



NEWSLETTER October 2010

Chairman Report

It is with great sadness I learnt of Malcolm Billings death. I have only known him since our move to Worcestershire 9 years ago, but together with Dorothy, they seemed to me, to be the epitome of a club member. Always a smile, always willing to lend a hand, and always a positive outlook. I have absolutely no doubt that all our members will wish Dorothy well at this sad time.

This seasons WDDC driving itinerary so far has I hope, provided something for you all to enjoy. Mea and I had a new experience of being the 'taxi' for a competitor at the Carriage Dog finals at Lincomb near Stourport. Some competitors do not have a turnout and rely on others to help out, so that they can show off their dogs' skills. Well how much fun was that – no pressure and a great all off road drive for Mea and I! For the gold award – in which we took part - the dogs have to cover 40 kilometres! I learnt from Tim, Todds' owner, that Dalmatians are specially bred to trot and when fit can trot indefinitely. My problem came when Mea was convinced I had made a mistake in timing and we should be trotting at 14KPH (section A of a horse trials speed) but when Tim explained that it would entail Todd cantering which would tire him very quickly and the coveted gold award would disappear into the ether, she agreed to a more sedately trot. Tim also explained why some Dalmatians' are misunderstood during lead work, when they appear to want to rush everywhere, when actually they are trying to do what they were bred for – keep up with a trotting horse. Because the following week Team Pawson was booked into a 3 day HDT, 40k would have interrupted our fitness schedule, so Dawn Tebbett with Katie did 20k and we did 20k. Team work all round and Tim and Todd won their award!

He is an amazing dog, with almost no commands from Tim, not once over 40k, unless instructed, did he leave his position behind the back step of the carriage. WOW.

It sparked our interest in combining dogs and carriages at our events – so watch out for more of this over the coming year. Berty our dachshund, being a paid up member of LORG (legs of restricted growth) has requested a 'best eye brows' competition and Debo our Lurcher said if it involves a settee or a rabbit she will attend as well.

Our WDDC AGM is looming in November. This year there is to be a slightly different format which we hope you will enjoy. We will be having the meeting and then supplying supper - with puddings! I hope you will enjoy this format, and that it will also give us all an opportunity to talk and exchange ideas of the format for next year's calendar + general chit chat. What would your dog (see above)/horse/you like to see on next year's itinerary? I know that not everyone can attend all our events, but we do want to make sure we include something for everyone to enjoy. There will be a space to fill on the committee as Elspeth Morgan, who has put so much professional and dedicated input as a WDDC committee member, has decided that due to work and family commitments, she would like stand down this time. A very big thanks to her for all the input as a committee member.

Carol Pawson

WDDC Flies the flag

Building on the success of last year, Wolverley & District Driving Club readily accepted the invitation from the Three Counties Show at Malvern to organise what was billed as a 'Combined Driving Trials' on 20th June. A small sub committee led by Elspeth liaised with the Show organisers to organise an Inside/Out event run under IHDT rules. Eighteen competitors took part in a day of competition par excellence. Turnouts ranged from the 'aah factor' miniature Shetland four in hand of Julie Wedgbury to our Hackney horse pair with all breeds and sizes in between!

The hoped for display in the Main Arena could not go ahead, as the King's Troup were in there – with their six guns and sixty five horses! However, as a bonus there was more space allotted for the event to take place, including safer parking and exercise areas.

The weather was superb, and the going was good to firm. Mary Nicholson gave her usual informative and good humoured commentary which kept spectators fully aware of 'what driving trials are about'. For any spectators who enquired about our sport, Linda and Vicki delivered information, refreshments and 'Try Driving Trials' DVDs with their customary good nature. Our Chairman Carol with husband David, Simon Poole and Tony Bache made the event run smoothly and to time, and with Gill Bache getting the scores out quickly, the obstacles and cones were soon back in the IHDT van for Robbie Pawson to drive back to Sussex.

Once again, a good day with plenty of competition and meeting the object of showcasing Driving Trials to the unknowing public at large.

Tony Gregory

July Mini event at Enville – oops - I mean Rushock.

Despite all the advance work that Vicky Poole completed for the proposed Mini event at Enville, at the last minute the land owners decided that regretfully it was not to be. Luckily David and Lynne Smith came up trumps and the event was held at Rushock.

Hannah Walker gave a lot of her time and energy to organise the event and has to be thanked for putting together a very enjoyable day. Not only did she organise it, she competed as well – now there is stamina for you!

Jill Bache, with Tony Bache writing for her, agreed to judge the dressage, and was very encouraging and constructive with her remarks, so that competitors had something positive to go away with.

The cones provided good sport – attention to detail as ever – always keep the red marker on the right! There was very nice short marathon which was not timed around the local area, and then onto the 6 obstacles. There was something for everyone – trees, humps and bumps, long routes to whizz round, short routes to wiggle round, and good sport was had by all! I was really good to see so many of our stalwart band of helpers poised to record all that passed in front of them.

Members made short work of dismantling the equipment and reloading the trailers when the event finished, and all gathered in Davids' barn for cake and tea after – all very jolly, and a great time to all meet up with everyone involved.

Team Bache having completed the scoring, the rosettes were handed out by our president Madge Edwards.

Carol Pawson

National FenixCarriage Dog Trials Saturday 3rd July 2010 Lincomb Equestrian Chaser course Stourport

A full day was taken with both ridden and driven competitors. A varied 10K/ 6 mile course was provided by Lincomb all off road. Stewards where on course for safety and water facilities. The weather was kind and the views and varied terrain was enjoyed by all competitors.

The competition involved Dalmatians singles, pair and triples working to either ridden or driven horses. Veterinary checks for both dogs and horses went on throughout the competition.

Awards	Distance	Max Time Allowed	Vetinary Check
Bronze	10km (6miles)	80 mins	Start
Silver	20km	3hrs	Start, 10km and Finish
Gold	40km	6hrs	Start, 20km and Finish

For 40 k/ gold competitors horses could and where changed but dogs remained the same as they are the focus of the event.

Members of the Carriage Dog trials say a big thank you to members of WDDC who took part in their event. So successful was the event they will be back next year so keep a space in your diary and come and join in. Have a chat to Sandra and Geoff Phillips for more info on the event.

Sandra Phillips

FOR SALE

**Pair of black/brass gig lamps.Good condition.
Holly whip for a pony turnout. 45" from butt to bowtop.
Please contact Sue Taylor on 01952 461889**

Carriagedog Trials Training Day in the West of England

Kingsland, Herefordshire. HR6 9QB

Sunday October 24th 2010. 10.30am to approx. 3pm

Cost and Eating Arrangements - to be advised

Everyone Welcome to join in and learn about trialling and training the carriagedog.

Morning sessions learn from those who have “Been there, and done it!” In the afternoon you will be able to try your dog in practical sessions, including have a go at the Trials Obedience Test
No Horses Required.

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Proposal to hold another Western Regional Training and ‘Try a Practice Trial’ in this area next March/April prior to our Local National Trials in July 2011

Interested ?

Contact Jane 01568 708074 or catherine.friend@btinternet.com