

## POACHER HARNESS CLUB



### Newsletter September 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 September newsletter and it seems incredible how the season has flown by and that the nights are beginning to draw in with a vengeance. The weather has turned very Autumnal almost overnight and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has started to rug the animals up at night.

Since our last newsletter we have had 3 events - Hackthorn, Bagmoor and Beelsby all of which were successful and enjoyable days, with mainly good weather. Due to various circumstantial reasons, the final two events were down on numbers but nonetheless enjoyable.

Bagmoor, near Scunthorpe, was a new venue for us and those that did manage to compete were very impressed with the course. The Club were lucky enough to be able to use a grassed area that was interspersed with some beautiful trees that was normally reserved for the Caravan Club, and the entire area was mown to within an inch of its' life and was, in the main, flat. Unfortunately, we struggled to find an area large enough for the dressage arena, so in the end it was abridged to fit but was lovely to drive a dressage test on!! The marathon course was mainly on sandy tracks through woodland. Unfortunately, the promised water obstacle was virtually non-existent, due to the very dry weather that we had in the run up to this event. The disappointment of this was more than compensated by the challenging obstacles our innovative team of course builders came up with that tested the driving skills of all competitors.

Full reports for each of these events are at the end of the newsletter, together with the League Tables, as they stand at present. Each of the competitions have had interesting results with newcomers Mike Charlesworth and Richard Wood finishing very strongly in everything they entered, frequently beating the Open drivers.

Our next event will be the Wolds Drive and Bar-B-Que at Asgarby on 30<sup>th</sup> September. This is a social event to which all Club members are invited and application forms are included with this newsletter. Please return your completed forms to **Carol** by 21<sup>st</sup> September so that we know how many people to cater for.

The next newsletter will contain details of the AGM and we shall be needing nominations for next years' Committee, so now is the time to get your thinking caps on and if you know of anybody that you might like to nominate, or who would like to be nominated for a position, then that will be the time to do it.

The Committee



## HACKTHORN REPORT

Well, we finally made it to the start-line, Blue and I! The lorry behaved well this time, in spite of Anne trying sabotage by putting petrol into its' diesel tank. For me, this was the first outdoor event for several years and my first without my old friend, Gypsy. I have to admit to being very nervous; Blue is a real gentleman but quite sharp and I don't react as quickly as I did, so gates and cones arrive before I expect them.

Dressage was going quite well until I forgot to "look at the time", pulled the right rein at the start of the left circle and nearly disappeared out at A. Naturally I over-compensated and ended up doing three quarters of a circle. "Oops at A" wrote Anne - I'll say!! Apart from that and panic mode in obstacle one the old memory held out and Blue was fantastic. Definitely a three polo day!

The venue was beautiful. What a place to drive, though I'm glad I walked the course as there out there wasn't much time to admire the view whilst trying to spot yellow markers and red flags. The terrain was "catarrh-removing" but without the "are you still there" ruts we've been experiencing at home. After a few bouncy movements Blue kept up the same rhythmic trot all day (including in the dressage - tried to con Anne with a half halt at the end of the supposed extension: she did notice but it's worth a try!). He enjoyed it all. The obstacles were fair, gave us "please pass wide and slow" drivers plenty of room, with the chance of a few nippy corners for those who wanted.

Stewards at the obstacles were very encouraging and do a wonderful job, especially when the weather suddenly deteriorated. My only slightly negative observation is that in the absence of a driver we could have been encouraged to move times up, especially in the afternoon and possibly have closer start times as the obstacles were inviting and there was plenty of space between them. The ladies at the start - finish had to wait for the last competitor, poor Fay, whilst the rest of us stuck equines in lorries and scurried for cover. Lovely to see Fay come home with a huge smile on her face, though.

Talking of smiles, mine is still there and will last until next time I get a chance to drive at one of your brilliant events. Poacher Harness Club, your helpful, friendly local, especially when we are all squashed together under a tiny canopy enjoying coffee and cake.

Huge thanks are due to all who gave up their time to organise and run the event.

