

PEEBLES SHOW - SATURDAY 13th AUGUST 2016

This year seen the return of carriage driving to Peebles Show. It has been many years since there was driving at Peebles Show but it was great to see driving return to this lovely show who are very keen to support the driving class and where we were made very welcome and it's good to have a show that are very keen to have us there and that really appreciate the work and effort that goes into putting a turnout into the ring.

In a beautiful setting surrounded by hills, it is the most fabulous backdrop for a show. Unfortunately the weather in the week running up to the show had not been kind and this left the show field quite waterlogged and muddy in places, especially on the tracks that vehicles had been using but where we were parked was dry and worked out fine and it stayed dry all day so not bad at all.

The ring looked soft but not too bad, but the walkway to the ring was very waterlogged and muddy however, and it was with some trepidation that we set off into the ring as we all had visions of coming out with carriages, harness and ponies/donkeys caked from head to toe in mud ! However once in the ring, it was on the soft side, but not anywhere near as bad as it had looked.

There had been six entries prior to the show in the mixed open driving class, but on the day only 4 exhibitors came forward for the class. There were two single private driving turnouts in two wheeled vehicles, a tandem of donkeys to a two wheeled exercise vehicle and a single turnout to a four wheel exercise vehicle. So a nice variety of turnouts for the public to see.

Mr Alex Hogg from Haddington was the judge on this occasion and he put the turnouts through their paces in what was a very large and flat ring which would have been fabulous had it not been so wet in the run up to the show.

After an initial go round the ring on both reins showing their turnouts paces, each turnout was thoroughly inspected by Mr Hogg. Looking at fit and cleanliness of harness and vehicle, and accessories such as lamps and spares kits etc.

Each turnout then went out individually to complete a show for Mr Hogg to include a one handed circle, figure of eight including an extension and a halt and rein back before all the turnouts were sent back out for a final couple of laps round the ring to make his final decision.

Mr Hogg's choice for first place and Champion was Caroline Watson with her Welsh Cob, Llanarth Tango driven to an Original, 1890 Dogcart by Mulliners of Birmingham. In second place and Reserve Champion was Kim Pearson driving her Welsh X Stallion, JD's Eldorado to a 1902 Lawton of Liverpool Beaufort Cart.

On leaving the ring everyone was glad to find that it had not been anywhere near as bad as feared and carriages were all still clean apart from the actual wheels and the harness was still all clean, even the ponies with white legs still had clean white legs when they got back to the trailers. So a good day was had by those that competed and many thanks to Peebles Show for holding the driving class and we all look forward to coming back again next year.

RESULTS

- 1 : Caroline Watson driving Llanarth Tango
- 2 : Kim Pearson driving JD's Eldorado
- 3 : Claire Armet driving Baxter & Jools
- 4 : Peter Falconer driving Millie