

The
WEST SURREY
and
HORSELL BEAGLES

by
J. O. LAWSON

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Additional

In 1970 the Hunt was amalgamated with
the Worcester Park Beagles to become the
Surrey and North Sussex Beagles.

Up to that date the Hunt had continued
to meet at Pyrford Stone, "The Anchor" Pyrford,
Sund Barn Farm and Sutton Place in this
neighbourhood but does so no longer.

J.O.L.

Oct 1986

Former Masters

THE SURBITON BEAGLES

1882-1888 MR. RHODES COBB
1888-1896 CAPT. HOWARD VYSE WELCH
1896-1899 COL. F. COOPER TURNER AND MR. JOHN FISHER
1899-1909 MR. A. G. ALLEN TURNER
1909-1911 MR. ARNOTT CLOWES

THE WEST SURREY BEAGLES

1911-1912 MESSRS. W. W. HALE AND H. MASSEY
1912-1915 MESSRS. W. W. HALE AND H. E. WYER
1915-1918 MESSRS. H. E. WYER, L. HARRISON AND H. A.
BLOCK

THE WEST SURREY AND HORSELL BEAGLES

1918-1923 MESSRS. H. E. WYER AND H. A. BLOCK
1923-1931 MR. PHILIP LYLE
1931-1937 MR. J. S. STEVENSON
1937-1941 CAPT. C. M. H. PEARCE
1941-1946 MR. C. H. ISDELL CARPENTER
1946-1949 MR. A. G. ACTON PIERCE
1949-1957 MESSRS. A. G. ACTON PIERCE AND W. G.
KINGHAM
1957-1959 MESSRS. A. G. ACTON PIERCE, W. G. KINGHAM
AND J. O. LAWSON
1959-1970 MESSRS. J. O. LAWSON, A. C. S. JENNINGS
AND J. P. RAISMAN

Foreword

I THOUGHT that some of the early history of the West Surrey and Horsell Beagles might interest present-day beaglers, and I have tried to collect what information I could on the subject.

Captain C. M. H. Pearce—Master 1937-41—had the same idea, and did a great deal of research but, in 1941, he was killed and all his papers and the hunt records were taken to London and put in a "fire-proof" safe. The air-raid of May 10th, 1941, reduced much of the City to rubble and, although the safe was saved, the contents were found to be charred as a result of the intense heat.

Nearly all the facts that I have obtained have been from Mr. H. H. Scott-Willey, Master of the Worcester Park and Buckland Beagles, 1937-51. He has collected a mass of information, not only on his own and neighbouring packs, but on hunting in Surrey in general, and it is very regrettable that this has never been published. It is entirely due to his great kindness in allowing me to have access to this wealth of information that these records can be published at all, and to him I am extremely grateful.

All our own records having been destroyed, there is unfortunately no record of the sport shown in those early days or any outstanding hunts, but I hope that these few notes of early days beagling in Surrey, when meets took place on the outskirts of Surbiton, Tolworth and other areas now built up, may be of some interest.

THE DISPUTE WITH THE WORCESTER PARK BEAGLES

The next step which led to the disputes that followed was the starting up of the Worcester Park Beagles in 1886 and the reason given for their formation is as follows. Mr. Rhodes Cobb, of Surbiton, had refused to accept as members of his hunt some gentlemen who wished to join, and they, feeling very disgruntled, broke away to form their own pack.

Now they had more influential friends than the Surbiton. H. W. Bonsor, their first Master, was related to the Hankeys, of Fetcham, and one of their whippers-in was George Longman, the publisher, who later became Master of the Surrey Union. He had recently come to live nearby and was prominent in agricultural subscription lists and also took a lot of shooting in the neighbourhood. According to correspondence, it is he who is said to have got round the farmers and persuaded them to allow the Worcester Park to hunt their land rather than the Surbiton.

In October, 1888, Bonsor wrote to Cobb, saying he saw that the Surbiton Beagles were meeting at The Avenue, Worcester Park, on Saturday 16th, but as he had also arranged a meet there, for the same day, he would like to know which side Cobb intended to draw, in order to avoid clashing. Cobb replied that he was certainly going to draw there, but it was impossible to say which way they would run. He went on: "I can only tell you that the country which we have now hunted for many years is too small for the packs which are already before you in the field, and I regret that you and your friends, many of whom have hunted with us already, could not have continued to do so, as I feel we shall overrun the country, which is now overdone with packs of hounds, and the farmers are not likely to stand it."

