



NEWSLETTER March 2010

Chairman Report

You don't need me to tell you what a difficult winter it has been for the horses and their carers. The plus side of snow however, is that the horses stay remarkably clean! On some of the really cold and snowy days haven't the views, especially the trees, been stunningly beautiful.

Our beloved Landover, part of the Pawson family for 22 years, was stolen recently whilst having a service and MOT (which he passed), and subsequently found in the middle of the road upside down. Even he could not rise from the ashes after this, and has had to be written off. Luckily there are several club members with suitable towing vehicles, so his loss should not affect club efficiency.

Needless to say I have created a wax effigy festooned with pins of the *****'s that were selfish enough to steal him.

We have had 2 very well attended WDDC events so far this year, Bangers and Mash at our house and the Greyhound racing evening, very efficiently organised by Hannah Walker. I have done well out of it all – I have gained a pair of lovely black leather gloves and a long black cardigan – any one remember leaving them at James's Place?? As for doing well at the dog racing – well let's just say I came home with no voice from shouting on dogs that quite obviously didn't know I had money on them!

Your committee had put together a series of events over this coming year, which we really hope you can all attend, in what ever capacity you feel comfy with. Go on, dust off that harness, polish the stop watch, find the picnic basket and enjoy a day out with like minded people. There is something for everyone to enjoy with carriage driving.

Carol Pawson

Newsletter:- Please send details to elspethmorgan@btinternet.com or Elspeth Morgan 2 Laburnum Close Wollaston Stourbridge DY8 4NQ. Next Issue June 2010

WDDC Website

There are still one or two events happening later in the season not on the website but most of the events are now listed. To pick up your schedules quickly log on to www.wolverleydriving.co.uk. News and Events. We are always looking for items of interest to post on the notice board so any articles please email or telephone Elspeth Morgan

Driving Trials at County Show in Worcestershire

It's happening again!!

The Three Counties Show is once more welcoming our innovative and entertaining demonstration of driving trials in their main arena on Sunday June 20th.

As last year, there is a large arena available all day for an 'outdoor/indoor' trial and there will be an expanded version of last year's obstacle in the main arena to inform and entertain the general public in the middle of the afternoon.

This is a great opportunity to promote our sport – we do need entries of all shapes and sizes to demonstrate the range of drivers and equines involved. You are welcome to stay over on Saturday night, the entry fee is only £8 and there are CASH PRIZES. The closing date for entries is April 28th, so please put this in your diaries now. For an entry form, contact Linda Sprosen by email at lindasprosen@hotmail.com, phone no. 01562 824350 or visit the Three Counties Show web site, www.threecounties.co.uk.

Once again, this is a joint enterprise between BHDTA, BDS, IHDT and Wolverley & District Driving Club (and anyone else who would like to offer help!) Let us build on the success of last year and hope to enthuse more people to enjoy carriage driving.

We would like as many competitors as possible to take part in both the outdoor/indoor trial and the entertainment in the main arena. If you would like to take part in both please let me know

Elsbeth Morgan

Bangers and Mash

A full house attended the evening at Far Forest. Carol and David excelled themselves again with their renowned bangers and mash etc. and gorgeous puddings. Carol's mum Bobbie, very kindly allowed us to use her lounge for the videos. One took me back to the humble beginnings, with little knowledge and flimsy carts which were tossed about like corks during the marathons.

It was a pleasure to talk to each other without having to shout ! Our thanks go to Carol, David and Bobbie for inviting us into their home for a very enjoyable and cosy evening.

Madge Edwards.

FOR SALE

No items for sale in this issue, but don't forget to send any items to be included in the next issue

Gone to the dogs

We all put on our camel hair coats, trilby hats, the blokes that is, and with our wedges wrapped in a strong elastic band went “TO THE DOGS”.

This trip to make our fortunes took place on 20th February on a chilly Saturday night. That did not matter for we were a party group in the warm and convivial surroundings of the Monmore Stadiums modern facilities.

We had great views of the betting and the races via plentiful TV monitors, we were just 10 paces from the bar and buffet for a good choice of things with chips!

It was noticeable that men generally put the bets on and the ladies tend to collect the winnings. Or was that my imagination?

