

BHDTA Junior Camp,

New Milton, Hampshire.

5 representatives of the GWHC attended the camp at Forest Farm in July. We were put through 3 days of rigorous training by 4 of the country's best drivers. Each day consisted of an individual lesson where we were taught the finer points of dressage and cones; this enabled us to perfect our techniques. The group sessions concentrated on tactics of obstacle driving. We walked the obstacles and within our groups considered all the routes, and then each decided on the best course for our own turnout.

36 aspiring champions attended with other family members in place as chauffeurs, cooks and general factotums, not forgetting the hard working trusty steeds. All shapes and sizes of equine were represented from Shetlands to Shires (writers licence). The weather tried to dampen the spirits of the whips but a little rain never hurt anybody and thanks to the ingenuity of our instructors the syllabus was modified to include bits and planning for our dressage, with a question and answer session included.

Pippa and Debbie were the ideal hosts and organised excellent dinners and evening entertainment. These activities were a dog display by the local agility group and a highly trained carriage Dalmatian, he demonstrated to us Victorian carriage traditions. On the final night, even the boys were persuaded to participate in line dancing. On the final day a small competition was organised by the instructors (Georgina Frith, Ben Grosse, Sue Skeggs and David Matthews). In the mini-competition we were given the chance to test out the skills we had learnt in the previous two days, and see how we fared against other youngsters in the country.

On the afternoon of the final day there was a presentation where the winners and runners-up of the competition were awarded prizes, such as; halters, key rings and rugs. All of these were generously given by Zilco, who sponsored the camp. Also, a **big** thank- you for all those who participated in the Zilco challenge (which provided additional sponsorship) and all who helped.

Frank Campbell