Judith Corker

## HACKTHORN SWISS DERBY 2012

The day promised to be busy with 6 competitors in each class. The dressage ran smoothly, with Anne Chambers judging and at the end of this section Jane Smith led the Novice class from Lucy Foster in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Judith Corker 3<sup>rd</sup> and Anna Sadler was in the lead in the Open class, with Sarah Daley in second position and Belinda Rees-Evans 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was only 3 points between these three competitors, so there was everything to play for in the Marathon.

After a brief rest for lunch, Carol Wood was first to go in the Marathon and set a time of 15:30 minutes for the other Open competitors to beat - a lead she held onto throughout. Mike took the first obstacle from Carol, with 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time here going to Belinda. Obstacle two went to Mike again, with Sarah a close 2<sup>nd</sup> and Anna in 3<sup>rd</sup>. At obstacle three, the cones element in the shape of a Wave followed by a triangle, Mikes' luck ran out and this time it went to Sarah, with Carol hot on her heels and Belinda in 3<sup>rd</sup>. By this time it was becoming obvious it was going to be a closely run finish. At Obstacle four Belinda was the victor, with Sarah in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mike taking 3<sup>rd</sup> only 3.32 seconds ahead of Anna. Unfortunately both Anna and Belinda picked up penalty points for course errors in Obstacles 1 and 2 respectively, which put them out of the running for a place. The final result was 1<sup>st</sup> place Sarah, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mike, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Carol and 4<sup>th</sup> went to Sue.

The Novice Class was equally exciting with Mike Charlesworth leading the way in the marathon with a time of 15:10 - which was, incidentally best time of the day. Mike won the first obstacle from Jane Smith in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Richard Wood in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mike also went on to win the next three obstacles, obstacle 2 saw Jane in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Judith 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest time at Obstacle 3 was Richard followed by Jane and in obstacle 4 again Richard took 2<sup>nd</sup> by .43 of a second from Judith. Again, it was a close finish with 1<sup>st</sup> going to Jane (helped by her exceptionally good dressage score), 2<sup>nd</sup> to Mike C and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Richard, with only 7.22 penalties splitting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.

Nobody managed to get within the optimum times allowed - 15:93 minutes for Novice and Under 12.2hh, 13:66 minutes for the Open.

It was lovely to see such a big turnout of spectators - it has been many years since we've experienced such a gathering!! The weather held until about half past three, about 3 minutes after the last competitor, Faye, set out on the course and the heavens opened!! Well done for carrying on and completing the course in such an awful deluge!!

Whilst the course was being cleared and the final scores put together, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits were on offer under the trailer awning. Thank you to Carole who baked the delicious Plum Bread. It was amazing how many people could fit into such a small place at the same time.

The award for Best Groom of the Day went to Anna, who groomed for Jane. Had there been an award for Best Sport of the Day it would surely have gone to Faye, who, having received a soaking out on the course was subject to another one when the awning was being carefully relieved of the water that had gathered, it went the wrong way and poured, as if from a large bucket, straight over poor Faye!!

As usual, the event could not run without the many volunteers that steward for us, for which we owe a big Thank You. Also, a big Thank You to Geoff and Liz who kindly gave their day up to take some super pictures of the event and stayed out in the rain taking pictures until the last competitor came through the final obstacle!! These are now up on the website.

## BAGMOOR ONE DAY EVENT 2012

The starting entry for this venue was 8 but unfortunately Carol had to withdraw due to a rather painful injury to her leg sustained during the previous week. Due to the small numbers entered it was decided to run this as a single class with some very surprising results - methinks that this year's Open drivers need to watch out for some very competent Novice drivers coming up through the ranks!!! The dressage ran smoothly, despite the arena having to be slightly abridged due to lack of space, since the original area had not been cut in time for the event. This was more than compensated by the fact that it drove like a bowling green with only very slight undulation.

Richard Wheeldon was our judge for the day and at the end of this section Sue Mart led the class from Richard Wood in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mike Charlesworth 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cones section followed straight on from the dressage, and this section was won by Mike C on 21 penalties, with Richard Wood 2<sup>nd</sup> on 25 penalties and Belinda Rees-Evans 29 penalties.

