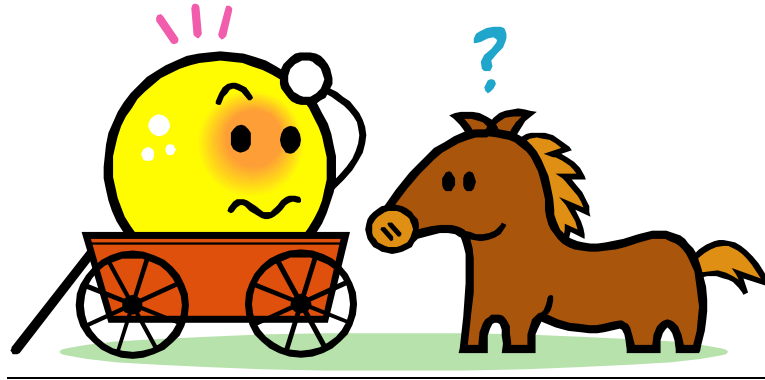


CAMBRIDGE AND WEST SUFFOLK DRIVING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009



CAPTION COMPETITION

Bring your suggestions to the AGM

LEADERS AND WHEELERS

I have spent many years as the ballast (or should I say freight?) hanging on to the back of Canny's carriage. Over the years I have been either hot and dry or cold and wet - mainly cold and wet - and without exception I was told that I was really enjoying myself! But this year has been different. I have been comfortably warm and dry every time I've been taken out and exercised... and I have really enjoyed every minute. Roll on 2010!

My real input to the Club's activities is running the website. It's not my website: it is your website. My job is merely to keep it up to date. Your photos, stories or reminiscences help to make the website interesting for us all; so please keep sending them in.

David Jones

www.cwsdc.org.uk

Le Trec comes to Stansfield



By Liz and Jonathan Slater

AS its name suggests, *Le Trec* is based on a French sport - it's short for *Technique De Randonnee Equestre De Competition* - and reportedly is the fastest growing equine pastime in this country.

So what is *Le Trec*? In a nutshell, it is probably best described as a form orienteering on horseback.

Participants require a knowledge of terrain and an understanding of map reading. *Le Trec* is designed to test a horse/rider combination through a whole range of activities, combining elements of trail riding with cross country jumping or flatwork.

You need the ability to find your way across country using map reading skills, and you will also need a safe degree of control to deal with the sort of obstacles and problems that can be encountered in open countryside.

Members of the Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Driving Club came to Windolphs Farm last month and stayed a weekend for a *Le Trec* event.

A map was given to all the turnouts for a set route around the farm and surrounding area on the Saturday, followed by extra driving in the evening before cleaning harness and carriages ready for inspection the following morning.

A rain free barbeque finished the day for those who could make it. On Sunday 14 turnouts were judged by Brent Reeder with emphasis on safety, points being lost for poor harness fitting.

After the inspection each turnout then set off at ten minute intervals on a 6km course, timed for 32 minutes with points lost if late.



The set time actually meant that a fair trot was needed for most of the course to avoid time penalties. The morning was concluded by a 1km enforced walk within a set time and points lost for breaking pace. Some of the smaller ponies struggled to make the time without resorting to a trot!

After a picnic lunch we returned to the Cordell meadow for the hazards, starting with a water sprinkler and noisy engine, with more points gained the closer the horse went to the sprinkler but would lose all points if the horse stopped.

The second hazard was a timed course weaving in and out of pheasant feeders to a set route with time penalties for being slow. For the third hazard the outfit had to pass between a tractor and horse box parked close together, with an easy option between a cone and the tractor but gaining less points.

The fourth was between various widths and heights of bales, and the fifth hazard was the 'scary corner' with lots of plastic bags, a walkway between road hazard signs and finally a walkway between more signs, make believe manhole covers and bird scarers.

It was quite impressive how sensible the horses and ponies were. It was a good opportunity to get them used to hazards in a safe environment.

The event was great fun and extremely well organized and run by Ray and Linda Godwin and their marshalls.

Article published in Stansfield Village and Church News August 2009

List of competitors: Jeff and Gwen, Canny and David, Liz and Terence, Maureen and Angela, Mouse and Julia, Ian and Andrea, Liz and Jonathan, Eunice and Wally, Kathy and Judith, Dale and Harriet, Paul (Dixon) and Norman, Howard and Margaret, Marianne and Richard, Hilary and Vicky. L.S.

Ley Farm Drive 4th July

This year's drive could not have been more different from last year. Ten turnouts set off in brilliant sunshine with no rain.

