

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



Newsletter October 2012

Apologies for any duplication of items from Facebook or 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 October newsletter. This will be the last newsletter that you will receive from the current Committee and we are enclosing a letter of notification of our intention to hold the 2012 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24th November at the Heneage Arms, Hainton, Nr Wragby Lincs LN8 6LX at 7.00pm.

As we mentioned in the September newsletter, we shall be seeking new members for the Committee and should you know of anybody who would like to be an involved in the running of the Club, please complete the enclosed nomination form¹ and return it by the 17th November.

As usual, the Meeting will be followed by a meal - once again, due to the popularity of last years' meal, it will be a 2 course carvery. Please return the meal booking forms by the 15th November to enable us to confirm numbers with the caterers.

A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed and may be used for the return of both nominations and/or meal bookings.

We have now had our final outdoor event of the season and the AGM will mark the finale of what has been a very successful year for the Club.

Our event that was scheduled to be a Drive followed by a Bar-B-Que at Asgarby unfortunately had to be hurriedly re-arranged as it clashed with a long distance riding group using the same part of the Lindsey Trail as the Club were planning to use, so we decided that, on Health and Safety grounds it would be better to re-arrange the venue. This was done very swiftly, with thanks to Mike Charlesworth and his extraordinary organisational skills, and we re-located to Hall Park Farm, South Kelsey. The report and some photos are attached.

As this season draws to a close and the nights get longer and the days get shorter and the whole lot gets colder, the Committee would like to thank all of the drivers, grooms, friends and stewards who have been actively involved in making this season a success.

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

The Committee

¹ Only Paid Up Driving Members and Nominated Grooms are eligible to make nominations for the Committee

SOUTH KELSEY DRIVE

When we first heard that our final outside event of the season was going to be doomed due to a clash of dates with a long distance riding club we were all ready to throw in the towel - no pun intended to Cathy - all, that is, except one seasoned Poacher - Mike Charlesworth. Within 12 hours of hearing the news, he had not only managed to secure an alternate venue but had organised refreshments to start everybody off on a good note, a place for half-time refreshments and a wonderful tea rooms for food and drinks to finish off the day.

The drive was re-scheduled to start at 11:00am, to set off at Mid-Day from Hall Farm Park, South Kelsey, with a half-way stop, returning to Hall Farm Park about 2.30pm for refreshments from their lovely little tearoom when those that either couldn't drive on the day or were just supporters of the club were to join us.

The day started promptly, with Mike C and Mike L arriving first, closely followed, much to their relief, by Richard & Carol Wood - relief as they were guardians of the flasks, teabags and coffee!! Anne Chambers and Judith Corker were right behind, with John Bryan strolling in about 15 minutes later.

As soon as they came to a halt, Richard and Carol were out of their (motor) vehicle, quickly erecting a table and setting out the flasks of hot water, cups, coffee, tea and sugar, which was quickly descended upon by all. Mike C was custodian of the gingerbread men, all of whom met a gastronomical fate very quickly!!

Once the formalities had been dispensed with all drivers then harnessed up and put-to, with the drive setting off spot on midday. Due to a serious shortage of backsteppers, the turnout wasn't as large as previously planned as the format had changed from a staggered start, which would have enabled mix and match back stepping, to a formal "tea drive".

Unfortunately, within half a mile of setting off, it was noticed that all was not well with Charlie. Despite all their efforts, Richard and Carol reluctantly decided to return to base, so that the remaining drivers could continue on the first leg of this 12.5 mile drive. Back at base Charlie was checked all over to try to determine the cause of his lameness which seemed to mysteriously disappear, only to re-appear when asked to work. Umm! Meanwhile, everybody else was enjoying the lanes of the Lincolnshire countryside and speedily heading towards a welcome break at a mystery venue, which turned out to be back at Mike C's, where we were all treated to sausage rolls, hot pizza, pork pie, crisps and ginger cake, and washed down with a drink of your choice. And, believe me, there was a choice, too!!!

