

## **Notes from the Chair**

### **December 2022**

Well, that's another driving season over!

This year the driving numbers have sadly declined slightly from last year and hopefully this is due to everyone starting to get back on their feet, so to speak post covid. A survey has been put together by David Smith for all our drivers to fill out to ensure that the club is supplying the needs of its members with what they want to participate in. Designed to help build the new schedule for next year, it will hopefully have plenty in it for everyone to attend and enjoy. On a different note, I have come to the decision that I will step down as chair at the end of this season. I have learnt and enjoyed so much being the chair of this club, it has been challenging at times but also very rewarding and I would like to think I have helped people for the better in some way along their carriage driving journey. I will still support the club competing and helping where possible in all the activities.

Many thanks to all those that have supported me within this role, especially Linda and Louise, who have been instrumental in supporting me as chair and making the club run smoothly.

Yours sincerely and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Darren

### **A note from David Smith:**

Congratulations to Darren Wall

Darren has attained his level 2 Equestrian Coaching Certificate. Congratulations

Its great to have a Driving Coach in the area let alone in our Club.

Darren is qualified to teach aspiring carriage drivers as well as established whips.

Coaches like Darren can teach with pupil's turnouts or at equestrian (driving) centres.

Darren joins an illustrious group, the most local until now being Sarah Wildy, Emily Ham and James Broome.



Darren – always a team player – backstopping for Louise Wright  
Enville – August 2022

The club was spoilt again to a lovely late summer day. Photos on Facebook testify what a fabulous day we all had – do go and have a look at the pictures. Thanks go to the committee for organising, Judges, Stewards and helpers on the day that made it all work. Lots of names – which the club members and visitors wish to thank, and I will not list them for fear of missing someone out. Congratulations to the participants and in some classes, there were lots more than noted above for this brief report.



**Andrew Williams shares a fun moment with one of Samantha Jones' ponies**



### **Kate Boswell driving pony Dav, with Steve Harrington backstepping at Enville**

The refreshments once again were very indulgent and devoured keenly, so a special thanks to Linda Sprosen and Vicky Poole for keeping us in order. Our thanks go to Mr Williams for allowing us the privilege of using the fields for the event. A donation went to St Mary's Church Enville for £80.00 as requested by Mr Williams.

3 Classes were held with the results as below

Small Pony 1st Jackie Hill 2nd Elizabeth Castle

Large Pony 1st Linda Wiggin 2nd Jeanie Jordan 3rd Louise Wright

Multiples 1st Julie Wedgbury 2nd Samantha Jones 3rd Jackie Brown

So many thanks again to all who helped to make the event a success.

### ***Jeanie Jordan***

Brian and Jeanie Jordan's Farm Drive Sept 2022

The weather was kind, and the drive took place with a small number of Turnouts but all enjoyed their drive. Once again please visit the Facebook clips to catch Tony Cowles beautiful pair totally in balance and legs in unison – so beautiful to see. Thank you to Brian and Stephen Jordan for kindly allowing us the use of the farm.

### ***Jeanie***



### **Tony Cowles' Dutch-bred Arabo Friesians**

Julie Wedgbury's Charlcombe Farm Driving Trial September 2022

The rearranged event went ahead on a dry September day (we really have been fortunate with the weather at 'almost' every event this year)

After some meticulous planning from a number of committee and non-committee members the course was set with some superb natural obstacles and large straw bales, rather daunting when Julie the event organiser, shared on a sneak preview on Facebook and a few rumbles (me included) of *what will they all think of the straw 'Spider'*

The day dawned, Steve and I were all set to go, on arrival it was easy to see what a great venue this was with plenty of lorry parking and room to warm up, in fact we were at one point wondering where the obstacles actually were as they were quite some way out of view!!

Lots of helpers arrived through the day and it was nice to see everyone after such disparate covid times.

Dressage went as well as can be expected judged by the duo of Tony B & Jill (not my forte but trying hard to improve) and onto the cones, a tricky 20 cone course from Steve which had some tight turns and interesting options, carefully timed and managed by Tony G, Carol, and Claire and Nigel.

Then the exciting stuff happened after lunch ...

The course walked well, plenty of options to mull over and work out the best route ... and the added bonus of a small 'marathon' around part of the Burwarton Estate ahead of starting the 3 obstacles driven twice.

The obstacles drove beautifully I really did enjoy the challenge of something fixed (i.e., a tree !!) to try to get round (safely and) quickly!! Handbrake was definitely starting to come off and we had some pretty quick times in the obstacles, even with one successfully recovered missed turn (the back steppers role really shouldn't be underestimated especially with my left and rights!! - Thank you, Steven !!)

