



## Leaders and Wheelers

### Could the Whip Please Dismount?

This was the question that greeted each turnout that came for presentation at the Club Trec held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Elveden Hall.

I was happy to help with the Club Trec, but must admit to slight apprehension at the thought of having to “Judge” my fellow drivers. However, my brief was to consider safety above all else, which I felt made the job easier.

Having viewed all the turnouts, I felt the standard was high, with everyone presenting clean and tidy, well maintained turnouts, almost everyone with a good spares and first aid kit. All had mobile phones, something which I consider we should all have at all times when working with or driving horses. A few points to make though! Check your breeching, is it correctly adjusted and will work when you want it to or is there enough room for your horse to move. Training your horse to stand still is very important, not only for convenience, but also for safety.

As to the question of the whip dismounting! I hoped this would help us all to consider the safety of correct procedure. Of course the whip can get down, but the groom must dismount first!

The question was met with an interesting range of responses, from “Yes, but how?” to “NO!, that’s what the groom is for!” (this last from a whip with a commercial driving background).

My thanks to all who participated and all those who helped to run another successful and enjoyable CWSDC event.

Brent Reeder

Dining with the Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Driving Club.

The Club has continued to enjoy its reputation for fine dining. This season started with Spring Lunch, went on to Dinners with Competitions at East Walton, barbecue at Magdalen, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner celebration in Church Farm Barn, followed by a chance to dry-out over lunch, after the Eversden drive, then there was al fresco dining at West Rudham and the AGM lunch is still to come.

Neither J—mie Ol—r nor G---on Ra---y were able to attend to write about these happy events. Therefore, we shall rely upon memories and brief notes from the report writers, with photographs from any number of digital

Cameras, as the Club enters the third age of man. You don't know these grades? They are:

Boyhood

Manhood

My goodness you do look well!

New Season Lunch Party, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

On a bright Sunday in February, 41 members of the Club met to have together.

There were vegetarian dishes, but the majority added sausages, mash, peas and beans to the egg mousse, asparagus tart and the red pepper thing or other.

Many members had travelled long distances to be at Church Farm, possibly the furthest West destination of the C&WSDC. All enjoyed lunch, the wine, the cheese and the many desserts, provided as ever by the committee and stalwarts of the Club.

This annual event serves the membership well, to start the Club year, to focus on the new programme, to catch-up after Christmas and to swap news.

Clever attention to décor and presentation, good wholesome food, good wine and a cheery atmosphere made a happy beginning for the year ahead.

20070628/tw



lunch

mushy  
some-



Monday night drinks at  
West Rudham

## Coney Weston Weekend

The Saturday drive took us along tracks through the Euston Estate and across towards Knettishall Heath. A RUPP took us between open fields, past Heath Cottage and onto the perimeter track of the old airfield. Left down another RUPP to Fen Street and right past the little thatched church and back to Coney Weston.

We had lunch and let the ponies relax on their tethers. Terence and Liz returned home as did Ben and Davida. Shirley called in during the afternoon. We prepared for the barbeque and were joined by David Weir and Becky Willcox and the two children to enjoy a warm evening.

During an enthusiastic game of football with the children Sallie was unfortunate to slip and injure her wrist. Scrivy and Cynthia also joined us for the BBQ.

### Sunday

After a painful night Sallie and Pat returned home with a 'combined driving' effort and after settling Sandy in his field Pat took Sallie to A & E where a fractured wrist was diagnosed alas.

David set off to Helmingham Hall to attend a vintage car rally. Meanwhile clues for the treasure hunt were set out— illustrations portraying war time songs Glen Miller had played in the big black hanger on Knettishall Airfield during the war.

Mouse and Mark arrived and everyone set off armed with a map, answer sheet and pen. Joshua joined Angela.

Well done Eunice and Wally, they found all 16 clues and had 15.5 correct answers scoring 31.5 points so they now have the Crinkly Bottom Trophy

- 2nd Jeff and Gwen with 29 points
- 3rd Sarah-Jayne and Graham with 27.5 point
- 4th Angela and Joshua with 23 points
- 5th Mouse and Mark with 20 points
- 6th Sandy and Ian with 20 points

Sandy and Ian could not complete the competition as they had to return home to prior arrangements.

