

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



NEWSLETTER

August 2007

"Horse Power was a wonderful thing when only horses had it!"

Anon

At last I have found time to bring you all up to date on our "poachings" past & future. We have had a very busy season since my last newsletter in May, as you will know.

The event at Willingham by Stow went brilliantly, thank you to Mike Lawson for securing some excellent off-road routes for us and to all those who helped out in manning the check-points – many of whom were not even Poacher members – people are very kind to our club. We tried out one or two different sections, including the timed walk – it proved to be quite challenging. The weather was also very kind to us and helped make it a great day out.

Unfortunately the event at Hallington had to be cancelled at the last moment due to the fact that at the closing date we had only 3 entries. Immediately after we had cancelled the venue several of you wanted to take part. To avoid this happening again please get your entries in on time, as it is impossible to plan things if we do not know entry numbers etc.

Thanks to Ben and Jane Smith for their social evening and BBQ on 7th July, those club members who attended enjoyed having time to chat and talk "horsey" matters in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Beelsby was, as usual, great fun and despite fears that recent rains would make the field unusable it was fine. We had a large entry which goes to prove the popularity of the venue.

Lynne and Richard Mowbray put on a driven treasure hunt and barbeque, thanks to you both for all the effort you and Rachel put into the day. It was very much appreciated by the 4 teams that entered and it was a great shame that more did not take part.

Our most recent event at Ealand, hosted by Steve Hoyle, had a huge entry (by Poacher standards), several of whom were visitors from other clubs and were invited by Steve. Thank you Steve, it is a great venue in our calendar and I hope we can come again. The "have a go" cones course was a great idea (even if it was eventually won by Steve himself!) and encouraged most of us to try and achieve that elusive double clear round.

Now for future news, of which (at the moment) there are 2 extra events not in the year book.

An event will be held on Sunday September 2nd in the Mausoleum Woods on the Brocklesby Park Estate by kind permission of the Earl of Yarborough. The Mausoleum Woods are very extensive mature private woodlands. The event will be in one stage all within the woods. Shortly after the start will be a cones course then continue on the course to include 4 or 5 natural free flowing obstacles to be driven 'blind'. No course walking will be required (except for the cones). The course is undulating, with one short steep climb, and passes a hermitage and several follies. No fixed time but the cones and obstacles will be timed. Access will be off the A18 between the villages of Kirmington and Limber in N Lincs. Non Poacher competitors will be welcomed as day members to compete. Get your day members blank entry form from the website or if this is not possible contact me for a copy.

The 2nd new event is a non-driving social BBQ at Julie Gallamore's house – those of you who attended the fund raising dinner at Julie's in December 2005 will remember what a great "do" this was and will want to repeat the experience. Those of you who haven't yet had the pleasure, be assured that you will enjoy Julie's relaxed yet inclusive brand of hospitality. Please support this fund-raising event on Saturday 15th September. Full details will be on the web-site within 8–10 days. If you cannot access this please contact me for further information.

Then, we will have the indoor championships to look forward to. For the benefit of new members this takes the form of 2 events, the points from which are added together and the winner receives a special championship rosette. The highest placed Poacher member will be awarded a year's membership for driver and groom for 2008 which is currently worth £50. Keep a look out for further news and dates.

After this we will have our AGM and trophy award evening, the details of which are being finalised now. Just as a fore-warning we will be actively seeking new members who are willing to take their place on the committee and have an active say in how our club is organised and run. If you are so minded please complete and return your nomination forms when these have been distributed. All non-driving stewards and landowners are to be invited to the event as our honoured guests and I hope we can show them our gratitude during the course of the evening and of course throughout the rest of the season.

Now to say a belated WELCOME to our new members, both driving and non-driving. We are delighted to have you join us and hope that you have had the opportunity to take part in some capacity in some of our events, and have enjoyed the experience. I hope the buddy system has proved worthwhile to you. Feedback on the club is always welcome from all members, especially those with "new" eyes. If you think we could be doing something better or differently please let us know.

This is the only way to keep the club focussed on what its members really want from it.

The "Poacher Wear" has taken off well with the jackets selling very well indeed (see [details](#) on web site, or alternatively on Poacher members!!) The range is hoped to be extended with good quality fleeces, polo shirts and baseball caps in different colours, but all with the Poacher logo embroidered on them. Some of the items are now ready for collection and will be advertised on the web site very very soon.

An item of interest is offered for those considering further training. Angela Flanagan is hoping to organise a day, hopefully with Karen Bassett as trainer at Arena UK, Grantham. If you are interested please phone Angela direct on 07740 707729 – please mention that you are a member of PHC.

Finally, your current scorer is stepping down and a new person is required to fill this post. Scoring can be done either manually or electronically, whichever is your thing! Full coaching and assistance will be given, and what's more you get to be the keeper of the club's new laptop computer. If you want to have a chat about what is involved, please ring me at any time. Remember I will not be doing the job next year and someone must take over.

Bye for now, Best wishes from your Editor

Angela