Attending: Terence and Liz with Sylvie, David and Canny with Pebbles, Mouse and Lulu with Jake, Rosemary with Jasmin, Hilary, Vicky and Shaun with Rosie, Geoff and Gwen with Comet, Howard and Margaret came from Norfolk with Bess, Maureen and Angela with Carrie, Ray and Linda with Millie and Poppy and two young ladies from Ley Farm who had come from a riding lesson. Last but by no means least Dale and Harriet with Jake. Dale is a new member.

The morning took us through Wood Ditton to Kirtling, then on to Wickhambrook on quiet, fairly level lanes. A left turn up New England Lane to Attleton Green and a lunch stop. A hosepipe was provided for ponies to wash off and we had a picnic in the shade.

The afternoon was a little more taxing. Out to Lidgate and then on to Upend via Duck Lane and a steep pull to Cheveley, past Banstead Manor Stud to Saxon Street. Here the rout did a right then left turn to out us on a nice flat run back to Little Ditton, over the cross roads to Wood Ditton. Gill and Rosemary met us at Ley Farm with a super tea, cake, and cold drinks, and scones with jam.

As with all these events it takes a team to make things work. Thanks to Gill for working out the route and arranging Ley Farm, to Rosemary for the cakes and to you all for coming. We hope you enjoyed the day. JL.

EAST WALTON DRIVE - SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 2009

Drive attendees:

Graham Cooper and Michael Carter with Tatty-Ann
Canny and David Jones with Pebbles
Terence and Liz Wheeler with Sylvie
Maureen Wilcox and her daughter, Jackie, with Carrie
Ian Collinge and Mouse Winter with Dan
Hilary and Shaun Fielding with Rosie (and Buzz and Meg the dogs)
Viv and Ted Gray with Buddy
Rachel and Bill Lewis with Daisy
Cheryl Lincoln and Sandra Anthony with Cracker (potential new Club members)

Shirley Reeder also joined us at the lunch stop.

A big thank you to Sandy Collinge for all her help as well as Zoe Carter who became "official photographer" for the day and her daughters, Amy and Penny, for their excellent dog sitting services! Thank you also to Jim and Margaret Hughes for kindly providing water for all the horses at the lunch stop on St James Green in Castle Acre.

The weather was kind, if rather blustery, and so we all managed to stay dry for the day, which is always a bonus.

As the Club are so familiar with the tracks around East Walton's surrounding area, once again I tried to plan a route with at least some bits which the Club hadn't driven before and hope I succeeded. As many will know the ford at West Acre (nearest the Stag pub) had been inaccessible for the Club during the summer holiday due to the installation of some rather large gates. I was pleased that by the time of this drive a key was available and so one of the West Acre fords could be included en-route to Castle Acre. No-one enjoyed that more than Ian who revved Dan up and caused a tidal wave as he thundered through, soaking all spectators in the process!

All turnouts managed the 8 miles safely to St James Green in Castle Acre for a picnic lunch on the Green, having negotiated their way through the busy village centre. I believe some turnouts joined us via a swift half at The Ostrich!

Another 8 miles back to East Walton avoiding all pigs. However, those who had enjoyed the hospitality of The Ostrich earlier in the day admitted to taking a route different to that marked on the map - perhaps a bit of an alcohol induced "senior moment"?!

Tea and cakes back at Abbey Farm to fortify everyone for their journey home concluded what I hope for all was an enjoyable day.

The proceeds raised by this drive were given to Rachel Lewis' charity fund which is shared between the East Walton Church Windows fund and MacMillan Nurses. In total we raised £62.50 this year for the charity.

SJ

Whitehall Farm, Burnham Thorpe – 13th to 19th September

Rugs and bulging suitcases

Grooming kits and wash bags

Tooth brush and dandies

Hay net and puddings

Crockery and cool boxes

Carriages and caravans neatly packed

Could there be anything forgotten – Ooops the horse.

It's holiday time at Burnham Thorpe – on arrival we casually abandoned horses, trailers and made camp, finally the kettle was on.

Each morning began with the, not too early, ritual of feeding horses, campers venturing out still in their pyjamas hoping not to be caught. A selection of new drives took us to varying places of interest, good pubs and some of old. Many tracks and byways gave us a 21 mile round trip to Bircham Mill with hardly a road in site. Whilst ponies grazed under the sails pasties and hot chocolates were consumed for lunch in the company of Wally, Eunice, Ben and Davida who had travelled across from West Rudham to join us.

On another day in perforated convoy we set off for Holkam Beach via tracks which took us to Lady Ann's Drive, with much ado about gates and where keys would be found to enter onto the beach still ended in one gate being lifted off its hinges after some diligent warden had come by and locked it. With the tide out and miles of sand some ventured down to the beach for a dabble in the sea.

Thursday was a birthday celebration for Sandy celebrated in true club style. The evening started with champagne and canapés a feast was done on the bar-b-q by our hosts Valerie and Barry. Angela had made a large chocolate cake with gold horses and a candle, happy birthday was sung. We were joined for the evening by Wally, Eunice, Scrivy and our honorary member Bunty, who was astounded when we all retired by 8.30pm – she was ready to start partying.

