

Season Opener a Great Success:

The North Eastern Driving Trials group held their first event of the season at Ripley Castle, North Yorkshire over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of May. 44 drivers from as far afield as Northumberland, Cumbria, Lancashire and Lincolnshire took part making all classes hotly contested. First time competitor John Wilkinson took the Pre-novice class from Sam Thornton whilst in the Novice Pony class Birgitta Kronqvist took a ten penalty lead in the dressage to hold on to the win, despite a determined effort by Kelly Wilson who put up the fastest marathon time of the class. Novice Horse win went to Steve Nichols from Thirsk with his new horse for this season, who led convincingly throughout all stages to finish some 38 penalties ahead of his nearest rival, Penny Hartley.

Stand-alone intermediate classes were held for the first time this year and although ponies were thin on the ground winner Nigel Williams posted a very respectable score on the marathon to take the win. Intermediate Horse had five forward, with eventual winner Wendy Mason from Scarborough playing nip and tuck all the way with second placed Wendy Peckham. Open Horse, Open Pony and Pony Pairs all fell to “foreign” raiders being won by Susan Henry (Northumberland), Gary Brown (Lancashire) and Lyn Winder (Cumbria) respectively. In the final class of the day Yorkshire had the honours once more with Pat Cooper winning the mixed class with her tandem, closely followed by Ray Aziz and his team of ponies.