

## **TumbleWatch - Season 2021/22**

*Welcome to the League which celebrates the danglers, crashers, spillers, sliders and pile-drivers among us. If you see or hear any tumbles this season please do contact Tumblers Confidential with extravagant detail via the usual methods: Speak, WhatsApp, Hon Sec team or by loud proclamation in the Field. How many falls will it take this season to win the coveted Empty Stirrup trophy?*

Closing Meet, Saturday 12th March 2022

**It was muddy. It was fun.**

**\*\*\* Stop Press \*\*\***

**Additional fall reported for Miss S Edge ... ties for the Junior Trophy.**

It was reported last week that **Miss S Edge** has fallen FOUR times this season, thereby joining **Miss M Sirret** on the winner's podium for the Empty Stirrup Trophy - Junior Division.

The Hunt Supporters Club put on a spectacular Meet for our final day of the season. We thank them sincerely for their unstinting support. Hounds flew and treated the Field to a day which barely stopped. It was muddy, but boy o boy it was fun.

But never mind the huntin', it's the tumblin' you're here to read about: Mrs Morley made a late bid to beat Mr Hayes to Tumbler of the Year with two falls at Closing Meet but, in reality, she didn't come close. Mr Hayes, MFH, has beaten off all would-bes with an outstanding 4 falls this season. A financial contribution of significance. He is joined by Junior Tumbler of the Season, Miss M Sirett who also delivered 4 falls. Well done to the pair of you, we are extremely grateful for your dedication to the noble sport of Tumbling.

Behind the winners, on 3 falls apiece, were Mrs C Evans, Master C Dallal and Mr J Langdon which gives us a nice split between the young and the... very young.

We look forward to a long-awaited Tumblers Party - grievously missing these last two years - where we can metaphorically kick up our heels while keeping our feet firmly on terracotta.

Tally ho folks. Until September.

Falls	Name	Commen
=4	Miss M. Sirett	<p>Duncton: Disappointingly no detail on this season opener so if anyone saw or heard anything related to this fall please do get in touch. Confidentiality not guaranteed. There were FAKE NEWS reports of a junior Edge taking a dive at the same meet but these have been strongly denied by the family.</p> <p>Petworth: Miss Sirett came to grief over our new Tiger Trap X Hedge at the top of the farm. Miss M's pony bucked its way into the fence sending its jockey over with empty stirrups and a bumpy landing on the far side. A plucky jump, a brave re-mount. Bravo.</p> <p>Goodwood (2 falls): Miss Sirett suffered two tumbles at Goodwood but, on the upside, met the Duke of Richmond. Miss Sirett's pony, having chatted briefly with His Grace at the track meet, had imbibed the 'Need for Speed.' He left the circuit, kicked up his heels, and dumped his jockey in the car park. Fortunately he was caught and was re-mounted, but by now he'd fully entered into the theme of the day and dumped his jockey again on the hills above Molecombe. Wisely Miss Sirett called it a day there. Two tumbles on one day is a gauntlet thrown for the Trophy. Any more would be pot hunting.</p>
= 4	Miss S Edge	<p>Late Entry! TumbleWatch has been informed Miss S Edge has fallen 4 times this season which means she ties for the Junior Trophy with Miss M Sirett. Congratulations! Your father will be thrilled to donate another £5.</p> <p>Petworth: Middle Edge was wisely skirting the hummock sheep field looking for an exit when her pony nose-dived down the hill, depositing his rider in the grass. A small amount of turbulence on an otherwise fine day of flying.</p> <p>Heyshott: Middle Edge is reported to have fallen off at a standstill 'because', a source related to her says, 'she is a twit.' That is a technical equestrian term and does not in any way diminish his affection for her.</p>

