



*Preparing your horse for a competition*



*I don't feel so good..  
How do I look?  
Make sure your horse is in good health*

# *EAST ANGLIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING GROUP LTD*

*2006 SPRING  
NEWSLETTER*



*Practice makes perfect.*



*Compulsory halt !!*

# Helpful Hints for Training

## RHYTHM

This means a regular beat in ALL Paces.

## SUPPLENESS

This means a 'soft' back – often demonstrated by a swinging tail. The horse is relaxed in his paces. It means Elasticity of Movement – a 'bounce in the stride.

The horse must be able to bend equally left and right.

## CONTACT

This means the 'feel' between driver's hands and horse's mouth.

It is usually demonstrated by a steady head carriage with a closed mouth and relaxed jaw. The horse should hold it's head straight with a supply poll.

The poll should be the highest point of the neck/head. The nose should be slightly in front of the vertical.

## IMPULSION

This means the desire to go forwards with the energy coming from the hind legs stepping under the horse's centre of gravity.

In extended paces the horse covers more ground, while in collection the horse 'shortens' and achieves greater elevation. Collected paces should have more 'bounce'.

Impulsion and balance give cadence to the collected trot.

## STRAIGHTNESS

This means even bend and flexion on both reins – so that the horse can achieve straightness!

Therefore, this is essential preparation for collected work.

## New Signs

***For those of you who have been to our events so far this season, I don't know if you have noticed the 'new signs' Aren't they just the ticket? These were made and kindly donated to our Club by Diana Irwins' husband Tony, we all thank him very much.***

# A GUIDE ON WHAT DRESSAGE JUDGES LOOK FOR!

**Halt:** The Horse must stand square and straight with the weight evenly distributed among all four legs. The horse must remain attentive and motionless, ready to move off at the slightest indication from the Driver.

**Walk:** A regular unconstrained walk. The horse, remaining in a light contact, walks energetically but calmly, with even and determined steps, with the hind feet touching the ground in front of the foot prints of the fore feet ('over tracking').

**Working Trot:** A forward, active trot with the horse on the bit, carrying himself in balance and rhythm with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The steps of the hind feet must at least be touching the ground in the footprints of the fore feet.

**Collected Trot:** The horse remains on the bit and moves energetically forward with a greater degree of engagement. This leads to an increased flexion of the hocks and fetlock joints and a lightening of the shoulders, thus allowing for more mobility and elevation of the steps. The neck will be raised and more arched, with the poll the highest part, the nose should not be over bent or the neck restricted.

**Extended Trot:** The horse lengthens his stride to cover as much ground as possible as a result of greater impulsion from the hindquarters. The driver allows the horse to lengthen its frame, remaining 'on the bit' without leaning on it, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical. The hind feet must clearly over track the prints made by the fore feet. The horse must remain in balance while maintaining the same tempo with steps of equal size. Going faster is not asked for, and is a severe fault.

**Rein Back:** The horse must walk backwards in a straight line, with the legs being lifted and set down in diagonal pairs. The horse must remain on the bit, straight and not evade or resist the contact. Transition to the next movement must be immediate and smooth.

**Shoulder In:** (Applicable to Test 8) The shoulder in movement requires the leader horse's inside foreleg to pass in front of the outside leg. The horse's inside hind leg is passed in front of the outside leg and in the track of the outside foreleg. The horse look away from the direction in which it is moving.

**Transitions:** Changes of pace must always be made smoothly and promptly with the horse remaining in balance and on the bit. A transition must be completed as the **nose** of the horse arrives at the prescribed marker. This includes halts.

**Understand the Terminology:**  
**Considered the following**  
**when driving your dressage**  
**movements:**

**Accuracy** – Accuracy of turns, size of circles, even loops to serpentines, using the whole arena, bending correctly around the corners.

**Driver's Position** – Sitting up straight (not leaning around the corners!) The reins should not touch the horse's quarters. The whip should be held pointing to 'eleven o'clock'. The elbows should be bent and supple. The wrist should 'give and take' with the horse's movement.



