

A very big and special **thank you Sally**, who after many years service as Secretary for MDTG has made the decision to hang up her keyboard. Sally has been a fantastic secretary and always brought fun to the committee meetings and these spilled out into her style of writing the newsletters.

Many thanks Sally

May 2011 Newsletter



Congratulations to

Emma & Tony, and Tracey & Andy.

Two new members to MDTG have arrived this spring – looks like we'll need a crèche on site later this year so our drivers can get back into their carriages instead of pushing around baby carriages! Welcome George & Rose

Tutbury

Tutbury set us off to a great start to the season, and thanks to Paul & Ann et al for a wonderful event. Once again a superb event was planned for us to enjoy; everything from a warm welcome on arrival, some of Dorothy's famous puddings on Saturday evening to a dry afternoon to pack up and head off home.

Drivers were invited to take advantage of using a dressage arena on Friday afternoon/evening to practice in, which gave competitors an opportunity to fine-tune their turnout. The sunny Saturday morning started with the pre novice and novice drivers with standards in dressage consistent in their respective classes. Cath Jacobs set the dressage standard for pre novice with her lovely Shetland pony pair at their first MDTG event. Also at their first event in this class were Sarah Clements & Megan Wheeldon; they were joined by Marion Lovelace who is driving a new horse this season. Megan is our youngest driver and drove a competent test and cones course with Skippy. On Sunday Marion took the lead in the marathon and managed to clinch the lead for this class overall. Megan was second in marathon and crept into second place overall ahead of Sarah. Unfortunately Cath made an error in obstacle one which lost her placing. In the novice class there was only 5 points separating the three competitors after dressage, Mick Ward won the dressage but had a cones round that went into double figures! Pam Brown was consistent throughout the competition and settled for second place in each phase. With a slick cones course Jack Brooks was ahead after the first day's competition and managed to maintain this place after marathon. Intermediate class went for quality not quantity and Rosemary Wall & Shane Kitching had each other to compete against –

Don't forget entries close 2 weeks before event– please help by ensuring your entry is in on time!

Rosemary took the lead after dressage and maintained her position throughout the competition. The open single class saw Geoff Kirby take a good lead after dressage but he had an unfortunate cones course which narrowed his advantageous position! Julie Tomasik drove a solid dressage test which she was very pleased with and with a super fast marathon she took the lead overall – Julie was fastest in each obstacle for the whole competition! The multiple classes saw the pairs swapping places during the weekend – Mick Peace won dressage with his usual panache and David Wheeldon taking the blue ribbon, but all changed on marathon and David took the red rosette – all change again for overall as David couldn't make up the difference despite a good marathon score. Tandems had four entries and there was less than ten points between the four after dressage! Richard Fisher drove the best cones of the day, winning him the title of King of the Cones, kindly sponsored by Northern Plan. Rene Schoop had a good cones course too, followed by David Gully & Anne Chambers. Anne took the red rosette for marathon with her nippy ponies, followed by Richard and David. Unfortunately Rene got hooked up in obstacle four which cost him in penalties and secured him fourth place. The two teams provided such a spectacle; eight equines in such contrast, four Shetlands and four 16h plus horses. Julie Wedgebury skilfully took the lead after dressage with less than one point between her and Chris Jamieson. Julie drove her usual slick cones course with the agile Shetlands and managed to maintain her lead after marathon too. Chris took advantage of the completion facilities and atmosphere before her run up to Hopetoun with her new team of horses and settled for second place.



Megan Wheeldon

Mick Ward



On Sunday we were joined by four enthusiastic newcomers who drove their dressage and cones in the morning and completed a mini marathon in the afternoon, completing part of section E and four obstacles. Becky Woodhouse drove a smooth dressage test but had to retire on the marathon – this left the opportunity for Carl Warrilow to pull up to first place, followed by Dawn Moore and George Denoon in second and third place respectively. Thanks also for the people who helped take down the marquee on Sunday afternoon too!

Factoid – did you know the club make a special award at each event for the highest placed junior competitor?

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Are you a newcomer / novice or Intermediate driver? Would you like an opportunity to have some coaching / training? If so please contact Angela Flanagan who is organising a UKCC training event – Tel: 01664 822911 or E Mail: amflan@hotmail.com

Lincomb Farm event – entries close this weekend – stewards please contact Dave Smith to let him know your availability. Tel: 07887 852186

Offchurch Event entries close 18th June - remember this is a novice qualifier too! Stewards please contact Ruth Auton on 0116 2753428 or Email: ruth@auton4321.freeserve.co.uk

If you need a groom at the event please, please let Lesley or the organiser know BEFORE the event – don't just turn up and tell us at the event – we are more likely to be in a position to find you some help!

What would you like the club to do? How can we improve upon what is already offered?

Your committee are your representatives and work to put on what you want in terms of competitions. Let them know what they should stop doing, start doing, do more off or less off.

Do you want competitions in different areas? Do you want more training? Should we run a one day event once or twice a year? How can we attract new members / drivers? Let the a committee member know; you can contact them via phone or email (see www.mdtg.co.uk and click on 'Committee').

Did you know the club has its own Facebook page? Have a look and see if there are some photo's of you on there! You need to register and then explore and make friends.....

www.facebook.com

Don't forget the club has its own website too: results are posted on there as well as the club point's league.

www.mdtg.co.uk

Offchurch will be mystery and magic this year! We have some entertainment lined up for you on Saturday evening from our friends at Northern Plan - come along and experience some magic & mystery for the weekend.

Don't forget to tell your driving friends about the pleasure drives which are ran on Saturdays – for those who want to experience a drive on the marathon route.

Would you like to write an article / advert / report to be published in the newsletter?

Please feel free to help me out and contribute to the newsletter!

Ruth Auton / 0116 2753428 / ruth@auton4321.freeserve.co.uk

HORSE PAIR FOR SALE ~ John and Felix are Dark bay Dutch geldings. 15hh. 16 years of age. Ride and drive forward going with excellent brakes. Fully experienced at driving trials Good to catch, shoe clip and box. £4,500/ offers. Harness and 3 phase vehicle also available. Keith Harding - tel: 01530 260248 mob: 07826 083208. Heather, Coalville, Leicestershire

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