



Bug. Appropriately dressed with my jodis, hard hat, boots and gloves, I stepped on board with Amanda seated next to me. Therefore, I felt perfectly safe and in good hands, even though I had to take the reins.

We walked on, into the nicely mown, flat field 'decorated' with cones. Amanda explained how one uses one's body language to steer and control the pony and, when we did our first turn, I leant over like I've seen them do in the scurry driving. Now, Amanda told me straight away you do not need to do that. It is quite similar to riding. Sitting up nice and straight, a slight turn of the head and therefore the upper body, an almost indistinguishable movement, was sufficient for the finely-tuned Tom-Tom to know where I wanted him to go!

You don't need a sat-nav with Tom-Tom!

Wow! This pony is sooooo well-schooled, I was soon trotting through the cones, keeping a light, even contact and just looking where I wanted to go (probably a little sedately for Tom-Tom, who is used to going somewhat faster). Amanda taught me how to accelerate, steady-up and turn the corners around the edge of the big field. Then we had a cross-country-style gallop up the incline to finish on a high.

It was more fun than I ever imagined it would be. It was easier and more natural than I expected too. The next person had arrived for their lesson; they weren't a first-timer like me, they were having more advanced schooling.

**Bennington Carriages are holding another Try Driving session. The next one is on Wednesday 16th July.**

**For details etc phone Sue Mart on 01400 281280 or email [carriages@bennington.co.uk](mailto:carriages@bennington.co.uk) www.sportsdriving.co.uk**

*Report by Louise Graham  
Photos by Zoe Molesworth*

# *I tried it! I liked it!*

Invited by Sue Mart to go along on one of Bennington's 'Try Sports Driving' days, I was looking forward to meeting the instructor, Amanda Saville, again. She lives up North and was stopping at Bennington en route to the East of England Show. Her father and mine are cousins, so being horsey and enjoying shows must run in the family! But I am happier riding and Amanda is a whiz at driving, as anyone who has seen her 'Chariots of Fire' Display Team in action will agree. She is the Scottish Indoor Champion and has written a book, 'Sports Driving'.

I really did not know what to expect the experience to feel like. I have been driven before, gently along the lanes in a gig, which I enjoyed, but not enough to want to take up driving. Amanda started by showing me a few safety-checks to make on the harness. One of her stunt ponies, Tom-Tom, was put to a Bennington Fun

Sit up! Louise, Amanda and Tom-Tom

