

POACHER HARNESS CLUB



NEWSLETTER

November 2007

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

For those of you who were unable to attend the recent AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some of the information that was discussed, and also as a bit of a reminder to those who were there. Your New Committee for 2008 has been elected and is made up as follows:

- Chairman: Clive Borman
- Secretary: Angela Borman
- Treasurer: Sian Penney
- Event Secretary: John Cooke
- Course Builders: Mike Lawson & Mike Charlesworth
- Health & Safety Officers: Mike Lawson & Mike Charlesworth
- Steward Secretary: Sarah Braybrook
- Publicity Officer: Duncan Seth Smith

7 committee members and one co-opted member. 2 members of the 2007 committee are standing down and we thank Ben Smith and Lynne Mowbray for their contribution to the running of the clubs affairs.

It was decided by unanimous committee vote that the Club should have an honorary president who would serve for approximately 3 years. This appointment would give us a figure-head who would be in place for a period of time over and above annual elections and give a feeling of continuity to club members and the public. The President would not form part of the elected committee. The ideal person for this post would be someone to whom members of the club wanted to show recognition to for their long-standing commitment and service to the club and carriage driving in general. To this end, there was total agreement that our first president should be Mrs. Sheila Brookes, who duly responded that she would be delighted and honoured to take the post.

We have taken delivery of a new club box trailer which will replace the old flatbed and we were looking for DEXION to shelve it out so that it can hold all our gear in

one place and keep it dry. We have been very lucky to find a sponsor for all of the materials required which has been very kindly donated by Traditional Horse Drawn Wedding Carriages of Fiskerton. We pass on our thanks to Doug and Linda Harbord for the gift.

We have had an unprecedented 12 opportunities to get together this year and we have also had more events than ever hosted by members on their own premises. Thank you for allowing us to be your guests for the day and for the large amount of effort each host put into "their day". It is this type of commitment that makes Poacher unique. Ben & Jane Smith put on a brilliant show at Swinderby, Mike Lawson, provided us with miles of off road tracks at Willingham, Lynne & Rick Mowbray tested our clue solving ability at Ashby, & Steve Hoyle gave us the "minimus cones course" at Ealand. Following on the heels of this was the brilliant BBQ at Croxton, thank you Julie & Keith Gallimore. If anyone wants to host an event next year, please let us know and we will take you up on the offer. We have again been invited to take part in Strictly Come Driving at Arena UK on 13th April, this was a great success for Poacher last year and I hope that it will be just as good in 2008. Nearer the time, perhaps during March, we would be grateful to receive offers of assistance to run the stand again.

Our loyal stewards were thanked for their contribution, which has allowed the rest of us to be able to compete. On this note I should point out that we need to get down to finding friends who are willing to help us by stewarding at events. If each member comes up with one name we will have so many helpers that we will only need to call on each one occasionally. Please try and "chat-up", plead, coerce someone you know to give it a try. We will run a stewards training day in April or May and give them all the help that they need. Without them, there will be no events next year, its as simple as that.

The committee will be working hard to put together a programme for 2008 and it is hoped that this will be ready to be circulated early in the new year, along with membership renewal forms.

As I receive your completed membership applications for 2008 I will be sending out your Drivers Handbook – please take the time to read it COMPLETELY. It contains the rules under which we operate, and which MAY differ from those of other clubs. Quite a few changes have been made and these are marked clearly in the handbook, such as pneumatic tyres are to be permanently allowed, provided that they meet the Health & Safety standards set by the club and our insurers. Wheel widths are to be set at 125 cm for all phases of all events and the yellow arrow markers are to be used as directional markers only in future.

One major change is that we are delighted to announce that following 2 very successful seasons we are now in a position to reduce our membership fees. We promised to do this at our EGM in 2005 as soon as funds would allow. The overall cost of driver and groom has been reduced by £10 - £35 for the driver and £5 for the groom. Friend membership remains the same at £5. We hope that this will encourage old and new members to join and make Poacher Harness Club bigger and better for 2008.

Another change I should mention is that closing dates for events will now be 2 weeks prior to event day. Please try and get your entries in on time – our phone bills are huge through having to ring members up to find out if they intend competing.

Finally, we are selling off some of our cones in order to replace them with smaller ones to fit the new trailer. Anyone who wants to invest in some can purchase them at £25pr.

Our first meeting in 2008 will be the quiz on January 19th at The Bell at Bishopbridge. Entry fee will be £5 which includes entry to the quiz and a hot buffet.

REMINDER: Membership Fees are due on 1st January – please find attached a membership renewal form.

Your Editor

Angela