



WOLVERLEY & DISTRICT DRIVING CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2011

Chairman's Report



I have just received a lovely phone message from Tony Gregory, reporting what a great day Julie Wedgbury and WDDC team put on at last weekend's mini event. I was unfortunately unable to be there, as it was my mothers' birthday, and there was a 3 line whip out for all the family to attend the birthday gathering. Tacked on to Tony's message was a reminder that a newsletter was imminent to keep all our members in touch, and could I therefore put fingers to key board for a Chairman's report. Well several things have made it a very busy time in the Pawson household. Most exhausting, but good fun, we had our 5 year old Granddaughter to stay for a week – she has just gone home today. Gosh how ever did I manage to bring up 3 children??

Last weekend Team Pawson was part of a driving demonstration at Rodbaston College, (see page 5) which was also great fun, but attention to detail can be very exhausting. I do hope we were able to inspire a few people to come driving! Mea thought it a wonderful opportunity to show off her 'Essex girl' trotter ancestry, but the show must go on so I kept smiling and went to the Osteopath the next day to have my arms put back in their sockets!

This week also brings the culmination of our eventing season with BHDTA Championships at Windsor, with Team Pawson having qualified to attend, wahoo! Brass polishing, carriage cleaning and the 101 other essential jobs needed in order to arrive calm and collected at the dressage on Friday are being carried out as I write. WDDC members David Smith and Claudia Bunn have also qualified, not bad for a small club! Dawn Tebbett heroically volunteered- yes actual volunteered – to be the chef d'equipe, head cook and tail bandage winder, as she and Katie have had a year out from competing Nationally, so will not on this occasion be driving there. Tony Bache as Chairman of the BHDTA, and Gill will also be in the Royal Park, taking on many of the jobs that make such a huge undertaking possible. Where would we be without our myriad of helpers in the driving world?

Do look at the 'What's On' page of the newsletter as there are several more events in our calendar for this year to look forward to, and please do book the evening to come to our AGM. Same format as last year – meeting, food and general chat. If you have any photos/ books/ items of interest to our members do bring them along and any surplus equipment to swap or sell.

Carol Pawson

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR AGM

Come and have your say – and maybe pick up an award!



Olivia & Sophie Poole -Future drivers?

The person who is late is always jollier than the person waiting for them....

WHAT'S ON IN 2011

- Saturday 17th September** Summer Drive near Tenbury Wells. Schedule attached.
- Sunday 18th September** Halesowen & Hagley Farmers Club Show with Driving Class.
To be held at St.Kenelms Road, Romsley, B62 0PH.
Schedule and further information from Mrs Whiteman 0121 550 5817
- Sunday 2nd October** Autumn Drive on Ragley Estate, near Redditch. Schedule attached.
Note change of date from Saturday to Sunday.
- Friday 25th November** 7.30pm AGM and Annual Awards Presentation at Wolverley Church Hall followed by Supper. We need to know numbers to cater and whether they are vegetarians. There is no charge for the evening, tea and coffee provided; bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses. Please phone Carol Pawson on 01299 266790 to register your attendance.
NOTE DATE CHANGE
- Friday 2nd December** Skittles Evening at The Squirrel, Alveley.
7pm prompt. Schedule attached.
- Wednesday 28th December** Christmas Walk starting at 10.30am.
A walk along the Canal that will suit young and old alike.
Don't forget to bring your dogs.
Start location and lunch venue to be notified.
- Saturday 21st January 2012** Annual Dinner. Details to follow.

Keep up to date!
Visit our website regularly at
www.wolverleydriving.co.uk

Details for the later events will be sent out as soon as available.



ACTIVITIES THAT WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OR YOU MAY HAVE MISSED!..... ***South Staffs Show Junior Camp 31st July***



Via the Club website, we were asked to give a demonstration of Carriage Driving to the Junior Riders of the South Staffs Show at their showground at Prestwood, nr. Stewponey, Stourbridge. We were there on Sunday 31st July for the morning with our Rea and Hannah Walker's Boyce to introduce the children to the basics of our sport. Each year, the organisers introduce a new equine discipline, and this year it was Driving's turn.