At the end of the dressage and cones the placings were Mike C 1<sup>st</sup>, Richard W 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mike L 3<sup>rd</sup> with only 1.5 penalties splitting 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places so the heat was on for the marathon.

After a brief rest for lunch, Sue Lawson was first to go in the Marathon and set a time of 19 minutes for the other competitors to beat - a lead she held onto until, Mike Lawson, pipped her into 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest time on 17 minutes. Mike C took the first obstacle from Belinda, with 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time here going to Mike L. Obstacle two went to Mike C again, with Sue M 2<sup>nd</sup> and Belinda in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mike C's luck still held in Obstacle three, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place going to Sue M and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Richard following closely behind. By this time it was becoming obvious it was going to be a closely run finish. At Obstacle four Mike C completed his winning streak, with Mike L in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sue M taking 3<sup>rd</sup> only .34 of a second ahead of Sue L.

The final result was 1<sup>st</sup> place Mike C, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mike L, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Richard and 4<sup>th</sup> went to Sue M.

Nobody managed to be spot on the optimum times allowed - 20.83 minutes for Novice and Under 12.2hh, 17.85 minutes for the Open, although both Mike C and Mike L came within .37 and .85 of a minute respectively.

There was a good turnout of spectators and the weather kept fair although there was a rumble of thunder at end of the afternoon.

Again, whilst the course was being cleared and the final scores put together, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits were on offer under the trailer awning.

As usual, the event could not run without the many volunteers that steward for us, for which we owe a big Thank You. Also, thank you to Sophie Nash who took some lovely pictures at obstacle 2. These are now up on the website.

Hopefully we'll see you all at Beelsby on the 9<sup>th</sup> September for the Swiss Derby.

PS. The two way radios proved invaluable when our Chairman found herself with one foot - or was it a wheel? - in the coffin. See the next page!!!

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING THE YELLOW WAY MARKERS!!!



Ummm, where did these tyres come from?



“I was trying to do a neat spot of parking”

## **A Driver's View of Doing Other Things**

First of all may I congratulate the Organisers for finding such a lovely venue and second for having it so well sign-posted. Having allowed myself one and three quarter hours [*from near Newark*] to get lost, I actually arrived in under an hour!

Carol's abstract painting on her leg reminded me that our animals do not always react as we expect and, as a steward with no control of those animals, "elf and safety" came very much to mind. Rules which seem petty fogging when you are "in control" become very important when you are in charge of the safety of humans and animals in the area!

Next can I congratulate all those who did a clear cones course (memo to self:- drive cones correctly, remember the poor stewards back). At least, if you are going to knock down ball, please make it nearest to the steward!

Finally, I must congratulate Charlie, and Richard, of course. I'm not a natural backstepper, much prefer to be in charge, but Richard and Charlie have so much trust in each other that I really felt comfortable at all times. Richard is such a calm, quiet driver and poor Charlie (probably Richard as well) must have wondered what all the noise was about (Running commentary throughout marathon). Apologies to Richard for dodgy information (again memo to self:- Make sure directions are unambiguous).

Charlie must have forgiven me as he allowed me to take him on a nice, cooling, relaxed lead rein walk afterwards and stood patiently while I worked out how to put on his all-enveloping fly rug. Talk about an IQ Test!!!!

It was lovely to see people coming back from what had walked as quite a testing route with big smiles and happy equines.

Thanks again to all concerned. Hope to see you again, soon.

Judith Corker

## BEELSBY SWISS DERBY 2012

Due to various circumstances, relating to either to equine or human incapacity, numbers for this event dwindled to 5 by Sunday morning, so, once again the class combined both Novice and Open competitors.

The day got progressively hotter as it wore on but this was kept to a bearable heat with a (sometimes very gusty) breeze. For those of you who have never been to this venue, it is situated on the top of the Wolds with stunning views on one side towards Grimsby - the other side is obscured by trees. The Club is extremely grateful to the landowner who allows us to hold an event at such a very beautiful venue.

