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Drag Hunting

Waitemata Hunt Inc

Drag Hunting Information

So what's Drag Hunting like?

It's a fun and social great opportunity to ride over some of the most beautiful farms from Coatesville to South Head, courtesy of our farmers. The Hunting season starts in March and finishes in July.

As there are no hares in our part of the country we lay a false scent and the Hounds try to find the scent and then follow it. The Huntsman and his Whips control the Hounds, and the Master is in charge of the Hunt, the Field Master and his Field secretaries help. The riders (known as the 'field') follow the Master. The aim is to keep up with Hounds as they run after the drag until they eventually find the drag layer, this always involves jumping spars and wire. You always have the choice to jump or wait and go through the gate.

"Gaters" have to be careful not to get in the way of the jumps, the jumpers, the Huntsman and Hounds, they have to not cross the line of the drag as this upsets the scent for the Hounds, and they have to make an effort to stay together and catch up with the Master as soon as they can. There is often a group of "Ridge Riders" who follow the same rules.

At the end of each run there is then a pause whilst everyone catches up and has a rest and a chat, as the drag layers take off to lay the next 'run'. During a days hunting, which starts at 11am on weekdays (hunt usually finishes by 2pm) and 11.30 on weekends. Each hunt typically runs for 3-4 hours, or approximately five runs.

Hunting is a traditional sport with ancient traditions, for example at the end we eat "Hunt Breakfast" together, which is actually afternoon tea. We all bring a plate to share.

You may decide to become a full member, or Hunt with us on an occasional basis by paying a capping fee for the day of \$50.00 per adult or \$25.00 per child. For more information or to go on our email list and receive our newsletter please visit our website

www.waitematahunt.co.nz or email info@waitematahunt.co.nz