It is difficult to know if there really was room for two packs in the country, but even if there had been there was certainly a lack of hares, as at the beginning of their first season the Worcester Park imported a number of hares from Suffolk, which they put down and which must have benefited the Surbiton Beagles as well as themselves. The trouble, however, was not so much a question of country, as a personal vendetta between Mr. Cobb and his former friends who had formed the Worcester Park.

Major H. V. Welch took over the Mastership of the Surbiton Beagles in April, 1888, and that summer he and his brother, who wanted some hounds for his regimental pack at Chatham, went to see Mr. Bonsor, who had some hounds for sale. In the course of conversation, the question of the Epsom and Ewell country was discussed, but Bonsor said: "I don't want it."

Before hunting started that autumn, Major Welch broke his leg, and not only was he unable to hunt hounds, but could not get round to see the farmers and landowners. During this time he heard Mr. Bonsor had been round seeing them and was hunting in the disputed country, but Welch felt he could do nothing while he was laid up and arranged meets where he could for his kennel huntsman, Taylor, who hunted hounds during this time. However, for some years the Surbiton continued to hunt the Ewell and Banstead country, meeting at the Ewell Windmill, Ewell Station and "The Victoria," Banstead.

Early in the season 1893, the opening meet was arranged for Ewell Windmill, where the draw usually commenced on Mr. Chuter's (late Master, Epsom and Ewell) land nearby. Notice was received from a Mr. E. H. Jay saying that he had given the Worcester Park exclusive permission to hunt his land and that he had promised Mr.

THE WEST SURREY & HORSELL BEAGLES

The Early Days

THE story begins in 1882 with Mr. Rhodes Cobb, of Surbiton, who started a more or less private pack, chiefly to give exercise during the winter months to the members of the rowing club in which he was interested.

The kennels were at Minnerdale, Surbiton, which runs from Burney Avenue to Eversley Road—not half a mile from Surbiton Station—and the pack was named the Surbiton Beagles.

He had no country of his own and just hunted where he could on Saturday afternoons without clashing with the Epsom and Ewell Beagles or the Morden Harriers, which were the two packs hunting here in the district, and he used to arrange his meets with the farmers in Kingston Market.

The Master of the Epsom and Ewell Beagles from 1870-1888 was J. P. Chuter, the uncle of the Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P., who was Home Secretary in 1945 among many other appointments. The hounds were treacherous till kennelled in their last two years.

The Morden Harriers were for many years under the Mastership of a famous character, Squire Blake, but they gave up as such in 1886 and became successively the Morden Staghounds and the Surrey Farmers' Staghounds.

Mr. Chuter, who was acting as honorary whipper-in to the staghounds in addition to hunting the beagles, found the two packs took up too much of his time and gave up the beagles in 1888. Before giving them up, he made an offer to Major H. S. Welch, who had taken over the Surbiton Beagles that year from Mr. Rhodes Cobb, for him to take over the Epsom and Ewell country and whatever rights he possessed. Major Welch accepted and an announcement to this effect was published in the county Press.

The Epsom and Ewell Beagles had hunted from Esher, Hook, Chessington, Epsom, Ewell, as far south and inclusive of Banstead and Caterham and in the other direction through North Cheam, Wallington, Cheam, Ewell and back to Epsom, and apparently the Morden Harriers hunted much the same country. There are records of the meets of the beagles on what later became the Surbiton side of the country at:

Waffrons—Long Ditton	Acre Hill—Chessington
Tolworth Bridge	Chessington Church
North Star—Hook	Molesey
Royal Oak—Leatherhead	Claygate
White Hart—Hook	Cobham Court
and of the Harriers at:	
Barnetts Wood—Leatherhead	Molesey (Mr. Willis)
Leatherhead Gate	Tolworth Court
Molesey	

Longman, at a dinner of the Surrey Agricultural Association, at his request, to refuse to allow the Surbiton Beagles to do so. Longman had apparently seen all the farmers round—Taylor at Longdon, Martin at Nonsuch Farm, and Chairman of Rectory Farm, Ewell. Chuter's reaction was that "though Jay might suck up to Longman, he was damned if he was going to."



