



OAK LEAVES

Newsletter from the Oaks Driving Club February 2018

View from the Top

I apologise if this newsletter seems rather thin this month but as we didn't have our usual New Year's drive, we haven't had an event to report on since last December's newsletter. Do not worry though, this is a mere lull and we will soon be into a very busy programme of events.

There has been a change in the club hierarchy - Moira Evans has taken on the position of Vice-Chairman. Nowadays there is so much computerised work to do for the club and a lot on-line - Moira has experience of this and I'm pleased to welcome her into her new job. We are also very pleased that Tina Ray has joined the committee, she is full of enthusiasm as well as being an experienced and respected driver, she will be a huge asset to the committee.



We will have another Sara Howe clinic at Golden Cross on Wednesday 21st March, this is the second clinic we have been able to run thanks to the training bursary we were awarded from British Carriagedriving. Spectators are very welcome, there is much to be learnt by watching and listening to Sara, she enjoys spectator participation so you are very welcome to come along. The clinic will start at 10am and finish at 4.15pm.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a much loved Oaks member, Janet Bettel-Higgins on Monday 22nd January. Known to most of you, Janet was an incredible lady blessed with both knowledge and patience. She gave so much to the Kipling RDA group and brought on so many new drivers, often at the expense of her own driving enjoyment. To see Janet drive her pony Crumble was a pleasure to watch - she always made it look so easy, and we all know it isn't! Janet will be greatly missed by both the Oaks and Kipling RDA.

I hope to see lots of you at our annual quiz on 6th February at the Berwick Inn. Martin Holgate will again be quizmaster and Pip has been working hard thinking up questions. This is always a fun evening and not to be taken too seriously - the wooden spoons are always received with as much enthusiasm as the winners trophy!

Liz Howe - CHAIRMAN

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Tina Ray Tel: 07515 499408

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018

February

Tuesday 6th Quiz, Berwick Inn BN26 6SZ
Contact: Jan Curd

March

Saturday 10th Spring Indoor Event, Golden Cross
Equestrian Centre BN27 3SS.

Contact: Liz Howe

Weds 21st Sara Howe Clinic. (Full) Golden
Cross Equestrian Centre BN27 3SS.
Contact: Liz Howe

April

Thursday 19th Pub Supper with Veterinarian
Speaker. Roebuck, Laughton
BN8 6BG

Contact: Pru Wynne-Evans

May

Saturday 19th Inside/Out, Burchetts Farm,
Whitesmith BN8 6HA

Contact: Moira Evans

June

Sunday 17th Attelage style competition

Contact: Moira Evans

July

Sunday 1st Inside Out, Hooe TN33 9HR

Contact: TBA

Saturday 14th Training Day, Berwick BN26 6SP
Members only

Contact: Liz Howe

Sunday 15th Open Mini ODE, Berwick BN26 6SP

Contact: Liz Howe

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: TBA

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

March 2019

Sunday AGM, Broadoak Village Hall

Indoor Carriage Driving

Golden Cross, Sussex: 10th February, 3rd March

Kent: 4th February Saddlesdane, 17th February
Duckhurst, 11th March Saddlesdane

Merrist Wood, Guildford: 18th February,
17th March

ICD Championships at Keysoe 6th - 8th April 2018

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.



Millie's Award

Mille Bundle, groom to Danielle Reekie won the Grooms Award 2017. Unable to attend the AGM and receive her award on the night, Jason Fieldwick presented the grooms martingale to Mille at a recent ICD event at Duckhurst. Both Mille and pony, Atom looked delighted!

BACS Payments

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Sort Code: 40-23-01

Norfolk Holiday 2018

After the success of last summers Norfolk holiday, Andrea Scott is proposing to run another one in 2018 during the school holidays. Please contact Andrea on Tel: 01825 733608 to register your interest.

Trevor Roberts - 29th September 1939 - 16th December 2017

Those of us of a certain age will remember Trevor as a very active member of the Oaks Driving club always ready to voice his opinion and give of his time and energy.

