



**[POACHER HARNESS
CLUB
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2010**

All of a sudden, spring is here, after months of weather misery its time to get out and about and start enjoying ourselves.

We have had an amazing take up of membership this year and welcome several brand new members and also some members back from the past. We are so glad to have you back in the fold, brilliant! With this increased membership, hopefully we will be able to put on challenging contests to stretch our competitive spirits to the full (well almost). However, we will still concentrate on what make Poachers so enjoyable, having fun with our horses and carriages, meeting good friends, making new ones and getting into areas that access is usually denied to. Your committee has worked hard to put together your programme for this year and our new course builders Tony and Boz Smith will be tested to the full.

Training day at Louth

Our first event of the season at Grimoldby near Louth was a great success. Our trainers for the day, Ciaran and Liz, gave real "value for money" teaching and, its fair to say, that everyone who went got a lot out of it, even those of us who have been driving for a lot of years. We started the day with 30 minutes each in the indoor school and then had a mini competition round an interesting set of cones put up by Tony Smith, a couple of practices first then against the clock. A drive out around the quiet lanes for those who wanted it followed and then time for home. Please see the report on the website, it gives more info.

2nd Training day at Bennington

Please get your entries in for this training session as it will be a very high level of expertise at our disposal, from someone who has competed nationally with great success and who is used to teaching others. Our club is privileged to be allowed access. The opportunity to have this one-to-one training is rare and usually very expensive and I think most of us could benefit from learning something new and helpful at an excellent venue. There will be a water splash and obstacles to learn how to tackle, reducing problems for ponies and drivers alike. Cones training and dressage assistance will be available on the day, in fact, a complete one day event tuition.

There will be no late entry fee, give Richard a ring and book yourself in. 01469 533824 or 07929 027557

Great news for 27th June

We have been lucky to be invited to drive over Sir Richard Sutton's estate at Stainton le Vale near Market Rasen. The land is in the wolds and is set amidst wonderful scenery. The farm has many wildlife conservation awards and is given over to providing habitats to a massive range of creatures and plants such as plovers, owls and many others. It will be a non-competitive event, allowing us to drive over estate tracks and quiet roads and varied terrain. Bring a picnic and we can sit and chat after our drive. Please remember to bring hi-viz vests for the road section, better to be safe than sorry! I have included an application form with this newsletter, please use it and give yourself a real treat. The date for the drive is June 27th, please complete and return your form or ring Richard on the numbers given above to check on availability.

It has also been suggested that we may like to take advantage of an evening guided tour later in the summer using their adapted tractor and trailer "visitor mobiles" which would take us round the area, pointing out all the points of interest, roman ruins, possible roman vineyards etc. This would be of interest to all our friends as well as drivers and grooms. Bring your non-member friends, it will be fun as we anticipate ending up at a local pub where a meal can be purchased.

Osberton one day event – 13th June

This date is coming up fast and we expect it to be a brilliant day out. We have now visited this venue 3 times and have never been disappointed. There will be an amazing variety of terrain, including grassland, farm tracks, water splashes and some really interesting obstacles set out on the marathon route. At no time will we be touching public roads on the route, fantastic. This has all the elements of a huge 3 day event, such as Catton Park, but available to us in a one day format. Get your entries in NOW.

And finally.....

Dont forget about your Friends Representative, Boz Smith who will be pleased to help out with any queries you may have about access to our Friends of Poacher activities. He can be contacted on 07966 170818 or via email on the website contacts page. Get the most out of your membership and join in with all of our social and competitive events.