As we went into Mike's field we all thought "Gosh, he's gone to a lot of trouble - there's a marquee in the field". Closer inspection revealed that it was a white tarpaulin over a stack of hay!! Disappointment was visible!!!

After a half hour break, the entourage set off once more for the final 6.5 miles, spurred on with fully repleted stomachs and the thought of the refreshments to come back at base. The drive returned as expected by 2.30pm, and after all equines were made comfortable, everybody made their way to the Tearooms, where our numbers swelled to 20, and a very enjoyable social event continued in a very friendly and welcoming environment, until about 5pm.

We would like to thank Mike Charlesworth for finding such a lovely venue at such short notice, to Christine, his wife, for making sure that the food was ready for serving when many hungry drivers and grooms descended upon her hospitality and also to Hall Farm Park for allowing us to use their facilities for parking and to making us welcome in their tearooms and feeding us such lovely food so promptly.

Anon

A DRIVER'S VIEW OF THEIR DAY OUT

We were disappointed that the drive at Cathy's had to be cancelled due to a trec or something using the same tracks !! In stepped Mr Charlesworth and arranged a drive out at South Kelsey at very short notice, to include parking and a tea room after we had finished. Well done Mr C!

We arrived about 10.30ish to find Mike C already there and our spare groom there after dropping hubby off at airport, shortly after Carol, Anne and John turned up, we got our priorities right and a table was quickly erected and the tea, coffee and snacks consumed. Suitably refreshed we all meandered off and tacked up, at about midday we set off on our way. Not long after setting off it appeared Carol was having a spot of bother (we later found out her little man had gone lame) and returned back to base.

For once we didn't have any hassle from anybody and had a beautiful drive round some quiet and scenic tracks and roads ending up at Mike C's for the halftime break. Once again Mike and Christine put on a good spread to include pork pie, sausage rolls, hot pizza and cakes washed down with either soft or hard liquid !! After about half an hour we all set off again to complete a very enjoyable drive only bumping into one very confused horse rider who's mount didn't like carriages - Oops! On returning back to the farm at about 2.30 we unharnessed, washed off and disappeared into the cafe for more light refreshment etc, etc. By now about 20 club members had turned up and we spent the rest of the afternoon chatting and generally causing chaos. At about 5 we all started to drift off home.

Once again a good day out with friends organised at very short notice by Mike C.

Mike & Sue L

STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES' MOUTH - THE EQUINE VIEW OF A DAY OUT



It was still quite dark and cold and just beginning to rain when Mum was heard clipping lead ropes on and dragging us back to the stables, an hour later a bucket of chaff and muesli appeared. The morning chores were followed by our carriage being loaded on the trailer and the horsebox being prepared for a trip. Out came the travel boots and matching rugs, then we were off. We arrived early but it wasn't long before other friends started to arrive and we were harnessed up and put too. Hall Farm Park was beginning to buzz with daily visitors as we set off on the first half of our trundle. Unfortunately only a few minutes into drive one of our pals had to leave us and return to the box park and rest in his box. Quiet country back roads were our destination, a very pleasant and breezy day, although it remained dry. At the half way mark we stopped for a breather and for the human part of the turnout to once again stuff themselves with all sorts of food and drink "What do you think, we do all the work dragging them round the countryside and they didn't even open up the marquee for us to sample the contents of!!" Once they had refreshed themselves we set off again with an extra passenger. Second half completed we returned to the box park. After being unharnessed, washed off, rugged and booted we stood in the box while guess what? - those pesky humans went to the cafe for more nourishment and a good old chin wag!! Eventually we were taken home to a comfortable stable where we had a lovely big bucket of grub and then returned to the field for a much needed roll and to reflect on a lovely day out.

Sal & Ria (belonging to Sue L)



The Beginning



The Middle



The End



The Tired and the Happy



The Social