About 18 children ranging in age from 4 years up to about 17 gathered round our horseboxes to watch us unload, harness up and put to. Hannah and Tony drove to the area where he had earlier laid out a short cone course. All the children had a go on the back-step, some wishing to have a go on the pony *and* the horse! Rea and Boyce knew where they were going by the time they had driven the course about ten times each! When we returned to the horse boxes, there were more enthusiastic questions and we all felt that it had been a worthwhile exercise – and also a good workout for the horses! Hannah exchanged phone numbers with one girl who may be a prospective groom and a 'mum' also showed a keen interest. So maybe our recruiting drive is making progress! Ed.

The Horne Rally 14th August

It was with great trepidation that I entered the Horne Rally, not knowing what it would all be about. The venue at Arley Arboretum was excellent, and the weather was kind to us.

At 11am we all rallied for a briefing by Tony Bache. At first I despaired that I could understand all our instructions, but with Tony's clear and precise way of explanation it all began to fall into place. Clues were in two parts; one part was a colour which told what part of the Park you needed to go to. The second part was a number which related to a numbered flag in that area. When you found this flag, it gave you a letter for the next clue. The real clever bit was that no two turnouts were on the same route. You needed to complete seven out of the ten clues.

Unfortunately for me, Duke did not take kindly to all the criss-crossing, so after the fifth clue, I am afraid that I returned to my box for safety reasons! In hind sight, I must brush up on my knowledge of riddles and sayings.

All credit to Tony for a very clever and well thought out event. I will be ready for next year! David Smith amazed me by completing it in 16 minutes – WOW – well done!

After lunch we had another round of the Conestacle Competition. Duke had calmed down by this time. Although we could go round more than once, I decided once was enough as he had gone well. Carl Warrilow was as enthusiastic as ever with his pony Romeo.

The Dogtastic Event organised by Sandra and Geoff Phillips was a success, and all pooches behaved themselves. Not one growl or snarl was heard all day. We finished the day with a Doggy Egg & Spoon race (see picture below) which Dillon and I managed a creditable 2nd. In the Musical Sit, out of twelve dogs, we got through to the last six. By this time, Dillon had decided that he had had enough tit bits to encourage him to sit, and he was quite happy with his bag of treats.

I think we gave the general public some good entertainment for the day.

Once again, many thanks to Tony, Sandra and all the other stewards for a very enjoyable event.

Linda Wiggin.

<u>Results:</u>		minutes
1 st	David Smith/Madge Edwards	16.50
2 nd	Tony Gregory/Carol Gregory	21.41
3 rd	Hannah Walker/Non member	22.48
4 th	Claudia Bunn/Non member	24.54
5 th	Dawn Tebbett/Robin Harcourt Smith	25.58
6 th	Carl Warrilow/Non member	25.70

Dogtastic section of the Horne Rally



It was decided to include a dog section in our programme this year. So at the Horne rally a selection of dog based activities were provided. Due to the kind support of the British Carriage Dog Society we were able to organise a stable dog test and a carriage dog competition. In an authentic looking stable various tests were undertaken that dogs would be expected to perform, such as not eating the groom's lunch, giving a warning bark and boring stuff like sitting and lying down. Beau handled by Jason proved to be a winning Stable Dog on the day. For the carriage dog obedience section a 'stay' was required followed by two figure of

eight circuits at walk and trot avoiding the resident sheep. Jess and Trevor Teague won this section with a clear round in both stay and trot.

To add to the occasion, some fun activities followed with a Fancy Dress Competition won by a 'tasty hot dog', a Musical Sit which was a dead heat, and a fiercely competitive Leading Egg and Spoon race which was won by Claudia Bunn.

In case you were wondering, no one fancied the groom's lunch, except Vicki's granddaughter Sophie!
Sandra & Geoff Phillips

Midland Driving Trials Group has had a Sadler working on site at their trials for a while now.