For the hardy, we could rush out onto the terraces before each race to really maximise the atmosphere of the racing.

There were interesting methods of picking a winner. They ranged from picking the dog that did a poo on the way to the traps, through those with the same name as your second cousins baby daughter to “it must be trap two that wins next time as its race 8 and the odds MUST by now be in his or her favour”.

I am aware that one of the 30 WDDC party came out on top but his identity must remain a secret for security reasons.

A great time was had by all. Thanks to Hannah Walker for suggesting this extravaganza and for organising us all to be there.

David Smith

Right of Way.....Can You Help?

A few years ago Wolverley Driving Club was asked for a volunteer to join the Rights of Way Access Group so that the interests of Carriage Driving could be upheld.

I volunteered and then learned that there was also a formal group called the Local Access Forum in Worcestershire (formed in compliance with the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000).

Whereas the Rights of Way Group is less formal the LAF is run by the Worcestershire County Council and acceptance to it is by interview. Many parties interested in access to the countryside are represented and I represent Carriage Driving on both groups.

Worcestershire has very few traffic free routes but if any of you find that Rights of Way are not being properly maintained or if you have any other concerns, then please contact me so that I can take your views to the meetings.

I would also like to know if there are any bridleways that would be suitable for carriages (i.e. no narrow gates) so that I have something to work on if and when carriage driving access to some of these routes can be lawfully achieved.

Sandy

Tel: 01299 832 821.

E-mail: sblakewaysmith@yahoo.co.uk

An obituary for Cali.

Last week our Lurcher Cali went off to that marvellous place where there are rabbits are just waiting to be caught, dustbins to raid as far as the eye can see, and BBQ's sizzling at mouth level.

15 years ago whilst working, I was called to a RSPCA animal rescue centre, and that's where I met him for the first time. It was instant recognition of kindred spirits. He was very skinny and had practically no hair, but that first meeting started a life long friendship.

He immediately took it upon him self to be our number one protector and friend, and never once relinquished the post.

He had a lot of unresolved issues about being left alone in the beginning, resulting in a shredded Landover interior, squeezing out of the quarter light window in the horse box (no mean feat for a large Lurcher) and ripping the wiring out of the stable roof.

In the early days he managed to slip his collar at the Tatton HDT whilst I was doing my dressage, kill a rabbit and dash back across the arena with it, wagging his tail to say how clever is that! Obviously the being left alone issues were receding! He would always get very excited when he was watching a marathon at an HDT if Team Pawson was approaching – he told everyone ages before we were due! He must have travelled 100's of miles behind our carriage out on exercise. On day 1 he watched us put the horse to the carriage, and quite naturally assumed that the place to do serious family guarding, was with your nose pressed against the back step.

One Christmas we nurtured a half truckle of Stilton to perfection, only to find on Christmas morning a very 'green' Lurcher and a strange lump under the blanket in his bed. He had buried the cheese he couldn't manage at the first go, for later. As a youngster he liberated 8 sausages cooking in the frying pan – it burnt his mouth horribly but it didn't deter him from stealing food when ever possible.

With his passing the WDDC dog warden will have much easier task as he never was very good at being on a lead!

To say we miss him is the understatement of all time.

The Pawson Family





WHATS ON 2010

Sunday 7 th March 10.30 am.	Training Day without Ponies at James Place, Pound Bank Drivers, grooms, helpers, grannies aunts and uncles, something for everybody. Bring packed lunch' Reply to Carol Pawson by Tuesday 2 nd March 01299 266790
Friday 19 th March 7.30pm	Virtual Trials and Supper at Wolverley Church Hall Cost £5 per person. Details to follow.
Sunday 4 th April	Indoor Event at Stourport Riding Centre. Details to follow
Saturday 1 st May	Blossom Drive
Sunday 16 th May	Presidents Drive
Sunday 6 th June	Practice Day to be held at Ivan & Carol Meredith's Mount Pleasant Farm, Elmley Lovett, WR9 0PX
Sunday 20 th June	3 Counties Indoor/Outdoor Trials
Saturday 17 th July	Mini Event at Enville
Sunday 1 st August	Faintree Drive
Sat14th & Sun15th August	Weekend Event at Lynne & David Smith's Rushock WR9 0NP