		<p>Masters' Meet - Lurgashall: And here we have it. A stealthy, but bold play for the Empty Stirrup. Middle Edge is now on THREE FALLS which means she's only one fall off Miss Sirett's total of four. The fall today was apparently made 'in sympathy' for her sister. In her own words 'Daisy was feeling sad so I offered to fall off to make her feel better.' But in TumbleWatch's book a fall is a fall is a fall and that's a fall.</p>
= 4	<p>Mr David Hayes, MFH</p> <p><i>Historial reading material below.</i></p> <p><i>Source: Wikipedia, with additions</i></p>	<p>Away Day, HHH: And we have a clear leader in the adult category for the Empty Stirrup trophy. With this fourth tumble of the season, Mr Hayes MFH equals Miss Sirett's tumbles and takes the lead in the adult league. The fall was described as a 'stop 'n' slither' at the first set of rails at Southwick with the Hursley Hambledon. The going was deep so we can only guess at the state of Mr Hayes's coat at the end of the day. Folks, we have a hot competition on our hands.</p> <p>Boxing Day Meet: Mr Hayes is throwing the Field a challenge with fall no. 3. In his own words 'I did a Deborah* and fell into a bog.' Sounds messy. Mr Edge MFH says 'That one will get you every time.' But unfortunately he only mentioned that after the day's hunting. Either way Mr Hayes has taken the lead in the senior category for the Empty Stirrup, and it's not even the New Year....</p> <p><i>*see Mrs D Boulton (Children's Meet)</i></p> <p>Pulborough Valley: Dangling dangerously, David dismounted deftly ... and re-saddled his horse. They're saying it's a tumble, Sir, and who are we to argue? They also say 'if you want loyalty, get a dog.'</p> <p>Pulborough Valley: This fall is entitled: How to Extract Yourself From A Hedge And Other Useful Tips From The Hunting Field. Mr Hayes fell into the Shipbourne hedge (downhill section) and in his own words 'It was the softest fall I've ever had. But I ended up lying backwards in the bramble and the only way I could get out was to do a <a href="#">Fosbury Flop*</a>.' All TumbleWatch can say is that it truly was an entertaining fall. But absolutely, categorically, under no circumstances <i>at all</i> should Mr Hayes now be known as Mr Flop.</p> <p>...It is Mr Flop, <i>MFH, puhlease.</i></p>
= 3	Mr J Langdon	<p>Pulborough Valley: Mr Langdon's horse came unstuck in the mud on the landing side of a log, forcing Mr Langdon to retire early. We hope he makes a speedy recovery.</p> <p>Brinksoles: Again so soon Mr Langdon!? Finding itself</p>

		<p>hunting 'At Home' Mr Langdon's horse was desperate to be reunited with his stable-mate. He dislodged his stylish rider, trampled him lightly into the ground to be sure, and took off for home leaving his rider to battle the clay 'a pied' in his wake.</p> <p>Marshall's Farm: Mr Langdon, a stylish and accomplished hunt rider as ever lives, makes a RARE foray into the League with a fall at the new Hope Farm hedge and rails. Reports of his horse pecking on landing and a fall out the front door were received but a quick re-mount saw him tackle the main hedge with style. Very, very long odds to win the Cup.</p>
= 3	Mrs C Evans	<p>Pulborough Valley: Mrs Evans came to grief at the large Lordings hedge but bravely re-mounted. We wish you a speedy recovery.</p> <p>Heyshott (2 falls) A (rare) brace of falls for Mrs Evans who is probably keen to know what the Tumblers' jape is all about. Agent Boulton reports Mrs Evans' horse spooked sending its rider out the side door but she gets great credit for holding onto the horse. We thought it was only ONE fall but at the Masters' Meet a confession reported TWO. Welcome to the League. You're a player now.</p>
= 3	Master C Dallal	<p>Opening Meet: Master Dallal had one of those tumbles which really is a surprise. The Standing Tumble. His very hungry caterpillar (I mean, pony) decided that the grass looked very too delicious. He put his head down to eat and took his rider with him. Luckily, he fell at the feet of a mounted Mr Sirett who lent down, and hoicked him straight back onto his pony by his body protector. Which is why children should always be fitted with body protectors.</p> <p>Heyshott Common: Master C Dallal fell off again at Heyshott today. Detail is scarce but mud, glorious mud, is reported to have been involved. Visions this evening of the Dallal home interior...</p> <p>Closing Meet: No details but we are told Master Dallal completed the season with a tumble!</p>
= 2	Miss L Marsh	<p>Goodwood: Miss Marsh jumped a fallen tree beautifully but her steed pecked and the rider cartwheeled over the stump on landing. And that was that - tumble no. 1 in the bag.</p> <p>Closing Meet: Tumble 2! She flew the drop hedge in terrific style...and then treated us all to a wonderfully athletic show on landing. She clung to the side of her horse for quite a</p>

