



NESHPE NEWS

JULY 2007



Welcome to a "bumper" edition of our Newsletter, including NESHPE event reports, the results of our Members Questionnaire and the first of our "Stud Focus". We hope this will keep you going with some news, to make up for all the missed gossip following all the recent cancelled events.

A casualty, not of the rain, but of the outbreak of Equine Flu, at the Highland Show, was the Highland Pony Society Breed Show, due to have taken place on 8 July, which has now been re-arranged for Saturday 18 August, just a week before our Show at Duthie Park; we hope however that this will not have a major impact on our entries.

We also have some bad news in that our application for a Lottery Grant was unsuccessful, some excuse about us being involved in a "dangerous sport", however an appeal is underway, so watch this space.

For some time we have thought about the possibility of issuing the Newsletter by e-mail (to help save on printing costs and postage), and wondered how many of you would like to get your Newsletter by this method. If you are willing to get future Newsletters by e-mail, please drop us an e-mail at info@neshpes.co.uk to confirm and your next Letter will wing its way to you electronically.

The next firm dates in our Calendar are:

Sunday 26 August – Aberdeen Highland Pony Show, Duthie Park, Aberdeen

Sunday 16 September - Fun Day (& Stud Visit?), Stablesbrae, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DS

Friday 23 November - Annual Dinner and Presentation of Trophies, Alford Golf Club, Alford

Annual BBQ – Saturday 16th June 2007

The BBQ moved to a new venue of Tifty Stud, near Fyvie thanks to the hospitality of Martyn and Katrina Adams. The committee decided to battle on despite a rather threatening weather forecast and a slow response from members. However, Martyn cleared his garage and 27 members and friends came forward to make a very warm evening!

BBQ-ers were met with a fantastic spread of food thanks to Karen's shopping and Robin's BBQ-ing skills. Katrina also kindly supplied a lovely warming pot of chilli to keep the "chill" at bay.

During pudding, John Karwl-Jackes of Prospect Feed gave an interesting and informative talk on general horse nutrition and took time to help anyone with any queries while suggesting different feed alternatives and providing samples from the range of feed they have brought to the north-east. Out of this arose an interesting discussion about Equine Grass Sickness that got everyone talking and mingling.

Thank you very much to everyone who came along and supported the evening – despite the forecast and to the Adams family for their hospitality and shelter!!

NESHPE Contact details:

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Club Secretary	Susie Shepherd	01330 811449	info@neshpes.co.uk
	East Brachmont, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DY		
Show Secretary	Karen Stewart	01330 811802	
	Stablesbrae, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DS		
Committee	Lesley Carnegie	01569 767370	
	Angela Cresdee	07894 016982	
	Amy Sylvester-Evans	07922 197371	

www.neshpes.co.uk

Show Report

Despite recent rumours, this year's show **is at The Duthie Park**, although potentially for the last time. Plans are now well underway to make it a bumper event. Entry forms have started coming in, and can be downloaded both from our and the Highland Pony Society web-sites.

We are delighted that the new Aberdeen Lord Provost, Peter Stephen will be coming along to present our Trophies, and with over 30 on offer this year, he will have a busy day ahead of him.

The response to sponsorship has been great, all the classes and sashes have been sponsored, but if you know of anyone who would like to advertise their business in our catalogue get in touch now, or feel free to present a prize or make a small donation to funds.

The Show will have a slightly different look to it this year, as we have no Secretary's van, but you will find me either in our new "Show Unit" or a new Tent – another step towards us becoming self sufficient!

I am still slightly short of Stewards' so if you have time to spare on the day, please let me know – the work's not too hard and none of our Judge's bite!

See you all there,
Karen Stewart

Fun Day, Stablesbrae, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DS Sunday 16 September 2007

This promises to be a real fun day out, with In Hand and Ridden games, lots of competitions, a forestry ride, and even some home cooked fare, weather depending - soup or BBQ?

There will be ton's of Rosettes on offer, and it's a snip at £ 6.00 per pony, or £3.00 for those on foot.

