

NEWSBRIEF

LATE SUMMER 2023



Wolverley & District
Carriage Driving Club

COMMITTEE 2023

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES JULY/AUGUST 2023



So, the season progresses! Since the last Newsbrief, there has been one cancelled event and two mini trials in superb weather.

The events at Prestwood went well, but the word 'marathon' upset a few even though it was less than 2Km and the whole course, including the obstacles, only took some 8 minutes. Ah well, I was only hoping to encourage members to go forward....

Unfortunately, the Overton Drive towards the end of June had to be cancelled as there were no entries received. This was surprising because a 'drive in the country' was what most members said they wanted when asked at the AGM.

Jeanie Jordan is organising the Fun & Traditional Driving Day on 6th August, and she is putting together a relaxed fun event where you can do as much or as little as you like. **Entries close on 30th July** – so be quick!

On 20th August, Linda & Vicki are organising the event at Enville Hall, and are asking members to assist in course building the day before. They are hoping for a good entry list. **Closing date is 7th August**. Please make their efforts worthwhile.

At our committee meeting on 30th May, Lillie Abbott was co-opted. Lillie had agreed to help re-vamp our club website. Do take a look at the super result – clear, concise and user friendly! Thanks Lillie.

Visit <https://www.wolverleydriving.co.uk/>

The next committee meeting is on 4th September, so if anyone wants a matter discussed, please email Linda.

Tony

Your committee has been discussing:

- The Club website
- Social meetings
- Annual General Meeting
- Winter programme
- Venue for Annual Dinner

- A 'Training for Trials' Day without equines (Including back-steppers)

Prestwood Mini Driving Trials 21/5/23

Ten turnouts enjoyed a lovely sunny day at Prestwood Mini Driving Trials. We appreciated the good flat surface for the dressage and cones phases and after the lunch break we had a 2km marathon incorporating the whole of the showground with ten gates, some of which were driven twice, and two obstacles, each of which were driven twice.

After the competition was completed, we assembled for the presentation of rosettes along with tea, coffee and an excellent selection of cakes.

This was my first attempt at this kind of competition, and I can only say that in spite of getting lost in the dressage and eliminated at the last obstacle we absolutely loved it! Many thanks to everyone involved in making the day possible – it was all very much appreciated.

We had a brilliant time and can't wait for the next one!

Sue Cole

And a personal reflection!

Richard, Ethel and I attended our first Wolverley Event at Prestwood and what a great time we had!

Whilst we have a very long way to go, we didn't feel any pressure being the newbies and were given lots of really helpful hints and tips.

We all had a great day with many giggles (providing the entertainment for everyone else) but the best bit had to be obstacles. Ethel came to life for the obstacles, she absolutely loved it and having her first proper canter around the marathon in the carriage was a really high point.

We can't wait for our next event.

Many thanks, Lillie

Riding Club Demonstration.

W.D.D.C. put on a demonstration for East Shropshire Riding Club at Lincomb Equestrian Centre on Saturday 10th June at 5 p.m.

True to weather forecast for rain at 5 p.m. it arrived at 5 p.m. Due to the excellent facilities at Lincomb Equestrian Centre there was a big shed to enable the 27 members to watch how we harnessed Morgan and put him to the carriage with Tony Gregory eloquently explaining the different parts of the harness and their function, and the reasons for the routines. And then how to unharness.

Once harnessed there was a small break in the weather for me to show a brief example of cone driving and an attempt of very basic dressage driving! 20m "should have been circles", walk, halt rein back, serpentine and some lengthened strides – more luck than skill!

While the demonstration was in progress Tony informed the spectators of the different activities the Club members participate in, the types of carriages available and the dates of the next events.

Several members of their club were quite interested so we hope it created inspiration to come and see and possibly have a go.

I believe Tony, like me would wish to thank their club for inviting us and their kind bag of treats we both received. I was also chuffed at Morgan's behaviour; he seemed to enjoy being the centre of attention.

Jeanie Jordan

W.D.D.C. mini trial at Prestwood 09.07.23

"what3words"?

Trepidation-Anticipation-Satisfaction"

'Trepidation' would be the word for my state of mind on the morning of 9th July. I'd entered the Very Small Equine class at WDDC, walked the obstacles and cones the afternoon before (in the pouring rain), recited the dressage test to super-groom Madge on the journey, and now it was time to put to and get going. I don't know if everyone has nerves about competing, but I certainly do! And that's why WDDC is such a fantastic club to be part of; there's always someone around to lend a hand and quell the nerves. On this particular day, it was Gav who turned up to hold the ponies while I fuffed and fussed, forgetting essentials like the whip and gloves, and fumbling with ties on the number bib.

'Trepidation' still abounded as Hero jiggled and wiggled towards the dressage arena but with Madge on the backstep and lots of lovely stewards around with smiley faces, I was beginning to get a grip and remember that I was supposed to be in charge, not the pair of little tear-aways in front of me. As is often the case for me, most of the dressage test was a bit of a blur; that is until I made that final turn onto the centre line and realised that I had no idea what came next! Seeing a helpful white line at D, I opted to walk (wrong), then I executed the rein back, halt and salute in a novel sequence which was also wrong. Our judge, Gill, gave me a friendly smile as I mouthed 'Sorry' and we exited with me feeling a bit of a twit. Looking at the sheet afterwards, with the ratio of higher marks to 4's approaching 50:50 and a kind comment that it was a "Shame about movements 10 and 12", I decided that there was room for improvement.

By now 'anticipation' had taken over from 'trepidation' and we were raring to go in the cones. I had never gone clear in a cones round so my expectations were modest to say the least, but I put into practice the excellent training of the previous weekend and held the lines with a forward trot. And it worked....in part.....no balls were dislodged but there was a ruck of time penalties where I'd 'got lost' and been unable to count above 15! Not to worry about any of that, though; I just need my thinking speed to catch up with the speed of the ponies' legs, then we'll be fine.

The marathon was mesmerising; literally! I'd walked the obstacles the day before and been walking them in my dreams all night, but even with that degree of physical and mental practice, actually driving them correctly eluded me...at least at the first attempt. By the time we approached Obs. 3 and 4, Madge and the ponies had learned the course and my room for error was so reduced that I actually enjoyed the whole thing!

Both Madge and I regretted our early departure before the end of the competition, but she had a family event planned for early evening and if I wanted to keep my groom, I had to get her home in time. It would have been great to enjoy cake and a cuppa and share our thoughts on the day; definitely next time.

'Satisfaction' was the feeling as we drove home. Hero and Sadie had been exceptional. They are a pair of kind, willing ponies who always try hard and are very forgiving of duff instructions from me. Madge had had her first experience of back-stepping and navigating; both useful skills that don't appear in the school curriculum. I had thoroughly enjoyed being in the company of old and new friends and felt that the challenges of the day were well met.

Immense thanks are due to all the hard-working and dedicated committee at WDDC without whom such events could not take place. Tony Bache was mowing the centre line

in the rain on Saturday afternoon. That is an act of dedication to the quality of the sport that few competitors would know or realise. Special thanks, Tony; that lovely mown centre line was great, even though I forgot the movements as I drove up it!

Carolin Gibbs

Calendar of events for 2023

Sunday 6 th August	Traditional Driving Day	Inkberrow.
Sunday 20 th August	Mini driving trial	Enville Hall
Sunday 1 st October	One Day Event	Charlcotte Farm
Sunday 5 th November	Poppy Drive	Bluntington, Chaddesley Corbett
Friday 24 th November	Annual General Meeting,	Queen's Head, Wolverley