



The East Anglian Carriage Driving Group Ltd

September Newsletter 2007.

Well for a change the weather was absolutely perfect for our last two day event of the season at Euston Hall, Thetford.

There were a total of 32 competitors who had entered for Euston but by the time the event ran, only 24 competitors went forward and only 15 competitors completed all three disciplines of the event!!

Our biggest class of the weekend was the Novice Class, three of which were H/C, the other novice competitors were very close in marks throughout the three disciplines making it a very close and exciting competition.

Ann Davey won the dressage with Linda Hill second and Steph Richards third.

Ann Davey managing to drive a double clear in the cones, with Steph Richards only having time penalties, with Ginny White, Deirdre Luff and Linda Hill all getting one ball down.

The Marathon saw Deirdre flying through the obstacles cutting seconds off Linda Hill's time, closely followed by Wendy Wyatt.

The Novice Overall was won in the end by Linda Hill with Deirdre Luff pulling up to second place and Ann Davey third.



JANICE PARKER – first event with her tandem

David Taylor had designed the obstacles and cones course leaving no room for error. As usual the marathon course didn't take any prisoners either, being very sandy, proving that your animals 'do' have to be pretty fit. The walk section came as a bit of a shock as part of it was right adjacent to a field full of piglets! The Euston estate had pulled out all the stops again and rolled and mowed a route for us around and across the park, flattening the mole hills for us once again.

Thank you Euston. .

Blandings 'Fun' Event

Having been approached by some members who felt that the last event of the season had come around too quickly we spoke to Louise at Blandings Farm with the thought of a 'Fun' Day to be held there on Sunday 7th October.

At the end of the Euston event we asked the competitors for feed back about the 'Fun' Day those that were present, what they thought of this idea. They wholeheartedly approved. What they asked for was a 'Fun Day' with a simple dressage test, an easy cones course, and two obstacles driven twice. These suggestions were put forward and in conclusion the 'Fun' Day will run as follows:-

An easy Dressage Test – the BHDTA Pre-Novice Dressage Test (A) (2007) This will have a scheduled start time. Accuracy is of paramount importance, getting into those corners, getting a good half circle on both reins and showing a change of pace from working trot to a few lengthened strides and of course the paces. So this will marked similar to the indoor.

Once the competitors have completed the dressage they will then proceed around the grass track entering the obstacle field (here their timing of the obstacles and cones combined will start) to complete two obstacles and cones course. The clock will stop as they leave the field. They will then do another circuit of the track, before repeating the same two obstacles and cones for the second time, similarly timed.

The Judging will be as follows:

Dressage Test Score – Precision & Paces.

Added to the optimum time, (which will be given,) for the driving of the two obstacles and cones, – (a lee way of plus or minus 5 seconds to the optimum time.)

Suggested Split for the Classes will be:

Novice, Open & Multiples.

Scores from the Dressage Test – plus the nearest to the optimum time, with no balls down in the obstacles/cones – placing down to sixth – and so on.....

Non-Club Members are welcome to join us and will be incorporated in the classes.

Please bear with us re scoring.... Thank you...

To keep the 'fun' going, we will set up another cones course in another field. Each Competitor can drive the course for a total time of 5minutes. This can be driven as many times as you want, at a cost of £1 a go. This will be good training as it will take concentration to drive for that length of time through cones, trying not to knock any balls off. So it will be interesting to see how many competitors can...

Please bear with us regarding scoring..... Thank you.

Entry forms are attached to this newsletter, so please can you fill these in as soon as possible. Due to the shortening hours of our days now, we will have to close entries at THIRTY, and Jean Lane has taken 'phone calls for about half of that amount already, so please hurry and send your cheque for £20 and completed entry form to our treasurer:- Jacqui Clarke, Flemings Farm House, Flemings Farm Road, Eastwood, Essex. SS9 5QT

THE EACDG LTD. AGM

Another date for your Diary is your AGM. Your AGM will be held in the Clubhouse at Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre, Great Canfield, Takeley, Essex. The last week in November, on Sunday 25th at 11.30 am.

Your AGM is for the purpose of receiving the Committee's reports and the statement of Accounts for the year end. The election of officers and committee members shall also take place by a ballot of members present at the AGM. Members wishing to nominate one or more candidates for election should do so in writing to reach the Secretary on the 30th September prior to the AGM. (The Secretary at this moment is Jean Lane of 15 Albert Road, Braintree Essex. CM7 3JQ) This is how it is written in the Constitution, any changes to the Constitution shall be done at the AGM and duly recorded in the minutes.

Your AGM will be held in the Clubhouse at Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre, Great Canfield, Takeley, Essex. The last week in November, on Sunday 25th at 11.30 am.

The new committee for 2008 is elected at the AGM, so Committee Members up for re-election are as follows: Guy Stainton (President) David Taylor. (Chairman) Jacqui Clarke. (Treasurer) Carolyn Bartlett. Janice Parker. Zoe Morgan. Tony Clarke. & Robin Hyde Chambers. (Junior Representative).

New nominations have been received for Fiona Powell (for Secretary) and Mike Watts (for Committee)

Both Jean Lane (Secretary) and Nigel Collins (Health & Safety Officer) have decided to stand down from the committee this year, having served for many years, allowing new blood and ideas to come onto the committee. Jeannie is still happy to act as our TD if required, and Nigel Collins may be persuaded to keep an eye on our Health and Safety issues.

Please can all those winners of the EACDG 2005 Points League - who forgot to return their cups and trophy's to last years AGM - and the winners of the EACDG 2006 points league, please remember to bring the cups and trophy's to this year's 2007 AGM.

The National Championships

As you are probably aware, the National Championships had to be cancelled on the Wednesday before the weekend of the event, because of another foot & mouth outbreak.

It took Jill Holah and her team only a week to re-arrange the Nationals at Catton Hall, Nr. Burton-on-Trent.

George Prince flew back from a holiday in Italy to designed and flag the obstacles.

Carol Meredith designed an excellent flowing cones course, which caught out quite a few, and the Midland Driving Trials Group rallied around with their team of helpers.

Of course we must not forget and thank Robin and Katie Neilson for allowing the BHDTA to run the National Championships on their wonderful estate.

This turned out to be a brilliant weekend for all of those who were able to change arrangements at the last minute and take part.

We should be very proud of our own Wilf Bowman-Ripley, (who runs the Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre with Zoe Morgan.) Winning The Horse Pairs and becoming the National Horse Pairs Champion. Wilf was driving John & Joe Attenborough's pair of horses. Wilf lead from the start. He drove a cracking marathon followed by just one ball down in the cones to win overall.



**WILF BOWMAN-RIPLEY,
Driving John & Joe Attenborough's pair of horses,
in obstacle number six,
with Harry Luff hanging on the back!**

Sue Botley who also drove in the Horse Pairs Class came second in the Dressage, fifth in the marathon and second in the Cones, giving her an overall position of third place, so well done Sue.

Other East Anglian Members who competed at the Championships were: Fiona Powell, Gary Powers and Frances Collings.....Well done to you all.....



**SUE BOTLEY DRIVING INTO OBSTACLE 5.
Photos by Mike Watts.**

Please don't forget to enter NOW if you wish to come to the 'FUN' Day at Blandings Farm – To Jacqui Clarke. Entry Forms Attached.