Paul Hendry, trading as Ambridge Saddlery, does a great job on both traditional and synthetic harness. Take along your harness that requires attention to a MDTG trial or visit Paul's website for contact details at www.ambridgesaddlery.co.uk

Charllotte Farm Mini Trial 4th September

Julie Wedgbury put a lot of effort into organising this event and was rewarded with an entry of eleven drivers and wonderful weather. Lorraine Davies, who started competing with this club several years ago and now competes and judges regularly at Chester events, kindly judged the dressage. The conestacle was 'monitored' by our stalwarts, Pam and Keith Stanton, who also used to drive regularly with us, aided by Peter Hughes. Julie had designed a course that was testing without catching out too many people!

The six obstacles were very varied, using the Club's road works equipment (doesn't need hammering into the ground, but may need tent pegs in strong wind), round bales of straw put into place by the farmer's daughter Alice (what more cooperation could we possibly get?), wooden pallets nailed together by Julie in person and a selection of barrels from various sources.

The Club hopes that next year, this excellent site can be used for a full one day event. There are facilities for a very pleasant, mainly off road, longer drive out, so that all we need is a few more competitors and stewards.

Results:

Small Class:	1 st Julie Wedgbury	382 penalties	
	2 nd Carl Warrilow	407	
	3 rd Lynn Greer	497	
Large Class:	1 st Tony Gregory	416	Full results are available to view on the website (honestly!!)
	2 nd Linda Wiggin	431	
	3 rd David Smith	438	

We are sorry for the lack of Results on the website lately, but all is now resolved. We obtained lots of photos of members in action at Arley, and hope to make them available on the website soon. Keep watching!

Members go North.

Club Members, Carol Pawson with husband David and son Robert, David Smith with Hannah Walker, Claudia Bunn and Emily Ham, and former member Joe Adams with mother Kate all competed at the Holker Hall National Driving Trials in August. Gill and I were there as a general support crew.

It was an excellent event held in the beautiful Holker Hall Estate just west of Grange over Sands on the north coast of Morecombe Bay, and the Club's representatives acquitted themselves very creditably.

Emily Ham, in the Intermediate Pony Class, started well winning the dressage phase, but her stallion pony Jack was distracted by a mare in the walk section of the marathon and 10 walk time penalties were enough to drop her to second place by the end of this phase. However, a brilliant double clear in the cones (one of only 7 in the whole event) enabled her to regain the lead and she won by just 1.48 points.

David Smith, in the same class, found Jemima totally unsettled in the dressage and trailed the class some 26 points behind Emily. A marathon score only 2 points behind Emily's moved him up to 3rd by Saturday evening and one cone down and a few time penalties left him completing the event in 3rd place, good enough to qualify him for the National Championships in September.

Carol Pawson's season so far, in the Open Horse Class, has seen Mea totally unsettled in the dressage and cones, but a much improved test here left her lying 5th only 10 points behind the leader. A good marathon score maintained this position and with Mea listening at last she had no driving penalties in the cones giving her third place in this phase and a final position of 5th overall.

Joe Adams, in the Open Pony Pairs Class, finished the dressage 3rd, 11 points behind the leader. Second place on the marathon was not quite good enough to improve his overall position and a steady round in the cones saw him 3rd in this phase and finishing 3rd overall.

Claudia Bunn was competing in the Horse Tandem Class with a mixed horse and pony tandem. She also completed the dressage in 3rd place, but with her pony having to achieve horse speeds, had time penalties on the marathon leaving her second in this phase; not quite good enough to move her up a place. Second place in the cones narrowed the gap further and she ended up 3rd just 4.31 penalties behind second.

We were lucky that despite torrential rain in Kendal, Carlisle, Tebay and no doubt other parts of Cumbria, the only rain we had was a short shower on Friday morning and everybody came home happy and dry. We look forward to seeing them all again in the Great Park at Windsor at the National Championships from the 9th to the 11th September. Hopefully there will be other Club members there to cheer them on.