**Sara Simmons – Driving her**  
**Dressage Test at Ashfields**

**Presentation (A quick guide)** – Everything clean and in good order. Hats secured so they don't blow off. Crash hats are permitted. Gloves for driver **AND** groom. The driver's apron should come at least to mid-calf, if not longer, and should tuck around the thighs. Lamps, if brackets are fitted (with a candle which has been previously lit). Reflectors fitted to the back of the vehicle. **NO** brushing boots or bandages. It is acceptable to have a passenger rather than a groom. This means that they can wear similar clothes to the driver – useful when 'rent-a-groom' does not have riding clothes. They too should have an apron or rug and gloves. A passenger is not expected to hold the horse's head during standing presentation.



**The Clarks Superbly turned out at**  
**Ashfields Spring Event.**

**EUSTON PARK,**  
**THETFORD - TRAINING**  
**SAT 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH &**  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> - AN**  
**INSIDE/OUT ONE DAY**  
**EVENT.**

It was wonderful to see so many of our members making the effort to come to the first event of the season, even though it was really early. Some Eleven BDS Members were invited again this year on the Saturday, to have a 10km drive through the park, which they enjoyed, along with the opportunity to be timed through a short cones course, meanwhile some of our members were training with Mike Daniels, which they enjoyed very much.

Considering the Sunday was such a bitterly cold day, 30 odd competitors braved the elements. We had to arrange two dressage arenas, to get everyone through in time so the day did not drag on too long.

Euston Estate had worked very hard rolling the dressage arenas and the tracks ready for our event, but I think they have a losing battle with the moles!!

It seems that this type of event - an inside out - (which has a very short marathon and being low key,) is quite popular, especially, so soon after an indoor season. – Feedback Please, your comments would be appreciated for next year.



**Sandra Cook**  
**Cold but persevering**



**Jill Wood leaping through the Cones.**  
**This was the first outside event for Jills new**  
**horse.**



**Jade Jefferies (Jr)**



**Graham Cooper's going for it.**

**Results are :-** Pre-Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Graham Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup> Jade Jefferies (Jnr) 3<sup>rd</sup> Rachel Horton. 4<sup>th</sup> Sue Hargreaves. 5<sup>th</sup> Sandra Cooke. **Novice Pony:** 1<sup>st</sup> Brain Nichols. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tabitha King (Jnr) 3<sup>rd</sup> Christina Curren. 4<sup>th</sup> Emily Green. 5<sup>th</sup> Sara Lane. **Novice Horse:** 1<sup>st</sup> Diana Irwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fiona Gordon-Clarke. 3<sup>rd</sup> Lindsay Tyas. **Open Pony:** 1<sup>st</sup> Chrissy Nash. 2<sup>nd</sup> Rosemary Neal. 3<sup>rd</sup> Alma Webb. 4<sup>th</sup> Janet Seaman. 5<sup>th</sup> Louise Garget. 6<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Barker-Simson. **Open Horse:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jill Wood. 2<sup>nd</sup> Janice Parker. **Pony Tandems:** 1<sup>st</sup> Danielle Twitchen. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Clarke.



**Fiona Driving ney Floating through the Cones!**



**Sue Hargreaves 1<sup>st</sup> Event.**

## **BHDTA 'FUTURE OF THE SPORT MEETING'**

There was a meeting held at The BHS Stoneleigh Deer Park on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. A cross-section of competitors, (current and former), event organisers, officials, and several BHDTA council members were invited to debate the future of our sport.

The aim of the meeting was to identify areas where improvements could be made to rejuvenate and stimulate continued growth and interest in Driving Trials. There are concerns at the diminishing membership - if this trend continues it will become a major problem for the sport.

It was agreed that the sport of Driving Trials urgently needed revamping in order to improve its appeal both to would-be competitors and perhaps more importantly the public, which would then generate sponsorship, prize money and hopefully, more competitors. Many ideas were put forward by those present. These were collated by Rosemary Neil the facilitator, who will forward the ideas to the BHDTA Council for deliberation.

We can only hope that the ideas generated by the collective wisdom at the meeting will be sufficient to ensure the future of our sport. If ANYONE has any bright ideas, please forward them, either to Rosemary Neil, or via the Equifor web-site ([www.equifor.com](http://www.equifor.com)) Or the BHDTA Web Site's front page under BHDTA Interactive, have a look, I'm sure all ideas will be gratefully received by the Council.

