



MIDLANDS CARRIAGEDRIVING

PRESS RELEASE

Welcome back to Thoresby Park

While the previous Midlands Carriagedriving competition was a sad farewell to Catton Park, it was a big welcome back after a 10-year gap to Thoresby Park for the club's second event of the year (9th-10th June). Located on a different area of the estate from before, the old Sunday Market field was raw ground – and somewhat bumpy underfoot. However, having the dressage arena, cones and the six new obstacles within easy walking distance of the lorry park made course walking an easier time for competitors.

Following heavy overnight rain on the Wednesday before the competition adjustments were made to Section A of the marathon course, but the weekend remained dry, warm and sunny. This made eating al fresco for the Saturday night meal a most enjoyable occasion.

Some competitors had a mixed time of things, especially in the cones where tandem driver Anne Chambers was the only one to avoid knocking any balls off and thus take the club's 'King of the Cones' first place rosette. It was good to see three tandem turnouts although David Wagstaff-Myers fell foul of cone 12 when he drove it backwards, thus incurring elimination. Jeff Ormerod led after the dressage and cones phases and, despite giving best to Anne in the obstacles, held on to win the class.

Sandra Jackson took first and second in the Novice class, her winning pony some 33.17 penalties ahead of the rest of the class with Joanne Gadsby in third. Helen Jordan, who had a clear overnight lead after dressage and cones missed a compulsory flag out on the marathon course, robbing her of second place overall. Competing HC in this class were visitors from North Eastern Driving Trials Club;

both Glenys Ellis and Judy Hilditch were out with their young ponies and put up noteworthy performances.

Nicola Corby and Sue Mart won the Intermediate and Open classes respectively, both by very comfortable margins with Sue recording the best dressage of the weekend (40.64). Anne Lightfoot put up a fine performance to take second behind Nicola while Julie Tomasik and Granville Styler fought it out for second and third place in the Open, Julie just coming out on top.

A correction of course in Obstacle 1 cost Emma Burton the red rosette in the Pairs class, won by Sue Hargreaves with David Wheeldon in third. Peter Young's pair of Shires were no match for the ponies but provided a magnificent sight throughout the weekend, finishing fifth overall with dressage leader Clare Marley in fourth.

Peter was also driving his sister Emma's team of ponies and they finished ahead of Angie Smith and her team of greys. Emma let it be known that as her final exams were now finished she would be taking the ponies back as of the next day!

Bob Auton completed to take the Pre-Novice class, Paul Hart competing HC, and sole competitor in the Starter class, Wendy Mason also picked up a red rosette for finishing.

The next Midlands Carriagedriving competition takes place at Onley Grounds Equestrian Centre near Rugby in Warwickshire from the 5th to 6th August. Spectators are always welcome, as are volunteer stewards, to all of Midlands' competitions. Further information and non-members' entry forms can be found on www.midlandscarriagedriving.co.uk

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Images: Credit Kingswood Associates

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