



Glamour at Glamis 2023



2024 Dates

Glamis 18/19th May

Sandringham 29/30th June

Beamish 20th/21st July

Ashfields 3/4th August

Mostyn 31st Aug/1st September

New Forest 14th/15th September

Welcome to the third AIAT GB Newsletter.

Plans are well under way and your hardworking event committees are planning routes and putting things in place for our wonderful half dozen venues across the UK. Glamis Castle is on the horizon and promises to be the usual lovely start to our season of traditional carriage driving.

<http://www.attelagedetradition.co.uk>

Please do share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested.



Learning about AIAT



Attention to detail



Training Report

There have been a number of well-attended information events in the UK reflecting the growing interest in the sport of traditional driving. After being asked many times what 'attelage' is all about and being told that it was a sport that felt inaccessible and too much of a mystery, I decided to hold an information day at Blandings Farm in March.

An interesting and informative day was had with around 30 attendees. Some on foot to find out what they could. Some brought turnouts for the practice and even just brought carriages for scrutiny. After an introductory talk from our AIAT Chairman, Rosemary Neale, the whole group headed out around the field to inspect and discuss all the carriages present. In twos, the turnouts then came forwards for a chat with experienced judge Paul Mills Esq and one turnout gamely presented with a few deliberate errors and obvious areas for improvement. Those on foot were invited to ask questions and look closely at every aspect from cleanliness to harness adjustments and correctness of attire.

After that, the carriages practised some of the difficulties including the infamous 'champagne' challenge, a 'rail' on the ground, a reverse and a cones course. The beauty of the workshop was the opportunity to practise these elements repeatedly and to watch one another; not something available at AIAT events. A small crowd gathered at the champagne challenge and saw close-up how difficult this is to achieve with no penalties!

I was very grateful to Paul and Gill Mills, Rosemary Neale and Martin Wilkinson for giving up their time and experience to support the event. We were able to clearly demonstrate the friendly nature of the sport over a chatty lunch and hopefully encouraged yet more people to consider participating in events in the future.

Liz Harcombe



Amy Last and Bernie Neale

Practising the Champagne Challenge.



Practice 'on foot' at Sam Searle's training event in April.



Golden opportunity available 2024

Supporters of AIAT GB, Jimmy Jeffery and Amanda Benningfield have very kindly offered to help raise funds for CIAT events next year by donating this stunning opportunity for auction at The Ashfields event in August. A unique day of driving around Windsor Great Park with their beautiful Friesian X Highlands in Unicorn, Tandem, Team or Pairs is a chance not to be missed!



Martin Wilkinson
MASTER SADDLERS

www.martinwilkinson.com
tel: 01727 821020



Prestige

Prestige Italia Equitazione 2 Lineare Saddle





Top Tips!

Derek and Sharon Wotton are no strangers to the Supreme Championship Trophy. Indeed, one season, they won all the events of the year with seemingly effortless ease. Of course, their list of successes comes with supreme planning. Derek and Sharon say this is all common sense but of course, preparation is everything. 'Much better to organise everything so that you can relax and enjoy the event,' says Sharon. Here are some of their top tips!

- *Have a dress rehearsal before any cleaning commences so you know that everything is correctly fitted and on the right holes.*
 - *Drive the pony in a full collar for a few weeks if you intend to use a full collar at the event.*
 - *Try on your outfits and make sure everything fits and is all clean and packed ready.*
 - *Assemble the harness once clean so that it is all completely ready.*
 - *Check that your lamps are tightly fitted so there is no last minute panic.*
 - *Make sure your pony is fit enough for what you are asking him to do.*
- Another nod at the all important welfare of the horse.*

Basically, it sounds like it's all in the preparation. Sounds obvious doesn't it? But this eye for detail and forward planning mean that Derek and Sharon have AIAT events all down to a fine art. The 'shepherd's crook whip' tip? Well you can ask them about that when you see them! It comes as no surprise to hear that they have already started packing and sorting the lorry for the season ahead. No wonder they and the lovely Harry are a dream team.





Attelage de Tradition Newsletter

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The six glorious venues of AIAT GB

