



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 2nd 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, 25th 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, 28th 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.

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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 25th Anniversary Dinner, 18th 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.

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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