The day starts at 11am with the games and after a break for lunch continues with a forest hack, no road work involved, a dog agility class and a chance to have a go at some Show Jumping, complete with "instruction" from Robin if required!

This is also an ideal opportunity for a "Stud Visit" to the first of our Stud Focus features in this Newsletter "West Lodge Highland Ponies"

Come along whether with pony dog or just on foot, as there will be something for everyone to have a go at.

Call Robin or Karen if you need directions on 01330 811802

***Numbers please to Susie by 9 September ***

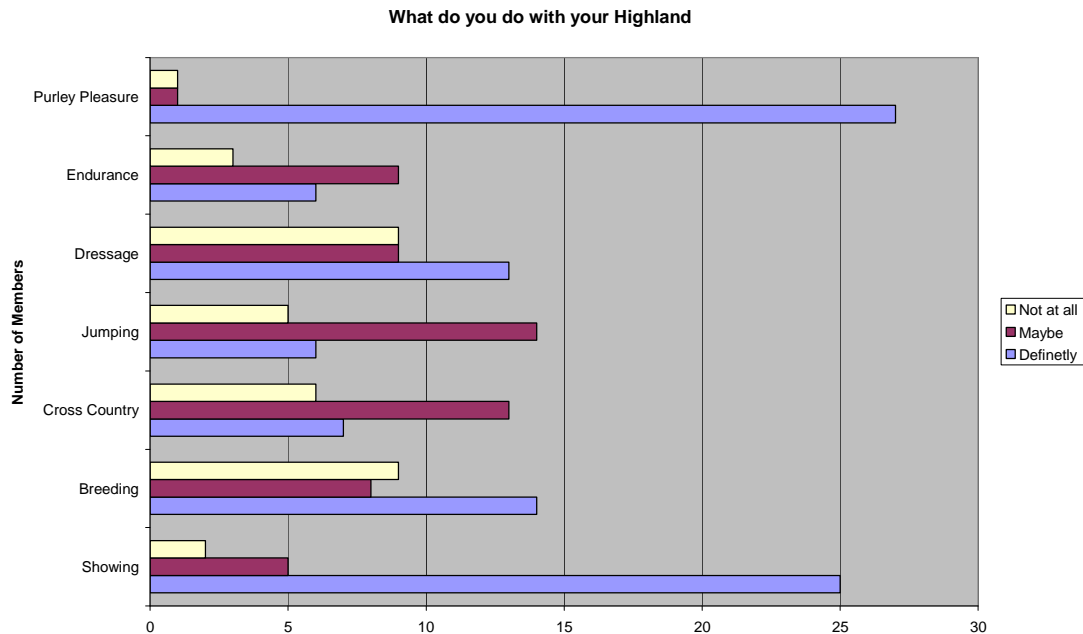
The last event for 2007 is our **25th Birthday Party** (aka) our **Annual Dinner and Presentaion of Trophies**, which this year is again being held at The Alford Golf Club, on Friday the 23rd November. Full details to follow in a later Newsletter – but meantime put this date in your diary!

Prior to this we may try and have a wee get together by resurrecting the Scrutiny Night complete with some entertainment, (Beetle Drive/Race Night??) any ideas welcome, for a cold night in November.