The week's gourmet meals included meat loaf, paella, fruit tart, Eton mess, posh jelly, bar-b-q, chilli con carne and fish 'n' chips all washed down with gallons of wine.

Hopefully by the time we left, at the end of a glorious week, all coats, bridles and spoons had been returned to their rightful owners ready for our next adventure.

Holiday makers included:

Mouse and Sarah with Jake

Canny and David with Pebbles

Linda and Ray with Millie and Poppy

Terence and Liz with Sylvie

Shirley with Chloe

Sarah Jayne and Graham with Tatty Ann

Ian and Sandy with Danny

Maureen and Angela with Carrie

Jane Hull

Judith and Richard with Sonny

Kathy and Geoff with Flora

Gwen and Jeff with Comet

Liz and Jonathan with Holly

Viv and Ted with Buddy

MW

British Driving Society Fun Day at Easton Farm Park.
Sunday 27th September

Our members very much appreciated driving the Lanes from Easton to Cretingham Bell, for a drink. We had only eight Turnouts this year, 3 were from CWSDC: Ben and Davida with Charlie, Howard and Margaret with Bess and Wally and Eunice with Winston. The paddock in front was perfect for our cones course and provided some entertainment for the caravan park visitors. This was used for practice on our return from Cretingham, but lunch was so prolonged and enjoyable nobody wanted to harness up again for a competition. All agreed it was a lovely relaxed day with no pressure.

We made a donation to The East Anglia Air Ambulance of £40. E.B.



Howard and Margaret Nuttall



Wally Binder and Hazel Moyes

Thetford Drive October 4th

We met as usual at St. Helen's car-park, Santon Downham. We were relieved that the blustery conditions on Saturday had died down and we had a calm sunny day for our last drive. Despite the lack of rain over the past two months the tracks were surprisingly green and easy to drive.

When we returned to our boxes we were joined by Sue and Tom, and Shirley, Brent, Rachel and family. We enjoyed a picnic lunch in warm sunshine. Judith and Richard departed before lunch as they had a problem with their car on the way to Thetford and thought it wise to set off ASAP after the drive. They arrived home safely and Sonny travelled well.

Ray and Linda introduced a new member to the C&WSDC –D for dog- a tiny Patterdale just 10 weeks old. –Welcome Sooty! Sooty started his apprenticeship by helping Sandy guard the horseboxes and trailers whilst we were driving. MAW

Wally and Eunice with Winston
Sandy and Ian with Dan
Philip and Margaret with Baron
Maureen and Angela with Carrie

Judith and Richard with Sonny
Hilary and Shaun with Rosie
Ray, Linda, Sue (Sue driving) with Millie/Pops

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. R
 2. 40metres
 3. freedom, harmony, and suppleness.
 4. Working, collected, and extended.
 5. Type of carriage and harness
 6. Ground jury, general impression.
 7. Quick, smooth, not abrupt, maintain cadence, light, calm, correct position. (any 4 of these)
 8. a) transition to halt, b) still for 10seconds, c) moving straight back with feet moving together, d) transition to walk forward.
 9. Transitions.
 10. 5 points. TOTAL 22 points available.
- Reference; Driving and Judging Dressage by HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

NOTICES

The AGM is on 21st November at 11.00 am prompt. It will start **on time** as we have a guest from The Air Ambulance at 12.00.

If you wish to raise 'any other business' please have it ready so that it can be dealt with quickly.

Lunch will be soup and sandwiches and a dessert. Wine will be available in exchange for your raffle ticket.

Raffle prizes would be very welcome.

David Jones will be projecting powerpoint onto a wall. If you want to bring along a stick to add any photos to his moving wallpaper they are most welcome. Liaise with David on the day.

Minutes of the last AGM and the accounts will be on the website and on the powerpoint display. They will not be printed.

FIRST AID COURSE

On Saturday 12th December there will be a First Aid Course, being very kindly organised by Rosemary Lynn. It will be in Freckenham Village Hall from 10.00 -14.00. Please bring your own **packed lunch**, but tea and coffee will be available. Please let Mouse or Sarah-Jayne know at the AGM if you are interested. The price is not finally decided but it will not be expensive.

There will be a small prize for this year's quiz. So have look at the dressage questions and the piccies below. Good Luck!

QUIZ

Know Your Horses

Now for something completely different!
"SPOT THE DIFFERENCES"



Picture A



Picture B

Try to find ten or more differences between these two pictures, which form an advertisement for a driving accessory. 5 extra points for anyone who can say what the advertisement is for. Thank you to Sue Ram for giving me the super book that this came out of.

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. Articles are always welcome. Editor.