

Lincolnshire BDS Open Day @ Elms Farm EC on Sunday

11th November. The day started with a talk from Carole Davenport about the art of scurry driving. This was followed by a demonstration of a scurry cones course at speed by Carole & Jeff Davenport [Tarmac 'n' Adam] and Trevor and Sammy Fairburn [Spit & Fire].

As soon as they left the arena Sarah Braybrook driving 'Lucifer' followed by Duncan Seth-Smith driving 'Rambo' and Clonus Smith driving his dad's outfit entered to show that you can actually do a scurry course with only one pony up front. Fortunately there was no chance of the scurry teams being beaten officially because no-one timed their rounds. Sarah and Duncan were convinced that their single pony outfits were quicker but that was not the opinion of the Fairburn Scurry Team manager, who was seen laughing on her way back to the box park.

Duncan and Sarah then gave a demonstration of 2 Precision & Paces courses while Kathleen Faulkner explained what was happening.

After a short break for lunch Kathy Towle explained how the Le TREC format had been borrowed from France for horse riders and then adapted for carriage driving, and how different organisers set different types of tasks. Kathy admitted that she prefers to set obstacles that you would encounter when out on the road / track. Le Trec is normally associated with outdoor events that include an Orienteering section, however Kathy has been developing a version that can be completed indoors during the winter season, and she explained each section which was then demonstrated by Deano Smith and Kathleen Faulkner before moving onto another task.

The first task was undertaken between 2 parallel lines [see photo] , firstly you walk your outfit as fast as you can along the course and then trot as slow as you can, losing points for touching the lines or breaking into a trot or walk accordingly. This task allows for any size of equine because horses naturally walk fast/cover the ground quickly, whereas ponies by their size tend to be able to trot slower than horses. The task encourages good control of paces.

The next section was a 'farm gate' [see photo] , where the outfit stops between markers and the groom opens the 'gate' the outfit drives through the gate and stops while the groom shuts the gate behind. This can be completed at different speeds and timed if point scoring is required.

There was a section with a miscanthus grass 'tunnel' [see photo] where you trotted to the end of the 'tunnel' and then tried to reverse back out - very difficult around a slight bend with a four wheeler, but you could get points for the number of paces backward etc.

One section contained three cones on plastic feed sacks, the idea being to circle the cones in a figure of eight without touching the bags, points can be lost for touching the bags/cones and it could be timed as well.

With the date being Armistice day huge red poppies [see photo] were part of a task to test how steady your equine was. The final task demonstrated was made up of rubber stable mats laid on top of blue plastic. The black mats were not a problem, but the blue plastic and the noise it made when crossed put Deano's horse right off. 'Woody' sailed across without problems, and Sarah's 'Lucifer' was coaxed across eventually.

After the demonstration a few other turnouts had a go including the scurry teams, normal speed resumed.

Once the arena was cleared the stage was given to David Capps, who 'judged' several turnouts and he explained what the judges were looking for and how to get the best from your turnout.