



EACDG News

July 2010

The newsletter of the East Anglian Carriage Driving Group Ltd – for members and friends

Enter Euston now – 31 July – 1 August!

There's still time to enter our two-day event at our most venerable venue, Euston Park, if you're quick. We've extended the closing date to Saturday, 24 July, so drivers, **please get your entries to Mike Watts now!** You can enter online or send a completed entry form with a cheque, payable to EACDG Ltd, to reach Mike by Saturday. We need your support to keep this event on the calendar.

This year the event is being run by David Taylor. There will be a catering trailer there on Saturday and Sunday.

Report; Sandringham Club... 26-27 June

As promised, this was a memorable event. We had our own stable field next to the main water obstacle, separate from the national event (although you could go and park Over There for £50), and, once the Estate had decided where they wanted us, it worked well and there were no complaints about the longer walk to the loos. The Estate tap-installer put in some extra taps and we were all happy.

It was hot, so Technical Delegate Mark Ingham and Scheduler Mike Watts added an extra five minutes to the halt and discounted time penalties on section E. There were very few drop-outs attributed to the heat but it was a reminder that horses and ponies have to be fit. Section E might look like a stroll in the park but those obstacles are long and technical – assuming you can remember them – and the innocent-looking loops between them are surprisingly tough. Everyone who had a go at the obstacles gave their best and, if it was your first attempt, I think you should feel pleased – they are daunting.

Our biggest surprise was in the cones course. Moan, moan, moan, "It's too difficult!" went a number of drivers after they'd walked Mike Watts' challengingly original yet flowing course. Strangely, after they'd driven it, they were all smiling... Out of 37 competitors there were 13 double-clear rounds (no balls down and no time penalties) with all the horse novice qualifiers managing this feat. Usually about 10% of drivers do this so over a third achieving it was astonishing. Wiser heads than ours believe it could be down to people concentrating harder... it did not seem to detract from anyone's enjoyment, fortunately.



Clare Iveagh

Competition was tough, but not so tough that fellow pony team driver Danielle Twitchen could not lend a spare shackle to Clare Iveagh at the halt, so she could continue.

Single horse classes were the most popular, with 16 entries. Pre-novice Terry Bailey's first season is going well so far and he enjoyed completing the whole event, ending on a good score, 133.30. Novice horse class was won by Lisa Banks, 133.73, her dressage winning the day over Dale Ablitt, who was only 0.65 penalties behind her in the marathon. Ellen Littlechild stormed to another NQ horse win, 96.22, over battling Sue Hargreaves, 99.86. Visitor Matt Were was third, 107.35. Lindsay Tyas followed, winning the coveted entry to the novice class at the National Championships, then Hannah Kelly. Lindsay and family raised over £400 with their raffle for sending her to the para drivers world championships at Breda, September. Open horse class was topped by Ben Grose, 107.29, with an opening salvo of 38 in dressage: best of the day. Zoe Morgan was in hot pursuit, beating Ben in the marathon, ending on 115.50. It was nice to welcome back Jeff Bannister, 146.23, just managing to stay in front of Bill "Dennis the menace" Dagge, 149.93.



Alice Pritchard

Hot to trot in the single pony classes was Charlotte Snow, NQ class winner over fastest-marathon (53.53) Alice Pritchard, ending on 101.96 and 115.83 respectively. Sadly Emily Ham withdrew owing to an injury to her pony.

Lorna Gordon was the only survivor in pre-novice pony class, Marisa Pinnock getting the big E and Katy Garrett's carriage breaking a spring on the bridge, no 1. Novice pony winner was Cathy Gilbert, 126.80, over Adrian Macleod. Ann Davey took the open pony class, 109.83, and welcome returner Kerry Copas took second place, 121.10, Judith Broom was third and Dierdre Luff fourth. Sharon Redfern stormed the marathon but, unlike her, was eliminated.