Born in 1939 at Finchley after primary school he attended Haberdasher Askes for his secondary education then went on to become an apprentice mechanic at a car manufacturing plant before trying his hand in the car insurance business which was cut short when he was required to do National Service at 18. However, it turned out to be a compelling experience as he managed to get himself into the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery because of his love and interest in horses. Based at the Royal Mews, he met various members of the Royal Family on a regular basis and for the first time all his energies and physical skills were channelled into sleek, skilful and perfect presentations and ceremonies that are still deployed on special occasions to this day.

After his period with the Kings Troop, car insurance didn't wing it! Now married with two young daughters he began to find a niche and worked for George Mossman as a Groom and Showman within the business of driving teams of horses and a wide variety of carriages for weddings, funerals, film work and advertising campaigns. He was often dressed in the full attire required for the event. There was many a tale told of the various escapades that ensued! Rescuing damsels in distress from a lake on a film set, bringing a coach and four to a standstill after bolting away downhill and cutting them free of their harness, there are a number of films where stunts were needed and guess who raised their hand! In such an industry there were unlikely cargos that needed to be transported, one night driving a horsebox he was stopped by the police "What are you carrying there Sir" "A zebra, a sea lion and an orangutan". "Don't get clever with me sunny, drop the door" in the dark of night the sea lion obliged with a big honking sound that made them jump out of their skin. "On your way" they squealed white faced.

After many years in Dunstable the family transferred to Heathfield in the late 70s and although his marriage faltered a combination of different jobs involving JCB's, Dumper Trucks and Skip lorries kept his life action packed. Through his love of horses he met Pauline who as full time groom to Bill and Sue Vine lived on the farm in Ersham Road, Hailsham. Trevor and Pauline went on to share a love of horses, dogs and living on the farm. It was during this time Trevor gave freely of his advice and expertise within the Oaks Driving Club and once seen and heard never forgotten!

Sadly Pauline predeceased Trevor by a few months.

Hilary Hill

First Aid for Horses

First aid action

The aim of first aid is to take immediate action when an injury is discovered, to prevent the condition getting worse while awaiting veterinary assistance.

Prevent further injury by taking charge of the horse and guiding it to a place of safety. Briefly assess any injury and be ready to relay details to the veterinary surgeon. Call the veterinary surgeon and act on the advice received from them. Identify the cause of the injury and take measures to prevent it happening again.

If in doubt, always call the vet. A call to the veterinary surgeon might not necessarily result in a visit. Advice given over the telephone can provide reassurance to the keeper and ensure that correct first aid treatment is given. Calling the veterinary surgeon early is essential. It is a false economy to seek professional advice only when symptoms have worsened considerably. It may cause additional suffering to the animal if attempts are made to treat an injury without due consultation, or if the severity of the injury is underestimated.

Assessing wounds

Cuts and grazes are the most common injuries that are likely to need attention – to stop bleeding and to prevent infection. The type and location of a wound, and the manner in which it was caused, can affect its severity and treatment. It is important to assess the wound quickly and to contact a veterinary surgeon in all cases other than very minor cuts and scrapes.

Veterinary attention is always advisable and is essential if: the horse keeper is in doubt or lacks experience to assess and treat minor wounds • the wound is more than skin deep or more than a few centimetres long • there is a lot of bleeding or the injury involves the eyes or joints • the wound is very dirty and/or difficult to assess • the horse is lame and/or other underlying or internal injury is suspected • the horse has not been vaccinated against tetanus.

Types of wounds

Clean-cut (incised) – caused by something sharp. This can be serious as there is often a lot of bleeding. The edges of the wound appear clean and straight and the wound can be a lot deeper into the tissue than may first appear.

Torn (lacerated) – caused by something hard but blunt, for example barbed wire. The edges of the wound are irregular and jagged, although bleeding is not usually as profuse as for clean-cut wounds.

There may be associated swelling.

Puncture – caused by a piercing object, such as a nail or thorn. These wounds can be far deeper than the external wound suggests and they pose a considerable risk of infection. They are also more easily overlooked.

Grazes (abrasions) – may appear superficial but have a large surface area that poses an increased risk of infection. There is often associated bruising and they can take a long time to heal.

Bruises, lumps, swellings and inflammation (even in the absence of an obvious wound) – can be evidence of an underlying injury, and veterinary advice should be sought.

Types of treatment

The aims of treatment of wounds are to: stop bleeding • cleanse and prevent infection • promote healing (as quickly and effectively as possible). • Inflammation and swelling can be reduced by addressing their cause and by applying cooling treatments. All treatments should be carried out in accordance with veterinary advice.

