

What is the Oaks Driving Club?

The Oaks Driving Club was formed in 1976 by a group of enthusiasts who wanted to provide the opportunity for carriage drivers to meet and show their turnouts locally. Since then, the number and type of activities arranged by the Club has grown, and members compete all over the country. Members include BDS and FEI judges, National Driving Trials competitors and course builders, carriage builders, and a great many ordinary people who just enjoy their horses (or ponies, or donkeys) and welcome the opportunity to have fun with their turnouts.

Having fun is an important part of being an Oaks member, but safety is a priority at all events organised by the Club. Many members hold recognised First Aid qualifications and a First Aid training day is held most years. Training is also offered to drivers, and to Event Stewards to ensure that correct procedures are followed.

Not every Oaks member has their own turnout, in fact some of our most active members don't even drive. Nondrivers are very welcome as Stewards at events. Without Stewards there can be no events a One Day Event needs thirty six of them!

The Oaks Driving Club likes to encourage young people into the sport, and offers reduced entry fees to its events for junior drivers.

With links with the British Carriagedriving (BC), the British Driving Society (BDS), and other local driving clubs, the Oaks stays at the forefront of developments in the world of carriage driving.

No matter what you drive, how little or much experience you have, even if you don't drive, the Oaks Driving Club will welcome you as a member.

Don't delay join today!

What do you get when you join the Oaks?

- The chance to meet like-minded people in friendly and informal manner.
- Training events and other activities arranged exclusively for Oaks members.
- Six newsletters per year which contain information on Club activities and news of members' achievements plus articles on driving, horse welfare and many other topics.
- Reduced entry fees to Club events.

To become a member of the Oaks Driving Club

Send an SAE to the Membership Secretary:
Mrs Pru Wynne-Evans
30 Ersham Road
Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 3LE

Tel: 01323 381613
Email: pruwynne@uwclub.net

Interested in Carriage Driving?



**Join us and
find out more
about this
fascinating sport**

Website address
www.oaksdrivingclub.com

What does the Oaks Driving Club get up to?

A typical programme of events organised by the Oaks in a year might be as follows:

January

Pleasure Drive on New Year's Day, an annual event.

February

Quiz Night at a local pub, with the opportunity to dine beforehand.

Discussion evening with a panel of experts, which could include a harness maker, horse vet, farrier, carriage builder, or a well known National competitor and horse trainer.

March

Annual Dinner a social get together.

Beginners & Novice Indoor Competition

April

Pleasure drive

May

One Day Event

June

Inside Out Competition

July

Inside Out Competition

Training weekend including Mini One Day Event

August

Annual Show

September

One Day Event

October

Pleasure Drive

November

Beginners & Novice Indoor Competition

Annual General Meeting

What is a Pleasure Drive?

A Pleasure Drive is a group of Club members meeting up to drive together. There will usually be a Public House involved somewhere along the line we either drive from one or to one. All the Pubs we go to are most hospitable and give us the use of their car park or garden so that the horses can be tied up while we have lunch. Non driving members are always welcome, and often outnumber those driving.

Road marshals are always on hand to help at difficult road junctions, and to give assistance should the need arise, but these drives are kept as informal as possible.

Every driver will have a commemorative rosette to take home.

And what is a One Day Event?

One Day Events (ODEs) provide the main competitive element of carriage driving within the Oaks. We aim to encourage all members, no matter what they drive or what their level of their experience, if they wish to compete.

An ODE consists of a short driven dressage test, a marathon which involves driving across country and negotiating several 'obstacles', and an obstacle driving competition in which the competitor must drive through pairs of cones set slightly wider than the width of his carriage.

Indoor Driving Trials are run along similar lines to a ODE, the main difference being that the event is held in an indoor arena.

Can only 'posh' turnouts enter the Show?

Anyone is welcome to enter the Oaks Show, and with classes for youngstock, donkeys, Shetlands, exercise vehicles, novice and junior drivers as well as the more traditional private driving turnouts most people are catered for.

It all seems a bit high powered and competitive

Not at all. As well as the pleasure drives which are noncompetitive, we organise a Sponsored Drive each year as our major fundraiser. At our Fun Day the emphasis is definitely on the fun side of driving. Games are played, and the aim is to provide a relaxed atmosphere where friends can get together to enjoy their sport.

What about the Winter months?

The Oaks Driving Club holds many social events during the Winter. These may be informal evenings with horse experts, or maybe quiz evenings. There are also the traditional New Years Day drive which offer the perfect antidote to any seasonal excesses. The competitive element is not ignored in the Winter with Indoor Driving Trials being held which attract drivers of all abilities.