Multiples: Mark Bell's pony tandem was eliminated on the marathon, uncharacteristically, which gave Tabitha King the red ribbon. Barbara Kingsley-Monks took the pony pairs red rosette home leaving Fiona Powell 0.64 penalties behind with the blue and Steph Byrne with yellow. Danielle Twitchen's pony team's first outing gave

them a win over Clare Iveagh. Janet Sycamore's miniature Shetlands want to compete against some friends. Come on, littlies – get out there! Janet had her work cut out as she also provided and organised the refreshments and lunches for the judges and stewards over the weekend.

“Thank you” to all our magnificent stewards, thoughtful judges and good-hearted stewards – and everyone who helped at the event in any capacity: to put up stuff, take down stuff and pack away stuff, too. Your committee really appreciates your efforts: we can't do it without you. (Competitors, don't be shy: please ask if there's anything that needs doing whenever you can? It all helps...)

The scores were out quickly, thanks to Annette Bond with help from Mike – and I scooted round after the last driver to get the scores in. Christopher Bond provided the box in which to put the computer: when it's very sunny, it's impossible to read the screen, which slows things down.

We had a good-humoured gathering for the presentation of rosettes and everyone left their stable areas clean and tidy so we are hopeful that we will be invited back next year.

See the EACDG yearbook or view the Events page on our website for schedules, full results and more details. You can enter online or send a postal form – download from the website or please call Mike if you have problems. Start times, obstacle and cones maps are posted on the forum in the week before the event. If you want these posted to you, please send Mike a sae with your entry.

Report: Elveden Ecstasy... 22-23 May



Bev Page

“Yummy hog-roast” might be one of the answers you'd get when you asked anyone who went to Elveden what they enjoyed most. Those who went primarily for the horse driving were equally fulfilled, enjoying a rare warm weekend, good class sizes and a well-stewarded course.

A group of us had gone there a week before to design the course and obstacles and Clare Iveagh and her team helped with planning routes, clearing obstacles and stumps, obstacle decorations, putting up signs and doing lots of other essential tasks. Deano Smith of CRS Carriages and Frances and Ian Collings of Jack-in-a-box brought their trade stands and supported the event with prizes, Frances taking part, too.

Arena 1 was behind Elveden Hall, among the cedar trees, and arena 2 was in the park next to the practice arena and near the cones course, which was on an interesting slope. There was one new big-bale obstacle next to the stable field and the water obstacle had an exciting new

“canyon” extension. Last year I thought Elveden was one of the best venues I've been to – and now it's even better!

I'd invited our neighbours to watch and they arrived just as I was about to drive the cones course. They'd never been to anything like this before and they enjoyed seeing us and many others for a couple of hours before indulging in an elegant lunch and a shopping opportunity in Elveden. They have been telling everyone in our village about it. Why not invite your neighbours and friends to come along and watch you? It's free, exciting and unusual entertainment for all the family. We need to promote our sport and it's always more interesting to watch when you know someone taking part. (A recent football tournament might support my case?) Yes, we might even recruit more stewards eventually (*subtle?*)



Top, Andrew Williams; Liz Harcombe disappears into the new Elveden Grand Canyon; Wendy Wadsworth

Saturday night: after Mark Ingham's technical briefing on the lawn outside the Hall there were 11 bottles of champagne for the class dressage winners, generously donated by Lord and Lady Iveagh. The twelfth winner, Charlotte Snow, won a £30 voucher kindly given by Deano Smith of CRS Carriages. Lord and Lady Iveagh also hosted

a most enjoyable Pimm's reception, followed by the hog-roast, which was delicious, with a choice of meals for vegetarians and plenty of puddings to follow. On Sunday each steward took home a bottle of Elveden Estate wine, too, as well as enjoying a sandwich lunch from the Elveden restaurant. Our final presentation was a tad delayed owing to the difficulty of the scorer seeing the computer screen on a sunny day in a white tent with lots of people asking, "Are the scores up yet?" every few minutes – lesson learned, we will dig a cool dark secret bunker for the scorer, Annette Bond, next time. TD Harry Luff worked hard on and off the course all weekend. Janet Sycamore organised the food and refreshments for judges and stewards including a lovely lunch on Saturday in the elegant surroundings of the Hall.