The marathon, including the Obstacles, was approximately 5.25 kilometres, mainly along undulating farm tracks, starting and finishing on grassland. The first obstacle was in the field about 500 metres from the start, competitors then went out into the countryside and returned to the field where they completed the final 3 obstacles. As is usual for a Swiss Derby, there is no Cones section but a cones obstacle. This element consisted of a serpentine of 6 cones, each 3 metres apart, followed by a set of 4 pairs of cones set at 145cms laid out as a wave with a weave. Only 1 competitor, Sue Lawson, managed to go clear through this. Well done, Sue!

Wendy Stromberg was our Dressage judge for the day and at the end of this section Richard Wood led the class from Mike Charlesworth in 2<sup>nd</sup> with Mike Lawson and Judith Corker in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Only 7 penalties separated the first place from the 5<sup>th</sup> place, so at the end of this section it was still anybody's race.

To-days' event was going to decide who was the overall winner of the Combined League, so the heat was on to see if Mike Lawson would have a low enough penalty score to knock Mike Charlesworth off his perch at the top of the table.

Sue Lawson was first to go in the Marathon and set a time of 28.08 minutes for the other competitors to beat - a lead she held onto until Mike Lawson came home in 26.36 minutes, who was then promptly ousted into 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest time by Mike Charlesworth in a time of 26.15 - only 0.12 under the Novice optimum time. Mike C took the first obstacle from Richard, with 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time here going to Mike L. Obstacle two went to Mike C again, with Mike L 2<sup>nd</sup> and Richard in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mike C's luck faltered in Obstacle three, the Cones element, with fastest time going to Richard, although he picked up 15 penalties, Mike Lawson was 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest, also picking up 15 penalties, 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time went to Mike C, who picked up 10 penalties. At Obstacle four Mike C's luck returned, taking 1st, with Mike L 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sue 3<sup>rd</sup>, only .03 of a second ahead of Richard and Judith who tied on 60.05 seconds.

Once again, Mike C proved unstoppable, as he has all season and the final result was 1<sup>st</sup> place Mike C, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Richard, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, by 1.87 penalties was Mike L. The award for Best Groom of the Day was awarded to Sally Ironmonger.

Once again, the Novice drivers have shown the Open drivers the way home!!

The tea, coffee and cakes that have been on offer under the awning at the end of each event has proved to be a popular and valuable social event. As usual, the event could not run without the many volunteers that steward for us, to whom we owe a big THANK YOU.

## LEAGUE TABLES

### NOVICE LEAGUE

MIKE	CHARLESWORTH
RICHARD	WOOD
JUDITH	CORKER
FAYE	CROWDER
LUCIE	FOSTER

### POINTS      PLACE

35	1
21	2
13	3
10	4
6	5

### OPEN LEAGUE

MIKE	LAWSON
SUE	LAWSON
CAROL	WOOD
SARAH	DALEY
SHEILA	BROOKES
JOHN	COOKE
ANNA	SADLER

### POINTS      PLACE

32	1
31	2
21	3
17	4
14	5
8	6
2	7

### LEAGUE OVERALL

					PENALTIES	PLACE
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	HACKTHORN	BAGMOOR	BEELSBY	PENALTIES	PLACE
Mike	Charlesworth	136.75	133.10	140.7	410.55	1
Mike	Lawson	153.22	158.20	176.9	488.32	2
Richard	Wood	151.97	163.60	175	490.57	3
Sue	Lawson	191.62	213.70	183.2	588.52	4
Judith	Corker	186.30	N/A	180.8	367.10	5
Sarah	Daley	136.48	N/A	N/A	136.48	6
Carol	Wood	155.10	N/A	N/A	155.10	7
Lucy	Foster	175.98	N/A	N/A	175.98	8
Fay	Crowder	337.36	221.50	N/A	558.86	9
Anna	Sadler	290.14	N/A	N/A	290.14	10

Where an event is missed, it is assumed maximum penalties are awarded and placings allocated to reflect this.