		while before tumbling gently to the ground. Style points all 'round.
= 2	Mrs T Morley	<p>Closing Meet x 2: Well, what can we say? Mrs Morley gave a masterclass in muddy tumbles on the final day of the season where ground conditions were, how shall we say this politely... deep.</p> <p>With Hounds following the trail Mrs Morley flew the tiger trap at Bog Field...but her horse did not. UNDAUNTED, she re-mounted and carried on with at least half the soil layer plastered from hat to heels. Much photographic evidence was taken. 'It was EPIC' wheezed Lynsey with unconcealed delight. Mrs Morley took a short rest from acrobatics but by now she had a taste for it because she tumbled again at the second drinks tiger trap where, arguably, the ground conditions were even...deeper.</p> <p>It's not enough to claim the trophy this season but make no mistake, this woman is FEARLESS.</p>
= 2	Miss D Dace	<p>Pulborough (Children's Meet): Miss Dace fell twice at the children's Meet taking the tumblers' challenge extremely seriously.</p> <p>Having beautifully sat a number of bucks Miss Dace eventually was unseated at fall 1. She was bundled into a car in hot pursuit of the pony who galloped determinedly in the direction of the Pulborough Texaco - electrifying the Field and scaring the bejesus out of the Master in charge. But Miss Dace returned mounted, galloping up the all-weather track in great style. 'He should be fine now,' said someone, 'he's had a nice gallop.'</p> <p>Unfortunately the reunification of girl and pony did not last. This time the pony galloped across a turnip field, fell into a ha-ha, jumped the wall and was last seen galloping across a neighbour's finely striped lawn. At least he left the tennis court intact. 'That's nothing compared to the cattle we lose up there sometimes,' said the farm manager.</p> <p>Apparently these are the things dreams are made of...</p>
= 2	Mrs D Boulton, Honourable Secretary	<p>Southwick, away with the HHH: Fall number 2! 'There was photo evidence and everything,' says Secret Informer Crouch, who reported Mrs Boulton's fall at a log in the woods. At least it wasn't over the same set of rails as 147 other Field members. Mrs Boulton is moving up the League but she will have to at least double her fall rate if she wants a</p>

		<p>serious run at the title.</p> <p>Pulborough (Children's Meet): One of the finest tumbles in recent history Mrs Boulton's horse went pommel-deep off the infamous Scrase Causeway. To the shouts from Mr Dallyn of 'No Deborah, not that waaaayyyyyy!' Mrs Boulton plunged off the reed bed into the abyss. She emerged more quickly than her horse. Eventually both were remounted and the jangling nerves of the Master in charge settled and the day was completed without any further disturbance.</p>
=1	Mr T. Sirett	<p>South Harting: A joke for you: 'What's brown on one side, and white on the other?' Answer: Master T. Sirett and his pony Leo. Leo, feeling hot and sweaty, dropped like a stone for a lovely roll in the pastures of South Harting, the seat of English hunting since the 1600s. As Master Sirett says, 'there's just nothing you can do when he rolls. He doesn't give you any warning. The only good thing is that he doesn't do a 360 degree roll, so he's still clean on one side.' Like a true Sirett this Young Entry is adept at looking on the bright (white) side of life. And that is the secret to everlasting happiness. Well done young man.</p>
= 1	Mrs H Sirett	<p>Petworth: Going for the full 'family' house in the League, Mrs Sirett fell into a bog but emerged completely clean. 'Lockett jumped the ditch and bog at jaunty angle. I was confronted with a tree and as she landed I kept going. Luckily I have enough experience at falling off to avoid the ditch, mud and brambles.' <i>Impressive.</i></p>
=1	Mrs C. Hoare	<p>Pulborough Valley: A very unlucky tumble among a large field when her horse slipped and fell, taking his rider down with him. (I've got that particular t-shirt myself, <i>Ed.</i>)</p>
=1	Mr M. Davison	<p>Pulborough Valley: Another unlucky fall for the very experienced Mr Davison. Bad luck, Sir, but welcome to the CL&amp;C.</p>
= 1	Miss T. Field	<p>Pulborough Valley: On her first serious day's Autumn Hunting Miss T Field's pony wisely side-stepped its bucking companion and deposited her rider in the lush green grass of the water meadows. Miss Ford fell, leapt up and re-mounted without hesitation. She displayed all the true makings of a serious Hard Woman to Hounds. Bravo (and if we may say: that's a fine pony).</p>
= 1	Mr R. Milne	<p>Petworth: Tumble? Guilty. As. Charged. The criminal detail was thus: Mr Milne flew the new Tiger Hedge atop the farm. His horse did not. And that, Your Honour, was that.</p>
= 1	Mr C. New	<p>Billingshurst: Visiting for the day Mr New &amp; horse lost their</p>

