip. The trailers also had a memorable experience. They too were nearly done. The course they laid was by Hop Ghyll, Mardale Banks, Naddle Forest, round Haweswater Lake, crossing the river at Thornthwaite Hall, returning by Burnbanks, Measand, Laithwaite, Whelter and finishing in the meadow near the church. Messrs. T. Tyson (Shap), and J. Greenhow (Mardale), were the trailers. Mr. R. Daffurn was judge and starter, and Dr. W. S. Eaton timekeeper. There were eleven starters and there was a magnificent race, ending in a very close finish.

Result:- 1. J. Long's Ladysmith (Eskdale), 2. T. D. Walker's Sister Susan (Egremont), 3. Hine's Blencathra (Threlkeld), 4. A. Jopson's Trooper (St. Anne's), 5. A. Jopson's Trimmer (St. Anne's), 6. Wilson's Easdale Lass (Grasmere), Time 34 minutes. Also ran J. C. Nicholson's Ranger. A Johnson's A. O Baldry's Magnet, J. Crowles Cragman, Sanderson's Black Cracker, Barrow's Bendigo. There was a

clay pigeon shooting but the sheep dog trials were abandoned due to the execrable weather.

SOCIAL AMENITIES

Over a hundred loaves of bread "went west" on Saturday, whilst the beef, peas pudding and plum pudding were up to the usual Mardale standard. Long before dark, every room in the house became a concert hall, and the greatest geniality and harmony prevailed. The chief concert was in the big room. Dr. W. S. Eaton, the poet laureate of Mardale was voted to the chair, and Mr. C. N. Parry vice-chair with Mr. W. C. Skelton in his customary seat at the piano. There was a very fine concert with some splendid songs, and even more splendid recitations. True to tradition, more new songs were launched, perhaps the finest being "Oh ho ho" the Mardale Hunter's lament on the retirement of Joe Bowman. One verse goes:

*There's varra few like Joe in heaven;
Oh, ho, ho!
They've mappen gitten six er seven
Oh, ho, ho!
Gay sports who gev Auld Nick the slip
Oh, ho, ho!
An kap 'im aff wid hounds and whip
Oh, ho, ho!*

Another good song written by Dr. Eaton was entitled "Auld Hunt", with the following preface, "written for the merry hunters of Mardale meet, 1924, on the retirement of Joe Bowman, the famous old huntsman of the Ullswater Foxhounds (1879-1924). Known throughout the dales as "Auld Hunt" "Hunty" or "Auld Joe". A man of dominating personality and strong character, straight, outspoken, and above board in all his dealings; a keen observer and a lover of nature, gifted with native wisdom, wit and humour, whose sayings, adventures and hunting escapades will ever live and be cherished by the fox hunting fraternity in the land of mountain, mist and mere. Amongst the contributors to the evening's singsong were Messrs. J. Relph, N. Walker, B. Wilson, M. and T. Sedgwick, Dr. Eaton, Capt Digby Seymour, C. R. Farrer, J. Wear, J. Bowman, T. Capstick, M. Hayhurst, Mrs. J. Wilson, G. A. Ashworth and others. Dr. Eaton gave the shepherds' toast, which was marked by the singing of the hymn "while shepherds watched their flocks by night". Mr. C. N. Parry proposed the "silent toast" followed by the hymn "Oh God, our help in ages past," which was reverently sung, the whole household rising to their feet to pay homage to the dead and gone Mardale heroes. During the evening a motto was decided on "Mardale Ducit Non Sequitor."

"THE HORN OF MARDALE"

But the most interesting feature was a presentation to Joe Bowman. This was introduced in most touching language by Dr. Eaton. It took the form of a silver horn and bore the following inscription

*May he who windes this silver horn
Ayes wake the echoes of the morn
And heavenwards wher e'er he wend
The spirit of Auld Joe attend*

*Presented to Joe Bowman by the hunters of Mardale
As a token of unswerving loyalty and affection.
Mardale Meet November 22, 1924*

