

Dunbog 2018 – A great way to start your 2018 outdoor driving season.



What a great venue AND wall-to-wall sunshine!

The beautiful view looking down to the lorry field and dressage arena below is from the top of the incorrect marathon route – the actual route did not go as high, but Phil Brown and I accidentally drove the higher route – I thought he had been round the route before so was paying no attention to the markers, but noting the bumps and difficult parts – AND we were chatting! However, the view was fantastic!

In spite of having 5 hot dogs in tow (if I am not besieged by grandchildren I acquire additional family pets!) I really enjoyed being part of Mike Brown's 'team.' As always, the hospitality, with tea/coffee and lunch provided, was very much appreciated by all the helpers, and the company convivial.

It was good to see some new turnouts including Robert Elliot with his lovely Highland, at their first event, driven to the third carriage that Ian Bertram built which I commissioned and drove Chancer in for years. Robert's groom is a twin so t'other twin was on Ian's back step – she said she loved going fast!

Alasdair Govan with his new pair, and Laura Chaffe with her very game Shetland, Crusader, completed the newbie's. It was difficult to realise that Claire Cameron's hairy cob, Jimbob, from last year was this wonderful svelte streamlined pony who had been fully clipped, including his feathers, and sporting a hogged mane. What a transformation! Sharron Vass's cob, Fergus, was also clipped out but keeping his feathers – another happy equine in the heat. Patsy Muir Simpson, Ian Bertram and Alasdair Govan all did the long marathon route, while Susan Don opted for the short one. The remainder all completed the obstacles only. This event gives everyone the opportunity to 'mix and match' with Barbara-Anne and Dave Skett opting for Cones and the Drive-out, since neither

Rhoss, the pony, nor Barbara-Anne have much stamina at the moment! Katie Cameron drove one of Ian Gilbert's ponies – it is great to see a new Junior coming through. Sharing a carriage with her Mum required some very slick changeovers with Katie grooming for Claire then vice versa. Sanchia had her tandem out – it was particularly good to see them in a perfect straight line as they left the stabling field, and the leader went straight into the water obstacle without a fuss. Rachael Stewart, Ann Rushton-Green, Ian Gilbert, and Morag Russell completed the varied turnouts at this event.

Eileen Cornish.



Mike and Lyndsey Brown wrote a lovely thank-you to their helpers on the same evening:-

Just a few words of thanks to each and every one of you. We came together as a team and played our various parts to ensure that we achieved the end goal and for that I thank you all very much.

Clearly the entrants had a great day and I was not made aware of any issues. I think it says much for our sport that we had competitors from the borders right up to Aberdeen and then further north to above Fort William. Long may that continue and expand.

I must also thank the various friends and family members who turned out today to help; we could not have managed the event without them.

Please take a well-deserved rest and a long lie tomorrow if you can.