		footing in the water meadow badger setts after mis-interpreting the instructions to go low, not high. 'My Scottish accent may have contributed to the misunderstanding,' said Linz. Och lassie. Nae, I cannae believe it. But neither horse nor rider was injured and they remounted and carried on. Sir, you are welcome anytime. (ps: is it a double fine for a 'foreign' tumble?)
= 1	Miss Tupholme	Opening Meet: Miss Tupholme's lovely black horse took great exception to a puddle heading into Pheasant Copse and deposited his rider with a leap. Fortunately horse and rider were re-united. We were delighted to have your company and hope to see you again soon.
= 1	Miss T Carter	Opening Meet: Miss Carter, a hard woman to Hounds, alas suffered one of those very annoying tumbles...where you come a cropper on your way back to boxes. Luckily for the Hunt IT STILL COUNTS and we will be invoicing her piggy bank before the close of season.
= 1	Miss M Rogerson	Opening Meet: TumbleWatch is still pondering this confession which was delivered in person at Second Drinks with mud freshly dripping from the peak of her cap: 'I didn't want to jump...so I fell off.' Cue *puzzle face emoji*.
= 1	Miss S Mitty	Opening Meet: Miss Mitty had a very elegant tumble at the second tiger trap off the start. She is reported to have very coolly used the gate to re-mount calmly as the Field jumped on. Bravo! Great style.
= 1	Mr J Gough, Chairman	Heyshott: Well, well, well. Welcome Mr Gough. We have missed you Sir! We believe this was a 'spooked at a spooker' situation involving Mrs Evans' own fall.. In any case we're certain hard drinking at the Meet had little to do with it and it's wonderful to have you back in the League.
= 1	Mr J Morris	Heyshott: Another victim on the Day of Terror. Mr Morris came under the influence of a tree which is reported to have wiped him from his (very tall) steed. We are very sorry to hear you were injured and wish you a very speedy recovery.
= 1	Mrs A Cash	Pulborough Valley: There is an <i>odious</i> rumour Mrs Cash fell off into a cow pat. This is truly a Fate no one deserves and you have our sincere sympathy. We hope to see you back (freshly laundered) very soon.
= 1	Mr A Lorenz	Masters' Meet: Phes Copse/Lurgashall. Mr Lorenz came a cropper under a very low branch in the wild woods of River Common. The very muddy coat was a bit of a giveaway. It's good to have you in the league, Sir.

