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# OTTER HUNTING

## LAKE DISTRICT OTTER HOUNDS IN EAST LOTHIAN.

The East of Scotland Otter Hunt having now no hounds of their own, and the Master of the Argyllshire, who had hunted their country for them for some seasons having parted with his pack, have consequently postponed their season to the autumn. The Lake District Otter Hunt have very kindly undertaken to give a few days' hunting in East Lothian, now that the East of Scotland country is broken up, and the pack arrived on Monday night from Ambleside. The first meet was at Haddington yesterday, hounds being in charge of Mr G. Grundy, the Deputy Master of the L.D.O.H., Isaac Fletcher (familiarily known as "Isaac") carrying the horn. The meet showed otterhunting as a sport is not dead in East Lothian yet, and it was a good sign to see several of the younger members of county families out. Hounds were put to water at the Old Bridge (the pack consisting of nine couples of workmanlike hounds), and soon they were speaking to a drag in very merry fashion, and they could touch it more or less right into Clerkington. Away from the river to the lade they carried it in beautiful style, and then getting back to the stream, they were soon drawing the damhead. Scent was very good all the way up, and past Westfield, the Brambly Bank, and Begbie, in fact, just too good, for at Samuelstone they were making the pace, chiming away melodiously the while, but being very keen, and working in a tricky bit of water full of hides, they must have overrun the quarry, for opposite the village the music had practically ceased. All the way up, signs of a good otter had been noticed. Herdmanstone Wood was blank, but just when hounds were about to be taken back for a try on the morning otter, they struck such a likely trail on the grass, and spoke so well to it, that it was decided to hold on upward. This drag was carried up to an old enemy, a root in Spilmersford lade, but although the water was kindly lowered by the miller, a terrier could not be got into the water-sealed stronghold. The Master then had the pack taken down to Samuelstone to try again for No. 1, and Isaac carefully had every bit of holding searched. Soon hounds hit off his new line, showing he had taken the hint to shift down. Very carefully, under cover of banking and willows, he had made his way, and left something for the pack to speak to as far as the junction of the Gifford. A most enjoyable day had been spent, and the field expressed the greatest delight with the capital handling of the pack and its work. The river seems to be well stocked with otters, and good sport is in prospect.

## DUMFRIESSHIRE OTTER HOUNDS.

The above pack of otter hounds are on a visit this week to the river Tweed and on Saturday they afforded a fine day's hunt. The meet was at Riddle east gate to hunt the Ale water. There was a goodly company present, and among a few noticed at the meet were Miss and Miss Chrissie Dove and Mr Dove of White House; Miss Shand of Kent; Mr J. Paterson, Beckfoot, Annan; Mr R. Dixon, of Edinburgh; Mr Harry Dove, Mr Hood, Dryburgh; Mr Douglas, Crowdieknowe; Mr and Miss Hope, of Sunwick; Mr J. Watt, Carlisle; Mr D. Denholm, Railway Hotel, St Boswells; Mr Mat. Richardson, of Kelso, and many others. Mr Davidson decided to hunt down the river as it was thought Lent Hill policies would yield the necessary element, or failing that the stronghold of Cavers Carse. Both, however, were passed in silence. On approaching Long Newton the pack began to show signs of the game having been about the banks of this part of the river. Note after note from the leading hounds became more pronounced, and they settled down puzzling out the drag of their otter in the most delightful manner. There was a grand burst of music just as they came to Sandystone mill, and immediately after the whole pack made a stand at a strong root, and marked their quarry to ground. The terriers were called upon and soon bolted their otter to the river in full view of the field. A lively and exciting hunt then began, and for upwards of two hours beautiful swimming was witnessed. Over and over again a hound was seen to tackle boldly single-handed the otter, and exciting scimmages took place between hound and otter. Again and again he slipped off, and hounds swam their game for another half-hour. Finally he began to give in, and took to the land. In making for the mill dam, hounds got a view, and pulled down a splendid dog otter, which scaled 25 lb.

## HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

### OTTER HOUNDS.

	Date.	Hour.	Meet.
Dumfriesshire ...			Roxburghshire.
			In the district during week.
	Satur., Sept. 17.	at 8.30.	Stair Bridge (Ayr.)
	Tues., Sept. 20,	at 9.0	.. Milkfoot (Annan.)
			(Hunting down.)

### FOXHOUNDS.

	Date.	Hour.	Meet.
Dumfriesshire...	Thurs., Sept. 15.	at 6.0	.. Brocklerigg.
	Satur., Sept. 17.	at 6.0	.. Newbie Longwood.