

A Tete a Tete with Gary Docking.

What Gary must of thought of the small gathering that was The GREAT Western Harness Club I Wondered, a motley crew of a few! It looked more like a gathering of the WI meets the Men's Club!

I half expected someone to get up and announce the winner of the crocheted toilet roll holder competition!

Gary, bless his boots' was not in the least bit perturbed by the intimacy of the evening having gallantly listened in to us picking over the bones of the clubs constitution, rules and then munching on a buffet he got on with 'entertaining'.

Larger than life and at the top of his game I found it quite comforting to see that whilst he was 'well turned out' on top, he still had mud on his boots. I found this trivial fact comforting, giving him genuine horse person status, probably because I share this particular trait. I am renowned for announcing just as we are about to leave he house, high heels and frock on "wont be a minute I just need to check the horses" and then spending the entire journey with tissues removing mud and worse. I like to think this is because I am a good and caring horse owner, David says it's because I'm b****y disorganised!

Gary Docking, shy retiring and self-depreciating...NOT. This man is a showman both in his carriage and out, given an audience he is in his element and the show goes on. A little known fact about Gary is that he is RADA trained and did a 6-week stint in Les Miserables at very short notice. By the way you don't need to buy 'Hello' magazine this week, I can give you some celebrity gossip- his best mate is Lilley Savage!

He spent the evening regaling stories of his past as a 'Truro Boy' he was taught by the likes of Tessa Young-Jamison. He treated us to hilarious tales of the Royal Cornwall Show, Grandparents and Uncles all oozing with character, he must have had the most wonderfully colourful background in which to grow up.

He talked about different breeds and his preferences, which led to a little gentle heckling from a few and giggles and gawfs from others. It was an evening of good-hearted teasing on both sides although I would say he generally held the upper hand.

It was reassuring to hear that many of our deliberations as a club are echoed far and wide and within the higher echelons of the BDS. There is a lot of change and hopefully progression. His overwhelming message was that whatever type of horse we drive, whichever sphere we choose to go into, at whatever level, we must ENJOY IT!

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