## **Indoor Championships**

So many of our East Anglian members were flying the flag at the Indoor Championships this year, many of whom won or were placed.

Namely:- Mark Bell - Tabitha King - Katie Bell - Robin Hyde-Chambers. (Juniors) Diana Irwin - Fiona Gordon-Clarke - Jill Wood - Linda Nuckley - Brian Nichols - Gary Snow - Danielle Twitchen - David Taylor.



**Congratulations Diana,** on your 1<sup>st</sup> year competing in Novice Horse and winning!

**NB: Please remember the Vote at the AGM – Re Grooms being able to go round a Marathon Course more than once, as long as they are in different classes i.e. Single/Multiple. (provided this does not inconvenience the event organiser)**

## Easter Junior Clinic

Again this year the Easter Junior Clinic was held at Sydney Smith's, Unicorn Trust at Stow on the Wold. The Trainers:- **Georgina Frith, Karen Bassett, Sarah Howe and Anna Grayston** worked very hard over the two days training 29 Juniors. They had a full programme of Dressage Training - Cones Course Driving – and Obstacles Training and Driving. Even the Classroom lessons given by Jean Lane and Harry Luff were well attended on the Thursday – these were geared to learning and understanding how to set up Dressage Arenas and Cones Courses at home.

Please remember the Summer Junior Camp, which will be held at Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre, Gt. Canfield, Nr. Takeley, Essex. It's on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**. Please contact Jean Lane for details and application forms, which will be ready by the end of May: - [jeannielanedriving@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeannielanedriving@yahoo.co.uk) Tel: 07860 822396.

## ASHFIELDS SPRING EVENT! 22nd & 23rd April, 2006.

Wow! What a fan-tas-tic turnout of competitors attended the Ashfields Spring Event. We were so lucky on the Saturday, having a very sunny day. The Dressage arenas ran like clockwork, a huge thank you to the stewards, Peter, Julie and Kim. There were three Judges at Ring One, and Two Judges at Ring Two. The cones course ran smoothly with no delays - directed by David Taylor (the designer). The prizes for the lowest Dressage Scores were attained by **Georgina Frith – Horses** and **Anna Grayston – Ponies**.



**Anna Grayston Driving Blaze – Open Pony**

Saturday evening saw the christening of the Club House, where the superb facilities were enjoyed by over 200 people. Once again we were lucky enough to have Meg doing the BBQ. A raffle was arranged, with the proceeds going towards the Junior Summer Camp.

Sunday morning greeted us with a short shower of rain, which made the going rather sticky. Some 55 competitors took part in the Marathon, driving the fast flowing obstacles designed and built by Wilf Bowman-Ripley. Feedback from most competitors were positive, certainly most

drivers and grooms came back with happy smiling faces. It was great to welcome so many International and National drivers who were making the most of Ashfields' fabulous facilities as a warm-up for Brighton. The Open Pony class was the largest one of the weekend, having 17 competitors. Congratulations to our club competitors who did so well against such stiff competition. There were lots of multiples, how many events get 5 tandems let alone 6 teams??? It was brilliant to see so many of the UK's Top Four-in-Hand drivers at our event, with the unfortunate accident of Georgina Frith and her crew being the only down point of the day. The latest news is that Georgina is up and competing again, while Josephine, the horse who was hurt is still in hospital at Cambridge, it is hoped she will make a full recovery.



**Georgina Frith – Four-in-Hand Class**

It was a great pity that the prize-giving was delayed but hopefully everyone has now had a copy of the results (printed below if you haven't) and those that won them have got their rosettes and prizes. Competitors seem to be pleased to win useful items like head-collars, and number bibs. Feedback Please? The prize money, generously donated again this year, will be held and carried forward to the next Ashfields event at the end of July.



**Ian Watt – Novice Pony Class**



### Jill Wood – Open Pony Class

**Results are:- Pre-Novice:** 1<sup>st</sup> Katie Bell (Jr) 2<sup>nd</sup> Jade Jefferies (Jr) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Hargreaves 4<sup>th</sup> John Parkin (Jr) 5<sup>th</sup> Graham Cooper 6<sup>th</sup> Racheal Horton. **Novice Pony:** 1<sup>st</sup> James Gambs (Jr) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon Redfern 3<sup>rd</sup> Tabitha King (Jr) 4<sup>th</sup> Ian Watt 5<sup>th</sup> Gill Anslow 6<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Richards.



