



# NORTH WEST DRIVING CLUB NEWS LETTER

<http://www.northwestdrivingclub.co.uk>

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Dear Member,

2015 is well under way and although our Driver Challenge Competitions which have run all winter are now completed there are plenty of events in the pipeline for the rest of the season. It has been wonderful to see the Driver Challenge competitors improve throughout the series.

The help of the Dumfries and Galloway Horse Driving Club has, yet again, been invaluable over the six events, the range of competitors and turnouts has been fabulous. We've had every combination of turnout, a tiny Shetland pony in a two wheel exercise cart, speedy singles, flying pairs, slinky tandems and three teams!



Ted Chapman and Tonto winning the Driver Challenge at Nord Vue Equestrian Centre.

We look forward to seeing you at some (or all!) of our events throughout the rest of the season.

Please read the Club News section as there is important information in it.

If you are able to help at any event please contact the person listed for the event and they will be very grateful. More hands make lighter work!

## Dalemain ODE Report –

The first outdoor event of the NWDC was held in the parkland at Dalemain Mansion House, home of the World's Original Marmalade Awards. The event was held in a new area of the parkland which was easily able to accommodate the parking area, dressage arena and cones course. The increased number of competitors were made up of members from County Durham, North Yorkshire, Lancashire and SW Scotland as well as local members from Cumbria. Our lorry with two turnouts and one groom had a total age of 237 years, we arrived with only twenty minutes until I had to be in the dressage arena but we had to deal with two of our loose horses first! The dressage arena was wonderfully level with an added bonus of an encouraging judge who even gave us a high mark for a nice smile! The cones course, although twisty drove well. The course builders had made an excellent job of building 4 obstacles, number 2 and number 4 were quite technically flagged and if you had been on the wine the night before you could have well eliminated yourself. The outward run the marathon went past Dacre Castle and had a wonderful view of Ullswater from the hamlet of Souland Gate, for those who had the time to look. The marathon was not long but a test as to the fitness of your horse and in particular for our groom, who went round twice and had to get down to open 15 gates, some walkers opened the 16th. The weather did not look promising but it managed to keep fine and was perfect for the horses. Congratulations and thanks to the organising and enthusiastic chairman, committee, stewards and helpers. A good time was had by all. It was good to see our Vice President's grandson receive a rosette, the continuity of the club is going to be assured. The '273 years old kids' were delighted to go home with two rosettes but may be it is time that they should start thinking about making marmalade?

From Jean Calvert, still "one of the kids".

## **Diary Dates –**

### **TBC – Training Day, Tebay.**

Dressage and Cones training day with Lynn and Mark Winder. Bring the dressage test you would like help with and work through it piece by piece. Get help with your lines for driving cones with practise cones. £5 for NWDC members, £10 for non-NWDC. Please contact Jen Bernard on 01900 822841 or by email [jenbernard@live.co.uk](mailto:jenbernard@live.co.uk) if you would like more information and notification of finalised date.

### **26<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Show, Dalemain.**

Schedules are now available to download from the website, if you would like a printed copy please send an SAE to Jen Bernard, Ellerbeck Farm House, Brigham, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0SY. Entry fee for NWDC members £5 per class, Non members £10 per class.

### **29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August – Lowther 2DE,**

Entry forms are available from the website, or for a printed one please send a SAE to Jen Bernard (address above). Entries to be sent to Lee-ann Thomlinson, 4 The Lofts, Lazonby, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1BG. Entry fee for NWDC members £45, for Non members £55.

### **17th October – Drive and Challenge,**

Brampton, Appleby, courtesy of Alan Todd. Drive out around the lanes at Brampton, Appleby, then back to the field for a cones and obstacle challenge for those who want it. £5 per head, to include coffee / tea, soup and sandwiches afterwards. To book your place please contact Dougy or Jackie on 01768 881027

## **Club News :**

### **Competitor Insurance –**

As a club we have a responsibility to ensure that all our members have adequate insurance to compete at our events, for the peace of mind of all competitors and organisers. Currently the Club runs its events under British Carriagedriving rules and as such we have noted that in BDS Keyfacts their insurance cover does not cover it's members at any of our events apart from the Summer Show.

British Carriagedriving Associate Membership (or Young Membership for under 21's) Can drive at Club events, National Novice Qualifiers (including those at National events) and Regional Events. Can groom at National events. Has full legal liability insurance at home and at events, 365 days a year. Receives British Carriagedriving Yearbook and newsletters, can vote and attend British Carriagedriving A.G.M. and Conference.

If you have private insurance which covers competition you can compete with us but we require a copy of this insurance with your entry or your entry will be returned.

### **Back/Body protectors -**

As of January 2015 back/ body protectors have become compulsory for both drivers and back steppers at National and Regional level competitions, as of January 2016 they will be compulsory at Club level too. They are not required for dressage and cones or showing classes. If you are a member of NWDC you can take your membership card to Eskdale Saddlery at Longtown and get 10% off body protectors.