

Chairmans Report



Past Members Trevor and Dorothy Teague

Notes from the Chair

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to say I hope all our members, family and friends are well and coping in our ongoing struggle against the situation our society is in at this present time. Not a normal year by anyone's reckoning but we have managed to put on a number of extremely well attended events in between various lockdown rules.

Elmbridge Drive

David Smith organised a beautiful and scenic drive around the roads and lanes (some private) of Elmbridge. This was a lovely drive and very well attended. Full report by Millie Harrington.

Enville – Indoor Outdoor

Overcast but dry, this event was very well attended and ran very smoothly thanks to committee, helpers and stewards. Overseen by the astute eye of technical delegate Tony Bache, this event was both fun and competitive. Full report by Jeanie Jordan

Flyford Flavell Drive

Organised by committee treasurer Jeanie Jordan this now regular event was full of beautiful views and plenty of off-road driving. A practice obstacle was

very kindly built with straw bales by Jeanie's husband Brian and a timed cones course setup by David Smith. Everyone had a lovely drive with quite a few Rosettes for the cones times. Full report by Louise Wright

Unfortunately, not a full season by any stretch but I feel we have done well in the available window within the lockdown stipulations.

Upcoming Plans

We have created a new email address for Wolverley Driving Club so as members can get in touch with the club with any ideas, information, questions or advice. This account will be monitored by the committee so we can give the best feedback possible & now used for competition entries. Kate our committee tech expert is in the process of creating a members only Facebook page where you will be able to chat, post videos, ask for advice or post your own learning experiences/videos for the rest of the club.

We are also looking at reintroducing the club branded clothing for next season. As soon as we have confirmation on costs etc we will email out with details. It would be great if we could get some feedback on what people would like so as we can tailor our ordering to suit. We are looking at Coats, T shirts, Jumpers/hoodies, Gillet's, caps and beanies.

AGM

We will be holding our AGM via Zoom on Friday 4th of December at 7.45pm. An email with the details will be sent out nearer the date with the link details to join in the meeting. I really hope as many members as possible can attend this.

Thoughts for the New Year

We will be putting together next years schedule of events very shortly and keeping fingers crossed in the hope that we are able to carry out all our plans. I would just like to finish off by saying thank you to everyone for their continued membership to the club at such trying times and also to those who have attended, stewarded, and helped the club this year since I have taken over as chair. I am really looking forward to next year and hope we can put on some fantastic events with your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Darren

Elmbridge Drive August 2019 –Mille Mae Harrington's Report

On Sunday 9th August, David Smith held his annual drive around the quiet country lanes & scenic off road tracks of Elmbridge Droitwich. After many cancellations of events (due to Covid-19) it was wonderful to see nine turnouts attend the 'pleasurable' pleasure drive ! In total there were 3 pairs & 6 singles. David Smith was delighted with the turn outs and number of members who attended the drive. It was so lovely to see so many happy faces enjoying what they love and having the opportunity to see everyone after so many months of being isolated.

The drive commenced at 10.30 am & off everyone went ! With pleasing views and splendid company, the idyllic drive around the countryside was thoroughly enjoyed by all ! Although the drive lasted just over 1 hour and 30 minutes & was 7 miles in total, it certainly did not feel that far after all time flies when you are having fun !

Thank you David for organising the event and I hope to see you all soon

Enville 2020 – Jeannie Jordan's Report

Our Club is incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to use the facilities at Enville in front of the Hall and our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Williams.

The weather was kind and provided the best conditions for the event, so the 10 turnouts enjoyed the competitions starting with dressage followed by cones then obstacles and the opportunity to enjoy our sport – carriage driving with our trusted equine. Sarah Jane Hayes kindly took fabulous photos along with Tony Cowles taking videos to help us improve and pleasure of seeing our own action. Pictures of which are on the club Facebook pages.

All of which would not be possible without our judges and stewards on the day plus the helping set up the arena and courses on the day before. Participants thanks go to Tony & Gill Bache, Tony & Carol Gregory, Stephen Pond, Vicky and Stephen Poole, David Smith, Linda Sprosen, Kate, Karen, Steve, Millie, Darren, Julie, Louise and apologies to anyone I have missed !

All safely competed, the pleasure ending with great cake, our rosettes and opportunity for all to take part.

Flyford Flavell Drive – Louise Wright `s Report

With thanks to Jeanie and Brian Jordan we were once again invited to their home and given the opportunity to drive around their farmland and surrounding lanes. It was really nice to see a total of 9 turnouts who had come to enjoy the drive with its scenic views and the lovely weather was on our side. In the adjoining field to the parking, David Smith and Sara Jayne had set out a cones course next to Brian Jordan's bale obstacle for us to use.

We harnessed up and put too and armed with a highlighted map and detailed written instructions everyone set off at staggered intervals. Darren and I were last to go with my pony Vinny at which point I must add that this is the third time I have done Jeanie's drive and the third time we have got lost! This was in no way down to Jeanie's map and instructions but my onboard navigation system that goes by the name of Darren – so we set off on familiar roads making our way to the off road section feeling very confident. As ever with this drive we are given the opportunity to drive over beautiful scenic private farmland and driveways. It was so nice to be able to have a good canter numerous times over the various fields. The weather remained lovely throughout and I felt privileged to be able to do this in the current times we are in.

