



In The News

Compton Chamberlayne

EAST KNOYLE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual ploughing match and dinner of the East Knoyle Agricultural Society was held on Thursday. The ploughing took place on land in the occupation of Mr Warren, at Pertwood, East Knoyle, and, notwithstanding the extremely unfavourable state of the weather, rain falling almost continually upon the hilly country upon which the land is situated, the matches seemed quite as much as ordinarily to excite public attention. The work generally was well performed, and the junior ploughmen in particular obtained the merited approval of the three experienced judges, Messrs J Lush, of Kilmington; Wallace, of Chittern; and Keevle, of Compton Chamberlain.

As might be expected, the interest centered principally upon the ploughing for the champion prizes, four in number, consisting of a prize of £5 to the best ploughman in the field, and a cup, value £5, given by the president of the society (Mr Alfred Seymour, M.P.) to the master of the best ploughman; £2 given by Mr William Cheater and a third prize given by Mr J W Titt. For these prizes, opened to be competed for by all comers under certain stipulated conditions fixed by Mr Seymour and the committee, seventeen ploughs had been entered, and at about ten o'clock, fifteen of these were started.

The work was done in an exceedingly creditable style, more particularly considering the unfavourable circumstance of weather, which, besides placing difficulties before the ploughman, occasioned the utmost confusion to the judges, one of whom, it will be seen by the following report, declared at dinner the fears they entertained lest in making their awards they should unintentionally have committed error. It is needless to say that, if mistakes had occurred, both the society and the competitors would have forgiven them, knowing that, under the most favourable circumstances, many of the nicer points in ploughing are difficult to be judged with precision; but we have abundant authority for stating that the awards of the judges gave as general satisfaction as their promise to discharge the duties again another year if required afforded pleasure to the subscribers at the dinner. In fact, all things being considered, it may be said that the meeting this year was creditable to the society and gratifying to its friends; and all that is hoped for is finer weather and still more extended competition another year..

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 16 November, 1867)