

NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Christmas

Cambridge and West Suffolk Driving Club



Leaders and Wheelers

Welcome to my first attempt at a newsletter. I have tried to include everything I have been sent. If I have left anyone or anything out, or made mistakes, I apologise. Thank you to everyone for your great support and for all the articles and photographs you have sent me. I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition.

The committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year—or was it the other way round? No, it was a very Merry Crimble and a Wobbly New Year. May you all have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and we wish you a great driving season in what will be our Silver Jubilee Year.





The Proceedings of the AGM , 2nd December 2006

33 members of the Club attended the AGM at the Hall, Elveden by generous permission of Lord and Lady Iveagh, on Saturday 2nd December 2006.

In her address the Chairman began by thanking our hosts by letting the Club hold driving events and this AGM on their estate. Eunice went on to thank all the organizers of events and for making 2006 such a success. There were special thanks to Jayne for her Newsletters and a warm welcome to Linda for taking over the task.

Judith said, in her treasurer's report, that the finances of the Club were in good order, with a small surplus at the end of October, our year-end. Judith highlighted the fall in subscription income, the rise in secretarial expenses from the costs of printing and postage and the existence of a well stocked Club cellar.

The committee felt that item 6 of the Constitution was too restrictive and decided that a proposal to amend this section should be put before the members at the AGM. It was noted that the need to provide continuity in the way the Club was run would be through the offices of President and vice-President. These were permanent positions on the committee. There would be six members elected annually, four of whom would hold titled offices as Chairman, secretary, social secretary and treasurer. Two should stand down each year to enable other members of the Club to serve on the committee. The Chairman would be elected at the AGM, the other office holders would be selected from the membership of the committee.

Next year there would be two new drives in the calendar, one at Helmingham Hall, Suffolk arranged by Ben Denison and the other a week-end at Magdalen in Norfolk arranged by Mouse Winter. The new season lunch would be hosted by Liz Wheeler at Church Farm, in Great Eversden. The committee would plan an event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Club in 2007.

The meeting climax was the presentation of awards for 2006:

Chairman's award	Sue and Tom
President's award	Wally
Collectors' china	Jayne, a Thank-You
A china "duck"	Bunty, a Game Bird
A large wine goblet	Richard, for lending a helping hand
A chef's apron	Ian, for his readiness to serve the Club's BBQ's



Newsletter Quiz Mouse won the quiz and the prize.

TW 20061207

For sale
Romalec Welsh Wizard,

Section D gelding, registered. Extravagant movement, bay 14HH+ 3 years.
Kind, easy to box and catch. Lunged, ready to back.

£1000 o.n.o.

Liz Wright, Hook House, Hook Road, Wimblington, March, Cambs. PE15 0QL
01354 741538 or 07967 33 96 86

Fun Day at Easton Farm Park in Suffolk.
24TH September 2006

This event was attended by 19 BDS Drivers with some of the five young drivers sharing ponies.

Judith and Richard came with Sunny and their daughter Felicity. Felicity groomed for Cathy Batty and her pony Flora. This foursome had travelled many miles to take part in this event but liked the area so much they did a second drive after the cones course in the afternoon, before going home. Ben and Davida came with Charlie and were placed 4th in the cones/obstacle course. Ben took Charlie home then returned to help us pack up, "as he does". Thanks Ben. The communal lunch was enjoyed by all with new and old contacts made or rekindled. We have been invited to drive the tracks in the Spring as well as the usual Fun Day next year being 30th September 2007. Perhaps a few more of you will venture down this way. Eunice and Wally.

If

If you can keep your head when others are trotting past you and swearing at you.
If I can trust you when all others doubt you but make allowance for their doubting too.

If you can stand and not fidget when standing,
Nor trot when you should walk,
Nor canter which is truly maddening,
And yet show action, collection, without a balk.

If I can dream – and make my dreams your master.
If I can think - and make my thoughts your aim.
If I can meet with dressage and cones disaster
And get on with it just the same.

If I can bear to hear the truth be spoken
 By judges who think we're fools.
 Or pick up all the cones and shafts you've broken
 And stoop and build them up with worn out tools.



If you can walk in crowds and keep your virtue.
 Or walk with hackneys and not lose the common touch.
 If neither balloons nor bouncy castles scare you
 And you are kind to all but love me so much
 If we can hold it all together in the end
 Yours is the rosette and the championship
 And – which is more – we'll be a competition turnout my friend!

