



## **Newsletter December 2014**

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.

Welcome to the December newsletter. This will be the last newsletter of this year and it is the first from your Committee for the year 2014 / 2015.

As announced in the October newsletter, the AGM was planned for Saturday 22nd November at a different venue to previous years, The Shires at Kirton Lindsey.

Thirty two club members gathered for the "formal" part of the evening, where the Chairperson, Anne Chambers, opened the meeting by welcoming all who attended.

### **CHAIRMANS' REPORT**

Anne began by thanking all the stewards for their support throughout the year, Carol Wood for keeping her organised, Mike Lawson for his work on renovating the Club trailer and sourcing new club equipment and Judith Corker for her hard work in running a non-contributory raffle at the end of each event for grooms and stewards.

Anne also referred to the high number of new Club members this year which in turn lead to an increase in competitors at events and the super atmosphere that prevailed at the events.

She finished by thanking everybody who helped set up and dismantle the courses, thus enabling events to run smoothly.

### **TREASURERS' REPORT**

Following on from the Chairmans' report was the Treasurers' report from Richard Wood who referred to the circulated Income and Expenditure Accounts and explained that the annual income was up by £1635.96

due largely to increased membership and entries to events.

Expenses had increased due to the Club investing heavily in the refurbishment of the Club trailer, together with the purchase of new equipment. The current years' income had paid for this, leaving the 2013 raffle money still intact.

Event venue costs had once again eaten into the entry fees monies.

The balance on account stood at £3779.78, leading the Club forward into the New Year in a good financial position.

However, he warned against complacency as the Club was expecting a large financial commitment in respect of the renewal of all First Aid qualifications and requested that Club members show their support by renewing their 2015 memberships as early in the New Year as possible.

### **SECRETARY REPORT**

Carol began her Secretary's report by stating that it had been a very good year for

entries which had given her many challenges in ensuring that all turnouts were able to be catered for, taking into account the large number of carriage and groom sharers and that stewards were taken into consideration whilst sitting on an outpost in a lonely field waiting and apologised if on occasions she didn't quite get it right.

She also gave thanks to Julie Tomkins for her help with the scoring and to everybody for their patience whilst these were worked out.

A reminder was given that membership renewals were due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and that if anybody was competing in the Indoor Championship, then their renewal must be paid by 1<sup>st</sup> February to continue qualifying.

### **POACHERWEAR**

Those present were also told that 2014 had seen the revival of Poacherwear and sales were going well.

### **CONFIRMED DATES FOR 2015**

Dates that had been confirmed for 2015 were announced - 24<sup>th</sup> May ODE Bagmoor, 14<sup>th</sup> June ODE Danethorpe and 23<sup>rd</sup> August Swiss Derby Hackthorn. Also a new venue at Asgarby was announced where the Club would hold a weekend event on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Other dates would be confirmed ASAP.

Carol finished off by thanking Anne Chambers for her support over the previous year.

The formalities were concluded with the distribution of voting slips to eligible voters and the completed slips were passed to 2 independent adjudicators, Judith Margason and Mike Margason for counting, the successful candidates to be announced after the meal.

After the main formalities of the evening we remained in the same room to sit down to an excellent meal of either roast beef, pork or turkey, vegetables mashed and roast

potatoes which was followed by a choice of either ice cream or hot puddings with custard.

After we had all been suitably fed and watered, Anne announced the result of the ballot and announced that the Committee for the next year would be **Anne Chambers, Richard Wood, Carol Wood, John Gadsby, Mike Lawson and Judith Corker** whose roles within the Club have now been formalised following the first Committee meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November. [Published at end of Newsletter]

The final part of the Meeting, Any Other Business, brought forth some requests, some of which were very valid points including having more classes at events, how steward meals are funded and giving all stewards lunch at events. This resulted in a lively discussion and the Committee has taken on board all points raised and these will be discussed and resolved at committee meetings in the ensuing months and the outcomes reported in future newsletters.

### **FIRST AID**

It was also requested the any Club members wanting to put themselves forward to go on the First Aid course or if any existing members were qualified and would like to be listed as a Club First Aider to approach either Anne Chambers Judith Corker or Carol Wood.

