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## February 2012 Newsletter

### New Venue for August Trials

As you know we have been on the search for a new venue following the loss of Grangewood from our calendar of events.

Not easy as you know as we need lots of space and a large area of flat ground, but with the help of Mandy Hawley and her contacts we have approved a venue near Rugby with the facilities we need and great motorway access from all directions.

That's the good news. The other news is that we can only run the event with some meaningful help from members and their "associates" especially as we are not local to this venue ourselves and we want it to be a slick well organised trial.

Particularly we need course builders for obstacles, marathon sections, dressage arenas and cones course before the event. Also, someone to muster 16 "stewards" for Saturday and 34 for Sunday. And two numerate people to do scoring both days. Then, people to clear the course on the Sunday.

The course designing, dealing with entries, scheduling and running of the event will be catered for.

**Before we commit to running the event we would like to be sure the help needed is available so we are asking you to tell us what help you can offer by replying to this message before your committee next meet on 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Thank you in anticipation – please contact Dave West to discuss ☺

Tel: 01630 661314 / [soudley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:soudley@tiscali.co.uk)

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*Would you like to write an article / advert / report to be published in the newsletter? Please feel free to help me out and contribute to the newsletter!*

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[www.mdtg.co.uk](http://www.mdtg.co.uk) – see all results and points league table on our website

## **CATTON PARK NON DRIVING CLINIC SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY 2012**

Although the uptake for the first clinic of the year at Catton Park On 29th Jan was low, the enthusiasm more than made up for that.

Our group was joined by John Conkey and his daughter Emma, who both responded to the 'Txt Driving' initiative at Olympia last December. They were given an overview of the sport of Driving Trials whilst the rest of the 'happy band' learnt a lot about ourselves as drivers and also about our turnouts, through analysis, and about how this can help our development as a driver. We all enjoyed the friendly, relaxed approach to the day which had lots of helpful content.

It's amazing how a few paint pots, a box of soap and a bag of sweets can turn MDTG members into budding cones course designers. Even newcomers Emma and Liam showed they had quite a flair and could back the design with all the reasons why!!

Everything was delivered in a way that was easy to understand. Having time to walk around obstacles, discuss routes, ask questions, analyse reasons for choices and also allow back-steppers to be 100% involved left us feeling inspired and ready to put theory into practise.

For those who didn't take up the opportunity, we can only add that the UKcc coaches presented a great day at a great price..... the chocolate cake was great too!!

A big 'thank you' to Robin for allowing us to disturb his holiday preparations. Bon voyage

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### **Promotion of Carriage Driving in the Midlands.**

Calke Abbey [National Trust property in Derbyshire] are arranging an equestrian extravaganza on May 19<sup>th</sup> and as part of the days show there is an opportunity to showcase carriage driving. Geoff Kirby is aiming to organise a display, consisting of 6 to 8 turnouts of differing styles i.e. singles & multiples in marathon gear and dressage attire etc. If you are interested in taking part please contact Geoff to express your interest. Tel: 01827 373334 / [gkirby@uwclub.net](mailto:gkirby@uwclub.net)

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### **Something to cheer you on on a February evening – submitted by Carol Pawson**

We are horse riders - you don't have to understand us! Real riders believe in the 11 rules: With the inside leg and the outside rein. We have no problem eating a sandwich directly after mucking the stable. We know why a thermometer has to have a string attached on the end. We are not welcome in laundromats. We don't think anything sexual if someone talks about chains, whips, spurs or leather. We can lower our voice instantly by 5 octaves to shout at a horse scratching the floor. We will rather quit a relationship than our hobby, because our hobby is part of us. We try to cluck to our car to make it up the hill. We have better insurance for our horse than our car. When buying a vehicle, we make sure it can hold our tack, grooming box, boots, etc. We can tell 20 different descriptions and causes for bulges and bumps on a horse. We know more about our horses diet than our own. We spend more money on our horses' shoes and more often, than on our own. Our hobby is creating more work than our job. The vet gets a call before our own doctor. And we know that mucking a stable is the best cure for depression or anger management. If you are a real horseman/horsewoman you understand.