



NEWSLETTER May 2009



Chairman Report

There has been a committee change over the last month. Sue Woods has decided to stand down as chairman. She has worked hard for the club over the last three and a half years, and a vote of thanks by the remaining committee members was recorded at the last committee meeting. A letter has been sent to Sue to convey the club's appreciation of her work for the WDDC.

We look forward to seeing her, Geoff and Benson at the club events this season; and if she could bring one of her world renowned cakes to share, all the better!

I now find myself at the head of the table for committee meetings and taking on the duties that Sue so ably carried out.

There is a varied schedule of events organised by the committee for our club, I do hope you will be able to attend as often as possible.

We have a one off special competition at the Three Counties Show on the 21st June. Although the entries have officially closed, it is still possible to enter. For a really good day out check our website or ring a committee member for more information.

If you would like to help on the committee please ring me on 01299 266790.

Carol Pawson

Newsletter:- Please send details to elspethmorgan@btinternet.com or Elspeth Morgan 2 Laburnum Close Wollaston Stourbridge DY8 4NQ. Next Issue August2009

WDDC Website

The Website is now up and running with all club activities, if you would like any information posted on this site please contact Elspeth Morgan. If you want to take a look at website log on to www.wolverleydriving.co.uk.

Indoor training and fun day, 29th March 09 Callimore Farm

Even when the training is indoors, it makes such a difference when the sun shines!

Let's hope we have equally good weather for the rest of our events!

The day was a new concept at a new venue and was well supported by members and two non members who joined for the day.

So well supported in fact that we started an hour early at 9.00, and did not finish until 5.30.

Extra special thanks therefore to Gill and Tony Bache who provided personalised training through the whole day for each of us and Tony Gregory, Vicki Poole, Sandra Phillips and others who made things run smoothly.

It was good to see folks out and about with their equines so early in the season.

David Smith

Junior Drivers Camp

British Driving Society Worcestershire Area are holding another Junior Drivers Camp at The Hyde Farm, Stoke Bliss, near Tenbury Wells, from 10th to 13th August. It is organised by the Wolverley and District Driving Club with tuition for children and adults by Sarah Wildy and Judith Broom. All welcome, even complete beginners who may share ponies if they don't have one of their own. We offer tuition in basics for beginners and for the more confident and those already competing, tuition in dressage, obstacles and cones, in groups according to experience. Come and join the fun, there will be a BBQ and a treasure hunt and/or team games on the second. We have made a carriage drive around the lake and through the orchards.

The fee for the 3 days is £110 to include camping and use of facilities and a contribution to training. For insurance purposes you will need to be a member of the British Driving Society, see their web site on how to join. Evening meal £6 each. You will find the schedule with more information on our website www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk, click on Worcestershire or send sae to Mrs. Paddy Marris, The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, Tenbury Wells, Worcs. WR15 8RS. Or telephone Paddy 01885 410324. or email paddy@marris.net Closing date for entries July 10th. Rosettes to all participants!

Elmley Lovatt shines through

On possibly the best day of the year so far, our traditional visit to Mount Pleasant Farm took place on 10th May.

For once, organiser Elspeth Morgan felt blessed with an entry of eleven turnouts. However, on the day, for a variety of reasons, we were down to only eight. Such a lot of work for so few.

Ivan had done some stalwart work to refurbish the Bridge obstacle, he had mowed the grass, and 'someone' had even found some traffic lights to decorate obstacle! All five obstacles were flagged to give easy, flowing routes although the depth of the water put the Shetlands off taking the plunge (literally)!

Tony Bache led folk on an obstacle walk, and in the sunshine everyone became quite relaxed, until they were reminded that the schedule was slipping. The cone driving was due to finish at 1.00pm, and by 12.30pm everyone was jockeying for a start position. Julie Taft had set the course, and due to one or two of us not reading the schedule properly, Julie was running around adjusting the cone widths to accommodate us all. Sorry Julie!

Eventually everyone managed to drive the Millennium Cones course, albeit a little hairily due to the plastic matting in number 5.

After a short lunch break, the competition started, and thanks to the non-drivers present who stewarded for us, everything went smoothly.

Whilst the obstacles were dismantled, Linda quickly worked out the results, whilst Carolyn laid on a really gorgeous tea for us. Although she had been away on holiday until two days before, we had a table groaning with several large cakes of all types. Yummy!

A donation was made to Motor Neurone Society at the request of the neighbouring farmer for the use of his land.

Thanks to all those who organised, helped, and took part in any way, in this marvellous event, at a stunning venue. If you were not there, you missed a treat.