Capt. Howard Vyse Welch, 1888-1895

Another factor which influenced Major Welch was that Mr. Jay also farmed Acre Hill, Chessington, which he had agreed the Surbiton might hunt, and Welch felt that, if he pressed the case of Ewell too strongly, he might lose the Chessington meet as well. About this time, too, Mr. Good, of Hackbridge, started a private pack of beagles and, being a close friend of the Gilberts of the Victoria Hotel, Banstead, was invited to meet there, without any regard to hunting rights. Welch, anticipating a short life for a private pack, did not press his case, and his idea proved correct, as Mr. Good gave up his pack in 1892 and the Surbiton hunted Banstead once again that season.

Major Welch left in 1896 to take on the Brighton and Brookside Harriers, of which he was Master till 1907, with the exception of the time he was away serving in the Boer War. He was subsequently severely wounded and died a prisoner of war when serving in the first world war at the age of 60.

In 1899, Mr. A. G. Allen Turner became Master of the Surbiton Beagles, which he retained until 1909. Mr. Simpson was Master of the Worcester Park Beagles from 1888-1905, and was followed from 1908-1911 by Miss J. M. Blake and Mr. R. W. Jamieson, as joint

Masters. Both packs continued to hunt the Banstead country, no settlement having been arrived at, and further complications arose owing to the fact that the Surbiton Beagles were opening up the country round Fetcham, Bookham and Leatherhead.

To an unbiased observer today, this would appear to be obvious Surbiton country, but it will be remembered that the Worcester Park



THE SURBITON
Mr. Lages Mr. Allen Turner Mr. Ellis Hicks-Beach
(1899-1909)

had some valuable contacts in those parts. Mr. Bonsor, the Worcester Park's first Master, had married a daughter of the Rev. Sir E. Moon, Bart., Rector and Patron of Fetcham, whose other daughter had married J. Barnard Hankey, of Fetcham Park. No doubt it was through this connection that they began meeting at Fetcham as well. It seemed nearly impossible for the two packs to reach agreement, but in August, 1908, matters were brought to a head by the Masters of the Old Surrey, and Surrey Union, Foxhounds, who had obviously put their heads together. Mr. H. W. Boileau (Master, Old Surrey Foxhounds, 1902-1909) and Mr. F. D. G. Colman (Master, Surrey Union, 1904-1910) wrote almost identical letters to the Masters of the Surbiton and Worcester Park.

SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE

Mr. Boileau wrote: "It is in the interests of the covert owners, farmers and keepers that I most earnestly wish for some clear and permanent understanding regarding the boundaries of the two packs. It is obviously absurd that two packs can hunt the same country and I do not think that there can be any difficulty in settling the matter." This was in reference to the Banstead country.

Mr. Colman—voicing the same complaint—wrote: "The fact that two packs of beagles hunt over the same part of my country round Fetcham seems to me to be against the best interests of sport, taking into consideration the fact that both have large countries, and I shall take it as a very great favour if you can see your way to alter this, as it does not give the coverters a very good chance of holding foxes, one pack or other being so often in them."

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THE BUCKLAND COUNTRY—A FURTHER DISPUTE

The reason for the country south of Dorking being mentioned was that in 1902 Major F. M. Beaumont had formed the Buckland Beagles and hunted the country south of the Worcester Park. The position was perfectly clear as long as the Buckland hunted the country, but either during, or very soon after, the 1914 war the pack was disbanded and the country became vacant. Thereafter, between October, 1920, and March, 1923, a lengthy correspondence took place between Mr. Jamieson (Master, Worcester Park) and H. E. Wyer and H. A. Block, the Joint Masters of the West Surrey, the name having been changed to this in 1909 and to West Surrey and Horsell in 1921 on amalgamation with the Horsell Beagles that season.

In November, 1920, Major L. F. Ricardo, who had been Master of the Buckland Beagles, gave consent to the West Surrey to hunt the Buckland country provided that they undertook to hand it back again at the end of the season, and the following March the Buckland Committee decided to ask the Worcester Park and the West Surrey to hunt it jointly the following season.

In October, 1921, discussions between the Masters of the two packs began, as to what the boundaries should be. To begin with, these discussions appear to have been very amicable, although why they could not have agreed straight away on the 1909 award of the River Mole boundary is not clear.