Poem by Clare Iveagh

There are five in this magazine –but what are they? Not holly!
 You will need a running total at the end of the year.

Answers to the quiz will be in the next newsletter –mark your own and keep your score. The quiz is cumulative through the year.

BLANDING'S FARM

Saturday 5th August 2006

A three-phase event was held at Blanding's Farm. The dressage arena and cones course were set out for us by Louise Garget. We also used some of her excellent hazards. Sadly only five turnouts competed at this event.

The dressage came first. The marks were close, ranging from 96 to 90. As usual there were excellent marks in one movement, often counter-acted by poor ones in another! Some tests showed little difference in the paces. Circles could be improved by more attention to the shape of the last quarter as it returns to the track.

The cones course of twenty gates proved to be good fun. The best round being clear by Ian and Danny. The fastest round (by a large margin!) was by Clare and Porter with one ball down.

The six hazards however, were too long and complicated for most who needed help and advice to complete them.

Results:

1st: Sallie, Liz and Kelly – taking the Tangle Trophy

2nd: Clare, Rebecca and Porter

3rd: Linda, Ray and Millie

4th: Ian, Sandy and Danny

HC: Sue, Tom and Alfie for a good dressage score.

Shirley judged the dressage and Terence the cones. I feel that next year we could improve the hazards by making them more straightforward and enjoyable.

S.D.R.

CONEY WESTON WEEKEND

29TH – 30TH JULY 2006

Saturday morning drive

We drove out from Coney Weston, passed Barningham Park and took the by-way alongside Fakenham Great Wood on the Euston Estate. This took us over the Rushford Road towards Knettishall. Taking a right turn onto a RUPP we approached the airfield and after crossing Norwich Road we circled the airfield tracks until reaching another RUPP, which brought us down to Fen Road. We returned to Coney Weston passing the isolated church on the edge of the fen.

Saturday afternoon drive

Taking the same route out of the village we then drove to Bowbeck where we turned to Barningham. Turning onto one of the tracks marked Stanton Rides we dropped down towards Hepworth where we took another very rutty track to the village. We crossed the main road at the Mill Inn and returned via Hollow Lane to Coney Weston. Thank you to all who brought contributions towards the barbeque which we held on Saturday evening. We were blessed with a warm, dry evening.

Sunday Treasure Hunt

Competitors were given a map of the route to follow and a list of twenty questions to answer. Contestants set off searching for clues along the road to Hopton. They turned towards Knettishall past the cottage which, alas, was fired by lightening two days earlier, and has now been completely demolished. Clues were found in Knettishall, Coney Weston, and Barningham.

Congratulations to Jack Rossin who had the highest number of correct answers and was once more awarded the "Crinkly Bottom Trophy".

Sunday afternoon

In the afternoon we held a cone driving competition.

Results:

A

1st: Ben Denison
2nd: Liz Wheeler
3rd: Ian Collinge
4th: Sallie Walrond

B

1st: Terence Wheeler
2nd: Eunice Binder
3rd: Sandy Collinge
4th: Richard Webster

Those attending

Jack Rossin

Ben and Davida Denison

Richard Carter

Sandy and Ian Collinge

Sallie Walrond and Pat

Sue and Tom Ram

Eunice and Wally Binder

Ray and Linda Godwin

Shirley Reeder and Bunty Richardson for lunch on Sunday

Gwen and Jeff with grandchildren but no horse!

Maureen Willcox

Colin and Maureen Willcox

Terence and Liz Wheeler

Richard and Judith Webster

Angela and David Weir



Thetford Drive
15th October

Photos by Linda
Lancaster

THETFORD FOREST DRIVE

15 October 2006



Byron the Dog goes into a pub for a drink.

Barman: What can I get you?

Byron: I'd like a umm errr..... ohh a dish of water.

Barman: Why the big pause?

We met at St Helen's car park and set off on the northern side of the river and railway line. Although setting off in small groups we met up along the tacks as we endeavoured to find our way.

There are very few way markers now and we only had one key which did not fit all padlocks so life was a little fraught for some! The warm sunshine made the driving very pleasant though the unclipped ponies soon became very hot. We returned to picnic by our boxes. The ponies dried off in the afternoon sun and we did not venture out again.

