



EACDG News

February 2008

The newsletter of the East Anglian Carriage Driving Group Ltd – for members and friends

Hibernating is not an option...

there are so many things to do this spring with the EACDG, starting with a Volunteers' Lunch on Sunday, 23 March at Ashfields. Then we rush off the starting blocks with a training day followed by a one-day event at Blandings Farm, near Newmarket, 5-6 April, and on to our first two-day event at Ashfields Carriage and Polo Centre, near Stansted, 19-20 April, with a Spring Ball hosted by Terry Chambers and in aid of charity.

Your committee wants to offer something for everyone. We want to encourage people to start competing and joining in*, giving them the challenge and excitement of their first event and making it an experience they enjoy so much they want to repeat it. At the same time we want to offer last season's newcomers a step up the competition ladder and the opportunity to get more miles under their hooves. Experienced drivers know the ropes, of course, yet look for challenges of a different nature. We want to satisfy everyone, somehow, and help Hilary Ray and Jo Meech, our volunteer co-ordinators, to find enough noble souls to steward for us.

* *Helping at an event is a good way to learn. If you haven't got a pony or horse, if you don't drive, or if you want to compete later in the season or just get to know more, join in and make new friends, please see page 2.*

EACDG Events 2008

23 March	Volunteers buffet lunch, Ashfields Clubhouse, 12 for 12:30pm
5 April	Blandings Farm training day
6 April	Blandings Farm inside-out event
19-20 April	Ashfields two-day event & Spring Ball
16-18 May	Ashfields Crinkly Camp
31 May-1 June	Euston two-day event
20-21 June	Blandings Farm Training Camp
22 June	Blandings Farm Inside-out event
28-29 June	Sandringham House two-day event
2-3 August	Blandings Farm two-day event with novice qualifier classes
12-14 August	Ashfields Junior Camp
29-31 August	Ashfields Crinkly Camp
20-21 September	Ashfields two-day event & club championships
12 October	Blandings Farm one-day fun event
the November	AGM, Ashfields Clubhouse

Membership costs the same as last year

If you wish to become a member or renew your membership of the EACDG (and you haven't already), please either complete the attached form and return it by post with your cheque or **join online**. We are, of course, very happy to receive your membership by any means...



Deirdre Luff with Bunty, Harry Luff backstepping, enjoyed the Blandings Farm spring event last year. MW

You can join and pay online with a credit card. The system is secured through Nohex and the EACDG does not see any of your credit card details. We have been using this system successfully for indoor driving entries: you can join 24 hours a day, it saves time, paper and is safe and convenient. Go to www.eacdg.co.uk to find the link. Online entries will be coming shortly!

Join by post: please complete the enclosed form and send it to the membership secretary, Janice Parker, with a cheque or postal order payable to EACDG Ltd.

Janice Parker's address is 30 Camel Road, Littleport, Ely, Cambs, CB6 1PU

The yearbook will be sent to all members shortly. It contains details and entry forms for all the events with our rules, guidelines, news and useful information. This year it includes the marathon times ready reckoner, with instructions. It will also be available on the website.

Join now online or return the enclosed form!

Insurance, EACDG and the BHDTA

EACDG is affiliated to our governing body, the British Horse Driving Trials Association (BHDTA). If you are already a member of the BHDTA (and already covered by its insurance), you get a £7.50 discount for this element of the EACDG membership fee.

If you join the EACDG and are not a BHDTA member, you pay the full membership fee. You are covered for legal liability when driving at EACDG events only. If you wish to compete in another affiliated club's event, you must either join that club or join the BHDTA as an associate/club member (£54) or as a club (restricted) member (£40). The latter covers you for

competing at any affiliated club event including novice qualifiers. See www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk or call the BHDTA office, 0845 643 2116, for more details.

Please note that BDS membership does not insure you for training for or competing in driving trials.

~~"No such thing as a free lunch?"~~

Sunday, 23 March, Ashfields Clubhouse, 12 for 12:30pm

A free lunch will be provided for everyone who wishes to get involved with helping and stewarding at any of our events this season. There's no catch: it really is a free buffet lunch in the clubhouse.