= 1	Mrs J Burdett	Marshall's Farm: Forced to stand still for agonising moments of time Mrs Burdett's steed reared 3 times on the water meadows borderlands and deposited his jockey on the third attempt. Fortunately we have been treated to the driest November on record and so minimal water from the water meadow was suffered. Thanks to some slightly dodgy field mastering (er hmmm) we did plunge into a terrific bog later on but that's another story...).
= 1	Mr P Breitschadel	Duncton: Using a horsebox as a Confessional Mr Breitschadel admitted to being dumped as George took great exception to a bench. 'I had no idea a horsebox could double as a Confessional' said High Priestess Crouch, 'but confess he did.' Amen. Fortunately she hasn't taken a Vow of Silence.
= 1	Miss N Uloth	Elsted: Agent Slowe reports on the Elsted Fallers: It was only a hunt hack! But it still counts...Meet host Miss Uloth suffered a tack malfunction while jumping. A sharp turn on landing meant her saddle, and by extension her person, being very much in the wrong place.
= 1	Mr C Homan, MFH	Elsted: Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. Oh very, very dear me. Mr Homan, MFH, demolished his own gate - we believe trying to jump it - coming to grief in the process. But, at least Christmas is coming so Mrs Homan need look no further for gift ideas.
= 1	Ms N. Lyon-Maris	Hunt Hack, Northchapel: Now it's irksome but true that a fall at a hunt hack DEFINITELY COUNTS! Slippery ground and a rather unfortunately placed sapling saw a slight diversion of the path of horse and rider for a very minor tumble. Bad luck but no harm done. This pair will need to put some real work in if they have hopes of challenging for the Trophy this season.
= 1	Mrs N Crouch, Hon Sec	Away Day, The Oakley: In a blatant attempt to win attention from two-time Olympic medallist Tom McEuan, Mrs Crouch orchestrated a (rare!) fall at a ditch (small channel is how it was later, more accurately described) with an equally impressive mid-field remount. 'It was most definitely, completely in front of Tom McEuan, MBE' confirms Mrs Crouch. 'I heard a little voice say, 'Would you like a leg up?' 'No!' I scowled, says Mrs Crouch, 'before realising that in fact I may well need assistance'. In order to avoid losing face she goes on, 'I was a very determined old lady and managed to clamber back across my horse.' Such elegance at home, and away.
= 1	Mr J Ellis	Away Day, HHH: Mr Ellis is reported to have fallen at the



		same set of rails which claimed Mr Hayes in 'a successful effort to indulge in a head to toe mud bath,' says Secret Agent Sl.ow.E.
= 1	Mr X	Away Day, HHH: We have another report of a fall at the same set of muddy rails which claimed Mr Hayes and Mr Ellis. Sir, no doubt your identity will reach us in good time but at the very least you were in plenty of company for your tumble. Bravo.
= 1	Mr N Meadows, MFH	West Dean: A first for Mr Meadows, MFH, this season. Mr Meadows fell prey to a low hanging branch in the woods and was wiped out. His horse briefly thought about exiting the picture, stage left but was persuaded to let the good Master re-mount and carry on.
= 1	Ms G Green	Pulborough Valley: Ms Green came a tumblin' at the large Lordings hedge by jumping it in a straddling motion and then falling into a ditch on landing. It was quite spectacular but not as impressive as her very jaunty re-mount and staying out until we blew for home! Bravo.
= 1	Miss D Edge	West Dean: Well Miss Edge, you've taken a very long time to arrive on the league table! What a wonderful rider you are. Miss Edge had a very gentle spill in the same woods which took out the Master, Mr Meadows. Her pony very sweetly continued on with the rest of the field and Miss Edge very sweetly just stood on a log and waited for him to be delivered back to her. What a wonderful life :)
= 1	Mr P Walker	Pulborough Valley: A very small ditch. Mr Walker went one way. His horse went another. End of.
= 1	Miss I Livett	River: A tumble at parking? Always a winner for TumbleWatch and the tumble coffers! (River has something of a reputation for this). Luckily no harm was done and Miss Livett re-mounted for the actual trail hunting.
= 1	Mr C Livett	West Dean: Oooh, TumbleWatch forgot to log this and we send thanks to the (wonderfully truthful) family for reminding us of Mr L's misadventure in the forest of West Dean! On a fast ascent of the Downs Mr L did away with the common advice to stay between ears and tail and instead had a close investigation of ground conditions (hard)... and an earlier than desired departure from the Field.
= 1	Ms C Stevens	River: There simply wasn't any hiding this fall. Sporting a VERY muddy coat and breeches Ms Stevens' confessed she fell when her horse over-jumped the small fallen birch. Fearless she mounted and rejoined the fray.

