



OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club

August 2018

View from the Top

What a very busy summer we have had, I can't believe that it's almost time for the club show. The Oaks is one of the few clubs that run a driving show and each year we struggle to get entries. It would be such a shame to lose it. Alongside the funday we have an in-hand and ridden ring to try and boost entries so that the driving show continues. Jan puts a lot of work into the show, do please support it.

Moir's Attelage style event took place at Hooe, everyone enjoys the champagne challenge, plus so many other activities. This was a fun day for all especially as everyone kept their Sunday best outfits on all day. Tina Ray got off to a great start organising an inside/out for the Oaks, she brought in some new judges for precision and paces and Tina has a good following from her indoor friends so it was nice to welcome new people to our club.

It wouldn't be summer without our Berwick weekend, John and I love to see you all driving on the farm and the BBQ is a much enjoyed tradition in the Oaks calendar.



Attelage Champions Helen Bridges and Jason Fieldwick

Andy and Jessie Hunnisett have left the committee, we all thank them for their many years hard work they have done for the Oaks club. Jason Fieldwick is now our course builder and we are pleased to welcome Christina Fowden back onto the committee.

Congratulations to Joanne McNicol who has been selected to represent GB as an individual at the World Para Driving Championships in August. Joanne will be driving Pip Holgate's pony, Texas with Andrea Scott on the backstep. We all wish them the very best of luck.

Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN

NEXT EVENTS: Driving, In-Hand and Ridden Show plus Funday - 12th August, Broad Farm, Hellingly

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Christina Fowden Tel: 01825 890603

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018

August

Sunday 12th Show and Funday
Broad Farm BN27 4DU
Contact: Jan Curd, Jason Fieldwick

September

Sunday 2nd World Cup, Hale Farm BN8 6HQ
Contact: Pru Wynne-Evans

Sunday 23rd ODE Sayerland Lane BN26 6QX
Contact: Jan Curd

October

Saturday 13th Autumn Indoor Event, Golden Cross
Equestrian Centre BN27 3SS.
Contact: Moira Evans

Saturday Drive TBA.
Contact: TBA

March 2019

Sunday AGM, Broadoak Village Hall

Other Events

26 - 27th August Edenbridge and Oxted Show
8th September Romsey Show

Indoor Carriage Driving

Sussex at Golden Cross Equestrian Centre -
27th October, 17th November, 8th December,
5th January 2019, 9th February, 2nd March.

South at Merrist Wood - 21st October,
25th November, 16th December, 20th January
2019, 17th February, 31st March.

Kent at Duckhurst and Saddlesdane -
20th October (D), 28th October (S), 1st December
(D), 3rd February 2019 (S), 23rd February (D),
10th March (S).

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.

Obstacle Training Evening

On Thursday 14th June at 7pm, 23 drivers and their grooms met at Church Farm, Berwick for a free on-foot training evening given by Tina Ray. As most of you will have witnessed, Tina is a past master at negotiating obstacles whether she be driving a single turnout or a tandem. With grateful thanks to Dick Carey for the kind loan of his van and obstacle equipment we soon had an obstacle constructed in the paddock - much to the amusement of Liz Howe's riding horse, Prada who's eyes came out on stalks!

Tina started her instruction with a few minutes on safety, she then got everyone to walk their chosen route through the obstacle, there were several variations, each driver trying to think what would be best for their own animal. Tina went through several different routes describing why she would chose each one and for what size and ability of the animal.

The fun really started when Tina suggested we blindfold Jason Fieldwick and get him to put his trust in his 'backstepper', Huey Reilly. Amongst plenty of giggles Huey talked Jason around the obstacle, very narrowly missing a crash. Donna Simmons then took a turn with the blindfold and Alison Bones 'drove' her through very competently.

There was plenty of time for questions and answers before we all had a cup of tea and some cake and biscuits. As always at Berwick we thank John Hecks for letting us use his farm. Many thanks also to Tina for her instruction, Jan for the refreshments and to Jason for driving the van.

The evening finished at 8.50pm with everyone going home with plenty to think about for when they next drive obstacles.



