

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



Newsletter July 2012

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.

The season has started well with good turnouts at both Training Days and a highly successful and enjoyable Fun Day. The One Day Event at Danethorpe unfortunately had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Six club members have renewed their **First Aid** qualification and two others have qualified for the first time.

The Clubs' First Aiders are **John & Carole Cooke, Richard & Carol Wood, Sarah Daley, Sian Penney, Mike Lawson** and **Emma Fatibene**.

Our next event will be the **Swiss Derby** at **Hackthorn** on the **29th July**. We are looking forward seeing a good turnout at this venue.

The closing date for entries for all events (unless specifically stated otherwise) is 2 weeks prior to the event. All entry forms on the website have now been amended to show closing dates.

The dressage judge for the Swiss Derby at Beelsby on the 9th September has now been confirmed as Wendy Stromberg.

The entry fee for the Wolds Drive on 30th September has been amended to £10. The cost includes food from the BBQ for the Driver and their Groom. For non-Driving Attendees the cost will be £2.50 per head. This is excellent value for money as last years' attendees will tell you!! Booking forms for the BBQ will be sent to all members nearer the date but **Diarise it now!!!**

Please note that this event does not qualify for discount.

EVENT REPORTS

TRAINING DAY – LEGSBY 27TH MAY 2012

Our second event or outing of the season and once again the weather was kind to us. The day dawned with beautiful sunshine, which, had it not been for the shade offered in the box park could have been unbearable later in the day. As it was, there was a good mix of sun and breeze.

Nothing untoward happened and horses were unboxed and harnessed for the days' activities.

Our trainers for the day were Anne Chambers for Dressage and Frank Lowe for the cones and obstacle session.

At this point the plan began to fall apart for various reasons. Timings went out of the window but hey ho, did we care?

By lunchtime, Anne had managed to instruct 50% of us on the rights and wrongs of driving the dressage test and was, by then ready for the excellent lunch that Sheila had so generously provided. Frank had managed to advise some of us about the right and wrong way of driving both cones and obstacles but he too was equally ready for his lunch having got stuck in traffic on his way.

Whilst the trainers were having their lunch, everybody else was either eating, sunbathing, chatting about nothing in particular or multi-tasking.

The afternoon session went really quickly. Ponies, drivers and grooms swapped about so that everybody got a turn. Everybody helped to clear away the equipment – thanks to Anne suggesting that Richard might be grateful for some help.

Again, nobody seemed to be in a hurry to leave and much cud-chewing took place until well after the event formally finished.

One thing that was unanimously agreed was that, once again the day had been a very enjoyable experience which was backed up by the number of entries received for our Fun Day on 10th June.

As usual, when Poacher left, nobody knew they'd been.

FUN DAY LEGSBY 10th JUNE 2012

Before we go any further we need to explain that one of the objectives of the recent events of Poacher is to take it back to its' roots and build from there. One of the main theses of the Club has always been to promote a fun atmosphere and from many years back, long before I took up driving, way beyond when my cousin, John Cockburn, told me about Poacher. He and his wife, La, waxed lyrical about the Poacher Bar-b-Que. It was the epicentre of Poacher - that and Poacher weather as it never rained on a Poacher Day. Today, Poacher came home.

The weather forecast during the week was awful - so much so the whole day was nearly called off before it began. Yesterday (Saturday) it was windy and a tad overcast whilst the

faithful erected the tasks that the 7 entrants were to attempt. It didn't rain, though!! When we (Richard & I) reached home it was obvious that we'd had a lucky escape from a very large deluge!!

We awoke this morning to a beautiful day - at 6am that is - by 7am the sunshine had gone and the rain clouds loomed. So we very quickly evacuated North Lincolnshire and headed for the Wolds!!

Good move!! From then on the sun shone!! A final check on yesterdays' work and the scene was set. A small setback with stewards was easily overcome and everything moved smoothly. Participants were briefed and briefed again and went forth to attack each task.

There were figures of eight, the perfect driven circle (did anybody do one?), the weaving of the cones, the flag running and the egg and spoon race, all done with (a certain amount of) precision but for me, and those around me at the time, the perfect part was the undoubtedly best rein back of four paces of the day, driven by Sarah, driving Star and Lucifer as a tandem. It was perfect. No mean feat!! Star and Lucifer did her proud. Well done Sarah!! All those hours you put into your dressage certainly pays dividends.

After all of the serious - sorry - it's a fun day, so the fun bits, it was down to the really fun bit. The Bar-B-Que, which, as I said earlier, is legendary of Poacher. Richard, John Bryan, together with David and Pauline got the bar-b-que going, whilst Carol ~~fixed~~ worked out the scores to determine the final places.

Sheila had prepared salads, buns and sausages as a starter for ten and everybody else had bought their own choice of food for cooking on the 2 mega sized bar-b- que's. After the savouries had gone more food appeared in the shape of Chocolate gateau and cream!! Stuffed or what??!!