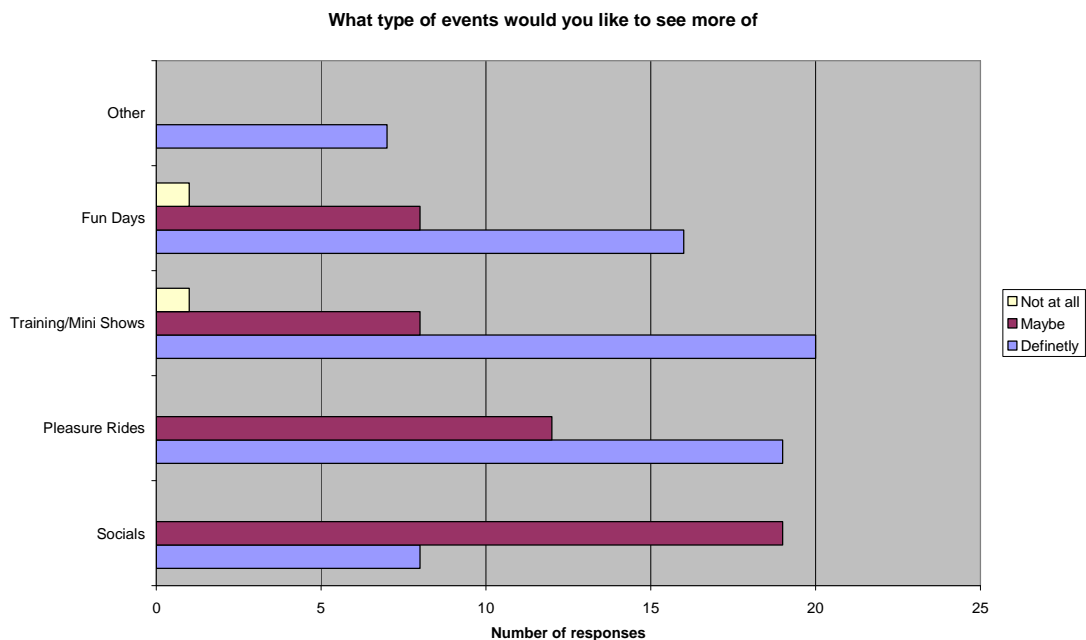
Members Questionnaire Results

We were delighted with the response to our questionnaire issued in the last newsletter and would like to thank everyone who took the time to reply. In total 38 people returned sheets, giving us a valuable insight into member's feelings on the club.

The results have also given us some excellent information that will help us shape the future of the club activities and for ease of reference we have tabulated the results as follows;

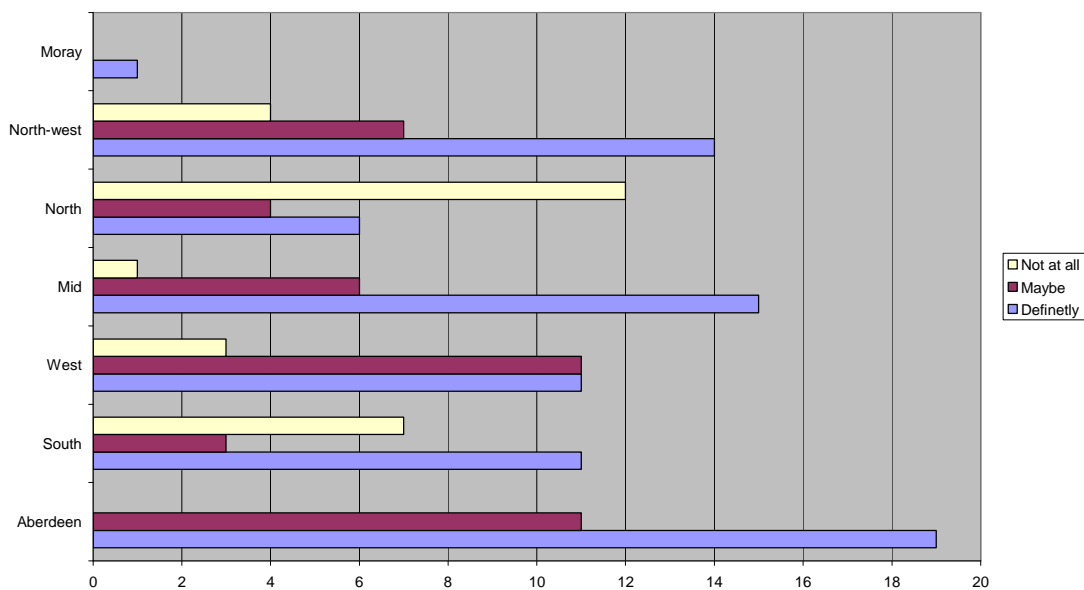


Clearly the majority of those replying keep their ponies for pleasure, showing & breeding purposes; however we were delighted to note a strong ridden influence, with just less than half taking part in Dressage.