### Cones course

- 1st Mouse with Jake clear
- 2nd Wally with Winston 1 down
- 3rd Eunice with Winston 1 down
- 4th Mark with Jake 2 down

## Attendance

### Saturday

Sallie and Pat with Kelly  
Terence and Liz with Pebbles  
Ben and Davida

### Sunday

Sallie and Pat with Kelly  
Terence and Liz with Pebbles  
Ben and Davida  
Ian and Sandy with Dan  
Sarah-Jayne and Graham with Tatty Ann  
Wally and Eunice with Winston  
Gwen and Geoff with Comet  
Angele and Maureen with Carrie  
Mouse and Mark with Jake



Eunice, Wally and Bruce at East Walton



A perfect scale model of a set of pleasure driving harness being expertly demonstrated by Gwen, with Eunice waiting in the wings with her excellent show harness ready to be displayed. Well done everyone for taking part and being such good sports. If you ever wondered what happened at West Rudham in the evenings—now you know.



## The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

The rainy season did not impair the party spirit although it did alter the proposed programme a little. Welcome drinks and canapés in the garden were reorganised to a hastily cleared and decorated garage, before entering the barn for dinner. The barn had been carefully lit, the decorations were silver and purple, and there were balloons and lanterns and beautiful flowers.

The effect was warm and inviting.

Members and their guests, 59 in all, enjoyed a buffet of smoked salmon, ham and a vegetarian dish. There were a variety of salads prepared by members. Wine from Italy chosen by Ian was a great success. After profiteroles and strawberries a more formal part of the celebration began.

Lady Iveagh had given a special cake. It tasted as good as it looked. The Club has had seven chairmen over 25 years; they were all present and joined together to cut the cake. There was a further change of wine!

Shirley toasted the Queen, Maureen the Club, Eunice the Chairmen and members of the committees over the years, Colin the members and Terence the horses and ponies.

Ray entertained the party with his Punch and Judy and then he (on saxophone) joined Geoff Batty (at the piano) and his guest Clare Bishop (saxophone) to play a splendid medley of numbers on an equine theme.

Mark's pictures add clearly to this report and give atmosphere.

The next day, after the morning drive, planned by Judith and Richard, 30 members had lunch in the barn, before setting off home after a wet but happy weekend.

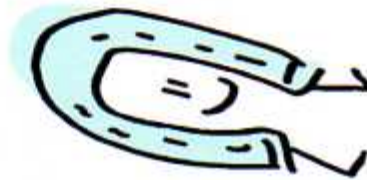
There is a Chinese saying; it may have lost something in translation from Cantonese, but in spite of this, it would serve the Club well:

How pleasant it is to dine with nice people  
How pleasant it is to wine with nice people  
How pleasant it is to sleep with a contented mind.

20070919/tw

Answers to Quiz Know Your Horses  
no. 3 Colour and Markings

1. A list is a black stripe down the back from mane to tail. It can extend into the mane.
2. Norwegian Fjord ponies.
3. 'cr' is the abbreviation for cream.
4. 'Odd-coloured' have patches of more than two colours.
5. These are ermine and zebra.
6. Stripe.
7. Blaze.
8. Snip.
9. White face.
10. Palomino.
11. Blanket Spotted.
12. Frost.



So, 12 points available there. 14 available last time (December 2006) Keep your total. Add up all the hidden horseshoes. Add everything together for the Great Prize Giveaway at the AGM.

Know Your Horses

No. 4 Showing

1. Which lamp does the box of matches go in?
2. Should you whiten your whip?
3. What colour are driving gloves?
4. Should a male groom wear a top hat or a bowler in a gig?
5. Can a groom wear a buttonhole?
6. Is it acceptable to put the whip in the holder if you don't

need it in the ring?

7. In the ring the competitor in front is going too slowly for you. Is it ok to smile politely and overtake ?

8. Do social passengers need gloves?

9. Do social passengers need an apron?

10. Why should candles have been pre-lit?



## CLUB WEEK AT EAST WALTON

29 JUNE TO 6 JULY

As with years before, the C&WSDC brought the rain with it to East Walton. Fortunately, thanks to Ray and Linda's ingenious tasks all were kept entertained when driving was rained off. Wally's emotional tale of Bruce the rabbit accompanied by Eunice's brilliant puppet kept us all entertained after dinner one evening. Puppet making being just one of the many and varied tasks for the week. Other activities included leaf identification and drawing as well as "show and tell", which produced several examples of some type of leaf mould as well as various insects! A league table of points accumulated over the course of the week saw Maureen and Angela victorious. Well done.

