

The FIRST ever GWHC Newsletter!

Newsletter 1

6th December 1983

A meeting was held at Higher House, Bagborough, Nr Taunton, on the 24th November 1983.

This meeting was to discuss the possibility of forming a driving club in the West Country – covering Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Avon and Bristol areas.

About 50 people attended the meeting and after much discussion it was generally felt there was a great need for a harness club to be formed. The British Driving Society does a grand job, so does the Horse Driving Trials Group of the British Horse Society, but it was generally felt there was a great need for something to be formed in between these two different driving societies, where driving can be done for fun and encourage more people to join the sport and enjoy themselves with ‘the horse in harness’ - not necessarily an expensive turnout. Showing can be very pricey, but an ordinary horse or pony, a much loved family favourite or a child’s pony which has been outgrown, can give tremendous fun if broken to harness.

As the driving trials appear to be mainly held in the Midlands, North of England and Scotland, it was very much hoped something could be held in this part of the Country. This would also encourage people without a turnout to come and take part, as putting on an event of this type can involve 100 plus to on the organising side.

It was also hoped to run horseman’s evenings during winter months, so that everyone could keep in touch out of the show season. Perhaps we could invite driving experts to come and instruct people with their own turnouts, and those without a turnout could come and watch and learn from the experience and errors of other people.

It was also felt there was a great need for beginners to get help form more experienced whips to avoid accidents occurring. Also to help novices to improve and reach greater heights, and to cheer on the more experienced whips when competing in bigger events and in National Competitions and perhaps one day have a member or members compete at International level.

After much discussion over what the Club should be called, it was put to the vote and agreed that the club should be known as ‘The Great Western Harness Club’. The following officers where then voted:-

President	Mrs Judy Beaumont
Chairman	Mr Tisk Roberts
Secretary	Miss Anne Carslaw
Treasurer	H.A. Williamson

It was unanimously agreed that the subscription should be:-

£5.00 per member
£8.00 per Family
£3.00 per Junior

It was also hoped to have a Newsletter which would perhaps be published four times a year, to include items for sale and wanted. It was hoped people would also advertise in it.

People should contact the Secretary regarding any special events or talks that they would like to have organised.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and hope that in the New Year a successful Driving Club will be formed.

Anne Carslaw, Secretary.