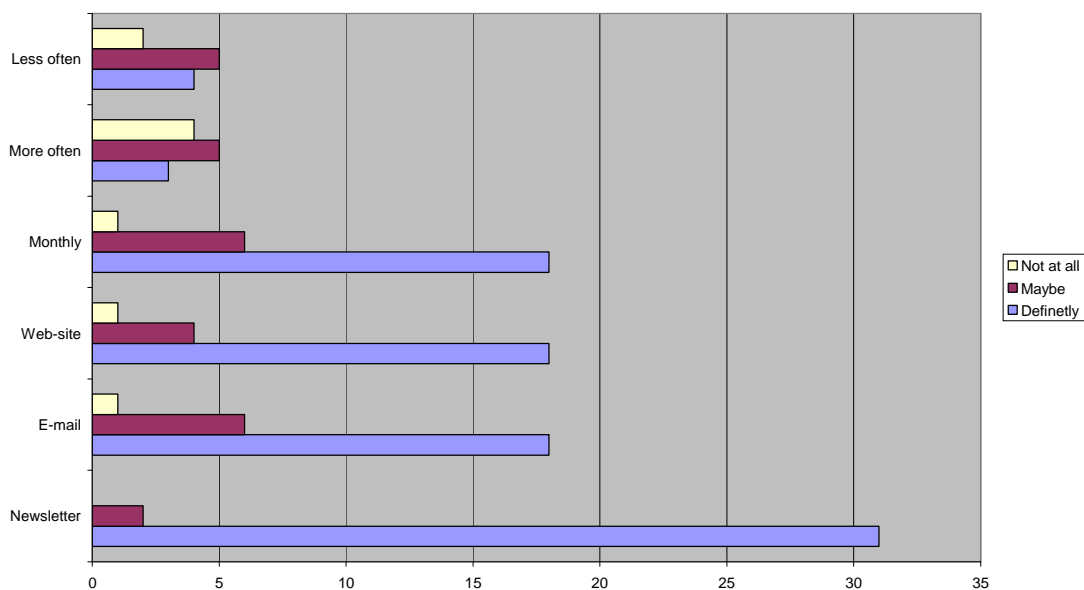
As indicated, we will look to hold more training/show days and also some pleasure rides (several of you suggested a beach ride). In conjunction with the "What do you" result, we may look to hold a Dressage clinic in the near future.

