

## **POACHER HARNESS CLUB**



**PRESIDENT - MR JOHN COOKE**

### **NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013**

APOLOGIES FOR ANY DUPLICATION OF ITEMS FROM OUR WEBSITE BUT NOT ALL OF OUR MEMBERS ARE ON THE INTERNET AND THIS IS THEIR ONLY WAY OF RECEIVING OUR NEWS.

Happy New Year - though somewhat belatedly - to all our Members. Welcome to the February newsletter. It seems incredible that we are already in the second month of the year and already halfway to March and - we hope - the Spring. Hopefully you have all survived the snow and cold spells that we've been sent and are beginning to come out of hibernation and are able to start getting equines fit for what promises to be a very busy season this year.

This time of year is always quiet for the Club, although we had a successful Quiz Night on 26<sup>th</sup> January at the Heneage Arms at Hainton, which was very ably managed by Barry Whitley and his partner, Lorraine. Report and pictures at end of the end of the newsletter.

Although the main schedule of events has been published, the Committee is hoping to be able to put on some "pop-up" events which will be advertised on the webpage or by email to all members. If however any member does not have Internet / email access then they will be contacted by 'phone. Typical events might be a Drive or Treasure Hunt, followed by a social event designed to include the non - (carriage) driving members of the Club.

Don't forget to have a look at our published schedule of events for this year. All events have been confirmed with venues and judges. For those of you who have renewed your membership you will have received these in the Yearbook sent to you with your renewal confirmation letter.

The training event at the beginning of the season is really good value and everyone would benefit from this so make sure you get your name down as numbers will be limited for this session.

Unfortunately, the winner of the Combined Leagues Points Champion Plate was omitted from the list of 2012 Trophy Winners in the December Newsletter. This plate is awarded to the Club Member with least penalties overall in full club events (excluding treasure hunts, pleasure drives and fun days). This was awarded to Mike Charlesworth.

Well done Mike on a very successful driving year!!!

## QUIZ NIGHT - SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013

The Quiz night was ready to go with a respectable amount of teams entered for our first Social Event of 2013. Then the weather changed, as it has in previous years and unfortunately some teams were unable to attend, and other individuals that were unable to get there left some teams depleted in numbers. However, those that did attend were in for a rare treat. For the first time in many a year, there were prizes!! Not just for First place but second too!!! As well as a prize for the winners of the Picture Quiz!!!

The evening was scheduled to begin at about 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start to quizzing. People started to arrive about 6.45pm - some even earlier - in order to get the best seats in the house - the ones nearest the fire in the lovely little dining room at the Heneage Arms. Our Quizmaster for the evening, Barry Whitley, together with his lovely partner, Lorraine, soon set us off with our questions. The quiz was split into two categories - General Knowledge and a Picture quiz, with a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for General Knowledge and a single prize for the Picture quiz.

Each team was handed their questions and immediately set to work with their answers. The room was absolutely quite except for the hum of voices as teams mumbled their answers and scratting of pens as they wrote their answers down, followed by long periods of silence, presumably thinking time.

Suddenly, everything stopped. The arrival of the food was noticed, especially by Gavin. The food was superb and very well presented. The first thing to arrive for each person present was a starter of "fish and chips in newspaper", freshly prepared and absolutely delicious. This was followed by a buffet of Home Cooked Honey Roast Ham, Breaded Chicken with Garlic Dip, Spanish Frittata, Mixed Leaf with Tomato and Carrot, Cous Cous, Potato Salad with Chives. To complete the meal there was a selection of Mini Desserts on offer (Cheesecake, Banoffee and Chocolate Fudge).

Whilst we were eating, our papers were marked by Barry. The meal was followed by the announcing of the winners. The team who were the outright winners on the night for the General Knowledge section were the **Barton Brains** (aka John and Carole Cooke and Mike and Judith Margason). However, 2<sup>nd</sup> place had to be decided by a tie-breaker and this was won by the **NH Two** (aka Richard and Carol Wood). The Picture Quiz yielded an outright winning team - the **NH Two** ahead of the **Airheads** (aka Mike and Christine Charlesworth, Sally Iremonger and Louise Nash) by half a mark.

This was then followed by the Raffle, where there were many prizes generously contributed by all attendees. Sophie once again was overseer of the raffle and as usual she ensured that it yielded a good return for the Club coffers.

At about 10.30pm people started to make their ways home, having had a most enjoyable sojourn for the evening with good company, good food and excellent entertainment. By this time the snow was being washed away by the promised rain. How many of us awoke the following morning as we did to flooded paddocks that had replaced the snow!!!

We would like to thank Barry and Lorraine for presenting the Quiz and making the evening very entertaining and also to the Heneage Arms for providing such a very tasty buffet.



And Finally:

A reminder to all who haven't yet renewed their subscriptions for this year that these are now due and must be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> March to ensure continued membership to the Club. This will be the last newsletter sent to you if your renewal is not received by this date.

We look forward to seeing all our members at the 2013 events and wish everybody a successful year.

The Committee.