Yes there was time for some driving too! Days out included visits to The Stag at West Acre which always involves a splash through the fords; Castle Acre and a visit to the newly opened Dabbling Duck at Great Massingham (huge sandwiches!).

Eunice and Wally kindly provided a cones competition on the Thursday. This produced a highly competitive drive-off between Ian with Dan and Graham with Tatty-Ann attempting to shave seconds off each other's times around the course. In true sporting fashion, the "boys" groomed for each other though, as Sandy and Sarah-Jayne wimped out! Ian and Dan were eventually victorious.

In the afternoon, Graham and Sarah-Jayne set out a small treasure hunt around the Abbey Farm tracks. This was won by Geoff, Gwen and Comet, the only ones to find all 10 clues. Maureen and Angela won a special "booby" prize for taking over twice as long to complete the route as everyone else, causing us to fear they were lost. Search parties were dispatched.

This was our first stay in Abbey Farm's new holiday cottage and proved most successful. It was good for everyone to be together and not spread across East Walton and Castle Acre as in previous years. Exploring the many and varied routes around the West Norfolk countryside whetted everyone's appetite for the West Rudham holiday later in the year.

This was our first stay in Abbey Farm's new holiday cottage and proved most successful. It was good for everyone to be together and not spread across East Walton and Castle Acre as in previous years. Exploring the many and varied routes around the West Norfolk countryside whetted everyone's appetite for the West Rudham holiday later in the year.

**Attendees:**

Maureen, Angela, Carrie and Cassie

Geoff, Gwen and Comet

Ray, Linda and Millie

Ian, Sandy and Dan

Ben, Davida and Pip (with Nippa)

Graham, Sarah-Jayne and Tatty-Ann (with Poppy)

Eunice, Wally and Winston (with Jake)

Terence, Liz and Pebbles (for a day visit)

Judith, Richard and horse (for a day visit)

Shirley and Chloe

Mouse and Jake (for a few days)

Sarah—Jane



Angela, Maureen and Hissing Sid at East Walton

Some Photos from the Spring Lunch





Thank you to Terence and Liz for the lunch and the lovely pictures. It was a wonderful day.



Remember the questionnaire from Elaine? This is the response in case anyone has not seen it. Perhaps there will be other events to look forward to.

Hello there,

Thank you so much for returning your questionnaire; I had over 80 returned to me. I shall be counting up who wants what and organising like fury! So keep an eye out for new events in the next newsletter. I will also send details of events to those of you who kindly supplied an email address.

The first of which is ....

Vanessa Francis is putting on a drive in Suffolk at short notice. It will be part on road and part off road. It will be on Sunday Sept 9th, starting from Snape Crown Pub 11-00am.. There will be tea and cake afterwards. Please contact Vanessa on 01728 688638 or email her on [vanessa@cundlegreen.com](mailto:vanessa@cundlegreen.com) for further details and to let her know numbers going. Kindest regards Elaine



The day the bottom fell out of Wally's world  
Magdalen Fun Day

## BOXWORTH DRIVE - SUNDAY 29TH APRIL 2007

After a week of warm sunny weather, Sunday 29th April dawned grey, misty and rather breezy. Even the sheep weren't inclined to socialise with the horses, but rather stayed huddled together (for warmth?). Under-terred, everyone set off suitably clad and prepared for a bracing drive. Although, misty to begin with, the hazy yellow hue of the oil seed rape gave the impression of a sunnier day.

Groups of twos and threes set off at leisurely paces and followed the route across farmland, through woodland and past the beautiful gardens at Childerly Hall.

As the 'front runners' reached Battlegate Road they were greeted by a couple of Club members who provided refreshment for horses and drivers. Sadly, by the time the back markers arrived stocks were exhausted and the audience departed (probably to have their own lunch).

By lunch time the sun had broken through and people, ponies and sheep were happy to graze together.

Another pleasant drive over the gentle undulations of rural Cambridge-shire.

Eunice and Wally with Winston  
 Liz and Terence with Pebble  
 Jeff and Gwen with Comet  
 Richard, Linda and Jack with Chester  
 Richard and Judith with Sonny  
 Rosemary and John with Miranda  
 Howard and Margaret with Bess  
 Maureen and Angela with Carrie  
 Cathy and grand daughter with Flora  
 Mouse and Lulu with Jake  
 Ian and Sandy with Dan

Sandy Collinge

Bruce, Captain Webb's Jelly Fish (Davida and Ben), Hissing Sid, and Millie (Mouse and Shirley) in the footlights.