Tony Bache

Horse Driving Trials on Display

Tony Gregory was approached some months ago by a neighbour who regularly sees him out driving, and asked him to arrange a driving demonstration for an event being planned at the end of August. She turned out to be the secretary of the Midland Association of Riding Clubs, which holds its National Championships at Stafford College's Rodbaston Campus. This three day event has entertainment on Saturday and Sunday evening for those staying on site. El Caballo De Espana, Spanish Horse performance had been booked for Saturday, and the organizers were looking for something different for Sunday. On behalf of the BHDTA, Tony seized this opportunity to promote Horse Driving Trials to a wide equestrian audience.

Naturally turning to members of our Club, drivers Carol Pawson, Dawn Tebbett and Julie Wedgbury rose to the challenge enthusiastically. In the first of two sessions Carol and Dawn, in dressage mode, performed a sparkling Pas de Deux to stimulating music, a performance which drew spontaneous and enthusiastic applause from the knowledgeable audience. This was followed by a demonstration of cone driving, a course for which was speedily erected by an efficient arena crew also marshalled from members and friends of W.D.D.C. The highlight of this was Julie's performance with her four galloping Shetlands which drew cheers from the spectators and such comments as "cor! See 'em go!"

In the second session, performed in marathon gear, each turnout drove an obstacle twice (again efficiently built by the arena party), demonstrating various different routes and again amazing the audience with their precision and agile turns. Throughout the performances, Tony gave a commentary explaining the sport, pointing out the differences in the various turnouts and giving details of how anyone interested could get into the sport, either as a competitor, back-stepper or steward.

The organisers of the Championships were well impressed by the professionalism of the displays and congratulations must go to Tony and the W.D.D.C. for producing such excellent entertainment.

Gill Bache



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or email sales@take-the-reins.co.uk

A NEW MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE.....

As new members of WDDC this season, we thought it might be an idea to introduce ourselves and to thank the members for their tolerance of novices in their midst.

Alex Harris has been around horses for many years, both recreationally and professionally, in the eventing, hunting, cross- country, racing and Western Quarter Horse world. Only during the last two years was she introduced to driving when Tony Cowles asked her to help train a wayward gypsy cob.



Jo Phillips has also been around horses for most of her life - riding, as opposed to driving. Jo has played a major part in schooling Frankie.

Frankie (New Cwm), an 8 year old road race trotter x driving cob, was broken as a three year old. Not long afterwards, his owner had a bad accident at work. Frankie then spent 4 years as a field ornament before being put up for sale.

Tony Cowles began driving ten years ago and until 18 months ago drove a leisure carriage with a gypsy cob. During that time, he took lessons from Paul Chambers through whom he was introduced to carriage driving trials. More recently Rene Schoop has become a friend and mentor.

WDDC has introduced us to a range of activities and venues that have challenged and excited us since that first memorable windy Training Day with a 15.3h horse that had never been around other horses and carriages - he was quite a challenge in hand but as soon as we put to, he was in his element - he loves driving obstacles!

Thank you all, especially those members who put in the hard work to organise events - it is appreciated.

Alex, Jo and Tony – ‘Team Frankie’

If you have any information or article that you would like me to include in the next newsletter, please contact me by **November 25th. Email is the easiest method (for me), but a letter, a phone call or just a chat when we meet would be great.**

Email david@moose101.wanadoo.co.uk

Telephone 01902 763209

Eversleigh, Langley Road, Lower Penn, S.Staffs, WV4 4XX.

Carol Gregory, Editor.

The articles within this Newsletter reflect the views of the contributors, and are not to be taken as representative of the Wolverley & District Driving Club.

Need a Christmas present for a loved one?

LOOK GOOD AND KEEP WARM!

Polo Shirts Heavyweight 50% cotton 505 polyester, taped neck, hemmed sleeve and bottom, 3 button placket.

£11.50 each including WDDC logo available in Navy Blue, Yellow, White, Red, Royal Blue, Bottle Green, Light Blue, Maroon. sizes XS to XXXL

Sweat Shirts Heavyweight 50% cotton 50 polyester ribbed cuffs, neck and hem.

