

NEWSBRIEF

SPRING 2023



Wolverley & District
Carriage Driving Club

COMMITTEE 2023

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Chairman Tony Gregory gregory.lowerpenn@gmail.com

Vice chairman David Smith perfectpaddocks@gmail.com

Secretary Linda Sprosen lindasprosen@hotmail.com

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Tony Gregory

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



W&DDC is, and has been, many things to many people.

Some have been happy to pobble along by simply enjoying drives and admiring the scenery, and some have aspired to great competition.

The Club has produced National single, tandem and team drivers whilst encouraging out and out beginners through example, training days and weekend camps. We should continue to do likewise.

The Club has always catered for the 'grass roots' members, and has assisted members in pursuing their chosen path. (Here it might be noted that until relatively recently, the term 'grass roots' didn't exist – all turnouts were considered on the same basis)

Our two trailers are loaded with all the equipment necessary to run any event - from a drive or simple cones course to a full three phase event with a marathon.

Long distance events and driving weekends in Wales, Shropshire and The Cotswolds were organised aplenty in the 1990/2000s. Perhaps they will happen again one day.

Introduction to Driving Trials events have brought in a few new members, and could well be repeated.

There were 23 present at the AGM, mostly regulars at our short format events. David Smith carried out a survey amongst those present asking what events would be supported. Surprisingly, country drives came out on top. With this in mind, David is looking for a healthy number to take part in a drive on 22nd April. We know who voted for such an event!.....

Thanks were recorded to retiring committee members Kate, Millie & Steve, and especially to Darren. The past couple of years have not been easy for anyone trying to organise events.

Unfortunately, there were no nominations for the three committee vacancies.

If you are able to offer any assistance in the running of the Club, please let Linda know.

The complimentary supper was very good, and the venue proved quite popular.

It has been announced that our long-time webmaster Tony Cowles wishes to give up the post. Tony has looked after our website since it was first created,

and we thank him for all his efforts. **NOW** – we need a replacement! Do you know **ANYONE** with the knowledge to service and update websites? **Please let Louise know if you do.** Thank you.

It was suggested at the meeting that our Club could supply a team to Steward an obstacle at a National Event. This would give members a close-up view of expert competitors, and the experience of running a high-profile driving trial. One suggested venue was Cricklands, which is not too far to go. **Please let David Smith know if you might be interested.**

At the AGM, the feeling was that a Club Camp would not get the necessary support, but Jackie and Julie have a suitable inexpensive venue in mind and a plan to obtain the services of a high profile trainer to run a Training Weekend.

Please let Julie know asap if you would be interested. Her details may be found above. The Committee will give any support needed for this or ANY event to run.

If members are finding it difficult to find the services of a Groom/Back-stepper, perhaps they will contact Linda, as we are compiling a Grooms Register for such a purpose. Do not delay your entry to an event for the lack of a groom – someone can often be found. **Get those entries in early please!!**

On the subject of entries.... BC, our Governing Body, has reconfigured its affiliation fees, and has also altered its insurance cover and requirements.

The result, put simply, is that anyone competing at our events must either be a member of WDDC, a member of BC or another BC affiliated club, or carry their own insurance. To this end, any non-member wishing to enter a WDDC event will be asked to complete a 'Non-Member' form and make a declaration that they have adequate insurance cover. **Please let your friends know.**

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Squirrel Skittles evening on 24th March and a healthy entry for the Long Reining Day on 26th March.

A tentative Calendar of Events appears below – some details may still need to be confirmed. Look out for schedules and entry forms and get the dates in the diary!

The next meeting of your committee will be held on Tuesday 28th February 2023. Do let Linda know if you want anything to be discussed.

Thank you,

Tony Gregory

Chairman

At the time of writing, your committee is exploring the possibility of running one of our short format events in line with British Carriagedriving's Gateway competition at either Prestwood or Enville.

It would still be an Inside/Outdoor event, with the same vehicle track width, but a simpler dressage test referred to as 'Compulsory Shapes', and fewer pairs of cones than usual.

Not only will 'shapes' be judged, but the horse's way of going and its paces will also affect scores.

You can have a look and see what's involved by visiting https://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/rules/gateway_rules_for_competitors.pdf

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023

Friday 24 th March	Skittles & supper	The Squirrel, Alveley
Sunday 26 th March Alvechurch, B48	Long reining day	Seecham EC,
Saturday 22 nd April (Minimum 6 turnouts)	Drive	Elmbridge
13 th /14 th May	Training Weekend	Much Marcle
<u>Contact Julie & Jackie</u>		
Sunday 21 st May	Indoor/out or Gateway	Prestwood
Sunday 18 th June <i>WITH WMDG</i>	Fun trial	Solihull RC <i>JOINT EVENT</i>
Sunday 16 th July	Indoor/out or Gateway	Prestwood
Sunday 6 th August WR7	Traditional Driving Day	Ridge Hill Farm,
Sunday 20 th August	Indoor/out or Gateway	Enville Hall
Sunday 1 st October	One Day Event	Charllotte Farm
Sunday 5 th November	Poppy Drive	Possibly Wyre Forest

Embroidered clothing now available!

Louise Wright has located a friendly supplier, who now has our club logo awaiting our orders.

Please visit their website <https://www.countyschoolwear.co.uk/contact-us> where you can find details of what's on offer. You can also phone them on 01384 352 340.

The WDDC logo can be large or small and appear on the back/and or the front of the garment. The company is owned by Dave who is good to deal with. You can pay online or by card over the phone.

**It is anticipated Newsbrief will be published four times
a year to keep you posted of the Club's activities.**

If you would like to have a say about anything please send it to Gill and Tony Bache at bacheforest@btinternet.com . Tell us briefly what you like , what you enjoyed, what you hated, what you would like changed and it will appear in the next Newsbrief.

Importantly, enjoy yourselves.