**Tabitha King (Jr) – Novice Pony Class**

**Novice Horse:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lindsey Tyas 2<sup>nd</sup> Diana Irwin.  
**Open Horse:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jane Lamb 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Grose (Jr) 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael Morris. **Open Pony:** 1<sup>st</sup> Liz Row 2<sup>nd</sup> Sara Simmons 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Bell (Jr) 4<sup>th</sup> Jill Wood 5<sup>th</sup> Anna Grayston 6<sup>th</sup> Alma Webb. **Pony Pairs:** 1<sup>st</sup> Stephanie Byrne. **Pony Tandem:** 1<sup>st</sup> Danielle Twitchen 2<sup>nd</sup> Robin Hyde-Chambers (Jr)  
**Horse Pairs:** 1<sup>st</sup> Terry Selway 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Botley 3<sup>rd</sup> Vikki Edmondson 4<sup>th</sup> Jacqui Clarke.  
**Four-in-Hand:** Dressage Results, (as Marathon was abandoned:) 1<sup>st</sup> Georgina Frith 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Lane 3<sup>rd</sup> Karen Bassett 4<sup>th</sup> Pippa Bassett 5<sup>th</sup> Robert Bowman 6<sup>th</sup> Daniel Naprous.

## Training Training

Following the vote at the AGM In 2004 we have tried to arrange training days at different venues around the area.

Training days not only give you the opportunity to use a full sized arena with all the markers, a cones course and sometimes obstacles, but also **EVERYONE** gets something from having a trainer's eye on them.

It would be lovely to see more competitors getting dressage scores in the fifties rather than the seventies and eighties. Although luck plays a part in our sport, as a well known competitor said "Isn't it funny, the more I practice, the luckier I get"!!

There is a Training Day at **Ashfields** on **May 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**. With **Karen and Pippa Bassett**. A Few Places left – Hurry Book/Details from Zoe Morgan Tel: (07770 944868)

Then, on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** there will be Training at **Louise Garget's** place at **Blandings Farm**, near Newmarket with **Georgina Frith** and **Karen Bassett**. – Hurry a couple of places left – ring Jacqui Clarke NOW. 01702510077(eve)

Any extra skills learnt on Saturday can be used at the one day-inside-out event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

**WANTED- 'BOMB PROOF' DRIVING PONY FOR MUM & KIDS – EXCELLENT HOME – Tel: 01621779216. Malden Essex Area**

NOTE: Don't forget that at an inside-out event, means that your wheels need to be set to 'Marathon width' for ALL 3 PHASES.

Important Note - Dressage Test No. 7 (1986) Novice – Movement 6 now includes a 20m circle. Please do not forget. (This is missing in our yearbook)



**John Parkin (Jnr) – First Event**



**Karen Bassett – Four-in-Hand Class**

**BDS Preliminary Assessment Day Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at Clare Bourne's' Then there will be an organised Test Day with Sarah Howe in the near future. Contact Clare on 07780 970530 or David Taylor on 07738 290004**

**More details on our Web Site:**

[www.eacdq.org.uk](http://www.eacdq.org.uk)

## SANDRINGHAM 1st & 2nd July

We are restricted to only 50 competitors, so please get your entries in as soon as possible, also please let Jacqui know if you will be attending the B-B-Q (same caterer as the AGM and Ashfields). **Sandringham** is a wonderful opportunity for club competitors to get a taste of National life at Club prices! The going at Sandringham is sandy which is much more demanding than people realise, so do make sure your ponies/horses are fit!

**We must thank both Mike Watts for Photos Taken at Euston & Ben Powers for the Photos Taken at Ashfields.**

What do you think of the new Web Site??? What else would you like to see on it??? Would you like to be on an E-mail mailing list??? - Contact David Taylor.

**Please - Any articles or adverts you wish to have published in the Summer Newsletter please do not hesitate to send to anyone on the committee.**