|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  |  |
|  | | **WEALD HARNESS CLUB**  President: Mr Barrie Luck  Club founded in 1977.  **Newsletter** | | |

The beginning of 2021 has been marked by the passing of Barry Marshall, Pat Sowerby, Brigid Longley and Barry Nestel, all of whom have been associated with the Club over the years. The sport has also lost Terry Chambers owner of the fabulous Ashfields Carriage and Polo Centre in Essex.

The Club will be having an AGM this year on 28 March at 6 pm by Zoom and details of how to join will be sent out ahead of time. It is hoped all members can have the opportunity of sharing time with each other after the AGM meeting has been concluded. We can all share a glass of wine or other drink!

Because of the pandemic in 2020 and the Club’s inability to hold its AGM in person, the presentation of thank you gifts to retiring Committee members (Ian Collings, Frances Collings and Angela Tew) was not possible. Engraved wine glasses were hand delivered by me to these beneficiaries.

A group of wine glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidence

With the ongoing pandemic restrictions, it is difficult to plan events for the current season. That said, the Club has put together a local driving calendar based on known dates publicised by the local driving clubs (BCDC, EACDG, National events, Oaks, Shepway, Weald HC and Windsor Park Equestrian Club).

It is with regret I announce that Sarah Sowerby, our Club secretary has stepped down due to health complications. Her place has been filled by the former Secretary, Sally O’Nion for the time being. My thanks go to both of them for their input.

I am hoping to welcome 2 new Committee members to the Club at the AGM and say farewell to Alison Bones, who has been part of our team for a number of years. The Committee cannot run with out the help and input of on-going and new members.

Do any Members have new ideas for events or venues that might be of interest to the Club?

I have co-opted the help of Georgi Ashdown to help with the Club’s social media and website. I can drive a horse or two but am not good at negotiating WordPress for websites!

It is my intention to work closely with the other local clubs so we can all support one another and provide fun and facilities to promote our sport. If you feel you can add anything and would like to be involved in any way, do contact me. The Club is always looking for new venues, personnel to work up front or behind the scenes whether it be volunteering to painting obstacles, setting out courses or provide tea and coffee!

The sport’s governing body is hosting a Zoom training day aimed at Club level for budding Technical Delegates, Dressage Judges and Course Builders. I am a National Probationary Judge already and have put my name forward to take part in the Zoom course for Club TDs and/or Course Builders on 28 February. Competition courses that I have built have largely been based on what I, as a carriage driver, would be happy to compete with. I am hoping to add technical knowledge to my experience. Do any other Members wish to join me on Zoom?

Provisonal Club Dates for Your Diary:

* 22 – 23 May Have A Go / Training Days
* 5 – 6 June Have A Go / Training Days
* 3 – 4 July 2DE / Have A Go / Training Days / BBQ
* 7 August Have A Go / Training Day
* 30 August Have a Go / Training Day
* 22 December Xmas Fun at Saddlesdane

Keep safe and well.

Jane Lamb

WHC Chairman

February 2021