### ONLY HORSE PEOPLE

Believe in the 11th Commandment: Inside leg to outside rein.

Know that all topical medications come in either indelible blue or neon yellow.

Think nothing of eating a sandwich after mucking out stables.

Know why a thermometer has a yard of yarn attached to one end of it.

Are banned from Laundromats.

Fail to associate whips, chains and leather with sexual deviancy.

Can magically lower their voices five octaves to bellow at a pawing horse.

Have a language all their own ("If he pops his shoulder, I have to close that hand and keep pushing with my seat in case he sucks back".)

Will end relationships over their hobby.

Cluck to their cars to help them up hills.

Insure their horses for more than their cars.

Will give you 20 names and reasons for that bump on your horse.

Know more about their horse's nutrition than their own.

Have neatsfoot oil stains on the carpet right next to the TV.

Have a vocabulary that can make a sailor blush.

Have less wardrobe than their horse.

Engage in a hobby that is more work than their day job.

Know that mucking stalls is better than Prozac any day.

Thank You Sarah—Jane ! We like that.

### West Rudham Holiday

Eunice Binder

West Rudham Holiday 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

Another glorious week, in the heart of Norfolk, now falling into a pattern of favourite drives, communal meals and sleeping under the stars for some. Whatever your choice. A pony that will tether is a great advantage for this holiday. Our accomplished cooks take it in turn to provide sumptuous evening meals in the cottage, (blackberries feature largely in the puddings.) Mid-week, and we picked a superb evening, Wally, Eunice, Ben and Davida hosted a trout supper in the field round the log fire. David Weir and

Bunty joined us this year. The sky at night was just magnificent as we made for our beds. The days are spent planning our drives and venues to visit, usually in small groups to avoid congestion. The green lanes, disused railway lines and the Peddars Way form cross country links to fabulous locations. One can picnic on route in fields eg. Tatterford Common or on the back road to New Houghton deer park (crossing the busy A47 at Coxford) for miles of tracks and quiet roads. Places of interest with tethering for the ponies are Sculthorpe Mill with its mill pond ford; West Walton Stag, good basket meals outside; Great Massingham, huge sandwiches from the pub or a cup of tea from the post office; or the delightful Bircham Windmill, superb pasties from their own bakery, with displays of country life history and latest environmental technology. All can be reached with the minimum of roadwork. Linda and Ray gave us one task for the week. To make a set of harness to fit the wooden pony Ray had made. Three attempts were presented for judging on the Thursday evening; Exercise from Gwen, Competition from Maureen and Angela, Show from Wally and Eunice. Prizes were generously awarded for each category. There is always something to do! Even swim in the evenings before supper, having put the ponies to bed. Friday night we enjoyed a meal together at Sculthorpe Mill (by car this time) arranged by Sarah-Jane and Graham. Some retail therapy was also available at the very good tack-shop discovered in the village of Sculthorpe. Well worth a visit.

Many thanks to Sandy for organising the whole week's accommodation with all the comings and goings. Hats off to Ian for the ingenious stile and rope gate, both of which made access to the field much easier.



Dan, Sandy and Ian at the Magdalen Fun Day

Well, Sandy is enjoying herself, even if Ian is too busy concentrating.

Linda and Ray with Millie, Eunice and Wally with Winston, Ben and Davida with Pip, Sarah-Jane and Graham with Tatty Ann and Ethel, Jeff and Gwen with Comet, Maureen and Angela with Cassie and Carrie, Liz and Jonathan with Holly, Shirley with Chloe, Mouse with Jake, Liz and Terence with Sylvie.



Looks easy? Jeff, Gwen and Comet show how it is done at Magdalen.

#### Do Not Read This:

What do you call a one-legged donkey? - a wonky.

What do you call a one-eyed, one-legged donkey? - a winky wonkey.

What do you call a piano-playing, one-eyed, one-legged donkey? - a plinky-plonky winky wonky.

What do you call a piano-playing, one-eyed, one-legged donkey at Fat Dan's speak-easy? - do you really want to know? -a honky tonky, plinky plonky, winky wonkey.

I told you not to read it.

*Thank you to all of you for making it a super driving year for everyone and a special thank you for all your contributions to the newsletter.*

*Have a wonderful Christmas and a Festive and Prosperous New Year.*