Attelage de Tradition Newsletter No 6 November 2024

Late summer sun at CIAT Mostyn September 2024

As the clocks change once again, and the best harness is cleaned and packed away for its winter rest, we can reflect on a lovely year of AIAT events in the UK. Six successful weekends of enjoying traditional carriage driving at its best.

All the event committees met in early October at the Annual General Meeting chaired by Rosemary Neale and this year was analysed and next year's dates already booked in. Read on for show reports from CIAT Mostyn and the inaugural event at AIAT New Forest...and...dates for 2025!

CIAT Mostyn by Linda Williams

Mostyn Hall is the ancestral home of the 7th Baron Lord Mostyn, who kindly gave permission to hold the 3rd CIAT Mostyn event in late summer. Mostyn's great hall dates back to 1470 and is set in 25 acres of gardens in the beautiful countryside of North Wales. Mostyn Village and the surrounding areas are known for its outstanding area of natural beauty with both mountain and coastal views overlooking the Dee estuary towards the Wirral and Liverpool.

The 'attelage' family arrived at the fabulous North Wales coast and country side on Friday 30th of August to be greeted by Rob Parry, Linda Williams, family and friends in the grounds of the beautiful Mostyn Hall. The

weekend started with a Pimms get together and chat about the driving over the next two days presentation started at 10.30am Saturday morning with our three distinguished judges: Paul Mills (President of the Jury) Eric Macrez (AIAT France) and Lester Dagge with 19 turnouts put forward including Russell & Pat Hand entering no less than four turn outs (3 singles and Russell driving a tandem) and a high number of new whips including 12 year old Rose Flett driving her grandad's (Alan Ross) pony.

The judges had a busy morning and a very hard job as well with eight of the competitors posting scores in single figures. Coming out on top was Gilly Chippendale with her welsh sec B pony Bunbury Sandringham put to a-spindle back gig by William Blue of Glasgow 1910 and a great presentation score of 5.75. With two drivers only a point away and five others in hot pursuit, it was hotting up with the routier to come. We started the routier on a track that took us out of the estate and as we came into the village it seemed that all the locals were there to greet us, enjoying the lovely weather, having a picnic and watching all the wonderful horses and carriages going by. Turning back into the estate grounds over the next 7km the five PC's were set out for us also taking in Mostyn Hall and gardens from all directions. Three of the PC's were on the front drive and gardens of the hall and by 7km it seemed that the time of 56 minutes was going to be a challenge but the next 5k was on mostly tarmac and level ground, taking in the beautiful scenery and coast line . At the end of the day there were only two double clears from the routier: Modris Kesans (pony pair) and Jimmy Jeffery (horse pair); so all to play for on the final day and the maniabilite (cones course).

Rob Parry's course was flowing but with three tricky cones 6 to 7, 9 to 10 and a sharp turn from 15 to 16. Time caught many out and, as with the routier, we only had two double clears: Pat Watson (single horse) and Jimmy Jeffery. Coming quietly along were three of the ladies: Rosemary Neale (pony pair) Elinor Stevens (horse tandem) and Deborah Adams (single shetland pony).

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Full Results:

A1 – Single Pony

1. Gilly Chippendale
2. Pat Watson
3. Alan Beverley
4. Rose Flett
5. Allan Prescott

A2 – Single Horse

1. Linda Jones
2. Chloe Locklin
3. Abi Hutchinson
4. Anne Connoly
5. Nicola Locklin

A3 – Pony Pair

1. Modris Kesans
2. Rosemary Neale
3. Leah Swindlehurst

A4 – Horse Pair

1. Jimmy Jeffery

A5 – Tandems

1. Eleanor Stevens
Withdrawn. Russell Hand

A7 – Very Small Equine

1. Deborah Adams

Mostyn Special Prizes:

Stewards Favourite – Deborah Adams with Dougie
Best Presentation – Gilly Chippendale
Best Lady Whip – Deborah Adams
Best Gentleman Whip – Jimmy Jeffery
Best Welsh Competitor – Modris Kesans
Best Local Competitor – Ann Connoly
Highest Placed newcomer – Linda Jones
Supreme Champion - Jimmy Jeffery
Reserve Champion – Modris Kesans

CIAT New Forest September
Report by Rosemary Neale

The inaugural CIAT in the New Forest took place on September 14th and 15th 2024 and what a success it was! Organisers Modris Kesans and BDS Area Commissioner Sam Searle both worked tirelessly leading up to the event to ensure it ticked every box in terms of conviviality, efficiency and everything which characterises an AIAT event. All the AIAT events this year have had their own flavour and character, and this one was no exception. The event was New Forest themed with the traditional goody bags full of 'forest style' items, for example a key ring made from deer horn, and even the traditional plaque was made of wood with the logo burnt on using a local manufacturer to source the plaques!