Where would you like events held

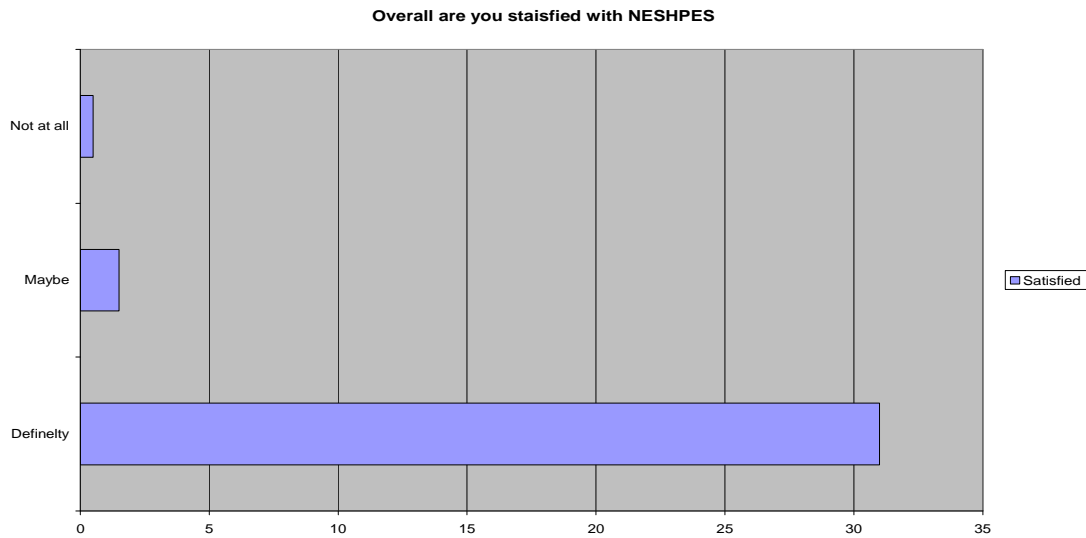


There is strong support for events to be held in the Aberdeen area, with Inverurie coming a close second. Mostly there is good support for all areas, although there seems to be a definite no about the North. West and South seem to be popular so, hopefully in conjunction with the numbers keen on more Fun Days, our Fun Day at Durriss on 16 September should be well supported.

What is best way to communicate with Members



Despite some comments at the AGM, we are pleased that there is good support for our Newsletter, on a monthly basis – we will try and keep this up, with shorter more fun newsletters where we have no real news and longer more detailed ones when events are happening. The web-site took a bit of stick for not being updated; however we already have this in hand with more regular updates now taking place.



This was the most encouraging result for us, with the overwhelming majority being satisfied with the club, only one response falling into the maybe, and one halfway between maybe and not at all.

Here are a selection of your comments/suggestions, which we will be considering at our next committee meeting;

“I really like being a NESHPEs member”

“I think it is an excellent club and everyone is very friendly, some things are quite far away from me as I am so far South, but everything I have been to has been great fun”

“Monthly newsletters would be good to inform us of all your activities. Would love to see more training clinics, but I think NESHPEs is doing a great job”

“ don’t seem to attend many events but I think it is great how many Newsletters you send out”

“looking forward to the stud focus”

“newsletters are fine, information good”

“love Donnie’s corner”

“I think the web-site needs to be used, it never changes, I can’t see the point of having it if it’s not used”

“very friendly group”

“Aberdeen Highland Pony Show is a lovely show, but the setting could be vastly improved on”

“Would be great if there was show jumping and dressage just for Highlands, but I am totally happy with what goes on with the club at the moment”

“very pleased with NESHPEs”

“more activities for junior riders, so they can get to know each other”

“more encouragement for those joining club and new to horse ownership”

“I’m aye waiten for ma humly in the bus, tae somewye!”

Hugh Duncan, Chairman

Donnie's Naughty Corner

Aye aye a'body, Donnie here AGAIN, huh! I thocht I wis bein affa good, but the wifie obviously disna agree. I've only trashed 2 mair watter troughs, bit that wis AGES ago. Ah gie'd 2 a rite good batter in the morning, but there wis nae sign o the wifie or the mannie a' day until teatime, and we wis affa thirsty by then. My Mither wisna happy wi me and ye dinna want tae get her in a mood, believe you me, so ah decided tae find anither game instead.

So, the new game is fence pingin'. Mind I telt ye they'd pit the 'lectric fence on and it wis giein me an affa dunt on the nose? Well, I discovered that it's ainly the top wire that dis that, the ither 3 are fine and harmless. Ye'd think the wifie wis trying tae starve us tae death, we've nae grass in the field at a', only dockens and wee scubby bits, but the wifie keeps saying 'You're a Highland Donnie, for goonis sake, I can't have you going off your feet. You were bred to wander miles across scrubby heather and live off fresh air, and it's not good for any of you to get too fat. You're lucky I'm not asking you to carry stags back off the hills for your keep, my lad' (the wifie spiks a bittie posh if ye ask me).

It's aw rite fur they lads ower the fence, they're up tae their oxters in fine lang grass, but nae us, oh no.

Onywey, I've discovered that if ye bend yer front legs and twist yersel' around, ye can get yer hale head and neck through the fence and hae a good munch at the lang grass. Ye hiv tae be careful nae tae push too far, or the top wire dunts yer neck, but I've got it down tae a fine art noo, I telt ye. Once ye've had a fine munch it's an affa chav tae untwist yersel', so I jist pull ma heid back oot and the wire maks a really fine pingin sound. See if ye ping the fence enuff times, the wire gets fine and loose, and ye can stretch yer neck even further through it and get at even MAIR bitties o grass, magic! It also means ye wiggle oot bits o' the fence which are aparently ca'd staples and that maks the mannie ging jist MINTAL! It wis him built the fence in the first place, ye'd think he'd ken fit he wis daein', honestly!

