

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



NEWSLETTER

January 2008

First things first, a happy new year to you all!

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and made lots of resolutions to attend all the Poacher events in 2008.

Our first get-together of the season went off very well. The quiz on the 19th January at The Bell at Bishopbridge was fun and the company "funnier", with loads of really good quality raffle prizes going quickly. A big thanks to all donors. It was very well attended, as was the buffet table at half time.

However, most of the thanks for the success of the evening must go to Boz Smith, our MC for the evening, who has a very well honed talent for dealing with hecklers from the floor. He produced a well rounded selection of posers for us and stuck to his answers, whatever the comments from the contestants were.

Thank you Boz!

I hope we can look forward to many other entertaining events in which you are involved.

We are going to start the driving season with an Indoor event at Riseholme College on Easter Monday 24th March. Entry forms and copies of the test are on the website, if you have any difficulties please let me know and I will post you copies. The closing date for entries will be the 14th of March.

At this point I must apologise for the lateness of our complete programme for 2008, but due mostly to the very wet weather we are having at the moment we are having difficulty in getting our wonderful landowners to commit to dates. This is very understandable, but a bit frustrating. As soon as we get these dates sorted they will appear on the website and also in the usual Yearbook, which will be posted out.

The training days are definitely going to take place, but again I am waiting for final confirmation of dates from our 2 trainers.

We are booked to have a stand at Strictly Come Driving at Arena UK on 13th April, please try and get there as it promises to be "bigger and better" this year, with the organisers coming up with lots of different items to keep us interested. I gather that some of our own Poacher members may well be taking part.

Swinderby Mini One Day Event will take place at Ben & Jane Smiths home on 11th May, again entry forms and dressage tests are on the web site. The course of the day will follow the basic one day event format, but we will no doubt have a few different and interesting twists to offer. You have to be there!

Please send in your membership forms and fees, remember we have reduced fees this year and it now only costs £40 for driver and groom membership. 2008 will see the introduction of height restricted groups within the open group and it will be very interesting to see if this helps/hinders the placings on the leaderboard. All details are in your Handbook. Mike Lawson will be checking Flu Vac certificates and insurance – please double check that your insurance covers you for driving trials. Several people have had a bit of a shock when discovering that their's didn't provide cover.

Probably almost all of you will have seen the amazing coverage PHC has had in the equine press recently and I am sure that this is what has led to a very good influx of new members this year. If this trend continues we could well have our highest entry numbers for a very long time. Our recently appointed Publicity Officer, Duncan Seth-Smith is certainly putting us on the map.

Four club members are due to attend Course Building training at the Unicorn Trust at Stow on the Wold during February.

Some preliminary work has been done to facilitate a Make Do and Mend Day, prior to our event at Swinderby. All volunteers for painting and other light duties will be welcome at Angela & Clive's house at Willingham by Stow. The date will be circulated nearer the time, when we can be a bit more assured of some decent weather!

Your Editor

Angela