



OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club December 2020

View from the Top

Despite what has been a very worrying and taxing year the Oaks club has managed to hold 11 driving days. It was lovely to get out and about again at Broad Farm after such a long lay off. I was delighted to receive the comment below from Anne Akers-Springham - all our efforts have been worthwhile.

Sadly our training day in November fell to the second lockdown, Sara Howe is keen to come to us so I will try and arrange another day in the new year, priority given to the drivers who had booked and paid for the November clinic.

As things stand at the moment we are very doubtful that we will be able to hold our AGM in February. However if you have any ideas or questions please do not hesitate to contact me - we are always looking for new ideas for events etc.

I must thank Jason Fieldwick for all his hard work, Jason has now stepped down from the committee but will still help course building and is invaluable with transporting our trailers around various events so we will still see him around thankfully.

Finally I wish you all a very happy Christmas - here's to a bright and exciting New Year!

Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN



"Lovely to be out and feel safe"

Anne Akers-Springham
Ardingly competition, October 2020



Next event: 13th March, South of England Showground

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

Please note: These dates and venues are not confirmed and are dependant on Covid 19 regulations in England 2021.

December

Saturday 12th Sara Howe Cones Training
Golden Cross E.C.
Members only
Contact: Liz Howe

March 2021

Saturday 13th Spring Driving Event
South of England Showground,
Ardingly RH17 6TL
(Princes Gate entrance)
Contact: Moira Evans

May

Saturday 8th Show
South of England Showground,
Ardingly RH17 6TL
(Princes Gate entrance)
Contact: Jan Curd

June

Saturday 19th Matchy Matchy World Cup
Hooe Recreation Ground,
Hooe TN33 9HR
Contact: Kevin Jeffrey

July

Saturday 16th Berwick Weekend
Sunday 17th Berwick BN26 6SP
Contact: Liz Howe

August

Sunday 22nd ODE, Broad Farm,
Hellingly BN27 4DU
Contact: Jan Curd

September

Sunday 5th World Cup, Hale Farm BN8 6HQ
Contact: Pru Wynne-Evans
Sunday 26th Accumulator Cones
Priory Court Farm,
Sayerland Lane,
Polegate BN26 6QX
Contact: TBA

October

Saturday Autumn Driving Event
South of England Showground,
Ardingly RH17 6TL
(Princes Gate entrance)
Contact: Moira Evans

visit the website for up-to-the-minute news

www.oaksdrivingclub.com

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in the articles printed in the Oak Leaves are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor of the Oaks Committee.

Autumn Competition, Ardingly

A really enjoyable day was had by all at the South of England showground, Ardingly on Saturday, 17th October. The Oaks Driving Club was delighted with 22 entries, a good number. Masses of space for parking, all on hard-standing, and miles of paths for warm up.

Alison Reilly driving Texas wiped the board, winning every section of her class and finishing with the least penalties overall. They were a joy to watch. Jeni Longley's P & P test was also excellent, as was Alison Bones's. Liz Howe driving Jester smashed the cones with by far the best score, followed by Chris Jupp and Sarah-Jane Williams. Jeni Longley and Pops, who was having his first time out in competition since March, drove the fastest obstacle of the day, one second faster than Alison Reilly and Texas.

There was a huge difference in size between Joanne Beazley-Richards' beautiful black horses and Hope and Sue Nebbeling's mini Shetlands. It is such a pleasure to watch the multiples class and all three turnouts went brilliantly.

I was a little surprised by the drive-in film crew doing their thing in the Abergavenny building but not one of the horses or ponies seemed the slightest bit bothered.

As always a massive vote of thanks goes to the judges, Hilary Hill, Andrea Scott and Robert Pawson, plus stewards and helpers Gordon Mackenzie, Kevin Jeffrey, Joanne McNicol, Carole Whitham, Pru Wynne-Evans and Valerie Hester. Tom Petitpierre as always did his very much appreciated scoring with score sheets for every competitor. Thank you Tom. The catering van did a roaring trade in delicious food and drink, thanks to Jan Curd, Margaret and Ron Middleton.

The Chairman's Choice rosette was awarded to Joanna Beazley-Richards who steered those massive horses competently round the cones and obstacle courses. Best Groom was Lucy Scott. I definitely need her as my backstepper. She was marvellous. Special rosettes were awarded to Susanne Willis and Robert Pawson for all the help they gave on the day - above and beyond the call of duty.

