

“Longview by the Lake” Combined Driving Event

Jerry Plummer

On the weekend of September 24th-25th the Carriage and Driving Society of Greater Kansas City will host a Combined Driving Event at the Longview Horse Park in Kansas City, MO. For those of you that have never seen an event such as this, a Combined Driving Event or “CDE” is a three-phase competition for carriage drivers. The sport has been in existence since 1969 when it was developed by the FEI under the guidance of HRH Prince Phillip. It was patterned after the Badminton Horse Trials and today it is one of the fastest growing equine disciplines.

The first phase is Dressage, a test to judge the harmonious relationship of the horse and driver, the obedience of the horse and the skill of the driver. Following Dressage, a timed Cones Obstacle Driving test will be performed. This test consists of 20 sets of cones, set apart barely more than the width of the carriage wheels. The cones must be driven in a prescribed order and the test is timed with penalties assessed for errors. Both the Dressage and Obstacle Driving tests will be done on Saturday the 24th.

Sunday the 25th will see the final phase of the competition. This phase is the Cross Country Marathon. The Marathon tests the fitness and stamina of the horse, but the driver must also use good judgment in pace. The Marathon is of course timed and will cover a distance of about 10 to 12 miles, the last section of which is very exciting. This section contains several “hazards” which the driver must negotiate, usually without slowing in speed.

Spectators are welcome on both days of the competition, free of charge. The competition starts at 9:00 am each day. As you may have guessed an event such as this requires many volunteers so anyone interested in volunteering can contact the volunteer coordinator, Lisa Packard at 913-369-2104. For more information you may also contact the organizer Chi Chi Wood at 816-540-3932 or the secretary Jerry Plummer at 816-228-9358.