Two invitations are enclosed for you to give to friends, family and neighbours who'd like to know more about volunteering: please fill in your name and give them the invitations. If you wish to accompany or bring them, you are invited to the lunch as well. All we ask is that you either return the enclosed form or phone Zoe Morgan by 10 March so we'll have enough food: that's important!

There will be a short chat about horse driving trials and our coming season's events, an enjoyable buffet and the chance to catch up with friends. Your committee will be on hand to answer your questions, too.

Training and inside-out event

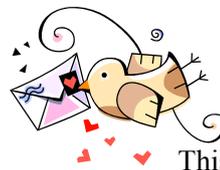
Saturday 5 April and Sunday, 6 April, Blandings Farm

Training sessions with Wilf Bowman-Ripley, Mike Daniell and Jo Attenborough are offered on Saturday.

We are also providing "interactive" steward and obstacle training at Blandings on Saturday afternoon, 1:30pm, with the chance to put your new or de-rusted skills into practice on Sunday for the one-day event. Tea, cakes and refreshments are offered free to everyone who takes part in the steward training on Saturday. David Taylor has offered to take people on an obstacle walk, too (using a different obstacle).

Our event on Sunday is called an inside-out event because everyone competes in marathon kit: that's any suitable weatherproof clothing with hard hats. Grooms can sit or stand on the back of the carriage and vehicles have a 125 cms track width for all phases – dressage, cones and mini-marathon. It's a short flat course designed to get us back into competition mode and shouldn't tire any reasonably fit ponies or horses.

The British Driving Society is holding a marathon drive in the morning at Blandings on Saturday, 5 April, with their own cones course. Some of them are staying for the training around the obstacles and are encouraged to return on Sunday to steward for us. If you are a member of the BDS (or join quickly) and wish to join their drive, please contact Eunice Binder, 01473 830326. There's a small charge, £15 per turnout.



Keeping in touch with everyone

Many of you are familiar with the club's website, www.eacdg.co.uk.

This has details of our events, entry forms and news and is a great way to keep in touch: anyone can post questions (and answers). There's a General Chat forum, Announcements, For Sale and Wanted, and an active new Small Ponies forum, too. (*How do they reach the keyboard?*)

We are anxious not to lose touch with those of you who don't have access to the internet. Newsletters will be sent by post unless you choose to read them on the website – see the joining form. Pre-event paperwork will be sent to everyone who sends a sae with their entry, otherwise times and details will be posted on our website. (This saves us a lot of time, so please consider the electronic option if you are happy to use it!)

If you have any burning questions, you can email at any time or telephone your committee members at times when they are likely to appreciate your call.

Your committee 2008

President	Guy Stainton 01787 370681, guystainton@fsmail.net
Chairman	David Taylor 01284 811510 carriagehouse@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Jacqui Clarke 01702 510077 jacqui_12@btinternet.com
Secretary	Fiona Powell 01473 735732 fiona@eacdg.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Janice Parker 01358 862121 jcpstkcp@yahoo.co.uk
Event Secretary	Zoe Morgan 07770 944868 wbrcarriages@aol.com
Website/Entries	Mike Watts 01473 735050 mikew@eacdg.co.uk
Junior Representative	Robin Hyde-Chambers hydecham@hotmail.com
Course Builder	Tony Clarke 01702 510077
...and helpers	
Safety Officer	Nigel Collins 07811 967265 collinsnigel49@yahoo.co.uk
Volunteer Co-ordinators	Hilary Ray 01206 251339 or 07795 148199 Jo Meech 01376 325158

Rent-a-groom? Buddies wanted?

Sometimes a driver needs a groom for some or all of an event. This is a great way to learn about competing. Sitting on the back for the dressage and cones phases can be fun, as is going round the marathon and obstacles: you'll soon gain experience. If you would like to go on the back of someone's turnout at an event or if you are a driver without a groom, please contact Fiona as soon as you can. Please note that we cannot guarantee this service! We are also looking for experienced drivers to "buddy" or help newcomers competing at events: please call or email Fiona if you'd like to know more.