After a few weeks o' saving mysel' from starvation by pingin staples, the wifie took pity on us, and let us intae the grassy puddock. Me and Fay had a fine time exploring it, and Fay found a deid bird tae play wi' (telt ye she wis a bit geypit). But Mither jist et and et and et and et till she got a sair tummy and lied doon. The wifie started screching about 'colic' (fitiver that is), and Fay wis trying tae be helpful, but Mither jist bit a'body and telt them tae ging awa and leave her alane. The wifie shut us back in the bare puddock again and I wis absolutely starving. I sees Mither lying doon tho, so thocht I'd hae a fine lang sook while she couldna kick me, and the wifie says 'Oh Donnie, you really are the absolute limit'. I huv nae idea whit she wis spikkin about.

See ye next time!



Donnie

ps. reid a' about me Faither on the next page, think he *looks* a bittie posh if ye ask me!

Stud Focus

Arbeadie/Coulnacraig & West Lodge Highland Ponies

It was suggested that each of the Highland Pony Breeders in the NESHPEs area, should put a Stud Focus in the Newsletter, but apparently to date all the other Studs have been too shy to put anything in – so I have been nominated (bullied, by your honourable show secretary), into being the first to bore you all.

Over the years the Stud name has changed from Arbeadie in the 70's, to Coulnacraig in the 80's (The *mis*-spelling in some Show Schedule's, helping that progression) and finally, West Lodge in the 90's, we have so far resisted a further change to Stablesbrae.

It all started with a mare; Acma of Fingask (Dusty), who I initially used for competition Driving, a little showing In Hand, and as a safe companion for breaking in my "real horses".

Acma of Fingask



As a "young boy" I took Dusty to the Royal Highland Show (RHS), and following a promising third place, decided that I should start breeding from her. She was duly dispatched to the McArdle's Denmill Stud at Alford to be covered by their RHS Champion, McNair of Denmill and the next year, her filly foal, Karen of Arbeadie, (named after you know who!), took First place and won the Best Mare & Foal Trophy at the RHS. Karen went onto have a highly successful showing career, competing in, In Hand, Ridden and Driving classes.

Around the same time I bought a colt foal, Duart of Glenmuick, from the Aberdeen Mart for the princely sum of 50 Guineas, purely as a pet for my sister to have a bit of fun with, however over the winter he kept on improving, so being a true Indian Giver – I re-possessed him as a potential Stallion and started to show him, achieving over 30 Championship's, In Hand & Ridden, including 2 Male Championships and Reserve Overall at the RHS and 2 Overall M&M Championships at the NPS Summer Show, prior to him being sold to Germany in 1990.

Part of the reason for selling Duart to Germany was that we, (now the royal "we" being myself & Karen, your honourable show secretary, not the horse), had a special colt foal by him, out of another successful show mare Honey of Tillybrig. So we decided that we wanted to keep him as a potential Stallion and named him Coulnacraig Highlander – Patch, for short. The Coulnacraig name came in the 80's from my Trekking Centre at Potarch, where I worked a string of 15 Highland's in all shapes and sizes, from 15.2hh down to 13.1hh, all pure bred ponies.

Coulnacraig Highlander "Patch"



How Patch acquired his names has two stories - the first being, his real name - due to an extremely difficult covering, (involving mum lying down pretending to be dead!), we assumed she was not in foal, and decided that we would never try again – however when "the wee ball of fluff" appeared the next year we decided on "Highlander" from the film of the same name as "There can be only One".

His nickname came much later on, when at a show a notable Highland Pony breeder, decided we were silly to sell Duart and keep Highlander as "he'll never be a patch on his Dad". However, Patch went onto better his Dad's show career, taking even more Championships and becoming Overall RHS Champion in 2002.