Jason and Huey prepare to 'drive'



Helen Bridges walking the route she would take for her Shetland pony, Polo.

Attelage

The Mini Attelage-type competition held at Hooe on Sunday, 17th June was great fun thanks to all the competitors and helpers. Hilary Hill had the very difficult task of judging the Presentation. Everyone - whips and grooms - had made a huge effort and looked incredibly smart. This phase was won by Christine Buckland driving Shadow.

The drive went very well and the person who answered most of the questions correctly was Rosie Fieldwick. However, no-one knew that the birds on the Sussex flag are called Martlets. Just saying ...

The cones phase was ably judged by Pru Wynne-Evans. This was won convincingly by Helen Bridges with Rosie Fieldwick in second place. These were the only two to do a clear round, Helen being awarded extra points for driving coachman.

The skills section was won by Helen Bridges with Maggie Harrington in second place. The Champagne Challenge was particularly enjoyed, noticeably by young Rosie Fieldwick (!). Frances Collings was given a perfect 10 for her 20 metre circle, winning this skill. Frances also scored 10 in the control of paces, as did Helen Bridges and Alison Burgess. Maggie Harrington's Tootsie and Frances Collings's new and very smart pony, Harry, went across the bridge beautifully, delighting their owners. Helen Bridges was the winner of the rein back skill and Rosie Fieldwick did a very nearly perfect drive along the wavy line - and this was after having imbibed the alcohol!

Most of the ponies stood nice and still whilst their groom drew a picture of the Queen and the winner of this was the talented artist, Mary Hindle.

After all the scores were added up (not by me I hasten to add!) our Champion this year was Helen Bridges with Polo. A very worthy winner - well done Helen.

Chairman's Choice rosette was presented to Paula Woolgar who not only looked very smart but drove consistently well throughout the day.

So we enjoyed another Oaks event thanks in main to Andy and Jessie Hunnisett for working so hard on the day prior to the competition and on the day itself. Also Liz Howe for taking charge of seeing everyone safely out and back on the drive, Hilary Hill, Pru and my family for judging different phases. Jason Fieldwick for towing vehicles about and setting up and taking down the massively

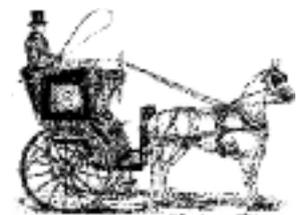
heavy bridge, and Jan, Margaret and Ron for all they did in the catering van - such a lot of preparation and clearing up afterwards. Thank you all.

In conclusion, I was most surprised and tickled pink to receive the Best Groom rosette for standing on the back of Alison Burgess's carriage and cycling along with Helen Bridges. Thank you.

Moira Evans

Presentation:

1. Christine Buckland
2. Helen Bridges
3. Paula Woolgar
4. Frances Collings
5. Rosie Fieldwick
- 6= Teresa Whitehead
Alison Bones



Skills:-

1. Helen Bridges
2. Maggie Harrington
3. Rosie Fieldwick
4. Alison Burgess
5. Christine Buckland
6. Paula Woolgar

Cones:-

1. Helen Bridges
2. Rosie Fieldwick
3. Alison Burgess
4. Christine Buckland
5. Alison Bones
6. Frances Collings

Drawing competition - Mary Hindle

Drive - Rosie Fieldwick

Chairman's Choice - Paula Woolgar



Donna enjoys the 'champagne challenge' with Alison



Helen Bridges



Paula Woolgar



Berwick BBQ, chefs at work. Photo: Terry Woods



Berwick BBQ (a room with a view). Photo: Terry Woods

Vive la différence ...

Bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman: "Which book has helped you most in your life?" The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!!"

A prospective husband in a book store: "Do you have a book called 'Husband - the Master of the House?'" Sales girl: "Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!"

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife - darling, honey, luv. What's the secret?" Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm too scared to ask her."

Pharmacist to customer: "Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill you need a proper prescription. Simply showing your marriage certificate and wife's picture is not enough!"

A man was granted two wishes by God. He asked for the best drink and the best woman ever. Next moment he got mineral water & Mother Teresa.

