



NORTH WEST DRIVING CLUB NEWS BULLETIN

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

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Dear Member,

2014 is well under way and our Driver Challenge Competitions which have run all winter are now completed. It has been wonderful to see them expand throughout the series. The help of the Dumfries and Galloway Horse Driving Club has 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! Our sponsor for the events was Northern Pet and Equestrian Supplies of Penrith.

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

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!

Club News –

Dalemain ODE was, despite the weather, a huge success. With 13 turnouts competing dressage judge Amanda Tallentire was kept busy. Cones were driven in front of the house and the obstacles spread throughout the parkland. The marathon was the route which has been done for many years, out through the estates tracks to Dacre, back round the roads and in across the fields. Some new loops were created within the fields and although the going was tough, with some competitors having hailstones along the way on the marathon. The weather eased up just in time for presentation of rosettes!

Dalemain Results

Novice Pony

- 1st Sue Noreci
- 2nd Jen Bernard
- 3rd Faye Nemeth
- 4th Roisin Swarbrick

Open Pony

- 1st Kim Usher
- 2nd Anna Grace
- 3rd David Humes

Pairs

- 1st Lynn Winder
- 2nd David Calvert
- 3rd Jackie Parkinson
- 4th Tommy Thomlinson

Diary Dates –

22nd June – 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

28th/29th June – Kielder Adventure – Dumfries and Galloway Horse Driving Club have organised two days driving in the beautiful Kielder Valley. Kielder Venture comprises of a 12 -15 mile drive out on the Saturday and a 22 mile drive with lunch included on the Sunday. The drives are set on Kielder forest tracks also along the lakeside and are to be driven at turnout's own pace. £40 per turnout. To book and for more information please ring Brenda on 01900 61520

12th July – Eventer Training Day, Tebay. A chance to practise your dressage, cones and obstacles. With small competition afterwards! £5 per turnout, bring and share picnic lunch.

27th July – Summer Show, Dalemain. Schedules are now available, if you would like a printed one please send an SAE to Jen Bernard, Ellerbeck Farm House, Brigham, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0SY, a digital copy can be printed off from the Club website.

NEW

22/23rd August – Nord Vue 2DE, held at Nord Vue Equestrian Centre. Entry forms available from Lee-ann Thomlinson, email nwdc-2013@hotmail.co.uk or ring 07733003228 after 6pm and before 9pm.

Obituary.

Nelson Mitchell was the man behind George Bowman senior, one of the greatest figures in British carriage driving. Nelson had worked with horses all his life and when George took up driving after a serious accident at work in 1970, Nelson became his staunch support.

“Good with the horses” and always friendly, Nelson drove out with George for over 40 years and was an important member of Team Bowman at every coaching and driving trials event. He was on hand whether it was a teaching day with the local driving club at the Bowman’s yard near Penrith, Cumbria, an excursion with the road coach or a trip to the World Equestrian Games.

He accompanied Team Bowman to every World Four-in-hand Championships, from their first in 1974 when they brought back team gold medals and George won individual bronze, and he acted as George’s navigator on the carriage as long as his fitness allowed. He kept the presentation carriage immaculate. He was chief cook at events and his breakfasts were legendary: “I’d rather have a Nelson breakfast than a five-course dinner in the best hotel in Britain!”

After a cup of coffee with “brown milk” (or Scotch whisky), they would take George’s young horses out for a drive every morning during the winter and Nelson would never miss it, whatever the weather. Nelson drove out with George on Thursday, was taken ill on Good Friday and passed away on Saturday, 19 April, aged 86. He leaves a wife, daughter, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Thanks to Fiona Powell and hoefnet.nl for allowing the reprint of this.

