

From: [Colin Sykes](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
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I speak as someone who at the age of 60 took up fox hunting with the Berwickshire hunt. My wife did express, and still does question, whether we operate within the law. I was also very mindful of the existing law, and as a newcomer questioned the experienced members at various times, with some "daft laddie" questions.

That was 3 years ago, and I can verify that local farmers willingly ask for the hunt to be on their land, so that fox control can be effected. As to how the hunt operates I can see that the volunteers who are on quad bikes and each having a rifle are absolutely key to operating within the law. Just quite how these quad bikers know where to be still puzzles me, but they all have years of experience, whereas I don't!

The local economy also benefits from the hunt in that it provides jobs in a sparsely populated area, where there are no large employers. Farriers, local animal feed stores, vets, grooms, all benefit financially from hunts and are the fabric of the countryside.

However, returning to my own experiences, I would add that if my local hunt operated outwith the law then I would not take part at all, as I currently also compete in other equine disciplines, so taking part in an illegal activity would be a NO NO from me.

So to summarise my thoughts, based on my own experiences I feel the current law works, and sincerely hope it is retained as is in Scotland.

Regards
Colin Sykes

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