There are 3 kinds of men in this world. Some remain single and make wonders happen. Some have girlfriends and see wonders happen. The rest get married and wonder what happened!

Wives are magicians. They can change anything into an argument.

Why do women live a Better, Longer & Peaceful Life, compared to men? A VERY intelligent student replied: "Because Women don't have a wife!"

COOL MESSAGE BY A WIFE: Dear Mother-in-law, Don't teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement!

A lady says to her doctor: "My husband has a habit of talking in his sleep! What should I give him to cure it?" The doctor replies: "Give him an opportunity to speak when he's awake!"

Calling all Cooks!

Willing volunteers please for cooking in The Oaks catering van. Only to do bacon/sausage butties etc. No cake making involved. Date required: 23rd September (Sayerlands). Contact: Jan Curd 01323 849615.

Inside / Out at Hooe

On probably the hottest day of the year we ran our Inside/Out competition at Hooe. Superbly organised by Tina Ray who managed to bring in several new faces (lets hope they want to come again!). This was going to be a supersize event with four different obstacles but such was the heat of the day that we reverted to two.

Eighteen entries with a few last minute withdrawals still gave Precision judge Jo Hills and Paces judge Alex Chambers plenty to think about. Sarah Baverstock made light of the precision and paces with the top mark of the day.

The supersize cones course needed forward thinking and accurate driving, Rosie Fieldwick coming out best on a score of 9.

Catherine Walton and Jason Fieldwick drove the fastest obstacle, 3 and 4 respectively on 36 seconds. It was pleasing to see drivers respect the slippery grass especially Susannah Anderson with her beautiful coloured horse, she drove beautifully and it was a pleasure to watch. Sandra Pochin had definitely benefitted from our recent training evening and executed all the obstacles in fine style.

Pru Wynne-Evans had her first experience in the caterings van in Jan's absence and she did a marvellous job feeding the troupes, a seamless transition and organisation at its best. Margaret's cakes were appreciated as always and Ron kept the tea and cold drinks flowing.

Pip Holgate ran a very well supported raffle which raised £81 to be divided between the Kipling RDA and the hospice where Janet Bettel-Higgins spent her final days, a fitting tribute to a lovely lady and well-like Oaks member.

We are very grateful to all the helpers, stewards, judges etc for all their hard work in the extreme heat. Special thanks to Dick Carey who supplied the equipment and to Andy Brazier who spent the entire day in the very hot judges box compiling results. A special well done to Tina on running a great competition - first of many I hope!

Best junior: Rosie Fieldwick

Best Groom: Debbie Fieldwick

Chairman's Choice: Sarah Baverstock

Special rosette: Molly Dowling



Bella and Crispin Freeman with Buttons



Catherine Walton wand her mighty minions



Jason and Debbie Fieldwick on their way to success



Sarah Petitpierre driving Apple



Rosie Fieldwick driving Millie



Happiest driver at the event - Sarah Baverstock

BACS Payments

Please could anyone making a BACS payment make sure to state what it is they are paying for. There is a little box that you can type which event or membership payment. Tom needs to know exactly what the money is for. Account No: 31440500 Sort Code: 40-23-01

Firle Place

There will be a display of carriage driving at Firle Place Horse Trials and Country Fair on 19th August. If anyone would like to take part, please phone Pearl Hudson on 01323 509986 for more information. Your horse will need to be used to driving in mixed company. A cones event will also take place. This promises to be a wonderful showcase of carriage driving for the audience.

Fun at Berwick



Donna Simmons



Sandra Pochin - aka Duchess of Cornwall



Moira and Princess Beatrice



Our wonderful catering team

Berwick Weekend 2018

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Oaks to Church Farm, Berwick and this year was no exception. We started with the training day on Saturday, ten drivers all experienced half hour slots of dressage, cones and obstacle training from Sarah-Jane Cook, Debbie Tatton and Tina Ray. A huge thank you goes to Moira Evans who spent the entire day measuring cone widths and picking up balls - add to this the sun beating down, it was a superhuman effort on her part.

The trainers all worked very hard and all reported that they had seen some very good driving during the day. Andy and spent many hours setting up the obstacles and they all gave drivers plenty to think about.

