

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



NEWSLETTER

March 2007

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

Anon

Greetings. Well the weather was getting warmer, but we can only hope it will improve again after we change the clocks. Perhaps we can then get out and exercise those ponies after work!

Although it was only a month ago that the last newsletter was published, there is a lot of information to pass on. This club is a hive of activity at the moment, my desk is piled high with "stuff on the go".

The first thing that I want to draw to your attention, although several people have noticed already, is that the BDS Trec's change of date means that it now clashes with our Inside Out event at Ealand. However, Steve Hoyle has been very accommodating and the date for his event has been changed to Sunday 26th August. This information will be displayed on the website, if you forget.

After the main competition of the day has finished, there will be a separate "have-a-go" Speed Cones competition. It will work a bit like a Minimus class where you pay £1 for a round with a prize for the fastest time on the day. You can enter as many times as you and pony like. Again, Poacher members have come up with workable, fun ideas for our events. We hope it will be a bit of light-hearted fun to finish the day off.

I have been contacted by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services in order to raise awareness of the councils Hedge and Small Woodland Grant Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to encourage landowners to plant new hedges and areas of small woodland. Lincolnshire County Council offers a 50% grant as a contribution to the cost of plants and protection with the remaining 50% being covered by the landowner.

In recent years many of the grants were awarded to horse owners wishing to plant hedgerows around paddocks. I am awaiting delivery of a few application packs for me to make available to any of our members who might be interested in this offer.

Please contact me if you would like a pack, and then if you wish to take it further you can get in touch with the Council direct

Lynne and Richard Mowbray have bravely offered to set up a Treasure Hunt for us. The exact venue etc. will be notified later but the date will be 29th July. Put it in your diaries. We will probably follow the same format as last year at Fulletby and have a BBQ and social gathering after. This will be fun for non-driving members also and I am sure that those who want to take part should be able to "hitch a ride" with one of the turnouts. The more brains on board the better!.

On a matter of policy, your Committee has decided, in view of the relaxation of attitudes by BDS and other organisations on the use of pneumatic tyred vehicles such as "fun-bugs", that we will have a one-year trial of their use. This will open up the club for a few prospective members who have previously been barred from joining in our events. However, all such vehicles will be inspected by our Health & Safety Officers and only those deemed to be of a high enough standard will be allowed to compete. It is highly recommended that the tyres are filled with special expanding foam, which would mean that they would not burst under rough conditions.

Poacher are about to make the big time in terms of publicity! We have an article about our club, written by Fiona Powell of Carriage Driving magazine, due to be published in the very near future, hopefully in the April issue. She has done a profile of the club, having been impressed by our website and some of our excellent members, whom she met last year. Fiona has done some very interesting and informative occasional profiles on clubs that have caught her eye and has done much to increase membership and interest in those clubs. Lets hope it rubs off on us too. And there's more??..

Ben Smith has penned an excellent article for Equestrian Life magazine, which we hope will appear in print in next months issue. And there's more??..

A new magazine for grass-roots carriage drivers has come out and its inaugural issue contains an article on Poacher. This mag is called "In Harness" and will be published quarterly and we have the chance to subscribe at a reduced rate. I have attached their advertising information as an extra sheet to this newsletter. All of these magazines are crying out for articles, letters, photos etc. Who amongst you are brave enough to have a go at appearing in print. Please send any articles to me and I will forward anything and everything direct to all of these publications. We have a great club, its about time we shouted it loud and clear.

One last thing on the subject of publicity. We are going to publish our event results on our own web-site immediately after an event and we are also going to be sending them off to the equine press.

Webmaster's Note

I will be adding a "Results" page to the events section so that results can be published as quickly as possible. Event reports and pictures will appear as usual in the pictures section when I receive them.

We are well set up for 2007 in terms of First Aid cover. Many, many thanks to our fantastic volunteers who undertook a training course to become our very own

Poacher First Aiders. All were successful and gained their qualifications, so thanks to Jane and Ben Smith, Sarah Braybrook, Lynne Mowbray, Sian Penney, Mike Lawson and Gavin Daley for taking the time and effort to do this for the club.

Please, please, please have a think about encouraging friends and family to come to an event with you to help with the stewarding. We are going to be very short of stewards this year and, as you know, no stewards – no show! It is not difficult and can be fun and if its not fun it is at the very least, helpful.

Last, but not least, is a reminder that our next date on the calendar is the Strictly Come Driving event at Arena UK (15th April), closely followed by our Training Day at Market Rasen (29th April).

Bye for now, your editor

Angela

In Harness

The new magazine about carriage driving

Fiona Powell trading as In Harness

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Special offer: Poacher members - £12 until 31 March (thereafter £15.99)

In Harness is a new quarterly, independent magazine about the sport of carriage driving for those "at the grass roots" – that's newcomers to driving who want to know more, club competitors – indoors and outdoors, pleasure and long-distance drivers, national event drivers, grooms, stewards, judges, event officials, club officers?everyone interested in our traditional equestrian activity in the twenty-first century.

Features in the first issue include:

"In the mail" – Your letters: how do I start carriage driving?

The tee-hee factor. I'm an "also ran" but I want to enjoy competing?

"Indoors to outdoors" – making the transition from competing indoors to outdoors, including rules differences and how not to get eliminated.

Brighton Club event – now you can drive at Brighton alongside national drivers.

The new class structure – how it works for clubdrivers and national competitors.

BDS-Trec – what does it involve?

By Claire Bourne

The biggest list of dates and details of forthcoming national, club, training and social events of interest to carriage drivers and their friends around the country. Reports to follow.

"Trials and dilemmas", "An 'L' of an experience" – personal stories about how drivers "made it" and started driving in horse driving trials
by Wendy Peckham and Caronne Daft

Plus problems solved by Marilyn Harding.
Plus news - young drivers, CDSGdd, RDA drivers, lots of photos of club drivers!

Your letters, views, stories and photos are welcome. Advertise items for sale and wanted free (private advertisers only).

Forthcoming features include:

"In transit" – looking at how to get your horse and carriage to an event.

"What not to wear" – how not to frighten the judges at a driving trials event.

Latest reports on events and activities around the country – plus your views and letters.

Special Early Bird Subscription Offer: £12 for four issues, including postage (UK only) received by 31 March.

Please complete the form below and send it with your cheque, payable to Fiona Powell, to:

Fiona Powell.

In Harness,

7 Gamma Terrace,

West Road,

Ipswich,

IP3 9SX

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone: (in case of a query)

Your personal details will not be used for any purpose unrelated to In Harness magazine.

Please do send me any news, letters, photos for the next issue, by 15 May? I can't promise to include everything I'm sent but I'll do my best to give you a mention, of course.

Fiona Powell.