### **RAFFLE**

The raffle raised a respectable £111 for Club funds, due entirely to Sophie Nash's relentless pursuit of unsuspecting victims as soon as they walked in the door!! Well done Sophie!!!

As usual, Club members were very generous with their raffle prize donations and there were many prizes on offer, ranging from Champagne, Chocolate, wine, spirits and carrots. Winners were swift in their choices. The evening finally concluded at about 10.30.

## PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES.

The winners in 2014 were:

Barnabus Memorial Challenge Trophy – Open Class – Richard Wood

Cobweb Memorial Challenge Trophy – Novice Class – Joanne Gadsby

The Combined Leagues Points Champion Plate - Joanne Gadsby

Rainbow Trophy – Most Improved Novice – John Gadsby

Swiss Derby Challenge Plate – Mike Charlesworth

The Louis Memorial Challenge Trophy – Highest Average Dressage Score – Gemma Owens

The Joy Beard Trophy – Steward with the most stewarding points – Sheila Brookes & John Cooke

The Mike Brookes Memorial Trophy – Sportsperson of the Year – Julie Tomkins & Kevin Smith

The Epic Plate – Not awarded

## QUIZ NIGHT

Our next event will be the **Quiz Night with Pie & Mushy Peas Supper on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February** - again at The Shires - 7 for 7.30pm, entry forms for which are enclosed. There will be a charge of £3.50 per head for the evening, which is inclusive of supper. A pudding will be available at an extra cost of £1.50.

## OTHER SUCCESSES BY OUR MEMBERS

Some of our members have also been venturing into pastures new this season with some considerable successes.

Joanne Gadsby made her debut at Catton in April in the One Day Event and whilst only coming 5<sup>th</sup> gave a good account of herself.

This was followed by a visit to Belvoir Castle in June where Joanne was joined by Julie Tomkins. This time Joanne managed to finish a very credible 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unfortunately, Julie was unable to shake off her run of bad luck and was unfortunately eliminated.

Ginny Ashford and Anne Chambers both competed at Onley in July, with Ginny taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the One Day Event and Anne getting 3rd in the Tandem and Teams class.

Buoyed by their successes, Ginny, Joanne and Julie went to Widmerpool at the end of

August and were placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the One Day event.

To finish off their “Midlands” season, Julie, Ginny and Joanne entered the One Day Event at Catton, with Julie doing an excellent dressage test with Evie (as usual), sharing 1<sup>st</sup> place in the cones with Ginny. Julie, Ginny and Joanne took the first third, fourth and fifth places in the marathon. Their final results were Julie in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Ginny in 4<sup>th</sup> and Joanne in 5<sup>th</sup>. Anne meanwhile came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tandem & Teams class.

Ginny also went to Escritt Park, as did Mike Charlesworth at the end of September, with Ginny finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Introductory Class and Mike a very credible 4<sup>th</sup> in Novice Pony.

Elsewhere, Sarah Daley and Lucy Foster have been making their names in the Scurry & Trials Driving events that have been held at various venues in the UK, along with co-organizer, Carole Davenport. Such were there successes throughout the season that they were representative in the Scurry & Trials Driving World Championships that were held at Sandringham in September.

Two other Club members also dabbled their feet in the world of Scurry & Trials Driving, Richard Wood who had a taster with Charlie at Collingham and Kevin Smith who joined them at the East Anglian Equine Fair at the end of October.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As we head into December, with the weather getting colder and we hurtle with alarming speed towards Christmas and 2015, it is necessary to remind all our members that Annual subscriptions fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The subscription stays the same as 2014 at £40 for a Driver member, including nominated Groom and £5 for a Friend membership and membership renewal forms are enclosed. Also, would all driver members note that if you are a member of BC we need your membership number as we have to inform BC, when renewing the club insurance, which of our members have dual membership.

Last season saw an unprecedented increase in Driver memberships, trebling the number of drivers in the club. Whilst we appreciate there are a certain number who do not compete, it meant that on some occasions there were between 22 and 24 entries received - although some did withdraw and the numbers stayed at about 18. Whilst this is good news for the Club finances, it is also bad news for the amount of resources available to us as a whole. At 21 or over competitors we had 2 options open to us.

