

The GWHC event survey 2003

The purpose of the survey is to help to inform your committee about your preferences, so that future programmes of activities can reflect the needs of the members. The survey has yet to be considered by the committee.

Rather than printing all the results of the survey, it seems simpler to pick out the main points. If any club member would like a copy of the full survey results would they send an S.A.E. to Penny Bragg.

- 29 members responded, this equates to about 16% of the total Club membership.
- The respondents were all drivers, although one grooms at competitions and drives at home.
- 76% of the respondents indicated that they enjoyed competitive events
- *Question-1 covered 'preferences'* By far the majority preferred one-day competitive events (86%), One day 'fun' events (76%) and Pleasure drives (69%) with only 34% saying they enjoyed two-day events.
- *Question-2 asked if the GWHC ran enough specific types of event.*
 - Many wanted more fun days (66%), more one-day events (45%) and more pleasure drives (45%)
 - Two-day events seemed to be about right with almost 50% indicating that there were enough.
 - The number of training days seemed to split the response with 38% feeling there were enough, 34% wanting more and 10% don't know. There were many comments praising the training that is offered.
 - There was a clear indication for more Junior events, but the highest response was 'don't know'
 - The respondents were fairly ambivalent about additional social events with a slight majority (4%) in favour of more.
- *Question-3 asked if events were sufficiently geographically spread?* 45% thought yes, but written comments possibly revealed more with "More events North of Taunton" and "More events in Cornwall" being contradictory cries
- *Question-4 asked if the respondents enjoy competitive events* an overwhelming 76% said that they did.
- There was a wide range of requests for the GWHC to do **more** of:
 - "Fun One day Events for improving Skills", "Smaller local events". "Re-instate lecture by expert/Combined lecture/Demonstration & social event". "Competition s & Fun days", "Two day Trials", "One day Trials", "More like Killerton". "Dressage & Cones day (with the BDS?)". "Option to enter any one or all phases at a three phase event". "Pleasure drive with or without a combination of cones, handy driving & obstacles". "Maybe try 'Le Trec". "Look at Dorset & South Wilts

programme in BDS news". "Treasure hunt", "Orienteering". "Indoor outs". "Competitive events with an optional 3Km-4Km Marathon for small ponies & those not trained for Nationals". "Events for the less competitive". "Joint ventures with the BDS" "Fun Team event" "1day events" "Inside out competitions" "Fun days & half days" "Coach Horn Blowing" "Guest speakers", "Dance nights", "Treasure hunts", "picnic drives" Assessments at events”

- *note:* It would have been useful to have asked the members what they thought of as a ‘fun day’ as this term was used for a whole range of activities which seemed to stretch from ‘non-competitive competitions (not very clear in itself) Through competitive competitions with differing elements, akin to ‘handy pony’ to variations on pleasure drives with cones competitions thrown in.
- There were very few things that people wanted the GWHC to do less of, the only items being: "Cancelling events". "Epic marathons". "2 day competitions" “Serious competition”
- Training was clearly considered to be a strength in the GWHC, with many comments of praise. There were a number of additional things that respondents felt should be covered. These tend to relate to additional help for novices:
 - "Training of Grooms / Back-steppers". "Beginner sessions to explain about competitive driving". "Explanation of the rules" "More training for Novices at the start of the year". "Carriage building", "Harness fitting" Equine nutrition for competitions, Fitness training, turnout /equipment for competitions".
- Finally, came a few questions about the Internet and the Club Web site. Almost two thirds (62%) had access to the internet and almost of all of these had looked at the site and thought it useful.

There were a few general comments at the end of the questionnaire which suggested that a few individual members feel that the club has become more competitive and that there were insufficient events suitable for animals of average fitness, “there needs to be more middle ground”. One member thanked the committee for the opportunity to make suggestions for the GWHC programme