Wyer (West Surrey) suggested to Jamieson (Worcester Park) the road from Dorking to Reigate and Reigate to Crawley as the boundary. This appears to have been a pretty big slice to have asked for and it is not surprising that Jamieson demurred and proposed that the matter be referred to the Association for settlement.

Discussions continued for the next two or three months, and that December Jamieson protested at the West Surrey having arranged meets at Burford Bridge and Brockham. Wyer admitted that Burford Bridge was a mistake, but the Brockham meet was referred to the Association, who advised it should be given up, as it was in disputed territory. Wyer, in turn, protested at the Worcester Park meeting at Bury Hill, Dorking, but they refused to give it up.

In February, 1922, in the middle of these discussions, a bomb shell fell on the West Surrey. Jamieson wrote to Wyer, explaining he had not been able to keep an appointment to meet him and saw no point in a further meeting "as the Buckland Beagles have restarted and amalgamated their pack with us and notified the Masters' Association accordingly. We have changed the name of our pack to the Worcester Park and Buckland Beagles."

The West Surrey were frantic and at once appealed to the Association and asked that the matter be brought before the Association's annual general meeting on April 25th. What happened at the meeting is not recorded, but whether as a result of any action of the Association or no, Block was by November 3rd in amicable correspondence with H. Graham King, the then Master of the Worcester Park, over a proposed division of the Buckland country. Graham-King suggested meets were available at Bury Hill, Dorking, Tillingbourne, Wootton, Javes Park (Ockley), Holmwood Hill, North Holmwood, Westcott for Milton Court, Ockley Village and a fine strip of country between Ockley and Warham which the Buckland people thought a lot of. He proposed the railway from Dorking to Horsham

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Mr. Jamieson (Worcester Park) replied to Colman: "I would say that Fetcham Park country is Worcester Park country and has been hunted by them. I think, ever since they started, and if, as you say, another pack is doing the same, they have no business to do so. During the past season we met in the Fetcham district twice, on October 23rd and February 19th, four months between our meets, so I don't think we can be accused of being much in your way."

Now, at last, something had to be done to settle the question of boundaries. Mr. Turner (Master of Surbiton) made an offer to the Worcester Park, to which Mr. Jamieson replied: "I shall be glad to talk things over with you, if any good purpose can be served, with a clear understanding that the Fetcham Park district remains, as it always has been, Worcester Park country." At last, however, both sides agreed to refer the dispute to the Masters of Harriers and Beagles Association. On October 31st, 1908, Mr. Mercer, Secretary of the Association (Master, Mr. Mercer's Harriers, 1895-1915) informed both Masters that arbitrators had been appointed, but apparently Mr. Turner tried to back out of the arbitration. What happened between then and the following April is not clear, but on April 15th, 1909, the Worcester Park wrote to the Association saying Mr. Turner refused to go on with the arbitration and asking the Association Committee to deal with the matter.

How they dealt with it and how they eventually got the reluctant Turner to the post is not apparent, but eventually the arbitration was arranged to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on June 10th, 1909.

The arbitrators were: Mr. J. S. Gibbons, Boddington Harriers; R. Howard-Vyse, Stoke Place Beagles; Mr. C. J. Hulkes, Pettings Beagles.

The published account gives only the arbitrators' award, but Miss Blake's diary gives a full account of the proceedings with many amusing side lights. After listing those representing the Worcester Park, she goes on to say: "Crowds of Surbiton witnesses and supporters—mostly low class—turning up, a larger room had to be obtained."

The case was fully stated for both sides and many witnesses called—Gordon Colman (Master, Surrey Union)—being one for the Surbiton. Again Miss Blake's diary: "He meanly deposed that in the interests of loophunting, only one pack of beagles should hunt round Fetcham and Bookham and to his knowledge the Surbiton hunted three sides of them."

The final award given by the arbitrators was as follows: "The boundary of the countries between the Worcester Park and the Surbiton Beagles shall be the Hogsmill River from the Thames to Ewell; thence the L. & S.W. Railway to Leatherhead; thence the Brighton line to Dorking, the Surbiton taking the country west of the above boundary lines and the Worcester Park taking the country east of it. Should it happen at any time that the country south of Dorking become open to either of those hunts, the River Mole to be the boundary between them."