Approximately halfway round we passed David Smith with Sara Jayne and Claudia Bunn and her Groom who were all on there return journey. Both Drivers advised us of the upcoming turning and which way to go but my on board sat nav had other ideas and we missed a turn and continued along a random lane for half a mile until I realised that we were going the wrong way yet again and the way we should of gone was where I had pointed half a mile earlier! Once back on track we continued to have the pleasure of driving on more private land and have another good canter. It was at this point we met Brian's Brother who almost locked us in the field as whilst we were on our detour, Jeanie had overtaken us and informed him that they were the last ones through. With advice from Brian's brother we were back enroute for the return journey. We arrived safely back at Jeanie's farm where after feeding and watering Vinny we were invited into the garden for a socially distanced catchup. It was really nice to see so many club members and Jeanie suggested that I get a tracker set up for next year's drive which I certainly agreed with!

Thanks again Jeanie, Brian and Brian's brother for having us all and the wonderful drive and we look forward to next year

Dressage

A friend of mine who has never touched a horse let alone ridden one [yes there are such people], asked me if I was teaching Darcy to read when he saw my dressage arena. Ha ha . He then asked why the letters were random? I did not know, so i looked and the attached is what I found. No wonder the Germans lost the war!

DRESSAGE ARENA - how did the letters come about?

Print (/latest-riding-tips-and-advice/dressage/item/187-dressage-arena?tmpl=component&print=1) Email (/component/mailto/?tmpl=component&template=jooswatch-v3-5&link=4b7d190f07dce48b2b7872da727b743b104ae52e)

There are two sizes of dressage arena and all levels of test will be ridden in either a 20m x 40m or a 20m x 60m arena. The letters appear rather random as they do not follow the alphabet and have no obvious pattern. Within a 20m x 60m arena you can fit 3 x 20m squares or 3 x 20m circles; X is always in the middle between B and E.

A 20m x 60m Dressage Arena has 12 letters: A B C E F H K M R S V P
The invisible letters down the centre line are D L X I G.
A 20m X 40m arena has 8 letters A B C E F H K M
The invisible letters down the centre line are D X G

There are many theories about how the size of the arena and letters came about. Here are a couple so take your pick.

Theory One

The Royal Manstall (Stables), housing 300 of the Kaiser's horses, of the Imperial German Court in Berlin (prior to 1918) had markings on the walls (letters) which indicated where each courtier's or rider's horse should stand and await their rider. The 'Hof' (stable yard) was used to parade for 'morning exercise and assembly for ceremonial parades'. The size of this area (Hof) was three times longer than the width in the same way dressage arenas are today. The markings on the walls of the Manstall were:

A Ausgang (Exit)
K Kaiser (Emperor)
F F~irst (Prince)
P Pferknecht (Ostler or Groom)
V Vassal (Servant/Squire/Equerry)
E Edeling/ Ehrengast (Chieftain or Honoured Guest)
B Bannertrager (Standard Bearer)
S Schzkanzler (Chancellor of the Exchequer)
R Ritter (Knight)
M Meier (Steward)
H Hofsmarshall (Lord Chancellor)

Theory Two

The second theory involved the German cavalry in the 19th century. It is claimed they were responsible for the arena letters. The manege (arena) of the German cavalry was surrounded by barracks, each barrack having a letter designated to it. The letters (markers) in the arena indicated a reference point where a movement would be ridden, in the same way we ride dressage tests today.

Cavalry officials decided they wanted to compete with others and so the 20m x 60m arena became the standard size for all dressage competitions, including the Olympics in 1932. In the same way tests are ridden today, a series of prescribed movements was ridden at designated markers. This demonstrated the training method, natural athleticism of the horse and it's willingness to perform the movements in a relaxed and effortless manner, so not a lot changed there! Initially tests comprised of military combat movements which would test the horse for courage, calmness and

obedience. (All of the qualities required by a rider as they go up the centre line towards the judge!). On the battlefield these skills would have been absolutely key, literally the difference between life and death.

Movements also included collected and extended gaits, turning on the hocks (pirouettes) and four flying changes on a straight line. I feel sure most riders will be rather glad the next element is no longer required in a test - the horse and rider combination had to jump five small obstacles, one of which included a barrel rolled towards the oncoming horse!! Up until 1952 only Commissioned Officers were allowed to compete at Olympic level. Civilians or female riders were not even considered, let alone eligible. This all changed when in 1948 the Swedish Dressage Team were disqualified. Shock horror, a member of their team was not a Commissioned Officer. However, this was a turning point and the rules were changed to include civilians and female riders.

Tributes to Past Members

Trevor Teague

Trevor and Enid become members of Wolverley & District Driving Club soon after it starting in September 1976., they lived just over the Worcestershire border at Shatterford. Trevor travelled over many Counties taking part in Private Driving and Judging Best Turned Out and many other classes. Trevor is survived by his wife Enid who always accompanied him when driving, Enid herself also drove. He was also a BDS judge and Area Commissioner for Shropshire and still being on the judges list, only selling his horse and carriages in 2018.

Trevor who was 93 was still living independent and driving his car until the time of his death. Enid due to increasing incapacity has been in residential care for several years. Trevor passed away suddenly in hospital on the 15th April after being taken ill at home. He will be missed by his family many of his driving friends.

Trevor remained a member of Wolverley Driving Club and always showed interest in all club activities. We are very honored and proud to be in receipt of £1,000 legacy left by Trevor.

Dorothy Billings

Dorothy passed away on 16th August 2020 at Grange Residential Care home aged 92. , following a long illness.

Dorothy along with her late husband Malcolm were long time members of Wolverley Driving Club. Driving her little black Shetland pony Earnwood Edwin and later Malcolm started driving a pony called Rue. Dorothy was on committee for many years and held position of Chairman. She will be missed by many of her friends and family.