= 1	Mrs P Broadhurst	South Harting: A very neat fall over a lovely set of hunt rails which by then had a very deep landing. Mrs Broadhurst very kindly used the fall to open and close the adjacent gate for the rest of us so her tumble had the dual benefit of fundraising AND providing gate duty cover. We should encourage this more often!!
= 1	Miss A Reed	Arundel: Miss Reed had no opportunity to stay on when the horse in front of hers stopped suddenly. A nasty tumble, but fortunately she and her horse are OK. Bravo Madam, we look forward to seeing you again next season.
= 1	Mrs Z Edge	Goodwood: Mrs Edge! We don't often see you on these pages but it's good of you to make an appearance this season. Apparently you got stuck on a tree which sounds predictably artless. I hope next season you can conjure something a bit more sophisticated.
= 1	Mr R Hooper	Arundel: Mr Hooper! It's hard to believe you've taken so long to join us in the league - ho ho ho. Spymaster Evans says Mr hooper's horse lost all 4 fours slipping on a drain. 'Rory had to evade being squished. He denies he fell but he DEFINITELY parted company from the horse in an <i>unplanned</i> fashion.' If it's unplanned, Sir, it's a tumble.
= 1	Miss C Allingham	Closing Meet: Miss Allingham had a graceful tumble from the beautiful Lady Penelope at Closing Meet which TumbleWatch had forgotten! Lady P elegantly ditched her rider and trotted helpfully over to her Strood stable companions to be reunited.

\*(For readers under the age of 100): [The Fosbury Flop](#) is a jumping style used in the track and field sport of high jump (and more recently, hunting). It was popularized and perfected by American athlete Dick Fosbury whose gold medal in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City brought it to the world's attention.

## **Tumblers' Logbook**

### ***A record of seasonal falls***

Saturday 19th February 2022

**There was a lot of weather.**

There really was a lot of weather. There's not a lot more to say. Mrs Broadhurst did fall off, providing if not a break from

the rain then something to distract us from it. She fell very neatly and, charitably, said that as she was on the ground she may as well open the gate for the rest of us. Did I mention there was a lot of weather?

Saturday 5th February 2022

### **And they ended with a Field of one..**

A super day was had by all on Saturday. 'I blew for home at 4.30,' said Mr Edge. 'Or I would have done, but there wasn't anyone left.' By 1.45 half the Field were done and we could have shod a whole horse with lost shoes. NO FEAR. With two Masters forced to retire from the Field we handed the reins to Honourable Breitschadel and his fearless wife who gloriously steered the rest of the day to the end.

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

### **Pulborough Valley: Some like it hot**

After a superb Meet we were treated to blue skies and hot weather all day. It was challenging for the trail scent but a beautiful day in the field. We added no fewer than 4 tumblers today. Earlier in the week on Saturday we had Master of the day Mr Meadows MFH join the League for the first time this season but he's got a bit more work to do to catch up the leaders on 4 falls apiece.

Goodnight.

Saturday 15th January, 2022

### **Newsflash: Mr Hayes joins the lead**

We have a hot competition on our hands for the overall League lead as Mr Hayes, MFH, takes a fourth tumble at Southwick, away to the HHH. This fourth fall puts him in equal lead with Miss M Sirett, who in November was looking at a comfortable win. Not so now. She has some serious competition on her hands. A slippery set of rails claimed three CLC fallers on Saturday as we travelled away to the HHH. This followed a rare fall for Secretary and Whipper-in Crouch at a ditch in Oakley Hunt country on Wednesday. Clearly, the CL&C can tumble with the best of them in-country and away.