It was fun and games for Alison Bones, Donna Simmons and Debbie Tatton on Saturday evening as they all camped out in the field. Playing badminton and singing Ed Sheeran songs in between drinking wine and a delicious takeout meal from the Cricketers Pub - great fun had by all.

Sunday dawned even hotter, dressage started at 9am judged by Sheila Petitpierre. We were all very happy to see Sheila back at Berwick - it wouldn't be the same without her!

The fancy dress theme this year was 'The Royal Wedding' and as usual Rosie Fieldwick went to town in grand style. Her Shetland pony is now known as 'Millie Markle' as she was resplendant in a white wedding dress. Sandra Pochin came dressed as Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and much to the spectators enjoyment Moira dressed her pony, Rebel as Princess Beatrice - complete with pretzel hat! An incredible effort was made by drivers and their grooms, especially Pia Khlan who not only grooming for Sandra, also decorated Shetland Bella to driver herself.

Bella Freeman had the best dressage score of the day of 29.5 driving Buttons, closely followed by Donna Simmons and Rosie both on 30.0. The mini marathon started at 11.am so all the horses would have finished competing before the

temperature rose too high. Only one clear round in the cones - Rosie and three drivers on a score of 5 - Moira, Sandra and Donna. Rosie and Tim Bailey drove obstacle 7 the fastest on 49 secs. Donna fastest in obstacle 14 and 20 in 37 secs and 38 seconds respectively.



Rosie Fieldwick - winner of the fancy dress with Millie Markle

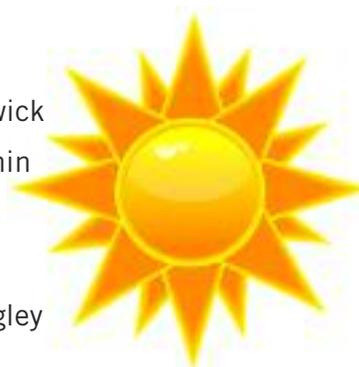
Presentations were made after the marathon, many thanks to Gordon for scoring, all the judges, stewards, trainers, catering team, the committee and our ever helpful band of volunteers. The biggest thank you goes to John Hecks for letting us come and take over the farm for the weekend and his

generous donation of bottles of bubbly for the class winners. He was presented with a collection of house plants for his conservatory.

A wonderful BBQ finished the day. Jan Curd worked wonders producing food fit for a Queen, ably helped in the morning by Margaret whilst Jason and Ron tackled the cooking with amazing efficiency. What a team! Finally thank you to all the drivers and their grooms for supporting the weekend - we hope to see you all back again next year.

Fancy Dress Results

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1st | Rosie Fieldwick |
| 2nd | Sandra Pochin |
| 3rd | Moira Evans |
| 4th | Pia Khlan |
| 5th | Brenda Longley |



Special Awards

- Best Junior Rosette - Rosie Fieldwick
- Top Dressage Rosette - Bella Freeman
- Best Groom - Debbie Fieldwick
- Chairman's Choice - Donna Simmons