Roll on the next event, again at Ardingly, on 13th March 2021. (Note to self - take a bicycle with me to save all that walking. It is a huge showground)

Moira Evans

Photographs courtesy www.paulorchardphotography.co.uk



Liz Howe



Joanne Beazley-Richards



Alison Bones



Sarah-Jane Williams

ODC - Ardingly 2020

| Class | Novice Pony | Judges | Scott | Hill | Total | Place | Costs | Place | Obs 1 | Obs 2 | Total | Place | Obs 3 | Obs 4 | Total | Place | Date: 17th October 2020 |
|-------|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Jane Cook | | 17.50 | 16.50 | 34.00 | 3 | 60.00 | 4 | 71.00 | 95.00 | 260.00 | 5 | 69.00 | 130.00 | 459.00 | 5 | |
| 3 | Alison Milton | | 16.00 | 18.00 | 34.00 | 3 | 17.00 | 2 | 42.00 | 58.00 | 151.00 | 3 | 46.00 | 35.00 | 232.00 | 2 | |
| 4 | Anne Akers-Springham | | 16.50 | 17.50 | 34.00 | 3 | 67.00 | 5 | 40.00 | 41.00 | 182.00 | 4 | 41.00 | 42.00 | 265.00 | 4 | |
| 16 | Sue Smith | | 10.50 | 14.00 | 24.50 | 2 | 24.00 | 1 | 43.00 | 56.00 | 147.50 | 2 | 45.00 | 61.00 | 253.50 | 3 | |
| 19 | Alison Bones | | 9.00 | 14.00 | 23.00 | 1 | 28.00 | 2 | 39.00 | 36.00 | 126.00 | 1 | 36.00 | 33.00 | 195.00 | 1 | |
| | Intermediate Pony | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Claire Cousins | | 13.50 | 17.00 | 30.50 | 3 | 23.00 | 2 | 38.00 | 39.00 | 130.50 | 1 | 39.00 | 37.00 | 206.50 | 1 | |
| 11 | Sarah de Montaigne | | 12.00 | 13.00 | 25.00 | 1 | 42.00 | 4 | 44.00 | 50.00 | 161.00 | 4 | 46.00 | 47.00 | 254.00 | 4 | |
| 15 | Chris Jupp | | 14.00 | 17.50 | 31.50 | 4 | 14.00 | 1 | 46.00 | 40.00 | 131.50 | 2 | 43.00 | 41.00 | 215.50 | 3 | |
| 22 | Wendy Shorten | | 12.50 | 13.00 | 25.50 | 2 | 37.00 | 3 | 38.00 | 36.00 | 136.50 | 3 | 39.00 | 34.00 | 209.50 | 2 | |
| | Open Pony A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Cheryl Hurle | | 18.00 | 17.00 | 35.00 | 4 | 42.00 | 4 | 46.00 | 44.00 | 167.00 | 4 | 46.00 | 42.00 | 255.00 | 4 | |
| 10 | Donna Simmons | | 14.00 | 12.00 | 26.00 | 3 | 26.00 | 3 | 33.00 | 38.00 | 123.00 | 3 | 35.00 | 33.00 | 189.00 | 3 | |
| 14 | Alison Reilly | | 7.00 | 11.50 | 18.50 | 1 | 7.00 | 1 | 31.00 | 32.00 | 88.50 | 1 | 31.00 | 29.00 | 148.50 | 1 | |
| 17 | Jeni Longley | | 8.00 | 12.50 | 20.50 | 2 | 18.00 | 2 | 35.00 | 32.00 | 105.50 | 2 | 35.00 | 28.00 | 168.50 | 2 | |
| | Open Pony B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Bella Freeman | | 12.00 | 14.00 | 26.00 | 1 | 36.00 | 3 | 36.00 | 46.00 | 144.00 | 3 | 39.00 | 47.00 | 230.00 | 3 | |
| 12 | Liz Howe | | 16.50 | 14.50 | 31.00 | 3 | 7.00 | 1 | 45.00 | 38.00 | 121.00 | 1 | 43.00 | 35.00 | 199.00 | 1 | |
| 13 | Helen Bridges | | | | | | | | W | T | H | D | R | A | N | | |
| 18 | Angela Lydall | | 14.50 | 12.50 | 27.00 | 2 | 24.00 | 2 | 38.00 | 39.00 | 128.00 | 2 | 38.00 | 44.00 | 210.00 | 2 | |
| | Open Horse | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Christine Buckland | | 17.50 | 14.00 | 31.50 | 2 | 38.00 | 2 | 60.00 | 76.00 | 205.50 | 2 | 53.00 | 63.00 | 321.50 | 2 | |
| 7 | Sarah Jane Williams | | 12.50 | 14.00 | 26.50 | 1 | 15.00 | 1 | 45.00 | 48.00 | 134.50 | 1 | 42.00 | 50.00 | 226.50 | 1 | |
| | Multiples | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Hope Nettleing | | 10.00 | 16.00 | 26.00 | 3 | 25.00 | 2 | 38.00 | 34.00 | 123.00 | 2 | 35.00 | 31.00 | 189.00 | 1 | |
| 20 | Sue Nettleing | | 10.00 | 15.00 | 25.00 | 2 | 23.00 | 1 | 35.00 | 31.00 | 114.00 | 1 | 56.00 | 37.00 | 207.00 | 2 | |
| 21 | Josanna Dezaley Richards | | 13.00 | 11.00 | 24.00 | 1 | 49.00 | 3 | 48.00 | 47.00 | 168.00 | 3 | 46.00 | 62.00 | 276.00 | 3 | |