But with two months of hunting still to come neither Miss Sirett nor Mr Hayes should get the silver polish out just yet. We've plenty of timber and hedge to clear before the winner claims the ultimate hunting prize.

*Forrard on.*

Monday 27th December 2021

### **Bog Monsters unite**

'I ate half of West Sussex,' said Mr Hayes, MFH, 'I'm still spitting out the dirt.' And so we sum up the wonderful day that was had by all at the Boxing Day Meet at Osiers Farm. Mr Hayes MFH led from the front with a spectacular fall into a bog. 'I offered him my pressure washer,' said the ever-thoughtful Mr Homan. At least it makes a change from dangling in hedgerows. This takes to THREE the tumblers had by Mr Hayes who clearly has his sights on the trophy.

Meanwhile, earlier in the week Honourable Secretary Boulton really did take a bath by falling off the edge of the Scrase causeway. The water was well over her saddle though she did well to keep her top half relatively dry. The same couldn't really be said for her horse who did emerge, still game, with a little pond weed on his head.

At this point it's worth remembering this is the driest winter we've had in many years.

In any case we're notching up the tumbles. It's fair to say, unlike the Ashes, it's still anyone's game...

Saturday 11th December, 2021

### **Elsted - A hunt hack with the lot**

'It was only a hunt hack and we still had two fallers!' says one of our most dedicated spys, I mean agents, in the Field. Hostess Miss Uloth suffered the indignity of a tack malfunction on the Elsted XC course and Mr Charles Homan, MFH, went *through*, rather than *over*, his own garden gate. But at least it was his own gate. A few pieces of baling twine and a new gate should do the trick.

And so, as ever, it is proved no matter what one's expectations for a day's hunting, or even just a hunt hack, there's always an opportunity for a tumble or two.

Wednesday 10th November

### **Pulborough Valley - A lesson in hedge extraction**

A spectacular Meet, Pulborough Valley attracts the creme de la creme of our jumping Field and we were treated to timber and hedges aplenty. It also offered us two tumblers. Ms Cash fell unceremoniously into a cow pat, and David Hayes MFH advanced the science of sport by furthering the innovation introduced by Dick Fosbury at the 1968 Olympic Games. Keen young hunting enthusiasts in want of advice should read on as Uncle David has advice on Hedge Extraction (below).

While TumbleWatch exists *principally* to celebrate achievements in falling there were two Field members at the hedge who showed us how to jump it in fine style: Mr John Langdon and Mrs Sarah Wilcox. Their example can be seen at [jsbeephoto.com](http://jsbeephoto.com).

See you on Saturday.

Saturday 6th November, 2021

### **Heyshott Common - Day of Terror**

Heyshott Common sounds an unlikely location for a record day of tumblers but, in fact, that is what it offered today.

TumbleWatch has received verified reports of FIVE tumblers today in a variety of crashing situations. They came from a wide age range too, from the young to the not-as-young. Some were felled by trees. Some fell off at the standstill (which seems to be rather more common than I originally thought). Some were spooked off and some were spooked off by the spooked-off 'off-ers'. In summary there was a tumble to suit every faller.

Of course it's possible that the tumbling had something to do with the very well catered Masters' Meet which, in the opinion of the Masters, is rather badly named as it was generously catered by Masters, Secretaries and Hunt Supporters too. Indeed the Joint

Masters would like give sincere thanks to all who helped host this wonderful sporting Meet.

No one yet comes close to challenging Miss Sirett for the Empty Stirrup trophy but we are £25 up in tumbling revenue today bringing the season's earnings to £115. And it's only the second Meet...

See you on Wednesday.

Saturday 30th October, 2021

### **Opening Meet**

**The one with the sun (and why children should always be fitted with a body protector).**

It's rare you stand waiting for a hunting Meet watching a *good* weather front sailing toward you. But this was exactly what happened at Petworth yesterday. Heavy rain forecast all week, drizzling at 10.45, clear and sunny at 11.01am (and until Mr Edge blew for home at 4 o'clock). Indeed the only thing lashing yesterday was the Hunt Supporters' Club port which was a welcome sight after the past 18 months.

