

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



NEWSLETTER

May 2007

"Horse Power was a wonderful thing when only horses had it!"
Anon

Welcome everybody. I hope your driving season is getting into its stride nicely.

Our venture at Arena UK on April 15th was a great success, we got our name and our faces noticed by a lot of people and we were delighted to have gained some new members as a result. Welcome to you all, you are helping Poacher go from strength to strength.

We have introduced a "buddy" system this year for new members, which basically consists of assigning an established member to a new member who will be their initial point of contact. This will enable them to have at least one member whose name they know and who they can chat to or ask for information. Lets face it, we have all been in situations where you are the "new kid on the block" and don't know anyone's name and anyway they are all too busy doing their own thing to come over and talk to you. You are left wondering and sometimes floundering in a strange environment. We hope to help to overcome this initial stage by having a friendly face to whom new members can turn. This system is intended to run for the season, or until the "newies" have made enough other friends to not need a buddy especially looking after them. As you are all such a friendly lot, it shouldn't be necessary, but just in case.... please take time to introduce yourself to other members new and old as it is a shame that such a small club should contain members who don't know who the other members are! It is happening already!

Our training day seems to have hit the spot with all of those who attended, and has been just what was needed by our drivers and grooms alike. Many, many thanks to Phyl Woodland, Sue Mart and Market Rasen Racecourse for their generous contributions to the day, the high standard of coaching should pay dividends to all who took advantage of it. We had record numbers attending what has previously been thought of (by some) as a "bit of a waste of time". With 2 obstacles, a testing cones course and 2 dressage arenas available for practice and tuition everyone had time to improve either their weakest skills or just took advantage and practiced

over all three elements. It was even suggested that we should try and arrange another similar session during this season. What would be the reaction to this? Comments welcomed, as always. Contact me via the [website](#) or directly by email.

The recent [Mini One Day Event/Fun Day at Swinderby](#) was great fun and was not ruined because we all got a bit "soggy". This was the first event in Poachers recent history when numbers have had to be limited and we had to say "no more entries, we are full up". Some of our new members did very well and walked away with the rosettes after some very good driving. The novice section was won by Duncan Seth-Smith, 2nd Kelly Wilson and 3rd Anna Mann. The open class was won by Sarah Braybrook, 2nd Frances Norgrove, 3rd Belinda Rees-Evans. Well done to you all.

We are again considering putting on a "Beach Day" – yes I *have* checked that we can get access this time!!! There is also ample parking on site and a set of newly painted and CLEAN toilets by the car park. We could consider taking lunch and having a barbeque behind the dunes after our drive on the sands. We have one or two ideas to make it a bit of fun for horses and people, so if you are interested in taking part please contact me as I will be taking names. We can come to a consensus about the date when I have got a list of interested parties. This won't be a competition, just a social day out with our ponies in a different setting and with like-minded friends. It will, however, attract league points for those who attend. As above, contact me via [website](#) or email.

Please get your entries in early for the One Day Event at Willingham by Stow on June 10th. If anyone has lost their entry form or is unsure which one it is, please check on the web site – entry forms may be printed off from the site by clicking on the underlined date section in the calendar of events. This looks like being our major "trials" event this year with a good, safe route which will be mostly off-road on farm tracks and the marathon element will contain a compulsory walk section. Similar obstacles to last year are being planned, but with a few surprises – naturally! Remember, book your place at this event early to avoid disappointment.

Following quickly on the heels of the Willingham event will be our Cones and Obstacle event on the UK chasers course at Hallington in the Wolds. This unique venue was used for the first time last year, and I think it will again be well attended this year, especially since we are putting in a drive section which was not previously included.

At the time of going to print, Sian Penney's pony Dylan is going to be doing a great service for the Poacher Harness Club this weekend by stepping in at the last minute to save the wedding plans of the daughter of one of our wonderful hosts, Mrs Lucy Fenwick of Beelsby. The Fenwicks' own pony has gone lame at the last minute and plans would have been spoilt except for Sian's generosity in helping out a true Friend of Poacher. I am so glad that we can give something back to this generous family who have hosted our events for several years. If we get the chance to take a picture I will put it on the web-site. Thank you Sian.

Clive and I are in the process of getting a supply of Poacher wear sourced. It will be good quality and at the lowest possible price, so please check it out at your next event when samples will hopefully be available for you to see. Wear it with pride! A small range of inexpensive non-clothing items are also hoped to be made available

during the year. Watch this space. When available, photos and descriptions of items will be on the website.

Just a small piece of information, Team Borman will not be competing this year as our horse Louis has damaged his tendon and is resting. (Sounds like an out-of-work actor!)

Bye for now, Best wishes from your Editor

Angela