

It rains (6th June 2014)

Day one

It's sunny on 6th June in the centre of our fair island. The results of the Newark by-election have been announced and the Conservatives have held the seat. Apparently it rained on Wednesday and the field we are in is somewhat waterlogged. Most of the competitors at this competition are having their cars and caravans towed from the waterlogged dirt track across the mud, interspersed with the odd blade of grass to the far side, down the hill and amid the even wetter area. As they were only using a couple of tractors and 4x4 pick-ups, we made our own way across the lumpy straw and down to where we had been directed.

One has to forgive the organisers, as the original venue was waterlogged from the previous weeks rain and this venue was a last minute substitute. This meant the plot numbering was forgotten and everyone was dumped in order of being towed, rather than possibly the most suitable. I'm not sure the people trying to cram everyone in, realised that caravans don't like being sited sideways on a slope and campers are not keen on setting a tent up on a slope with inbuilt water. Add in nice new water taps that didn't produce water and we have a lot of unhappy bunnies and dogs. It's all right though, as tonight we are promised more wet stuff to rain down on us. Our back-up plan is to go to the Sheltie Club centenary at Stoneleigh Park tomorrow - if we can actually extract ourselves from here.

Day two

Once again, the promised weather warning didn't materialise and the day was dry as we made our way to Stoneleigh for our youngest Sheltie to meet her mates (including a litter sibling) and experience 'showing' at the tender age of 6 months. I sometimes wonder why we bother as she is into everything and not concentrating at all - to be honest, we didn't expect anything different as living in our household is a challenge all on its own.

Having done her 'duty', we packed up and left mainly because we do it for fun and most of the others are so passionate (not to mention lots are breeders).

Remember the promised rain? It remembered to come, although a little late but just as wet. The ruts had filled up with water again complete with 4x4 vehicles towing out competitors who had decided to call it 'day' even with another day to go, only light rain forecast tomorrow. So, with the ruts a muddy brown, the general area around them resembling the wetlands we are all hoping for a gentle drying breeze coupled with continuous June sunshine for the next 12 hours. It's only 3:30 pm, so we live in hope!

Day three

The rain came overnight, so this morning had wonderful sunshine complete with waterlogged ruts. The day parkers managed to plough up the exit area which now looks like Clapham Common railway junction, only comprising of muddy rivers all criss crossing each. By the time 150 caravans and 50 day parkers have tried to get out, I'm not sure quite how things will go later.

Update – Obviously with our SUBARU, it was not a problem. The ads are right!!