Attendance

Anna Mann

Ian and Sandy Collinge

Wally Binder and Groom

Shirley and Janet

Sarah Jayne and Graham Cooper

Cathy Batty

H. Nuttall

Sue and Tom Ram

Ben and Davida Denison

Judith and Richard Webster

Maureen W. and Angela Weir

Linda Lancaster (photographer)



Anna Mann with Jasmine at Burghley earlier this year.



Know Your Horses

No.2. Paintings, Sculpture, Statues and Fountains

1. What is this famous Arabian called?



2. Tetrarch was never beaten and only ran as a two year old. What was his nickname?



Quiz continues.....

“Club Trek” at the Hall, Elveden, 3 September 2006.

Lord and Lady Iveagh generously permitted the Club to hold a Le Trec event at Elveden.

The sun shone and the wind was gusty, quite unlike the day before, when there had been high winds and a lowering grey sky. The bright clear day and the perfect location set the scene for eleven turnouts.

Claire Bourne judged the presentation and was encouraging, as always. Everyone enjoyed the drives in the park: all the competitors returned without becoming seriously lost. Three competitors missed the odd corner that cost them 30 seconds and one arrived almost two minutes too early. Three competitors had breaks of pace in the walk section. Overall the whips and grooms enjoyed the woods, the farmland and the park.

This year each turnout went directly to the South Lawn, to drive the skills section, once they had completed the walk. Shirley devised and judged five tests. All the competitors praised and thanked Shirley for her imaginative section.

The cars, trailers and boxes were drawn up on either side of one of the lawns in the park, in the middle was a grand scene of the teams smiling and relaxing once it was all over. The Club thanked Lady Iveagh publicly for hosting the event and in turn Clare thanked Shirley, the competitors and the stewards for making it a fine occasion. Then Lady Iveagh presented a cut glass bowl to Judith the overall winner and an encyclopedia to Mouse the winner of the skills section and rosettes to the other places.

Results :

	Overall	Presentation	Drives A and B	Skills
1	Judith	1= Ian	1= Judith	1 Mouse
2	Mouse	1= Liz	1= Linda	2 Judith
3	Liz	3 Clare	3= Liz	3 Graham
4	Linda	4= Graham	Sue (HC)	4 Liz
5	Graham	4= Jack	4= Ben	5 Ian
6	Clare	4= Judith	4= Clare	6 Linda
			4= Graham	

The participants:

Ben and Davida with Charlie	Clare and Rebecca with Porter
Graham and Sarah Jane with Tatty Ann	Ian and Alison with Danny
Jack and Linda with Chester	Judith ad Richard with Sunny
Linda and Richard with Millie	Liz and Maureen with Sylvie
Mouse and Mark with Jake	Wally and Eunice with Winston
Sue and Tom with Alfie were HC	

Presentation judge	Claire Bourne
Skills judge	Shirley Reeder
Scorer	Felicity Webster
Time keepers	Angela, Sandy and Terence
Stewards	Lisa, Liz and Harry

T.W.

3. What event in Spanish history does this painting by Picasso commemorate?



4. The Bronze Horseman is probably the most famous equestrian statue in the world. Who is riding the horse?



5. How much will it cost you to see this fountain a second time?



6. Why would this man not be doing this today?



7. These horses galloped all the way to the British Museum from which European city?



8. Why are the horses of the bronze quadriga on St Mark's basilica wearing neck collars?



9. Who painted this horse in the Temptation of St Anthony?



10. What is this Stubbs horse called?

11. Name the driver.



12. What load are these chaps going to fetch?



13. If this man had his flag with him what would it look like?



14. Did the painter of this picture invent our new safety orientated cross-country driving competition? If so, how many bathrooms did his house have?

Plums and custard

We like to show in harness, and the shows we like best are the ones with road drives. In 2004 and 2005 we managed to do enough of these - ten in the year - to gain a Red Rover award. It was a bit of a struggle both times. In 2004 we drove our black Shetland Felix in a pair with a devil disguised as a bay Shetland called Tommy. For the first few shows everything was OK, but then Tommy began to think of new and terrifying things to do each time (taking off his bridle in the ring, bolting into a class of Clydesdale mares and foals, ...), and we ended the tenth drive like shipwrecked sailors climbing ashore. 2005 was better: we drove Felix as a single and we enjoyed some lovely shows, going for the coveted BDS road drive rosettes - that year (and again this year) the rosettes were maroon and pale yellow so we called them plums-and-custard. But just as we thought we had the Red Rover in the bag - only a few hundred yards from the halfway pub on the tenth drive - Felix trod on a sharp stone and stopped dead. He was lame for six weeks - it was touch-and-go whether he would be sound again to try for the plums-and-custard at the very last show of the season. But all was well.

