

Lincolnshire BDS TREC Sunday 19th August
@ Anton Gowt, Near Boston ,Lincs

This is the first BDS TREC for the Lincolnshire area in 2007. The event was held at Pet Food Supplies premises near Boston, Lincs, by kind permission of proprietors Caronne & Roy Daft.

A Special thank you should go to Roy and Caronne who not only gave us the venue, but organised and built 2 Obstacles that the HDT group would be proud of as well as another 5 tasks.

There were 10 entries but unfortunately Julie Reeve's horse went lame a couple of days before, so nine started.

Terence Lawton & Gail Rutherford with Ziggy
Liz Hourd & Judith Daws with Midnight Mist
Dino Smith & Clonus Smith with Danny
Duncan & Sue Seth-Smith with Rambo
Sarah Braybrook & Gavin Daley with Lucifer
Joy & John Ashton-Beard with ??
Veronica and Josh Zwetsloot with Pip
Glenis Bateman & Gale Harvey with ??
Kathleen Faulkner & Tory Kent with Woody.

For several members this was their first Trec and for Dino Smith, although he has been driving for years, this was his first 'competitive' event, along with a 'newish' Pony and a brand new Silver Fun-bug on it's first outing, other vehicles ranged from a 2 wheel gig to various 4 wheel exercise / marathon carriages.

Phase 1: Presentation

The day started with the Presentation where each turnout was judged on appearance – High Visibility clothing for Whip, Groom and Equine, Fit of Harness, Spares kit etc.

Phase 2: The Drive

The drive was 5.5 'Lincolnshire' miles and included 3 compulsory walk sections as well as a 'short cut' to give an option to miss out a large loop. Everyone was advised that ground around the field margins was hard and bumpy in places. In fact it had been softened by the recent rain, and the going was difficult in places and still bumpy. There was a compulsory walk section alongside a large Lincolnshire Drain and over a bridge then back to any pace along a minor road before going off-road again. Another walk section beside a pond, then back to your own pace before deciding to go for the full route or take the short cut. Either way you ended on a road section for 500yds before the final compulsory walk section back to the start, this gave the equines a chance to cool down and loose any hyperactivity before entering the box park,

Lunch and a walk around the obstacles and the cones course.

Phase 3: The Skills Section.

1. A Box: to drive in and out of without knocking the balls off the cones.
2. The Windmill Bales [timed] - A Driving Trials type obstacle where you had to drive through each gate in numerical order against the clock, the difficulty came from the numbers jumping from 4 to 9 which lead to some initial confusion.

3. Merry Go round – driving a circle between posts one handed and then driving the same course with the Groom placing coloured balls in buckets before retrieving the balls in reverse order.
4. The Clothes Horse [timed] – drive a serpentine course and stop at each bucket where the groom put on an article of clothing – up to the end turn and return with the groom undressing. Remembering only to take off the correct bits of clothing.
5. The Pallet Chase - Another driving trials type obstacle but this time driven in alphabetical order against the clock.
6. The Drunken Walk - No alcohol in sight but you had to drive in a straight line with the left wheel/s on a plank, at the end the groom had to 'Apple Bob' in a bucket and then you drove back with the right hand wheel/s on the plank.
7. The Cones Course, against the clock with penalties for balls knock down, the cones were lettered instead of numbered, but you needed to walk the course first because there was an odd letter missing.
8. The same cones course but this time the Groom had to carry a jug of water. Again the course was timed but you also lost points for spilling the water.

After Phase 1 & 2 all the scores were fairly even, with the qualifiers for the Trec Championships being decided on Phase 3 (Skills). The overall winner was Glenis Bateman and groom Gale Harvey, with Duncan & Sue Seth-Smith second.

Memorable sights were as follows: Our area commissioner was seen chasing his pony around the box park just after a talk on general safety, Judith Daws managed to get her horse trailer stuck in the entrance gateway thus holding up the 'Drive' Phase - Gavin just left Sarah in the middle of her presentation to rescue the situation and drive a great first obstacle. Clonus Smith was seen holding the jug of water over dad Dino's head during skill 8, just to make him drive carefully. Gavin Daley was seen with his head totally immersed in a bucket of water while 'Apple Bobbing', he then defiantly insisted on eating the apple, much to Lucifer's annoyance. Duncan lost a trace in The Windmill bales but not to be out done, they had another go after everyone else had finished and knocked 7 seconds off the original time. The quick release catches have been replaced with baler twine. Kathleen lost her groom after the drive phase, bumpy ground was blamed although Woody has reported Kathleen for erratic driving, along with David for an earlier misdemeanour.

Many thanks must go to our judges: Barbara Chalmer and Mr & Mrs Newcombe. Also the Stewards: Trevor Chalmer, George Chalmer and Mr & Mrs Chapman, and again a big thank you to David Faulkner, Caronne and Roy Daft for making it a great Trec.

p.s thanks for the Tow! The White Van Man/s