

Cotswold Hunt News Item March 2001

Bitch Pack visits Westminster

On Monday 12th March a small bitch pack went to Westminster, under the care of a retired MFH, to hear the House of Lords debate the Hunting Bill. The journey to London went well in Tim Unwin's brand new Audi Quattro and we arrived in good time for a quick lunch, then a brisk walk to the House of Commons. We found our way into the Lord's with a few hitches, because although we had been promised that tickets would be left for us from several sources, needless to say tickets there were none. However, we waylaid Lord Mancroft and he had a word in the official's ear and we were in !!

The standard of the debate was very impressive, far better than the committee in the Commons and far less emotive. The outstanding speakers were Lord Mancroft, The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Bragg, Lord Mayhew (the ex Irish Minister) and Baroness Mallalieu. Lady Barbara Castle spoke for a complete ban in a highly emotional way, but in general the leaning seemed to be toward the 'Middle Way' or to leave things as they are. We spent five hours in the chamber listening and then decided to blow for home.

A picnic in the underground car park was enjoyed by all and then, with some difficulty, we got out of the car park and out of London! Tim grumbled that, "the bitches had their tails up, and heads down and weren't listening !" We said, "he ignored all the Holloa's and kept going the wrong way !"

We drove down the M4, talking about the debate and all agreed that we are so lucky to have such powerful and eloquent people to speak for us. We all hope that at the end of the day the battle will be won and common sense will prevail.

Jean Hall