So after twenty-three years the long drawn-out battle of the boundaries was at last concluded. The Worcester Park lost the Fetcham, Bookham, Randall Park country, the right to draw Ewell Court Farm, which had been common ground for 20 years, and in addition a few fields at Worcester Park, while the Surbiton lost Banstead, which they had not been able to hunt for some time, owing to the attitude of the farmers there.

be the boundary, thus giving the West Surrey all those meets. Block accepted this, although he said he would have preferred the railway from Dorking to Petersfield Farm, Holmwood, and thence the road through Nevedgate and Kasper to Fraygate. So the boundary was finally settled, which still stands today.

BETWEEN THE WARS

There is little information available of the period between the two world wars, but Colonel R. B. Ullman has kindly provided the following notes which give a brief account of the Hunt during that time.

Philip Lyle's Mastership, 1923-31

Puppy shows were always held at his lovely house on the Hog's Back and there was one meet held here by permission of the Guildford and Shere Beagles. Oxshott, Leatherhead and Cobham were extensively hunted and formed some of the best country. This was lost when the railway line was electrified.

John Stevenson's Mastership, 1931-37

J. Stevenson concentrated on the Worplesdon country and the Cobham-Windlesham area, but also hunted the North Downs within the hunt's boundaries and West Hail, Byfleet. Puppy shows were held at Merton Barkers' house at Epsom.

Christopher Pearce's Mastership, 1937-41

Puppy shows were held at Ripley Court.



RIPLEY COURT, JANUARY, 1938
Haggard, Edgar, Studholme, Capt. Pearce, Carpenter, Leigh Douse, K.H.

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MEETS

White Hart, Chobham. A great many meets were within the Chobham area and it was a regular practice after them for many of the hunt to go back to tea at the "White Hart," where Mrs. Tanner, the most genial and hospitable tenant, made all welcome. It was a regular beagling tea, with eggs, "cream" (whisky) in the tea and with anything up to twenty on. Many of the regulars changed there and stayed on late to play snooker.

Fairstands. The house of Mr. Brock, whose son, Geoffrey Brock, still gives us meets at his Blackwell Farm, Guildford.

Burnt Stubb, Chessington. There was a tragedy on the one occasion when hounds met at Chessington Zoo. Hunting close to the wallaby enclosure, one of them got excited and broke its neck against the wire fence. It is believed that Stanley Woolton, who was a friend of Merton Barkers, replaced it.

Rectory Farm, Ockham. Ada Horne, who farmed it, was a great beagler and puppy walker, and a great character. She was still hunting at eighty and died at over ninety during the 1939-1945 war.

Ireland 1936. In 1936, John Stevenson took hounds over to Caragh Lake, in County Kerry, for a fortnight of early meets, accompanied by his secretary—Ruth Barker, whom he married shortly after—and members of both families, with also John Barker to assist Leigh Douse whipping-in. About half a dozen members and friends joined them for all or part of the time. The ground had been prepared when he had been over in June with Merton Barker, who had a lease of the fishing on the River Laune and permission obtained from the Killorglin Beagles and land owners. Hounds hunted three days a week, meeting early and generally getting back to the hotel about 3 p.m., when a full-scale lunch was waiting, a hospitality and disregard of time that still exists, possibly alone in Ireland.

On Sunday the trencher-fed Killorglin pack of Kerry beagles gave a meet and it was a pleasure to hear the deep bell-like voices of these hounds, each hunting its own line, like Bassets. Hares were not very plentiful, but one was found most days on the low-lying land at the edge of the foothills of the McGillicuddy Reeks. The quarry almost invariably made for the hills where, in the long heather, hunting was not too easy but gave a wonderful day's exercise. One of the best days was from Ard-Na-Shee, on the lake side, where a hare was killed after a longish hunt, almost in the demesne and when, with traditional Irish hospitality, the entire field was entertained to a full-course cold lunch in mid-afternoon. The off-days were spent fishing, racing and, by some, walking up Carantuvill—the highest mountain in Ireland.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

When the 1939 war broke out, the kennel huntsman of the Worcester Park and Buckland Beagles was called up and a nucleus of their pack was brought to Dog Kennel Green and kennelled there with a similar nucleus of the West Surrey, W. Mawson looking after them in his spare time from war-time agricultural work. Hunting was kept going with Saturday meets only, alternatively in the West Surrey and Worcester Park countries, and it was a great credit to those responsible that this was achieved in spite of enormous difficulties.