The universal theme of the tumbling action this year was YOUTH. This is heartening for two reasons. Firstly, the young are the future of hunting and, secondly, unlike us, they bounce. And if anyone needs reminding why body protectors are critical it is because if a child, such as Master Dallal, falls neatly beside you on your large horse, such as Mr Sirett's, you merely have to bend down to hoick them up by the protector and dump them back on their pony. Which is exactly how Master Dallal was re-mounted yesterday.

Master Dallal was joined by Miss M Rogerson who made on confession at second drinks slathered in mud ('I didn't want to jump... so I fell off'), Miss Tupholme, and little Miss Carter who we are told had an unlucky tumble on the way back to boxes (it definitely counts).

But so far no one is threatening Miss Sirett's convincing lead in the League with four falls. We haven't seen anyone go at the prize with such determination since John Gough's triumphant run in 2018. Anyone who wants to catch up should consider coming out with greased tack. Or simply no tack.

Tally ho - the season begins!

**Wednesday 6th October. Lurgashall**

**Bog off! Mrs Sirett joins the League**

Mrs Sirett is taking no chances in securing her family's claim on the Tumblers Cup (Family Category). She confessed falling into a bog this morning but somehow avoided the mud, the water and the associated bramble. She was so clean we're almost suspicious. Is there precedent for Members claiming a tumble when there wasn't one? Certainly the stakes are high..

In any case we'd like to highlight that MR SIRETT is the only member of the family not to have tumbled. Sir, frankly, we'd consider finishing the season right there.

**Wednesday 29th September 2021**

**Tumble? Och aye!**

We had a wonderful day at the farm on Wednesday in Billingshurst on a crisp, bright and musical morning. We enjoyed the company of four neighbouring visitors, one of whom went the extra mile by delivering a tumble on the water meadow at the badger setts. In what's known in the trade as an International Communications Misunderstanding (ICM) the critical Field instructions were given in a foreign language at high speed which may have contributed to the tumble. But neither rider nor horse were injured & we hope to see them back again soon.

Now, TumbleWatch has no wish to cast aspersions but there is a rumour that an Edge Junior did fall at the first Autumn meet at Upwaltham. If anyone has any information on this matter please call TumbleTumbleTumble56743564. Or speak to any Master or Secretary in the strictest of non-confidence.

**Saturday 25th September 2021**

**What's brown on one side, and white on the other?**

- *The Siretts are on a roll (literally) and*
- *Master Charles loses control*

Saturday, South Harting: Family Sirett has made an early bid for the Empty Stirrup (Family Category) trophy with a combined score of three falls, edging out the Edges who are stuck on only one so far.

Master Sirett's pony went down for a mounted roll and came up less than white. In his entry below he explains why it's not all bad. Meanwhile, there was short-lived excitement when Master Charle's horse was spotted across the valley galloping riderless through the sheep field towards the horse-boxes...without Charles aboard. 'COULD THIS BE IT?' we all shouted. HAD CHARLES FALLEN OFF? Was he alive? Was his bowler still in place? Like Paul Revere we galloped on with the news...alas to discover he had dismounted to open a gate and merely lost control of his horse. No tumble.

### Sunday 19th September 2021

#### **Miss Sirett takes an early lead for the Empty Stirrup**

**And...**

- **Mr Milne flies again**
- **Middle Edge nosedives**

Petworth's new tiger trap x hedge (tiger hedge?) claimed two victims on Saturday morning in quick succession while the hummocky sheep field brought down the third faller of the day.

Who will be next?

### Saturday 11th September 2021

#### **Tumblers' season opens with controversy**

The Tumblers League has opened with controversy this season as David Hayes MFH went terra firma today in the Pulborough Valley as a result of a tack malfunction. 'It absolutely counts,' said Mrs Jo Burdett, Honourable Secretary. 'Tumblers' rules clearly state any rider *forced* to the ground is a tumbler,' said Ms Burdett, who is well-placed to comment. Not everyone agrees. But we couldn't find anyone who didn't.