In making the presentation Dr. Eaton said, "Merry hunters and friends as you are all aware, since our last Mardale Meet, Joe Bowman-the jovial old huntsman of the Ullswater Foxhounds has retired, after a distinguished service of 41 years. And it is a great pleasure and privilege to me tonight, on behalf of the hunters of Mardale to present him with a Silver Hunting Horn, as a token of their appreciation of him as a huntsman and their affection for him as a man. "Auld Hunt" has made a name in this dale, which will live long after we are gone, for he is the Grand Old Man of our North Country Hunting Fields, and one of the most famous and popular huntsman that the country has ever produced. But his fame does not rest alone on his unique record as a huntsman, for socially Joe has no compeer, "Yance he gits gaen." Wherever you find him, the spirit of brotherhood abounds, and wherever he appears everyone brightens up and feels young again. Such is the charm and power of his personality. And I think you will all agree with me when I say that the secret of his popularity lies in the fact that beneath his rugged exterior, you ever find the same true man, and the same big tender heart in the right spot. And as Rabbie Burns so truly said:- "The heart's aye, the part aye, that mak's us richt or wrang". I believe that thousands have added years to their lives, by coming into contact with "Auld Joe". And now Joe, on behalf of the Hunters of Mardale, I ask you to accept this Silver Horn-and a surplus for luck-with their deepest affection and the hope that you may be spared for many years to come and retain your brave heart and buoyant spirits to the end. May this horn ever remind you that your life has not been in vain, but that you have made many staunch and true friends."- Following Dr. Eaton's remarks, Mr. Matt Sedgwick made the presentation of the horn to Joe Bowman, stating that he had known him the first year he took over the Ullswater Foxhounds, when he met him at Greyrigg in 1879, after which he got Joe to come to Sedbergh for 30 years. He considered Joe Bowman not the equal of John Peel but his superior. It was the best pack he (Mr. Sedgwick) had ever followed and he considered Joe Bowman as absolutely incomparable in breeding hounds. He had very great pleasure in presenting the horn to Joe Bowman. Joe

Bowman showed his appreciation by rising to his feet and giving three thrilling blasts from his silver horn. On Sunday night there was a record congregation at Mardale Church. The Rev. H. J. Barham, vicar of Mardale, very thoughtfully arranged the harvest festival to coincide with the shepherds' meet. The church was beautifully decorated and there was a very hearty service. According to Mardale custom, the hymn "Crown him," concluded the service.-on Monday in spite of the weather continuing atrocious, there was a fine fox hunt from Castle Crag in the vicinity of Basin Crag and Whelter, a fox being accounted for.

29th November 1924

On Monday the hounds met again at Mardale

On Monday again from Mardale the hounds hunted in Whelter, the morning at day break was wet, but improved later, though there was a very thick mist on the fells and a gusty wind making it bad for seeing and hearing. The meet was not a large one compared to that of Saturday. Wilson threw off his hounds behind Mardale Vicarage and drew Castle Crag, Birk Crag and through Whelter without finding. Basin Crag proved more encouraging, a line being found which was a slow and long one. The drag took over Benty Howe down to Long Grain Beck, then to Keyes Ghyll to Bleaberry Knott, at the head of Farrendale. Reynard had crossed the beck again taking for some distance up Sandy Gutter, through Broad Sieves and down the top above Hall Grove to Lad Crag above Measand at Haweswater where he was unkennelled and made one of the best runs of the season.

The route for almost four hours was right ahead, confined to the Mardale side of the High Street range. After leaving the crag the fox took through Laythwaite Brow, then climbed out over Benty How, skirting along the tops of Basin Crag and Whelter Crag. Still keeping straight ahead, the hunt continued through Wrangdale, past Kidsty Pike, descending into Riggindale at Sail Pot. Reynard now took through some of the roughest ground in the district by way of under Twopenny Crag, over Short Stile and Rough Crag, climbing out of this valley at Capstal Gate, then forward through Blea Water Crag, under Mardale Ill Bell and Black John Hole, past Piet Crag to Nan Bield Pass at the head of Kentmere. It is not likely that the fox would go far down this valley further than Lingmore End, as he would have to face a very strong wind. It is likely he would turn right-handed about Wether Grove, and with the wind behind him along the top of High Street, through the Straits of Riggindale and Thorn Knott Ghyll into Green Cove at the head of Ramps Ghyll. Hounds were not heard at Hartsop or Patterdale until they were descending from the top of Boardale Hause. The route from Ramps Ghyll provided more sheltered running by way of Rest Dod and along at the head of the Martindale valleys by Codale, under Buck Crag in Bannerdale, through Little Fell and Heck Cove, then by the Angle Tarn Pikes into Boardale. Reynard's career by this time was fast drawing to a close, for his relentless pursuers were drawing in on him when they appeared in sight

at Patterdale from off Boardale Pass. The fox, with his eager pursuers running in full view, rushed down the hillside and before reaching the wall near Rookings cottages, the fox was rolled over by Mounter, Major and Miller, thirteen hounds being in at the death. Miss Hinchcliffe was first in at the kill and she received the mask and brush. The hounds were collected by J. Munroe and taken to the kennels at Patterdale.