Tony Gregory

Results of Practice Day held on Sunday 10th May 2009 at Mount Pleasant Farm.

Mini Event

Small Ponies

1 st Sandy Blakeway Smith	373 pen
2 nd Julie Wedgbury	406 pen

Large Ponies

1 st Tony Gregory	339 pen
2 nd Lucy Taft	343 pen

For attending rally or competition Whips and Grooms receive 10 points.

Whips and Grooms also receive points for placing in competition.

At the Annual Dinner Cups and rosettes are awarded for Senior Whips, Senior Grooms, Junior Whips and Junior Grooms, Millenniums Cones, Rallies, Trials and Fun day's.

Millennium Cones

Small

Sandy Blakeway Smith	6 points
Rachel Reilly	5 points
Julie Wedgbury	4 points

Large

Lucy Taft	6 points
Tony Gregory	5 points.

Points awards for Millennium Cones competition held during year at Practice Day Mount Pleasant Farm , 3 Counties Malvern, Enville Mini Event, 2 Day Event at Rushock, Trials at Charlotte Farm.

The points from your best four competitions count as follows:-

6 points for 1st : 5 points for 2nd : 4 points for 3rd : 3 points for 4th :
2 points for 5th : 1 point for 6th

To all BHDТА Affiliated Club Secretaries:

I have been asked by National Chairman Tony Bache to alert all BHDТА Affiliated Club members to VOSA's interpretation of the regulations covering recreational horseboxes in the UK.

He has asked me, as your BHDТА Club Representative, to ask you to publicise the new ruling.

BDS Chairman John Parker is urging all motorised horsebox owners to lobby their MP to complain at VOSA's interpretation of the regulations. He urges everyone to visit the BDS website and download a sample letter to send off to their MP.

Please ask all your members to visit the BDS website front page and follow his lead to get the regulations modified before it is too late.

Thanks,

Tony Gregory

BHDТА Affiliated Clubs Rep.

Simon Barnes on horses.

Simon Barnes is an award winning chief sportswriter at The Times.

Back in pre-history people needed horses, because they needed to eat. Over generations, it became clear that keeping half a ton of meat on your doorstep was better than having to go on a long hunting trip every time you needed a feast. And so domestication began: the beginnings of horsemanship.

Civilisation was built by horse power. Humans used horses for transport, for war, for agriculture.

Horses were everywhere: the cities were full of them, and no-one could cross a road, save where the crossing sweeper had been.

But then we invented tractors and tanks and cars. The horse was no longer necessary. And so, by any kind of logic, horses should have died out; perhaps a few kept going here and there, in the way that some people still keep vintage cars. But this did not happen. There are horses everywhere in this country, all over the world. Millions and millions of horses, and practically all of them useless. There are nearly a million horses in private hand in this country. More than four million people in this country ride, even though more than 80 per cent of them don't own a horse.

That is crazy. Why on earth do we still bother with these big, hungry, dangerous, inconvenient animals? Why do we tolerate them? It just doesn't make sense. The answer then must be beyond sense, beyond logic. For many people horses are a real bonus in life, something that makes every -thing more vivid, more meaningful, more thrilling. But for others- for more than 700,000 people who own or care for a horse- horses are more than that. They are a completion.

As a sportswriter for the Times, I cover all sports. I have seen a lot of team sports in my time, and admired the way that team spirit crosses the boundaries of individuality, of race, of religion. But there is another, still stronger barrier than can be crossed: and it is the boundary between one species and another. The team of horse and rider is the most extraordinary team of them all. It is a mystery. Horses took to domestication because they have some kind of affinity for humans. And humans, some of us, have a profound affinity for horses; and, in defiance of sense and logic, simply refuse to live without them.

Far from going extinct, horses survive and prosper; so much so that you have to ask who is exploiting whom. Horses are perfectly willing to cooperate with humans and take them to madcap adventures or to gentle and meditative strolls- and humans are prepared to feed, provide them with shelter and clean -up after them. I know; I do it myself every day.

This strange mystery, this bizarre empathy between one species and another is the heart of it all: at least the heart of all the horsey sports, at the heart of every crazy gallop, the heart of every quiet ride across the common. Humans have reached the stage when it is perfectly possible to live without horses. But it seems we don't want to. And the more built up civilised and organised the world gets, the more we need them.

*The horsey Life, by Simon Barnes was published by Short Books,
All figures from the British Horse Society.*

Congratulations Julie Wedgebury who came second in the pony team class at the recent Indoor Horse Driving Trials Assoc finals held at Keysoe

FOR SALE

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

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