Dundonald Show

The 2015 show season got underway last weekend at Dundonald show near Irvine in Ayrshire, the traditional curtain raiser for the driving showing season in Scotland and with a very large ring and plenty of space an ideal show to start the year. The weather was, as is usual for Dundonald Show, very cold with a bitter cold wind coming off the coast but it was dry and sunny so could have been much worse.

Six driving turnouts who took part this year, with two traditional vehicles in the Open Private Driving class and 4 exercise turnouts in the Pleasure/Exercise Class. The judge for the driving classes on this occasion was Mr Richard Lanni from Perth.

The driving classes started with the Open Private Driving class. The two Private Driving turnouts who were forward on the day were two very experienced turnouts who put on a great show and were two excellent examples of traditional turnouts. Mr Lanni requested an individual show from each competitor of their own choice with the stipulation that it was not to be a figure of eight so shows included three loop serpentines and one handed circles etc as well as the usual halt and rein back to end. Mr Lanni found his winner of this class in Caroline Watson with her chestnut roan Welsh Section D gelding, Llanarth Tango driven to an 1890 Dogcart by Mulliners of Birmingham. Second to Caroline was Kim Pearson with her Welsh X Stallion, JD's El Dorado driven to a 1902 Beaufort Cart.

There were also three Osborne Championship qualifiers available in this class. On this occasion because the winner was eligible for two of the sections (Welsh D and Country Turnout) they were given the choice by the judge of which section they wished to qualify for. They decided to accept the Welsh Section D qualifier ticket with the Country Turnout qualifier ticket then passed down to the second place turnout. The third qualifier ticket, Welsh Section A, B & C was not awarded as there were no qualifying turnouts in this class.

Next in was the Pleasure/Exercise Class which had four turnouts forward. Again it was requested from each competitor to carry out an individual show of their own choice with the stipulation that it was not to be a figure of eight. Mr Lanni found his winner of this Pleasure/Exercise Class in Kendall Young driving her pony Sophie to a Bennington two wheel exercise vehicle. Second to Kendall was Julia Whitaker driving her Highland Pony Heather of Glenshian to a four wheel exercise vehicle. There was also an Osborne Championship qualifier available in this class for the two wheel exercise vehicle section. This qualifier ticket went to Kendall Young with Sophie.

After these two classes were completed, the first two turnouts from both classes were called back in for the championship. Mr Lanni first asked the two private driving turnouts to go out together and do a figure of eight, halt and rein back, they were followed by the two exercise turnouts being sent out together to do the same before Mr Lanni decided on his Champion and Reserve Champion. The Championship and The Peter Findlay Perpetual Trophy went to Caroline Watson with Llanarth Tango and the Reserve Championship went to Kim Pearson with JD's El Dorado.

Once the showing was completed, a cones course was set up and three of the driving turnouts from the previous Pleasure/Exercise Class and one other pony who was long reined round the course took part in a timed cones class. The winner of this class was Miranda Saunders driving her pony Falconmarch It's A Cracker with Julia Whitaker driving Heather of Glenshian in second place.

So a very cold and somewhat blustery day finished with everyone having had a great day and some good classes with lovely turnouts.

Open Private Driving Class	1 =	Caroline Watson driving Llanarth Tango
	2 =	Kim Pearson driving JD's El Dorado
Pleasure/Exercise Class	1 =	Kendall Young driving Sophie
	2 =	Julia Whitaker driving Heather of Glenshian
	3 =	Jennifer Hume driving Joseph
	4 =	Miranda Saunders driving Falconmarch It's A Cracker
Champion	=	Caroline Watson driving Llanarth Tango
Reserve Champion	=	Kim Pearson driving JD's El Dorado

Osborne Qualifiers :
(e) Country Turnout – Single, Pair or Tandem : Kim Pearson driving JD's El Dorado
(f) Single Purebred Registered Welsh Cobs – Section D : Caroline Watson driving Llanarth Tango
(g) Single Purebred Registered Welsh Ponies – Section A, B & C : No qualifying turnout
(l) Single Or Tandem Turnout Driven To A Two-Wheel Exercise Vehicle : Kendall Young driving Sophie

Obstacle Driving Class	1 =	Miranda Saunders driving Falconmarch It's A Cracker
	2 =	Julia Whitaker driving Heather of Glenshian
	3 =	Jennifer Hume driving Joseph
	4 =	Mirren Wilson long reining Hidesay Skerrie