



Meet of the Glamorgan Hounds at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge,
Monday, 13th February, 1950

over £3,000. Mr. Talbot's father* very generously gave the Glamorgan Hunt free use of the stables and kennels at Llandough, and under the mastership of J. S. Gibbon of Newton House a pack from Essex was purchased and the Glamorgan Hunt lived on.

In the year 1881 Thomas Thomas of the Bear Hotel was presented by the Master with a silver medal for his bravery in rescuing five hounds which had fallen into the old lead mines at St. Hilary. It is even recorded that Mr. Thomas, when at last hauled up from the old pit, had the fox in his arms.

The Masters of the Glamorgan Hounds in order of succession from this time have been: R. T. Bassett, of Crossways, The Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Colonel H. R. Homfray, Penlline Castle, R. H. Williams, Bonvilston House, and the present Master, Capt. H. C. R. Homfray, of Penlline Castle, who has recently been joined in the Mastership by his daughter, Lady Boothby of Fonmon Castle, all sportsmen of the finest order, with the interests of the agriculturists at heart. Without R. H. Williams' yeoman service in steering the hounds through the difficult passage of

* C. R. M. Talbot, M.P. father of the House of Commons.

the Great War and the following depression, and the unselfish devotion of the present Master, Capt. H. C. R. Homfray, who, with no outside help, maintained the pack throughout World War II, the Glamorgan Hounds would not be with us today.*

Another gentleman devoted to the Hunt was Mr. L. G. Williams, Bonvilston Cottage, who undertook the duties of Hunt Secretary and Treasurer in 1898, and remained in office for thirty six seasons. Huntsmen in order of succession from the days of the formation of the Hunt Club have been: Will Cross 1877-1886, George Cox 1886-1906, Frank Grant 1906-1934, and T. Langdon.

The early history of the Glamorgan Hounds is fully dealt with in "Horn and Hound in Wales", by Edwin Price, and many are the stories of Reynard's cunning related therein.

During the nineteenth century an annual week-long carnival of hunting and racing was held at Cowbridge. This was called "Hunt Week" and a different programme was offered each day, typical examples being:—Monday, Meet of Capt. Entwistle's Harriers. Tuesday, Flat Racing on Stalling Down. Wednesday, Meet of Lord Tredegar's Hounds. Thursday, Steeplechasing on Penllyn Race Course. Friday, Meet of Squire Jenkins' (of Llanharan) cheery pack. The week culminated in a Grand Ball at the Bear Hotel. The Cowbridge Fever was one sad event in the history of these Hunt Week Balls. The steeplechase was on one occasion won by Lord Tredegar† on his celebrated horse "Briggs", and on another by James Ballard of Cowbridge on "Jezebel". James Simpson Ballard was the son of much respected Edward Ballard of Cowbridge. He farmed Llwynhelig and was regarded as the best judge of horsemen of his day. On leaving the farm to take up residence at the Verlands in October 1861 he offered for sale some twenty six of his horses including the celebrated Suffolk cart stallion "Newcastle Captain". His brother, Edward, kept the flourishing Ballards' Ironmongers' shop opposite the Duke of Wellington Hotel, and in his older days James rode

* When the Hitler War came the Hunt proposed to destroy the hounds. In order to avoid this Captain Homfray took the hounds from the kennels at Llandough to Penlline Castle. There he and Mrs. Homfray looked after them without staff of any kind. During the war years the hounds went out regularly twice a week, in spite of the Master's extensive war-time activities. Since the war the pack numbers about twenty five couples.

† Lord Tredegar was regarded as one of the finest horsemen of the day. He was subsequently one of the gallant six hundred at Balaclava and happily came through the action unscathed.