Chertsey Beagles. This had been a trencher-fed pack and it is said that on hunting days the then huntsman went into the town and blew his horn and so collected his pack. Mr. Charles Bailey kenneled his hounds at Chertsey and the pack was known as Mr. Bailey's Foot Beagles.

In 1889, Mr. Ernest Bailey became Master, with Mr. J. Lewry hunting hounds, and after kennelling hounds for the first season at Scotchers Farm, Horsell, they were moved to Sheerwater Court, Byfleet. Mr. Ernest Bailey gave up in 1896 and the kennels were then moved to Cheapside, Horsell Common, and the name changed to the Horsell Foot Beagles.

It was in the following season, 1897-98, that Mr. G. T. Bruzand, who subsequently became Master, first whipped-in and last season (1965-66) it was delightful to see him still at some of the meets of the West Surrey and Horsell Beagles.

At the end of the season 1916-17 the Committee decided that the Hunt should be dormant until the end of the war and on July 1st, 1919, an amalgamation was agreed by Messrs. Block, Clowes and Carlon (on behalf of the West Surrey Beagles) and Messrs. Bruzand, Driver, Biddle and Highton (on behalf of the Horsell Beagles) and they hunted the season 1919-20 as the West Surrey and Horsell Beagles under the management of the West Surrey.

Former Masters of Horsell Beagles :

- 1874-1887 Mr. Charles Bailey.
- 1888-1896 Mr. Ernest Bailey.
- 1896-1897 Mr. C. Kuhmer.
- 1897-1900 A Committee.
- 1900-1901 Comdr. C. Padget, R.N., and Mr. Ivan Hayes.
- 1901-1905 The Hon. C. Erskine.
- 1905-1919 Lord Erskine and Mr. G. T. Bruzand.

A great hunt was had by the Horsell Beagles on March 16th, 1910. They had met at the Manor House, Sutton Park, and conditions were dry and hot. After a hunt round the Church, hounds were brought back to Mr. Walton's land where a hare had been viewed.

Settling on the line, they went towards Beech Hill and, turning right-handed, skirted Pond Wood and made up the hill, crossing the railway below Worplesdon Station. After keeping straight on, she bore right-handed to the main road and was viewed going over the bridge and on to Smarts Heath. Crossing the Woking Golf Course near the last tee, she went on to the common beyond. The hare went through some partly built houses and was raced over Star Hill, down two Woking roads and rolled over after one hour and thirty minutes, this being a hunt of about six miles.

SUCCESSES AT THE SHOWS

There are no records of where Mr. Rhodes Cobb got his first hounds, but when Major Welch took over in 1888 he purchased a draft from Col. Seymour Duburg's Brookwood Beagles. In 1902, Mr. Allen Turner bought the Crofton Pack from Cumberland, most of them being of North Worcestershire origin. He worked hard to improve the appearances of the pack and won a number of prizes at

AFTER THE WAR

In March, 1946, Mr. Isdell Carpenter, who had carried on as Master during the war years, died in the hunting field and the following season Mr. A. G. Acton Pierce, returning from war service, took over. He was faced with the problem of a depleted pack of hounds, dilapidated kennels, practically no funds and endless other difficulties, and it is thanks to him and Mr. W. G. Kingham, who became joint Master with him in 1949, that all these difficulties were overcome and that the Hunt was put on a sound footing once more. Mr. Acton Pierce engaged as his kennel huntsman Jim Allen, who before the war had been with the Colchester Garrison Beagles, and he purchased a draft of hounds from Major Birkbeck when his pack was disbanded.

The question of country was again presenting a problem, but Mr. Kenneth Poland came to the rescue and agreed to let the West Surrey and Horsell hunt part of the country previously hunted by his Guildford and Shere Beagles, the Aldershot Beagles taking the remainder.

Mr. Poland had hunted the country south of Guildford and Aldershot railway as far as Billingshurst on one side and Petersfield on the other, but gave up on the outbreak of war. He had formed his pack in 1920, following a private pack known as the Shere Beagles that had hunted prior to the 1914 war, of which Mr. R. C. Hartropp, Old Hatch Farm, Abinger Hammer, had been Master.