So obviously we wanted to try for a Red Rover again this year, and we hoped for a smoother path. This time the plan was to drive Felix plus Jasmine, bought last autumn to go in a pair with him. We started off fine, with the South Suffolk Show, which has a delightful drive - not too far but with varied scenery (a bit too varied if your pony doesn't like pigs...) Then a couple more, including Derbyshire County where we got not only our plums-and-custard but also the Osborne Refrigerators qualifier. The fourth drive (I won't say where) took place on an infernally hot day in July. The judge tried everyone's patience by taking ten minutes to look over each turnout - with 13 turnouts forward this meant a l-o-n-g wait in the line. Worse was to come. When we finally got out on the road, Felix went all wobbly, he seemed to want to climb out of his harness and jump into the ditch. We got completely left behind, out in the middle of nowhere in the blazing sun, but the steward in the rearguard car was very helpful, and eventually we caught up with the others and got back to the showground. It wasn't just the heat - Felix was later diagnosed with a hoof complaint and told to do no more road work for the season.

That might have been the end of our Red Rover campaign for 2006, but I am a stubborn person. The well-thumbed BDS Yearbook got another good thumbing, and I worked out that even though it was now mid July we could still go back to square one and do ten drives with Jasmine by herself. She is a game little body, for we are no light load, and some of these drives are quite long. She enjoyed these solos (apart from the sadness of leaving Felix in the van while she went out trotting), and all was going according to plan, but with ponies you can never quite count on anything.

There we were at a charming show, and on fine form. The judge did the inspections and saw the stand shows before the drive, and made her preliminary placings - Jasmine was called in top of the line! Whahey! So we set off on the drive, in hilly country, in the best of humour. After a little while, though, I said to Robin: "I think I hear a loose shoe", and after another mile it wasn't just the noise, the shoe came clattering right off. But by this time we were within sight of the pub that was the halfway stop, so we walked Jasmine to the pub and asked the steward to phone for the farrier to come over from the showground to put the shoe back on. No farrier! So there was nothing for it but for Jasmine to retire. No plums-and-custard, no silver cup, just a gloomy trip home thinking that we had blown the Red Rover after all. With that show down the tubes, we wouldn't be able to make the ten.

More thumbing of the Yearbook, and another show to make the numbers was found. A bit far away, though - would you believe Westmorland County? We went up to Kendal the night before the show, on a lovely September evening, and woke to find a relentless downpour. The drive was a bit of a mixture too: it's a bit scary to drive (twice) under the West Coast Main Line just hoping that a Virgin 125 isn't going to rattle over your head. But wet or not, that was P&C number 9. A week later, I wondered whether Jasmine knew what she had achieved, when she trotted the last mile on the last drive, head high and ears up? We certainly did!

End of Season Supper Dance

on Saturday 21st October 2006.

Linda and Ray Godwin had asked his band Marrakesh to entertain the Club at the end of season event, at Freckenham Village Hall.

Angela had decorated the tables with elegant flower arrangements and candles. The effect was to make the Hall both welcoming and stylish. By 7.30 the place was full.

The bar was in the good hands of Ian and Richard. An organization called "Taste" catered well, living up to their name. The food was first class and plentiful. The service was excellent. Liz and Sandy welcomed everyone and sold the raffle tickets.

There is always a moment of embarrassment. This year it fell to Liz again. She won the raffle, declaring that she never wins anything. But **we all remember** that she won the raffle last year. The prize was put up for auction and Davida was successful, with a very generous bid, so she and Ben will be off to Swingletree in 2007 for a Day with John Parker.

Linda gave the answers to her quiz. There was the odd protest where aficionados of Google disagreed with devotees of Wikipedia, who both had different answers from Linda's source, (Brewer). Linda will declare the results at the AGM.

Everyone, who could, danced to the splendid music played by Marrakesh. The dancers had enough to drink and to eat, as befits the Club. It was another very good day.

TW