The event started with the now almost 'de rigeur' Friday evening welcome party – this time with a delicious hog roast, bar in a horsebox and singing and dancing till the wee small hours! Participants were up early the following morning getting ready for the first phase, Presentation which made use of the permanent arenas in New Park, home to the New Forest Show with the permanent seating around the arena making it comfortable

for the many spectators.
The Presentation phase saw the three judges, Richard Lanni (who was President of the Jury), Caroline Douglas and Elizabeth-Cartwright-Hignett stationed in the arena to scrutinise the 18 turnouts including three newcomers Chris King, Alison Trevette and Molly Turner and, excitingly, Sylvie Devacht all the way from Belgium with her delightful Hackney pony put to a Spindle back Cut under Gig by Herford and Son . All three judges commented on the exceptional standard of the turnouts awarding several 20s – and there were no less than 12 sub-10 scores in the Presentation!!! After a short break the participants headed off to drive a lovely Routier all through the New Forest taking in many of the iconic sights. Along the way, they had to tackle the obligatory Passages Controlees or difficulties which were a straight rail, a one-handed left-hand circle, a rein back (cunningly hidden behind a bush which caught a number of people out!), the carpet, and of course the Drinking Glass or Champagne. Varnished dog carts seemed to be the order of the day with Road Club members Roger Derryman driving his pair of Gelderlanders to a Sporting Dog Cart by Kinross of Scotland , Rosemary Neale, Chair of AIAT, driving her pair of Welsh Section Cs to a Four Wheel dog cart by Yerbury of Frome and Jimmy Jefferies driving his own pair of Highland x Friesians to a Four wheel Dog Cart by Jacksons of Edinburgh. It was good to see former BDS Area Commissioner Roger Page first time out this year driving a pair of cobs to an 1854 Demi-Mail Phaeton by Bouillon of France.
Our organisers had arranged a splendid New Forest themed gala dinner at the Careys Manor Hotel on the Saturday night with a talented magician entertaining the guests throughout dinner which was followed by a raffle and auction. The rosette for Best Presentation was awarded to a delighted Rosemary Neale who said that the award is a recognition not just of her efforts but of the teamwork that goes into presentation - Martin Wilkinson for the carriage and her groom Kate Egan for turning the ponies out to perfection.
Sunday saw the final phase of the competition, the Maniabilite or cones, again in the lovely permanent arena. Technical delegate Paul Mills, ably assisted by AIAT recruit Paul van Sickle from the USA, had devised an intricate but flowing course which produced only two double clear rounds from Sylvie Devacht and Rosemary Neale. Jimmy Jeffery's 0.2 time penalty

kept him in first place in the Horse Pairs and overall Supreme Champion with Rosemary's double clear gaining her Reserve Supreme. Hot on their heels though was Jane Purcell White with her home-bred Abbotswood Double Delight to an 1890 varnished Dog Cart who headed up a six-strong Single Pony Class. The Single Horse class was won by Jimmy Tate with his lovely coloured horse Alby to a 1910 Spindle Back Gig By Raworth of Oxford. An emotional second place in the Single Horse class was claimed by Antonia Gallop driving Brickell Black Supreme (Monty to his friends) to a 1901 Panel Cart by Slacks in his last AIAT event before a well-deserved retirement.

Our thanks must go to all the amazing volunteers who turned up in numbers to enable us to play and also to the kind and generous sponsors who donated prizes for the raffle. Also to the judges, the Technical Delegate and of course to our wonderful horses and ponies!

Results:

A1 – Single Pony

1. Jayne Purcell White
2. Sylvie Devacht (Belgium)
3. Alison Trevett
4. Geraldine Pearson
5. Linda Williams
6. Molly Turner

A2 – Single Horse

1. Jimmy Tate
2. Antonia Gallop
3. Trish Lebus
4. Chris King
5. Tina Woodley

A3 – Pony Pair

1. Rosemary Neale

A4 – Horse Pair

1. Jimmy Jeffery
2. Roger Page
3. Roger Derryman

A5 – Tandems

1. Eleanor Stevens

A7 – Very Small Equine

1. Deborah Adams

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New Forest Special Prizes:

Best Presentation – Rosemary Neale
Best Lady Whip – Rosemary Neale
Best Gentleman Whip – Jimmy Jeffery
Highest Placed newcomer – Alison Trevett
Supreme Champion - Jimmy Jeffery
Reserve Champion – Rosemary Neale

Crack scorers Andrew Tilley and Caroline Court.

Organisers Modris Kesans and Sam Searle

Carriage Driving Awards

Paul and Gill Mills have won the very first AIAT GB award for upholding the essence of attelage de tradition. At all six of the UK events, they have played a part whether organising at Ashfields and Elveden, TD'ing, judging and course designing.

The 'attelage family' gave them the popular vote and would like to extend huge thanks for the great effort that they put into ensuring traditional driving happens.

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Dates for next year.

Glamis 17-18th May
New Forest 7-8th June
Sandringham 28-29th June
Ashfields 2-3rd August
Beamish tbc
Mostyn 30-31st August

Exciting news! A lovely pre-season get together is planned. Don't miss it! Follow the link to book tickets.
https://fb.watch/vQeDeD0oop/

Here's to another wonderful season 2025. As AIAT GB goes from strength to strength, we can hang up our hame straps and settle down for a lovely Christmas and New Year.
See you in March!