Owing to the mist and wind, after the hounds had gone through Mardale Waters the hunters there were at a loss to know which way to go, so were out of the hunt altogether. When the roll was called at feeding time that night 22 hounds were missing. On Tuesday the huntsman returned home with his remaining hounds after hunting a little over three weeks in the Shap, Tebay, Longsleddale and Kentmere districts during which time nine foxes have been killed. STEEL END.

Cumberland and Westmorland Herald 29th November 1924.

*Mardale Meet
Good Sports But No Hunting*

The annual Shepherd Meeting, which was held last weekend at Mardale, was a great disappointment to hundreds of visitors owing to it being considered too hard for hunting, and consequently fox chasing was abandoned. This decision was all the more regrettable because on Saturday morning at the time of the meet there was the biggest crowd ever seen at Mardale, and no sooner was the decision come to than the weather took a milder turn. In other respects the meeting was similar to previous years. Sportsmen began to arrive on the Friday, and the "Dun Bull" was well filled by night. Next morning cars extended almost to the church, and the road was one mass of people from the hotel to the kennels. A collision occurred on the road near Flake How, which caused the road to be completely blocked and traffic had to be directed through a field. A 25-hp car driven by Mr. Frank Parker, of Grange-over-Sands, with seven passengers was proceeding towards Mardale as Mr. R. E. Daffurn's car from the "Dun Bull" was proceeding to Shap. There was no room to pass, and the off front wheels caught, that of Mr. Daffurn's car being completely wrenched off and the axle damaged. The other car had its windscreen shattered and one of the passengers slightly cut. Its axle was also damaged. The number of Herdwick sheep brought for exchange was 104, and the fold was in charge of Mr. T. Edmondson, of Flake How who had discharged the work of identification for 37 years, and Mr. T. Greenhow, of Naddle.

SHEEP DOG TRIALS AND HOUND TRAIL

Mr. Matthew Sedgwick, of Sedbergh, and Mr. W. Rowlandson, of Godmund Hall, judged the sheep dog trials. There were eight entries, and the awards were: 1.

T. Metcalfe, Borrowdale (Belle); 2. E. Lucas; Skelsmergh (Moss); 3 and 4. J. Hudson Troutbeck (Bess) and T. Metcalf, Borrowdale (Nellie). The timekeeper was Mr. R. Allen, Staveley. The clay pigeon shooting was won by D. Watson, Reagill, second and third was divided between the same shooter and H. Grindale, of Skelton. For the hound trail there were 18 starters, and the steward was Mr. A. O. Baldry, of Brackenrigg, the judge Mr. C. G. Wilson, of Kentmere, and the starter and timekeeper Mr. M. B. Revell, of Newby Bridge. The trail was laid by J. Thompson of Shap, and G. Greenhow (Keld). The route lay along Branstree, through Guerness, Naddle Forest by Naddle House, crossing Haweswater Beck at Old Mill, by Burnbanks, Laythwaite, the School, under Castle Crag, finishing up at Chapel Hill meadows. There was a very fine trail. "Black Music" was the favourite at twos, "Black Cracker" at fours, "Blencathra" at fives and "Trooper" at eights. Only a yard separated the two latter at the finish, the time being 32-23, and the result was as follows:-1. Jopson's "Trooper", Langdale; 2. Hind's "Blencathra" Threlkeld, 3. Sanderson's "Black Cracker," Grasmere; 4. Captain Dixey's "Coldstream." Ambleside, 5. T. D. Walkers "Sister Susan," Threlkeld, 6. Bellman's "Glendale," Backbarrow. Also ran "Ladysmith," "Ranger," "Freda" "Black Music," "Easedale Lass," "Crystal," "Trimmer," "Royalist," "Reaper," "Brewer," and "Merryhampton."

SOCIAL AMENITIES

Though there was no hunting, everyone entered into the social amenities with zest, and this part of the proceedings was at any rate a success. The chief concert was in the big room, which was packed out. The duties of chairman were shared by Mr. Norman de Courcy Parry. M.F.H., Scarborough, Dr. Eaton, Ennerdale and Capt. Digby-Seymour, Newcastle. Out of respect to Queen Alexandra's memory, the concert opened with the company rising in silence for a few moments and then singing the National Anthem. Dr. Eaton then apologised for the absence of Mr. Guy Mannering of Dover, who was unable to stay for the concert. Dr. Eaton also produced two new songs, "We all go to Mardale every year," and "Toural Eay," (a Mardale lyric). The last verse ran as follows:

*"Sae here's te Foxhunting and t'piercing 'halloo'
Which startles bauld reynard as he comes into view;
And here's te the hounds as they gather away
With the hills gaily echoing 'Toural Eay'."*