It's such a delight to compete at Elveden that the enthusiasm of our hosts takes the whole experience to new heights. I think everyone went home happy.

Full results on www.eacdg.co.uk. Photos thanks to Andrew Durrell, 07760 182077, and Mike Watts, www.mikewatts.com

Your committee 2010

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If you wish to correspond with the committee, please address your message to the Secretary in the first instance.

Please send any item for publication in the newsletter to Fiona Powell, Secretary, who produces the newsletter on behalf of the committee and club.

No responsibility is taken by the EACDG Ltd or by any individual for any product, service or animal advertised in this newsletter or on the website, nor for the results or effects of following any advice or ideas published.

*Don't know the rules? Get the 2010 BHDTA rule book for £10 plus £2.95 p&p – and read it!
www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk, or call 0845 643 2116:
write to BHDTA, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock,
KA3 5JT*

Newsletter sponsored by Inharness magazine. Thank you also to Elveden Estates, Jack-in-a-box, CRS Carriages and Ashfields Carriage Equipment - www.inharness.co.uk, www.elveden.com, www.jackinaboxcarriagedriving.co.uk, www.crs-carriages.co.uk, www.ashfieldcarriageequipment.com

East Anglian Carriage Driving Group Ltd.

Reminders:

(These reminders of the rules are not aimed at any individual but are intended to help everyone avoid unnecessary penalties!)

Presentation: Don't chew gum (driver and groom). Keep your knees together...

Dressage: You'll be eliminated if your track width (rear wheels at ground level) is under 138cms (ponies/singles). Pre-novices get 50 penalties only.

Cones: Halt and salute the arena stewards and judge(s) at the start before you begin. Wait for the signal before you start and start within 60 seconds.

When you have finished, you can ask what your time was and how many cones you knocked down – if any. Check this against your score when it is published and ask the TD if you have a query. The stewards may be able to tell you the time allowed for your class, too.

The marathon: Your groom should wear the two large numbers on his/her bib, front and back. Don't put the numbers on the carriage.

Section E: If you go off the marked track, you could get penalties. Compulsory flags and arrows are there for your safety as well as to keep you on the correctly measured route. Way-markers – arrows and kilometre markers – should always be to your right.

Obstacles - check that you know where the start and finish flags are, and that you know which direction you go through them. A useful tip is to walk a few dozen metres towards the start flags and then walk through the finish until you see an arrow.

You can walk and/or trot in the last 500m – but don't zig-zag or halt.

Your club needs you! What can you do ?

It takes several days' work to organise an event and a large team of people work hard "on the day". Because our events are popular, we need more people to help behind the scenes if your event organisers are to survive to the end of this season. Firstly of course we need competitors, so we aren't asking anyone not to compete – but could you help at an event?

Things like – putting up (and taking down) the tent, the signs inside and outside the venue; taking lunch and refreshments round to the stewards on Saturday and Sunday; helping to put together the dressage paperwork, checking clocks, radios, diagrams, flags... all need to be done but in themselves they aren't big jobs. There are lots of small tasks which don't take much time but which we need a reliable, responsible person to do. Score collecting is very important, as is writing for the dressage and presentation judges, but some of these jobs can be shared, it just needs a bit of teamwork – it can be fun and there are useful opportunities to learn, too.

If a few more people would help at events, especially with the clearing up after dressage and cones and at the end, it would make a big difference to the organisers. Please think about what you can do and get in touch with the event organiser before or at the event or we may have to run fewer events next season!

“Thank you!” 😊

to everyone who's helped us so far this year. We really appreciate your time and we hope you've enjoyed yourselves.

Our next events are:

31 July-1 August – Euston, near Thetford

18-19 September – Ashfields, Club Championships

Please come along – and tell your friends!

13 November – Annual General Meeting – all are welcome to attend

Keep an eye on the website and forum for the latest news and for maps and directions:

www.eacdg.co.uk