The White Horse

Jodie sighed with relief as she hung the last clean bridle on its hook in the tack room. Dusk was stealing across the yard and she was tired. Running a livery yard was hard work and all the tasks took so much longer when there was only her to do the work.

She was just putting the saddle soap away when the phone rang. For a moment, she wondered if it was Mum. But it couldn't be - she was in a plane, thousands of feet above the Atlantic and well out of the reach of mobile signals.

Instead, she recognized the voice of Toby Roe from the garage in the village. "There's a man here with a spot of trouble. I thought you might be able to help."

"What with? I don't know anything about cars."

"Don't be daft," said Toby. "I can sort out his car myself in the morning. In the meantime, he needs somewhere to stable the horse he has in his trailer."

"I don't know," said Jodie. "Mum's not hear to ask, but we have got an empty loose box."

"Then let him use it. He says he'll pay twice what you usually charge if you'll help, and you should never turn good money down."

Jodie was sure Mum would say the same. So she agreed and set to work laying a thick bed of straw in the spare stable. She had just finished when she heard the clatter of hooves entering the yard.

She went out to greet her new customer and stopped in surprise. Never before had she seen a horse look so totally dejected. He trudged behind his owner, his head drooping and his feet barely lifting high enough to clear the ground. Despite the mild spring weather, he wore a thick turnout rug which somehow added to the impression of misery.

The man stared at her through narrowed eyes. "So you're the young lady who's going to look after my horse. You look a bit young. Are you sure you know what you're doing?"

Jodie disliked him instantly. But she forced herself to smile and tried to be polite. "Please don't worry," she said. "I may be young, but I'm very well trained. Your horse is in good hands."

"I hope that's true. Only the best is good enough for him." The man's thin lips parted in a cold smile while his eyes glinted with greed. "Very valuable this horse is, very valuable. He's going to make my fortune, he is."

Jodie's dislike grew. No wonder the horse looked

so unhappy with this horrible man as his owner. She walked over to the animal, speaking gentle words of welcome and was pleased to see his head come up a little and his ears prick forward.

Now she could see how beautiful he was. His head was perfectly proportioned, and his ears finely tapered. But it was his coat that took her breathe away. It was white, pure white. There was no way she could call this horse a grey. He was so white he almost glowed.

Jodie took the lead rope and moved towards his stable. "I'll just get him settled with some hay and take off his rug," she said over her shoulder.

"No, you mustn't," shouted the man, as he ran forward and blocked her path. "The rug stays on. I insist on it."

"But he'll be too hot and anyway I'll need to groom him."

"No, the rug stays on," He seized her shoulders and glared at her. "Do you understand? Whatever happens you must not take off the rug."

Jodie pulled back away from his grasp, her dislike for this man turning to loathing. "All right," she said with her heart pounding. "I understand. I won't touch it."