**Option 1** was to stay as one day events but because the marathon will start before the Cones and dressage have finished we shall need more stewards and whilst we have a bank of regulars we do not have sufficient trained stewards. We do have at least one team who always manage to bring one or more people to help on the day, but not everybody is able to do this. There are 4 stewards who are now well trained to be very versatile but would love to have several more.

Also, if entries exceeded the number of turnouts we could manage, then we might have to refuse entries prior to the closing date. This would unfairly disadvantage any one member's chances of winning any of the trophies that are awarded at the end of each season.

**Option 2** was to carry on taking memberships and make our events 2 day events. The down side of this is a) we struggle with stewards on a one day event so two days will be nigh on impossible. b) At most of our venues landowners would not be prepared for us to stop overnight and those that would, would more than likely want twice the fee we pay now, therefore doubling (at the very least) entry fees. c) Our course builders are, in the main, working people who also like to compete. Their time is valuable to them and they would not be able to give up a day or more in the week to get a course ready for us.

Unlike other clubs, we do not have a dedicated team of course builders, venues with permanent obstacles that only need lettering before each event, or a long list of influential sponsors who will supply marquees, portable toilets and other equipment required for a bigger event.

It is the Clubs' policy to remain small and friendly. The club was formed to allow people to come into competitive driving at a 'basic' level, without them having to invest in Dressage Carriages and Portable Stabling, and all the other things needed to do 2 day events. In order to keep to that ethos the Committee has decided to start a waiting list for new applications for membership, which will be on a first come, first served basis.

You will, we hope, understand why it is therefore important that all renewals are received by 1<sup>st</sup> March, or sooner please if possible, to continue membership. Failure to do so will result in a lapse of membership and any application received after this date will be treated as a new membership and be added to the waiting list, your place being allocated to the applicant at the top of the waiting list.

You will notice that this year, your details and your horse(s) details have been inserted into your renewal forms. Please check these carefully and advise of any changes. Please complete your nominated groom details and also the expiry date of vaccinations and Public Liability Insurance.

Why not bring your renewals to Tickhill on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan or 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, make sure it's done and save a stamp!

Due to the rise in cost of postage, wherever possible, in 2015, newsletters and other correspondence will be distributed by email, so please include an email address wherever possible.

As we keep a list of all members details on a database, we are bound by the Data Protection Act 1998, which means that we are not allowed to give any member information to a third party without the members' permission.

Your 2015 your membership renewal form will give you the option to say whether or not you agree to have your information divulged to other members.

This information will NOT be made available to anyone other than club members.

## **INDOOR DRIVING**

The Indoor Driving Championship is now halfway through with Mike Charlesworth in the lead on 24 points, Kelly Wilson in 2<sup>nd</sup> on 20 points and Kevin Smith and Julie Tomkins creeping up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place on 13 points. Unfortunately driver error which resulted in elimination caused Lucy Foster to lose her hold on 3<sup>rd</sup> place and drop to 6<sup>th</sup>.

Next event at Tickhill is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015, so why not give yourselves a break from the warmth of the fire, wrap up warmly (emphasis on warmly!!!) and come and watch some exciting driving in the indoor school at Tickhill! There is a refreshments van there that sells hot drinks and hot food at very reasonable prices and a group of very friendly people to pass the time of day with!!

### **THE ROLES FOR THE NEWLY APPOINTED COMMITTEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	<b>ANNE CHAMBERS</b>	<b>VICE - CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>JOHN GADSBY</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>RICHARD WOOD</b>	<b>SECRETARY / SCORER:</b>	<b>CAROL WOOD</b>
<b>COURSE BUILDERS:</b>	<b>RICHARD WOOD, MIKE LAWSON &amp; JOHN GADSBY</b>		
<b>H &amp; S OFFICER:</b>	<b>MIKE LAWSON</b>		
<b>STEWARDS SECRETARY &amp; FRIEND OF POACHER REPRESENTATIVE:</b>	<b>JUDITH CORKER</b>		

### **AND FINALLY**

**THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR STEWARDS FOR THEIR  
HELP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE LANDOWNERS FOR ALLOWING US TO  
USE THEIR LAND TO PURSUE OUR HOBBY  
AND TO WISH EVERYBODY  
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