Patch retired to stud in 2002, and since then he has sired numerous successful show ponies, including our two current show mares, West Lodge Amy and West Lodge Annie. In 2002, the same year Dad won it, daughter, West Lodge Acma stood 1st in the In Hand Section and 2nd in the Ridden Section at the Highland Show.

West Lodge is now the Stud name we use for our female and gelding lines, retaining the Coulnacraig name for potential Stallions.

Last year we registered a Coulnacraig Jacobite, by Patch out of Catriona of Denmill, however it may take some time to see if he lives up to his Dad, as not only does Patch produce good, strong active types, but he leaves a superb friendly temperament in all his foals (Donnie excepted!).

Over the years our numbers have fluctuated between 3 and 30 ponies, however I think we have now achieved a sensible level at 12, a small stud compared to some, but manageable. As a stud, we tend focus on our own mares, but do take in a few selected mares, striving to produce quality, good natured, active Highland Ponies.

Youngstock for sale.

Currently available 2 colt foals, both big strong well boned, contact;
stablesbrae@btinternet.com



ROBIN STEWART
STABLES BRAE
DURRIS
01330 811802

THE NESHPE (ALMOST) DAY AT THE RACES

At the AGM, it was proposed that we have a day at the Races, and we duly suggested this in the March Newsletter; however we got absolutely no response from anybody wanting to go.

Not to be discouraged, Robin and I usually organise an annual Stablesbrae visit to the Races, and decided that this year would be no exception, so we hired a self-drive Mini-bus to get us there.

This year, however our party did have a bit of a NESHPE feel to it, with 6 of our passengers being NESHPE members!

We had a leisurely start to the day, leaving Stablesbrae at just after 10am, (I hear Hugh objecting to this, as he had an early start get to us. And having been “on duty” he just got to bed at 3am, so he subsequently slept most of the way down, nicknamed for the day - “The Sleeping Policeman”).

Stopping at the infamous “Ye may gang far and fare waur” (forgive my spelling if its wrong “spell-check” was no help), for a quick coffee, we reached Perth Racecourse at just after 12 – perfect timing for a picnic lunch on the lawn.

Due to the fact we had booked 18 people on a 17 seater bus, we had decided that we would have a group picnic, so the finest of fare from Costco was purchased and packed into one large bag, along with enough wine to keep your two secretary’s going (at least till afternoon tea!). Think passers by were amazed at our “posh” picnic – you know - just the usual stuff - plates, cutlery, glasses, wine, prawns, salmon, strawberries etc!!

As its was Gold Cup day, the Race course was very busy, however our group found an excellent little spot in the Grandstand, which we took turns in to guard all day – some people went off to put on bets (why – who knows?), some of us just picked a horse, and then added up how much was saved by not putting a bet on! (So much so I managed to buy a wee gold bracelet from one of the stalls for my birthday, thanks Robin, xx).



There were five races, running between 2.30 and 5.30 – however time just flew past, not like some of the horses (most of Robin’s hot tips!), and before we knew it we were back on the bus, for the party from the Race course to our pub.

Anyone who has been to the Races knows about the wait to get away from the car park, however thanks to some nifty/scary driving by Robin, we were out of there in 10 minutes flat, and as such, were way too early for our tea stop at Meikle. However the Landlord was unfazed and provided us with rounds of drinks while we ordered. I can highly recommend The Kinloch Arms at Meikle to anyone – a friendly pub with good inexpensive food.

The rest of the journey went quite quickly to those of us who had had a “couple” - think I fell asleep, ZZZZ ZZZZ ZZ (someone did moan about the noise of the bus, but can’t have been me as I don’t snore!), and all too soon we were back home planning our trip for next year.

The Races are not a cheap away day (about £40 per head – bus/entry/lunch/tea – plus betting money), however it is worth every penny as it is a great day out, which I would highly recommend, and suggest that if you want to come next year, get your name in early, as we have, again, already over filled the bus – Robin you need to get a PSV Licence!

Karen Stewart