Mr. Poland was an indefatigable huntsman and showed good sport. On Boxing Day, 1929, they met at the Old Toll Gate, Hog's Back. After a quick find and running two small circles, the hare went over the railway, across the Aldershot Road, left Stoughton Barracks on the right and passed through the Bryanstone Avenue Estate. Keeping on without a check, Pitch Place and Worplesdon Church were left on the right and this hare finally beat hounds in Tangley Park. This was a three-and-a-half-mile point and a long trek back, but Mr. Poland found again and, running over Manor Farm, killed a well-beaten hare in forty minutes.

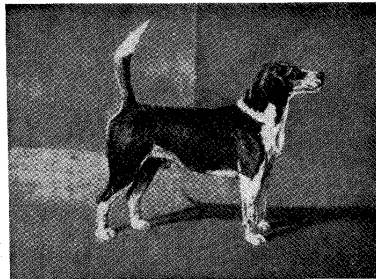
This straight-necked hare may well have been an ancestor of a hare that gave the West Surrey and Horsell a memorable hunt on January 4th, 1961, from a meet at East Flexford Farm. Found on the side of the hill above Wanborough Manor, this hare ran down to Greencut Cope and, coming out on the east side of it, ran straight over East Flexford, Blackwell and Manor Farms. She ran out on to the Guildford by-pass opposite the Cathedral, but doubled back and was killed in the field bordering the road. This was a two-and-a-half-mile point and hounds were practically unaided throughout. Many good hunts have been had in the post-war years, but with so much traffic on the roads, it is seldom that a point of any note can be made today.

THE HORSSELL FOOT BEAGLES

The Horsell Foot Beagles amalgamated with the West Surrey in 1919 after the first world war and a brief history of this pack is as follows.

In 1874, Mr. Charles Bailey restarted a pack of beagles that had been in existence prior to this date and had been known as the

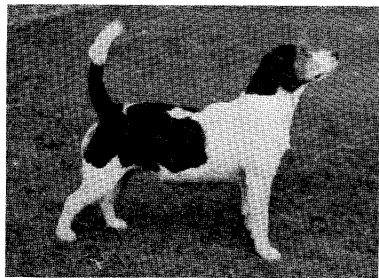
houn, Peterborough and Re-gate, was not all wild hounds of his own breeding. Although the West Surrey and Horsell have never been among the top prize winners at Peterborough Hound Show, they have from time to time had success there, as will be seen from the following :



Pagan, 1919. Champion Cup, Peterborough, 1921

1903	Couple of entered dog hounds	1st	PROMPTER (01)	Surbiton
			BLACKSMITH (01)	N. Worcestershire
	Couple of entered bitch hounds	2nd	NIMBLE (01)	Crofton
			NOSEGAY (01)	Crofton
	Champion cup bitches	1st	NOSEGAY (01)	Crofton
1904	Couple of entered dog hounds	2nd	BLACKSMITH (01)	N. Worcestershire
			NIGEL (05)	N. Worcestershire
	Couple of entered bitch hounds	1st	NOSEGAY (01)	Crofton
			PASSION (01)	Crofton
1905	Couple of entered bitch hounds	2nd	NIMBLE (01)	Crofton
			NOSEGAY (01)	Crofton
1906	Stallion hound	2nd	PROMPTER (01)	Surbiton
	Couple of bitches	2nd	NIMBLE (01)	Crofton
			PASSION (01)	Surbiton
1920	Stallion hound	2nd	FENCER (17)	West Surrey
1921	Best couple of either sex	2nd	JUSTICE	COUNTY
			PAGAN (18)	
	Stallion hound	1st	PAGAN (18)	
	Champion cup	1st	PAGAN (18)	
1922	Unentered dog	2nd	MAJOR	
	Unentered bitch	1st	MATCHLESS	
1923	Unentered bitch	2nd	RUIN (23)	West Surrey and Horsell
	Brood bitch	1st	JUSTICE	

1925 Couple of bitches ... 2nd RUIIN (23)
 1928 Couple any age or sex ... 1st GADTIOUS
 REBAL (36)
 1939 Brood bitch ... 1st MIDNIGHT (34)
 1956 Couple of dog hounds ... 2nd MARKSMAN
 MERRYBOY
 Hermon Wolsley cup reserve MERRYBOY