The doctor also contributed to the evening's sing-song. Others who sang were Messers. M. and T. Sedgwick, Norman Hudson ("Jim Dalton"). Jos. Wear ("Ullswater Foxhounds on Helvellyn"). Joe Bowman ("John Peel"). J. ("Let the rest of the world go by"), H. Jackson ("Old Pal"), Capt. Digby-Seymour ("The horn of the hunter's now silent"), J. Thompson ("Old Towler"), H. Jackson ("Asleep in the Deep" and "John Bull"), etc. The company rising and singing "While shepherds watched their flocks by night" honoured the shepherds' toast

in the usual manner. Mr. Norman Parry gave the usual Silent Toast and the company rose and reverently sang "O God our help in ages past." This was followed by the company singing "Tipperary." Which was a popular favourite at Mardale Shepherds' Meets before the war. There was an interesting presentation of a "Lamp of Memory" to Mr. R. E. Daffurn to mark the Mardale visitors appreciation of his never-failing courtesy. Sympathy was also expressed for Mrs. Daffurn who was ill. Mr. W. C. Skelton, of Windermere, who was again the accompanist, made the presentation. Toasts to the Chairman, accompanist, and host were drunk with musical honours, and the concert concluded with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. There was an overflow gathering in another room, where Mr. Tom Capstick of Tebay played the piano for dancing. On the following day, Sunday, some of the visitors attended the church service. Amongst those who attended the meeting were Mr. A. Metcalf-Gibson (deputy master), B. Wilson (hunter) and C. Farrer (sec), Joe Bowman the veteran hunter, Dr. W. Stanforth Eaton (Ennerdale), Dr. Haythornwaite (Lamplugh), Messrs. G. Hellewell, W. Portens, T. Smith, J. Hopper (Leeds), J. Heald, R. Baxendale, E. H. Birch (Liverpool), Guy Mannering (Dover), Capt. Digby-Seymour (Newcastle), Mr. N. de Courcy Parry, J. Hebson (Shap), Capt. Scott (Ullswater), J. Bland (Windermere), J. Bland (Troutbeck), M. Sedgwick, T. Sedgwick, Miss Emma Sedgwick, Chas Robinson, J. Mountain (Sedbergh), W. Harper, R. Youdell (Howgill), Mr. Speak (Manchester), Slack (Tirrell), Newton (Bampton), R. Burns (Shap), "Col" Burns (Shap), T. Capstick and G. Capstick (Tebay), E. Capstick, R. Mackereth (Kendal), J. Coward (Windermere), W. H. and G. Scott (Shap Abbey), C. Barnett (Rosgill), R. Craig (Trussgap), J. Harrison (Swindale Foot), J. Winder (Tailbert), I. Cookson (Gill Head), J. Winder (Littlewater), T. H. Kitching (Measand), F. Pilkington (Chapel Hill), S. Barnett (Scout Green), J. Hudson (Thorneybeck), W. Hayton, J. Hudson (Troutbeck), A. Atkinson (Sleddale Hall), C. Airey (Brackenhill), T. and G. Edmondson (Flake How), J. Dargue (Thorntwaite), T. H. Relph (Drybarrrows), T. Metcalf (Tebay), E. L. Lucas (Skelsmergh), H. Blencarn (Selside), J. Thompson (Garnett Bridge), Stobbart (Swindale Head), W. Douthwaite (Thornship), T. Hudson (Greenhouse), Mr. and Mrs. T. Metcalf (Shap), T. Simpson, G. Southward (Shap), C. Willan (Longsleddale), A. Parkin (Crosby Ravensworth), J. Barnett (Whitestones), J. G. Corwin (Waters) G. Salkeld (Kentmere), W. Allenby (Brockstones), J. Bland (Mosedale), T. Tyson (Shap Lodge), A. O. Baldry (Brackenrigg), C. Byers (Lowfield), Harold and Oliver Oversby (Birkfield), W. Parkin (Sleagill), J. Martin (Knipe), J. Wilman (Kirkby Lonsdale), T. Wilson (Middleton), W. Howarth (Rigmaden), Mrs. T. Chapman, Miss Winnie Tyson, Miss Fitzgibbons, Mrs Kirkby (Ambleside), G. Boys (Seascale), Jos Wood (Selside), W. Baldry (Howtown), T. Clarke, R. Burton, J. Ward (Sedbergh), E. Capstick. R. Nicholson (Howgill), F. Slater, A. Braithwaite (Sedbergh), R. Winster, Miss Winster (Shap), W. Rowlandson (Godmund Hall), C. G. Wilson (Kentmere), M. B. Revell (Newby Bridge) and R. Greenop (Egremont).

28th November 1925