

CLYDESDALE CLUB INSIGNIA



The Club Insignia of hunting horn and riding crop would have been self explanatory last century but it's origins may be a little obscure for many of our younger members. Without doubt it came from the old practice of following the fox hunt on foot. This seems to have been a widespread practice which was largely spontaneous and unorganised.

In it's cross country pack runs, Clydesdale Harriers adopted the Hare and Hounds approach which was used by University Clubs. This consisted of sending out a couple of senior runners (Hares) to lay a paper trail, each one carrying a crescent shaped canvas bag of shredded paper for that purpose. They were followed after an agreed interval by the "Hounds" or pack of club runners, who's aim it was to overtake the Hares before they reached home. This practice continued well into the 1930's.

The first cross country run in 1885 was from the Black Bull Inn, Milngavie, and which followed a trail of about 13 miles over some very hilly country. The "Pace" who had to be a clear distance in front of the pack at all times, wore a green sash over his shoulder, while the "Whip", who wore a red sash, ran at the back of the pack. The "Whip" controlled the speed of the pack by blowing a hunting horn if the pack showed signs of over-running the "Pace". Conversely if any pack members were struggling to keep up, the "Whip" blew the horn to slow down the "Pace". It is not known when the use of the horn was discontinued but it must have been a great relief to the "Whip" to be given a whistle instead.

The Club motto EXCELSIOR (which is an integral part of the insignia) means "Upward" or "Higher" but whichever is correct it must also refer to the hilly nature of our cross country trails.