All in all, a lovely venue and a great event, thanks to Julie (and background crew) for organising and of course the Burwarton Estate for allowing us to use some fantastic countryside, I sincerely hope the event runs again in 2023. (Not forgetting Julie's cakes which went down a storm !!)



### **Anne Staniland enjoying the spacious course**

Results as follows:

Full course (3 obs x 2)

Anne Staniland 1st , Linda Wiggin 2nd , Kate Boswell 3rd, Isobel Standen 4th, Claudia Bunn 5th

Mini Course (2 obs x 2)

Julie Wedgbury – 1st, Libby Castle 2nd, Jackie Hill 3rd Sue Cole 4th

Kath Brockie and Tom Friswell also attended the event and were non competitive

Kate Boswell

## Poppy Drive November 2022



### **Lest we forget**

This year's Poppy Drive was held at Woodhouse Farm, Chaddesley Corbett by kind permission of Mr Ian Pardoe.

The day started quite dry with five turnouts attending the drive to commemorate and support this year's Poppy appeal and show support for our forces and the Royal British legion. Everyone was in good spirits as the sun shone and the weather was warm for the time of year. One by one just after 11am turnouts set off with detailed plans of the route to follow. Beware horse's signs had been located along the route in order to warn other road users of our drive which always helps. It's a lovely area with some quite long hills which always gives the ponies something to think about. Half way round the 8.5-mile drive all was going well but sadly the heavens opened and we then continued to get soaked on and off until we arrived back at the farm but the drive, roads and views were all very lovely. Still a great time was had by all that attended and an added bonus was that when we got back, we were greeted with some lovely sandwiches made for us by Sue Williams. These went down a treat.

I wish to say Many thanks to Ian Pardoe for allowing us to meet at his farm and thankyou to Louise for organising the drive and setting out the route.

Darren



**'Lest we forget' Team**

### **Dinner at Bewdley Pines November 2022**

Wolverley Driving Club members and friends enjoyed their annual dinner and awards at Bewdley Pines Golf Club again this year. We had a lovely meal in a lovely room. This year we also screened a 20-year-old film which was made at Paddy and Tony Marris' lovely home of a two-day driving event to celebrate the clubs 25 years in 2002. Tony and Paddy were super hosts. We enjoyed a great range of driving activities and we also had rides on Tony's railway.

We all looked exactly the same of course but there were more two-wheel carriages then!

Our guest speaker was Amy Stone, an equine Physiotherapist who was able to focus on the needs of driven horses as Amy is herself an accomplished Whip. Our driving members are now better equipped to spot issues with their beloved equines. Thanks Amy.

Look forward to seeing members at our AGM with supper on 20th January at the French Hen where we plan to discuss what activities members would like next year.

David Smith

## **Awards as below**

### **Whip Points WH James Trophy**

- 1st Linda Wiggin
- 2nd Jackie Hill
- 3rd Jeanie Jordan
- 4th Kate Boswell
- 5th Julie Wedgbury
- 6th Louise Wright

### **Groom Points Blakedown Landscape Challenge Trophy**

- 1st Toby Wright
- 2nd Jackie Hill
- 3rd Darren Wall
- 4th Steve Harrington
- 5th Louise Wright
- 6th Julie Wedgbury

### **Cones Trophy**

Linda Wiggin

### **WDDC Driving Trials Cup**

Linda Wiggin

### **Blood Sweat Toil And Tears**

Louise Wright

## **A Note from Tony and Gill Bache**

Well done for organising a successful dinner

We had a very good meal and it was good to catch up with people again.











## Member Preferences Survey

**To Assist Planning for 2023, Please put the following in order of your preferences, 10 being the most and 0 the least you would like your club to do next year.**

**There will be a discussion about the preferences at the AGM on 20th January 2023**

<b>Country drive with cones</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Indoor / outdoor one day Gateway Trials</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Training Days</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>One-Day Driving Trials</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Long Reining</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Overnight Camp with Training</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Country Drive without Cones</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pleasure Driving Weekends Away</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Two-day Driving Trials [ joint event]</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Traditional Driving / Games/ Fun day</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**The club has run all the above in the past and 'gateway trials' are the British Carriagedriving name for what we already do at Prestwood etc. The rules are on the BC web site and qualify winners for gateway classes at the annual BC Championships.**

*Thank you*