£14.00 including WDDC logo same colours as above. Sizes XS to XXXL

Fleeces in polyester with elasticated cuffs, adjustable shock cord hem, zipped lower pockets.

£16.00 each including WDDC logo Black, Navy, Royal or Bottle Green. Sizes XS to XXX

Send your order to Mrs L Sprosen, 156 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2SL.

Tel: 01562 824350 or email lindasprosen@hotmail.com



WOLVERLEY & DISTRICT DRIVING CLUB

SUMMER DRIVE

ON SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2011

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A DRIVE OF APPROXIMATELY 16 MILES
This drive is on green lanes and quiet country lanes
Shorter drive is available if required.

AT:- The Birches, Hampton Charles, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8PZ

START FROM 10.30am WITH MAPS TO FOLLOW and WDDC SIGNS.

**DIRECTIONS: The Birches Farm can be reached from the Tenbury Wells to
Bromyard Road the B4214
Take the turning for Kyre and Epic Cycles and WDDC sign.**

Don't forget to bring your Picnic

CLOSING DATE: Saturday 12th September 2011

ENTRY FEE: £5

**Entries to Dawn Tebbett, Colleybatch, Boraston Lane, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8LQ: TEL: 07967
622281**

Closing date 12th September Autumn Drive 17th September 2011

ENTRY FORM

NAME.....GROOM.....

Junior Groom Parent/Guardian (please sign).....

PHONE NO

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED.....HORSE'S NAME & HEIGHT.....
Cheques made payable to W.D.D.C.

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE COVER.

SIGNED.....DATE.....

**PLEASE RETURN TO: Dawn Tebbett, Colleybatch, Boraston Lane, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8LQ.
Tel: 07967 622281**



WOLVERLEY & DISTRICT DRIVING CLUB

AUTUMN DRIVE

ON SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2011

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A DRIVE OF APPROXIMATELY 14 MILES WITH A 5/6 MILE SHORT ROUTE.

AT:- COLD COMFORT FARM ON A435 JUST SOUTH WEST OF KINGS COUGHTON

START FROM 10.30am WITH MAPS TO FOLLOW, TROT SIGNS THROUGHOUT.

**DIRECTIONS: The driveway to Cold Comfort Farm is in the north bound side of a dual carriageway. POST CODE B49 5PT
Proceed to the roundabout south of the venue for access.**

**See OS map 205, 578 east west 074 north south
Don't forget to bring your Picnic**

CLOSING DATE: Saturday 24th September 2011

ENTRY FEE: £10

Entries to: Mrs L Sprosen, 156 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2SL. Tel. 01562 824350

Closing date 24th September Autumn Drive 2nd October 2011

ENTRY FORM

NAME.....GROOM.....

Junior Groom Parent/Guardian (please sign).....

PHONE NO

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED.....HORSE'S NAME & HEIGHT_____

Cheques made payable to W.D.D.C.

I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE THIRD PARTY INSURANCE COVER.

SIGNED.....DATE.....

PLEASE RETURN TO: Mrs Linda Sprosen, 156 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2SL.



WOLVERLEY & DISTRICT DRIVING CLUB

A SKITTLES EVENING

**AT THE SQUIRREL, KIDDERMINSTER ROAD, ALVELEY, WR15 6LW
(on the A442 Bridgnorth to Kidderminster road)**

on

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2011

at

7.00pm prompt

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

MENU

Sage & red onion sausages served with mash and gravy

or

Chilli con carne served with rice

or

Chicken tikka massala served with rice and nan bread

or

Breast of chicken served with rustic chips

or

Scampi and chips

or

Vegetarian option



Cost: £8.00/head

SKITTLES EVENING 2ND DECEMBER 2011

NAME.....

NUMBER IN PARTY.....

CHOICE OF

MENU.....

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (payable to WDDC).....

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO LINDA SPROSEN OR CONTACT HER BY
25TH NOVEMBER ON 01562 824350 or Email her at lindasprosen@hotmail.com