



[POACHER HARNESS CLUB NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

Hello, everyone

It has been quite a while since our last news letter, but I have been busy in the meantime gathering some news to pass on to you all.

Our Chairwoman, Sheila Brookes, and also another Poacher member Sue Harrison successfully acquired their Tandem Bars this summer at Weston Park in Staffordshire. This is not an easy proficiency test to pass and a great deal of credit is due to them both. They were ably assisted by Frank Lowe who has, in the past given training to the club and has been a great support to both Sheila and Sue. Congratulations and admiration to you both.

I have news of some new indoor driving competitions coming up during the autumn and winter. They will be organised and run by Anne Chambers at Riseholme College, if you need details of these, her contact number is 01636 821154. I have a couple of dates but am sure that others will be on the calendar. 12th September and 27th March 2011.

Some of our own Poacher members have been entertaining the public this year with a musical drive at various shows around the country and recently performed at the CLA Game Fair in Warwickshire. This has been organised as part of Lincolnshire BDS group, the Chairman and Secretary of which are members of Poacher too. David and Kath Faulkner. Look them up on their website.
<http://www.lincolnshire.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk/>

We hear that the new 75 miles long Wolds trail (The Lindum Trail) is almost ready to have its official opening. However the government's recent cutbacks may affect funding to Councils and other bodies who are supporting this route. The route is open to carriage drivers, horse riders, cyclists and walkers. It will also be available to disabled carriage drivers. The concept was devised by local carriage drivers and aims to encourage and promote countryside access in the Lincolnshire Wolds for the local community and visitors to the area.

PHC committee has decided to have a drive over part of this route on 10th October, followed by a bring-your-own-food barbeque where we can get together and have a good social afternoon. PHC will provide the BBQ. All drivers, grooms, Friends of Poacher, families and visitors are to be made welcome and encouraged to attend, and we will donate any funds raised on this day to the enterprise of getting it

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completed. I will send out application forms and further details in plenty of time for you to sign up.

At the time of writing, our next event is at Riseholme College. This was a brilliant event last year and we fully expect it to be as good or better this year. Ring Richard and get your entries in, we will waive the late entry fee for members.

Following on from Riseholme, we have Hackthorn Swiss Derby on 15th August, at which Richard Wheeldon will again be our dressage judge. This is an opportunity for all those who competed at Osberton earlier this year to see if they have improved their dressage performances, having the same judge more than once means that his consistency of approach enables comparisons to be made. Don't forget to enter, this is a lovely setting and is one that is enjoyed by all our members.

We have booked Beelsby, in the wolds countryside for our 5th September event, this will be cones and obstacles and drive, no dressage this time. I will attach an entry form to this newsletter.

Plans are getting under way for the EPIC at Osberton on 19th September. This is a completely different event at which you will be given 6-7 tasks to complete, followed, hopefully by a carriage driven orienteering course.

If you remember, in my last newsletter I mentioned that it has been suggested that we may like to take advantage of an evening guided tour over Sir Richard Sutton's estate at Stainton le Vale near Market Rasen. A date has now been agreed, Friday 24th September at 6pm. We will be using their adapted tractor and trailer "visitor mobiles" which would take us round the area, pointing out all the points of interest, roman ruins, possible roman vineyards etc.. The land is in the wolds and is set amidst wonderful scenery. The farm has won many wildlife conservation awards and is given over to providing habitats to a massive range of creatures and plants such as plovers, owls and many others. I have included an application form with this newsletter, please use it and give yourself a real treat. This would be of interest to all our friends as well as drivers and grooms. Bring your non-member friends, it will be fun as we anticipate ending up at a local pub where a meal can be purchased. Please complete and return your form or ring Richard on the numbers given above to check on availability.

Lastly, please remember to take a look at our website, it is full of useful information and we will advertise any equestrian related items that you have for sale free of charge. Not ponies/horses though. Anyone who has enjoyed an event is welcome to send a note to the Webmaster saying so, and we will make sure that it is put up on the site. Any amusing or reasonably focussed photos are always welcome too. The more the merrier, a lot of outsiders also read our pages and anything that encourages more people to join would be great. It also tells the Committee and other helpers that we are doing something right (or not!). Don't forget to spread the word about PHC and the brilliant events that we put on throughout the season.