To her relief, after one final reminder about the rug, he turned on his heel and strode out of the yard. She was glad to see him go. He was definitely the most unpleasant man she had ever met.

Feeling calmer now she was alone, she turned her attention to her new charge. He seemed happier now his owner had gone, but he was restless. Jodie stayed with him for a while, soothing and stroking him to try to settle him into his new surroundings. Eventually he turned his attention to his bulging haynet, so she left him and returned to the house for her long overdue supper.

It was late in the evening when she heard him calling, his neighs long and desperate like no other horse she had ever heard. She struggled into her coat and boots, grabbed a torch and ran down the garden to the yard.

She needn't have bothered with the torch. A full moon bathed the yard with pale white light, and she saw him straight away. He had stopped calling and was standing with his head over the stable door, his neck arched and his ears pricked forward.

He was looking straight at her, waiting for her. Was it her he had been calling? Even as that thought formed in her brain, another came,

deeper somehow and unlike her own.

“Yes,” it said. “Come. Help me.”

Unsure if she had imagined it, she went into his stable, breathing in the welcoming scents of horse and straw. He looked even more beautiful in the moonlight, his coat even whiter. But he was restless, kicking at the straps of the rug and biting at the cloth.

As she stepped towards him, he grasped her cuff with his teeth - not viciously but gently like a mother cat carrying a kitten. Slowly he pulled her arm towards the front buckle of the rug.

“You want me it take it. off, don’t you?” she said.

The thought that wasn’t hers came again. “I must be free,” it said. “But I promised. What will he say when he finds out?”

“He won’t come back if you take it off. When I am free, he will know that he has lost.”

Aware that something very strange was happening, Jodie reached out and slowly unfastened the stiff straps. Then she took hold of the rug and, with one sweep, she pulled it to the ground.

As soon as he felt his burden lift, the horse shook himself from nose to tail. It was only as the movement stopped that Jodie took in the full impact of what she could see. No longer

imprisoned by the rug, the mighty wings glimmered in the moonlight as if they were made of moonbeams.

“Pegasus,” she gasped. No wonder the man had said the horse was valuable. He was more than that. He was beyond price - too magnificent a creature to be controlled by man.

Jodie needed no prompting to know what she must do now. As soon as she threw open the stable door, the great horse stepped forward into freedom. She walked beside him to the paddock, her hand resting on his shoulder.

When they reached the open gate, he stopped and rubbed his head against her. “Thank you,” came the thought inside her mind. “You have done well.” He swung his head round, seized a feather from one of his wings and gently placed it in her hand.

Without further pause, he galloped forward. His huge wings flapped once and then he was flying into the night sky. He circled once over the stables as if to say farewell. Then he turned and flew upward towards the moon.

Jodie watched until he was completely out of sight and then still longer, unaware of time. At last, the chill night air forced her to turn back to the house, the feather in her hand glowing in the moonlight as if it was made of moonbeams.

Primary School children writing about the sea

This is a picture of an octopus - it has 8 testicles.

Oysters balls are called pearls.

If you are surrounded by sea you are an island. If you don't have sea all around you, you are incontinent.

Sharks are ugly and mean and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend.

A dolphin breathes through an arsehole on the top of it's head.

On holiday my mum went water skiing and went very fast and fell off. She says she won't do it again because water went up her fanny.

My dad goes out in his boat and comes back with crabs.

When ships had sails they used trade winds to cross the ocean. When the wind didn't blow sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they'd be better eating baked beans.

I like mermaids, they are beautiful and I like their shing tails. How do mermaids get pregnant?

Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting, electric eels give you a shock. They live in caves under the sea where I think they plug themselves into chargers.

Divers have to be safe when they go underwater. Two divers can't go down alone so they go down on each other.

Thank you Tom

We owe a huge debt of thanks to Tom Petitpierre who has managed our finances for several years. Tom has now handed over to Claire Cousens who is fully qualified and working in finance at the moment. I know she will do a superb job.

Tom (I hope) will continues to be our scorer at many of our competitions so we'll still see him around. Thank you very much Tom for your expertise and financial acumen - from everyone at the Oaks.

Copy for the February newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th Jan 2021
Email: elizhowe515527@gmail.com
If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Liz at the above address.



Online entries and membership
www.ihdt.co.uk/oaks.html

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