



I can't believe it is 3 months since I last sent out a newsletter, time flies, as they say.

I will start with some great news. Our 'little' club is growing fast, and we now have 72 paid up members which includes almost double the amount of turnouts enrolled in recent years. This has been helped greatly by a two-pronged assault on the world at large. Firstly our efforts at Strictly Come Driving last April where we attracted a lot of interest and new members and secondly our increased publicity through articles in equine publications and on various websites. All thanks to those who have helped Poacher get into this happy state.

We have had a mixed start to the season, our first event was cancelled due to an inaccurate (as it turned out) weather forecast, which was disappointing to say the least.

Many thanks are due to the 2 members who turned up to help our coursebuilders Mike Charlesworth and Mike Lawson on the Make Do & Mend Day. They got lots done, but much more would have been achieved if more helpers had turned up. The 2 Mikes have a bit more making and mending to so, so if you are free for a few hours to lend a hand, give them a ring.

However, our first outdoor event, the Training Day at Swinderby, on 6th April was a roaring success and all participants felt they had received valuable (and even invaluable) advice and coaching from our 2 trainers for the day Phyl Woodland on dressage and Sue Mart on obstacles and cones. Incidentally, Phyl reported that, overall, the standard of everyone's dressage movements were quite a lot higher than last year. This training is being repeated on 18th May at Ben & Jane Smith's property at Swinderby nr. Lincoln. I attach an information sheet and entry form for those who are not on the internet, but it can also be downloaded from the website.

We shall be putting up our stand at Strictly Come Driving again this year on 13th April at Arena UK, so try and visit the event, which promises to have grown even bigger and better .

One of our members, Sian Penney is going on a trek to raise money for the British Heart Foundation by walking across the Inca Trail in Peru. The walk starts with Sian flying out on 10th May for 10 days and then she will be walking between 40–50k at altitudes reaching 4500m above sea level. Quite a task. Hats off to Sian, who has asked me to thank all those members of the club who have so generously sponsored her for this trek and also to remind

anyone who hasn't yet sponsored her that its not too late to do so, even after the event. If she has enough strength left to take it off you!

Any photos taken at recent events will be welcomed for the website, please send them in jpeg format so that they can be easily transferred and also please give some info about the subject of the picture e.g. venue, name of driver & groom and also of the horse. On this subject we have been approached by a professional photographer about coming to some of our events and taking pictures, which would be for sale on the day. Negotiations are still taking place, but this could be the opportunity for you to get a really good picture for the wall at a reasonable price. Further details when I know which events will be attended by the photographer.

Finally, please can I ask you all to get your entries in within the closing dates and also to do your best to round up some stewards for forthcoming outdoor events. No stewards, no event! Our Friends of Poacher base is small and needs to grow, tell your friends and family about what a great time you have at Poacher events and persuade them to come along and give a hand, there are lots of jobs on an event day that everyone can help out with. For £5 a year they can be part of this growing, fun club. The more Friends we have, the less we have to call on each one during a season, and we all like to have lots of Friends, don't we?

See you all soon

Your Editor