Not only was there food and a convivial atmosphere, Poacher, with no expense spared, then provided music in the shape of the internationally acclaimed singer Big Mouth Billy Bass, who sung his two best known tunes - Take Me To The River and Be Happy. The results were finally announced and it went as follows: 1st Sue Lawson, 2nd (Joint) Mike Charlesworth & Carol Wood, 4th Mike Lawson, 5th Sheila Brookes, 6th Sarah Daley and 7th Belinda Rees-Evans.

We also had visitors who came to see what we did and how we did it. Unfortunately, they vanished before we could invite them to join us for the bar-b-que, so all we can say is "thank you" for travelling from Sleaford to see us and hope you went away with positive thoughts and that we will hear from you again.

Whilst the scores were being scored and the barby being barbied, the magic fairies got to work and cleared the course. A big **"THANK YOU"** to everybody who helped either before or on the day, especially the Stewards and also to Sheila for her hospitality, not just for this occasion but also the two training days that were held at Dog Kennel Farm in May.

At the end of the day, as usual, the site was cleared and nobody knew the Poacher had been.

READ ON FOR MORE REPORTS

Fun Day Report

The Lincolnshire Poacher Carriage Driving Fun Day held at Legsby on Sunday 10th June was highly successful. Seven carriages completed a creative course of obstacles and cones organised by Carol Wood and ably assembled by Richard Wood & Mike Charlesworth.

The emphasis was on fun, and drivers had to retrieve flags and eggs, a cause for hilarity but in addition they received marks for driving skills and the pony/horse for obedience. The spectators that travelled to see the event expressed great interest.

The day concluded with an excellent bar-b-que, thanks to our hostess Sheila Brookes. All were reluctant to leave at the end of an exciting day, an indication of the friendly atmosphere prevalent throughout the last two training days as well as the Fun Day.

Mike & Christine Charlesworth

Fun Day Report

The emphasis was to have a fun day with heckling, booing & jeering allowed but alas no smelly missiles to be thrown ----- what a shame. Ten tasks were set out for us to complete/destroy. I was a little worried that my highly strung horse would find this a little daunting & throw a wobbly, how wrong I was, it made her think as well as me & she just totally chilled & listened.

There was a shortage of stewards so without hesitation we all chipped in & did a stint to cover a couple of obstacles at a time & it all worked out very well.

Everybody had a very enjoyable day, there was just one little mishap on the egg & spoon challenge, Mike Lawson & his groom Emma managed to drop the egg which turned out to be porcelain, it bounced off the carriage & split in two, it spent the rest of the day taped together to keep it whole.

The day was rounded off with a very enjoyable BBQ & social gathering.

Many thanks to Sheila for a lovely day & ordering dry weather & well done to Carol & the committee for the entertaining tasks, we all enjoyed them immensely & would have gladly done more of them.

Sue Lawson

LINDSEY WAY OFFICIAL OPENING

The Lindsey Trail was officially opened on Saturday 16th June, by Edward Leigh. The weather was not very kind, being very overcast prior to the opening ceremony but, despite this there was a reasonable turnout, mainly dominated by the carriage drivers, of whom a fair percentage were from Poacher.

Following the opening everybody went on a pre-determined ride/ drive/ cycle or walk that covered approximately 12 miles with an alternate shorter route of about 8 miles, during which time it rained persistently. There were plenty of marshals on hand to see everybody

got safely across any roads. The police were also on hand at the racecourse to promote Horsecatch and Tack Marking, in which everybody took great interest.

There was one group of drivers who stopped about halfway along the route for a picnic lunch. They'd obviously done this before! All in all, it was a very enjoyable drive, despite the weather and recommend that everybody tries to take advantage of these lovely tracks that have been opened up for the enjoyment of all riders, carriage drivers, walkers and cyclists.

FIRST AID TRAINING

The First Aid course that was held on the 30th June was a great success, with eight club members attending. The day started at 9.30am and was lead by Steve King from Lives Responders. The content was delivered in an informal way with chance to practice on dummies and each other!! When we adjourned for lunch everybody made use of the chance to stretch their legs and go for a stroll - across the road to the local pub for refreshments. The afternoon session was as interesting as the morning and the course ended at about 3pm.

FIRST AID COURSE

We arrived bright and early unsure what we were going to do/ learn, myself having not done one for many years and Emma wondering what she had let herself for.

After chitchat with fellow members we got down to business, Steve being an excellent tutor, going into detail and showing us all the latest machines and gizmos to help save and make life easier for patient and first aider alike.

I think most of us enjoyed rolling about on the floor wrestling with the dummies (both live and plastic)!!!!!! At half time everybody retired for some unknown reason across the road to the pub, suitably refreshed we carried on.

I think everybody learnt something new. Both myself and Emma had a most educational and practical day and thank Steve for his time and patience.

Mike & Emma

Finally, for those of you who do not have internet or email and miss out on the web pictures, here are some from the events held since the last newsletter for you.



Mike Charlesworth



Sarah Daley



Judith Corker



Sue Lawson



Sheila Brookes



Belinda Rees-Evans

If you have any items of interest please let any of the Committee know and they will be included in our next newsletter and on our website.

Enjoy the rest of the season

The Committee