Mini ODE Results - Berwick, July 2018

| Competitor Number | Dressage | Cones | Obstacle 7 | Obstacle 14 | Obstacle 20 | Total | Place |
|---------------------------|----------|-------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Open Pony | | | | | | | |
| Rosie Fieldwick | 30.0 | 0 | 49 | 39 | 39 | 157.0 | 1 |
| Tim Bailey | 40.5 | 15 | 49 | 44 | 37 | 185.5 | 2 |
| Bella Freeman | 29.5 | 10 | 55 | 45 | 54 | 193.5 | 3 |
| Alison Reilly | 34.5 | 25 | 64 | 49 | 43 | 215.5 | 4 |
| Helen Bridges | 34.5 | 10 | | | | | R |
| | | | | | | | |
| Intermediate Pony | | | | | | | |
| Sandra Pochin | 34.5 | 5 | 77 | 51 | 65 | 232.5 | 1 |
| Tracey Spencer | 32.5 | 35 | 87 | 47 | 44 | 245.5 | 2 |
| Moira Evans | 34.0 | 5 | 82 | 124 | 53 | 298.0 | 3 |
| Brenda Longley | 31.0 | 30 | 79 | 53 | E | | E |
| | | | | | | | |
| Beginners / Novice | | | | | | | |
| Wendy Shorten | 37.0 | 10 | 57 | 45 | 48 | 197.0 | 1 |
| Alison Bones | 34.5 | 30 | 68 | 50 | 42 | 224.5 | 2 |
| Pia Khlan | 36.0 | 25 | 79 | 100 | 58 | 298.0 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Horse / Multiples | | | | | | | |
| Donna Simmons | 30.00 | 5 | 54 | 37 | 38 | 164.0 | 1 |
| Christina Fowden | 33.5 | 3- | 87 | 59 | 54 | 263.5 | 2 |
| Debbie Tatton | 41.0 | 30 | 57 | 129 | 53 | 310.0 | 3 |
| Christine Buckland | 33.5 | E | 77 | 102 | 64 | | E |
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Congratulations Dick Carey

Carriage Driving Magazine Awards 2018

Pride of Carriage Driving

Winner: Dick Carey

Lifetime Achievement Award

Second place: Dick Carey

Steward/Volunteer of the Year

Third place: Tom Petitpierre

Several members and all the committee of the Oaks voted their favourite person for a wide selection of awards. We are very fortunate to have both Dick and Tom so involved with our club, congratulations to them both.



Here is the nomination from Jan Curd:

Nomination for Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Richard Carey

About 25 years ago, I met what turned out to be a very special chap within the driving world - Dick Carey. Wheelwright, Carriagebuilder/Restorer & carpenter by trade, he took to driving ponies when he gave up hurtling around the countryside competing on his motorbike. My father took up driving when he became disabled following a stroke and through this joined The Oaks Driving

Club in East Sussex where Dick was to be seen driving some combination of pony, be it single, pairs, tandem or team depending on what and how many ponies he had knocking about in the field.

Not long after I first met him, and while he was still running Normanhurst and Brighton national driving trials he decided it might be an idea to keep the ponies/horses "ticking over" through the winter months, by starting a competition, roughly based on an outdoor event but taken indoors. The whole competition would be held over one day with dressage in the morning, followed by cones and driving two obstacles twice in the afternoon. Similar to what went on outside the combined scores produced a class winner.

First held in the South East, it wasn't long before other competitors around the country got wind of this and wanted indoor events themselves and so Dick and his trusty colleagues were travelling far and wide to put these on with a Grand Final being held at Keysoe in Bedfordshire in early Spring. The growth of this competition has been phenomenal with many events putting forward up to 40+ competitors and is now seen as an essential part of winter activities.

Dick remains true to the belief that horse driving should be for all and has seen many young junior equestrians live their dream with his unerring enthusiasm and gentle encouragement by lending and allowing them to make use of his ponies and yard, however busy he is with his day to day business.

As our club president he is very often the voice of reason when contentious points are put forward at our AGM. There have been times at the Indoor competitions when number bibs get forgotten, the timer decides not work or there maybe less stewards than planned, but Dick is the proverbial swan - gliding and paddling madly whilst managing to keep his sense of humour.

He deserves to receive this award as he has devoted many, many years to his love of all things equine and his ability to enthuse others and now reaching a very senior age when looking back on his lifetime must give him a sense of pride and achievement.

Copy for the October newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th Sept 2018
Email: elizhowe515527@gmail.com
If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Liz at the above address.

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The Oaks Driving Club



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Sweatshirts - Yellow embroidered logo on navy sweatshirt. Small, Medium, Large, X Large, XX Large

Polo Shirt

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Showerproof Jackets

Car Sticker - 50p

Contact: Jan Curd. Tel: 01323 849615

MEDI ARMBANDS

Porcelain Mugs £5.00 each or 6 for £25

Badges (metal) £3.50

Hand cut lead crystal glass tumbler with Oaks logo £7.50

10 notelets with white envelopes £2.50

Contact Jan Curd 01323 849615

Cheques payable to The Oaks Driving Club

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