

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



Newsletter June 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 June newsletter. This is only the 2nd newsletter of the season but already we have 3 events under our belt and the league tables are beginning to take shape.

Due to the increase in membership this year we have seen some excellent numbers in competitors at all events.

MEMBERSHIP

We'd like to welcome **Gemma Owens** and **Ginny Ashford** to the Club and welcome **Kelly Wilson** and **Nigel Patrick** back to the club. We look forward to seeing you all at events throughout the season.

CLUB SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Following training on the current Government Safeguarding legislation organised by BC, the club is pleased to announce that Anne Chambers and Carol Wood are the 2 appointed Club Safeguarding Officers (incorporating - Child Protection together with Vulnerable Adults and Welfare).

They hope shortly to be able to announce the Club Safeguarding Policy and the correct Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure.

WILLINGHAM BY STOW WHICH THEN BECAME SWINETHORPE!!!

This event which was due to take place on 27th April at Willingham was postponed at very short notice - Saturday when we went to set up - due to the very wet weather in the preceding week making the access to the field impossible (not helped by the 30+

bullocks standing in the gateway overnight before the farmer moved them out).

After much chasing about to secure another venue, it was finally decided to take up Julie Tomkins kind offer of using her place - this was finalised 5 days before the agreed date of May 11th - at Swinethorpe!!! As we had such short notice to arrange anything, an Inside Out Event was hastily arranged, with an optional drive out. Anne Chambers kindly agreed to judge for us, and, in what turned out to be the most awful of weather, Richard Wood and Lisa Smith stood out in torrential rain which was followed by bouts of sunshine for the entire day judging both cones and obstacles!!!



RICHARD & LISA KEEP SMILING IN BETWEEN SHOWERS

The Club trailer was not there as refurbishments were not complete, so Maggie kindly stepped into the breach and loaned her horsebox as shelter from the weather and kept everybody plied with cake, tea and coffee - for which we offer a BIG "Thank You" as it meant we were able to keep up our "Tea and Cake" tradition that has evolved over the last 3 years.

BAGMOOR

Always a popular venue, Bagmoor attracted a field of 15 competitors. The course builders comprising of the Mikes' Charlesworth & Lawson, Nigel & Gill Patrick, Kelly Wilson, Richard & Carol Wood, Lisa & Kevin Smith, John & Joanne Gadsby, gathered on Saturday and built a both encouraging and challenging course whilst getting absolutely sodden from the opening of the Heavens at periodic intervals. The course drove well - despite the rain, the sandy soil ensured that the ground stayed firm - in fact, after the dressage and cones it was, in true Poacher style, not noticeable that we'd been!! As usual, the day was finished off with a tea party.

The newly refurbished Club Trailer was in evidence - a *BIG* thank you to Mike Lawson, assisted by Mike Charlesworth for all your hard work throughout the past few months.



MIKE CHARLESWORTH IN THE CONES

DANETHORPE

Once again, a band of happy followers met at Danethorpe on the Saturday to build a very challenging cones course, some long and rangy obstacles to suit all comers, plus working out a good length of Marathon course - Thanks go to Mike Lawson, Richard & Carol Wood, John and Joanne Gadsby, Lucy Foster, Sarah Daley, Julie Tomkins, Nigel & Gill Patrick and Kelly Wilson, who all gave up their day to build a fabulous course.

18 competitors turned up for the event - welcome to Anne Rhodes, Jane and Martha attending their first ever Driving Trials Event, finishing a very respectable 5th in the Novice, to Gemma Owens, her first Poacher Event taking the Open Class plus Best Overall of the Day, also to Caronne Daft who also made her debut at a Poacher ODE.

The water obstacle was the focal point of the day - nobody refused it but everybody completed it in their own style!!!

Once again we must thank the Stewards who made our day possible - Mike and Judith Margason for stewarding Cones in the morning followed by an extremely fast turnaround to be Number 2 obstacle steward in the afternoon, John & Carole Cooke, Sheila, Sophie and Anne, Trisha and Ian Green for being our afternoon stewards, plus Tony Smith for holding the fort at Obstacle 1 until our intrepid stewards relieved him, to Anne who manned the "A" marker in the dressage plus Anne and friend who managed the start /finish



ANNE RHODES, JANE AND MARTHA

FOR ALL EVENTS

Big "Thank You's" go to Anne Stern for the Judges Lunches, to all the ladies providing the lovely cakes for tea - Lisa Smith, Carole Cooke, Julie Tomkins, Gill Patrick, Maggie Nicholson and anybody else I've missed off the list.

TO ALL COMPETITORS

It is not an easy task to accommodate all of you who share grooms and/or carriages to get you all times that allow you turn around time plus taking into consideration the distance that you are travelling, so apologies if you sharers don't always get a lot of time to cool your horse down after you've completed a discipline - I do try to allow 30 minutes minimum change time - before you have to be off and out again.

As we now have around 20 competitors at each event it is important to start on time otherwise there is a knock on effect throughout the day. Usually the steward kindly putting the "A" marker back in place when competitors enter or leave the Dressage Arena and the Stewards timing Competitors in the Cones spend the day with us and in the afternoon the same Stewards are timing competitors through Obstacles. They are now only getting half an hour from when the Cones finish to when the Marathon starts to move from their post, grab a comfort break, reach, walk and learn every aspect of their obstacle, including all alternate routes and have some lunch. If people do not arrive on time for their

Dressage this half hour gets shorter until, in the end the Marathon is due to start before the morning classes have finished and therefore runs late before it has even started.

All our stewards give us their time on a voluntary basis and it is disrespectful to them to be kept waiting, so PLEASE be at the Dressage arena at least 5 minutes before your allocated time so the Steward knows where you are. If you are not there and nobody else is ready to go, then you will lose your place and only if time permits will you be "slotted in" anywhere.

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is important that all competitor cars are clear of the course by the time the Marathon is due to start. This is a Health and Safety issue. There should be plenty of time during the morning for the obstacles to be walked when taking a vehicle is not an issue. Also, the course is, generally speaking, open for walking by 3pm on the Saturday afternoon.

TIDINESS

Finally, please remember the Club policy of leaving the area as we found it "so nobody knows the Poacher has been". At all events this year there has been at least one case of (Equine pertaining) debris being left where the transport has been stood. This is not fair on the people who then have to clear it up before they leave - these people are usually the ones who have put the most effort into providing your day!!!

THE REPORT FOR EACH EVENT IS ON THE WEB PAGE UNDER THE RESULTS LINK

AND FINALLY

Please let me have any suggestions or ideas for the Webpage that you think might be beneficial to the Club.

To keep up to date with what's going on in the Club, don't forget to follow us on **Facebook** or visit the website www.poacherhc.org

That is about it for Club news at the moment. We look forward to seeing you all BEELSBY on the 15th July and hopefully we'll have "Poacher" weather.

The Committee