Rebel, 1936. Aldershot Champion, 1937

THE KENNELS

As has been mentioned before, the Surbiton Beagles were originally kennelled at Minnerdale, within half a mile of Surbiton Station. In 1902 they were moved to Chessington and at first were at Acre Hill in the buildings to the south of Park Farm. This at one time was farmed by the Mr. Jay, one of the family who had been difficult over the meet at Ewell and with whom Major Welch did not want to fall out because of his Chessington connection. Here, too, were kennelled the West Surrey Staghounds, but at a later date the Beagles were moved to the back of The Harrow Public House at Chessington, where they remained till moved to their present position at Dog Kennel Green during the Mastership of Mr. Lyle in the late 1920s.

The pack has been fortunate in having had remarkably good and loyal kennel hunters to serve them, although there is no continuous record of their services. Taylor was K.H. in Major Welch's time and in 1908 it was Arthur Love, Banner served under Mr. Wyer and Mr. Lyle, and Leigh Douse, who was until recently Huntsman to the

Courtney Tracey Otter Hounds, was K.H. for some years until he left in 1936 to go to the New Forest Beagles. W. Mawson, from the Croft Beagles in Yorkshire, followed him and carried on through the war years until Jim Allen, who before the war had been with the Colchester Garrison Beagles, came in 1947.
 It is good to see that Beagling is still as popular now as it was when Mr. Rhodes Cobb first started his pack all those years ago, and it is with gratitude that one looks back to those old hare hunters of the past, who were the foundation of our pack, which is commencing its eighty-fifth consecutive season this year.

I like the hunting of the hare,
 It brings me day by day,
 The memory of old days as fair,
 With dead men passed away,
 To these as homeward still I ply
 And pass the churchyard gate,
 Where all are laid, as I must lie,
 I stop and raise my hat.
 I like the hunting of the hare,
 New sports I hold in scorn.
 I like to be as my fathers were
 In the days e'er I was born.

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MEETS OF THE WEST SURREY BEAGLES 1910

CLAY GATE	Station
COBHAM	Fairlink
COBHAM	The Tilt
DITTON	The Church
ESHER	Paper Mills
EWELL	Station
LEATHERHEAD	Priory
SURBITON	Carrisbroke
SURBITON	The Red Lion, Ewell Road

MEETS OF WEST SURREY AND HORSELL BEAGLES PRIOR TO 1939

Worplesdon and Horsell Country

BISLEY	The Hen and Chickens
CHERTSEY	The Red Lion, Thorpe Royal Hyde Farm, near Staines Bridge Littleton Park, Shepperton The Three Horse Shoes, Shepperton
CHOBHAM	Emmets Mill Westcroft Park The Cricketers, Burrow Hill Halebourne Copyhold The White Hart, Chobham Highfield House
HORSELL	Wapshott Farm, Horsell Common Wapshott House The Bleak House
LONGCROSS	Longcross P.O. Longcross House Trumps Farm The Crown, Trumps Green
OTTERSHAW	Great Grove Farm
PIRBRIGHT	Baker's Gate
THORPE	Muck Hatch
WORPLESDON	Henley Park Balis Farm The New Inn Fairlands The Cricketer's Inn Tangley Place Merrist Wood Hall
WINDLESHAM	Windlesham Park Twelve Oaks Farm

MEETS OF WEST SURREY AND HORSELL BEAGLES PRIOR TO 1939

West Surrey Country

BOOKHAM	The Crown, Bookham The Old Rectory, Little Bookham Slyfield Manor
CHESSINGTON	Park Farm Chessington Church Lane, Chessington Burnt Stub, Chessington (now the Zoo) Ditton Grange
EFFINGHAM	Sir Douglas Haig
FOREST GREEN	Bullcroft Farm
HORSHAM	Amies Mill Bridge, Kerves Lane Ends Place, Warnham
OCKHAM	The Hut, Wisley Rectory Farm, Ockham
OCKLEY	Broome Farm Jayes Park Oakwood Hill, The Punchbowl
PYRFORD	West Hall, Byfleet The Maybury Inn, Woking Bailiff's Lodge, Maybury The Grange, Old Woking
RIPLEY	Dunsborough House Ripley Court The Talbot Tithe Barns The Jovial Sailor
WESTCOTT	Bury Hill