Bathing

Use a clean swab with warm water (containing a small amount of a suitable cleanser or antiseptic) to gently cleanse a wound. If several swabs are required, each should be used once and then discarded.

Cold hosing

Apply a steady stream of cold water, washed (for approximately 15 minutes at a time) over an injury, to soothe and reduce swelling.

Poulticing

Apply a poultice (hot or cold) to aid treatment. Cold poultices are used to reduce inflammation caused by kicks or knocks. Hot (but comfortable to the touch) poultices are used to increase blood supply to the injury and to help to draw out any infection that may be present.

Types of bandages and padding

Surgical or self-fixing disposable bandages are useful items in the first aid box. They are flexible and can be applied easily to provide support or hold dressings in place on the legs and even on areas (such as joints and hooves) that are more difficult to bandage.

In addition to bandaging the lame limb, an exercise or stable bandage is often applied to the opposing, weight-bearing leg, to provide additional support.

Padding is essential beneath all bandages, to even out and reduce pressure and to provide protection. Gamgee and leg wraps are all acceptable forms of protection for use under bandages.

Bandaging cautions

Bandages must be fitted correctly, to avoid causing permanent damage. They must be applied over the padding, with an even pressure used throughout. There should be no wrinkles in either the bandage or the padding. Care also needs to be taken when finishing the bandage so that it fastens on the outer side of the leg, with the fastening being secure but no tighter than the bandage itself.

Bandages that are either too tight or are left on too long (or where insufficient padding has been used) can cause permanent hair loss or white hairs on the legs. Furthermore, secondary injury to the tendons can occur if bandages or their ties are too tight or if pressure points are caused (from a twist in the bandage or a knot positioned at the back of the leg). Inflammation and bruising of the cannon bone can also result. Loose or poorly applied bandages can be dangerous and cause problems if they slip down.

When removing bandages the horse's leg should be rubbed to encourage circulation.

Taking a horse's temperature and pulse

A horse's normal temperature is 38°C, though this may vary by half a degree either way. The horse's temperature is taken using an equine thermometer (modern digital versions are preferable to mercury-based ones). Care must be taken when performing this procedure. Ideally, the horse should be held by an assistant. After being lubricated, the thermometer should be partially inserted into the horse's rectum and tilted slightly so that it rests against the rectal wall. The thermometer should be held in place for a full minute before being removed and wiped clean. The reading may then be viewed.

The pulse rate of a horse at rest is 30 to 40 heartbeats per minute. This rate increases normally with exercise and excitement, but can also increase when the horse has a fever or is in acute pain. Likewise, the horse's normal breathing rate can also alter, or appear laboured, indicating possible ill health or distress.

The pulse can be taken at the point where the facial artery passes under the lower jaw. When the artery has been located, light pressure should be applied, using the flat of two or three fingers. The number of pulses over a period of 15 seconds should be counted, then this number multiplied by four to obtain the pulse rate. If the horse shows signs of a fever or appears to be in pain, a veterinary surgeon should be consulted.

It is worth practising taking a horse's pulse before the actual need arises.

While golfing, a senior gentleman accidentally overturned his golf cart late one afternoon.

A very attractive, young, female golfer, who lives in a villa on the golf course, heard the noise and called out, "Are you OK?"

"I'm OK, thanks," he replied, as he pulled himself out of the twisted cart.

She said, "Come up to my villa, rest a while, and I'll help you get the cart up later."

The old guy noticed her silky bathrobe was partially open, revealing what appeared to be a very nice figure.

"That's mighty nice of you," he answered, "but I don't think my wife would like it."

"Oh, come on now!" she insisted.

She was so pretty, and very, very persuasive. He was weak.

"Well, OK," he finally agreed.

After a couple of Scotch and sodas, he thanked her and said, "I feel a lot better now. But I know my wife is going to be really upset. So I'd better go now."

"Don't be silly!" she said with a smile, letting her robe fall slightly more open.

"Stay for a while. Your wife won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

He replied, "Still under the cart, I suppose."

Copy for the April newsletter should be sent to Liz Howe by 25th March 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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Contact: Jan Curd. Tel: 01323 849615

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