

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Office update

The new office has now had a couple of months to settle in and is working well so far. Members are starting to focus on the coming season and look forward to the onset of spring with the associated seasonal flowers and improved weather (we hope). This is the time to ensure all your vaccinations are up to date and make sure the passports are in order for all the animals with which you intend to compete.

BHDTA AGM

Don't forget that the AGM takes place in the catering marquee at Brighton Horse Driving Trials on Thursday 1st May at 7pm.

In addition to the ordinary business of the meeting, the results of the council elections will be made known and there will be some time spent dealing with the proposed changes to the Articles of Association to incorporate the new council structure with the clubs' regional representatives.

Membership renewals

Many thanks to everyone who is sending their renewals in good time. Remember that your legal liability insurance cover will lapse if you have not re-joined by 31st January 2008.

Members are taking full advantage of the online renewal service which has been offered for the first time this year and is proving very popular. Take care to select the most suitable category for your needs.

The associate/club competitor category is the first one that gives all year round legal liability cover and is good value for the level of cover offered and for the peace of mind that the full insurance cover brings. Please ring the office if you are in any doubt.

Payment options

As we have received more and more requests for credit card facilities, and with the obvious popularity of the online membership renewals, an option to make credit card payments online has been introduced.

This can be found on the website under "Contact Us" or "Index". This will enable you to apply for places on a course or clinic or can be used for any other payments which are required such as start fees.

FEI passports and registrations

With the office no longer located at Stoneleigh, please note that it will take a few extra days to process FEI passports as they will have to be posted to the BEF.

If you intend to compete internationally in 2008, make sure you are well organised with your paperwork up to date in good time. This will reduce stress levels of all concerned. Don't forget that the FEI now require all drivers and horses to be registered before competing.

Forms for horse and driver registrations are available on the website under the "Reference" section.

International competitions

If you wish to compete at any international events abroad, please send a note of the events at which you intend to compete to the BHDTA office, after you have renewed your subscription.

Yearbook and membership cards

The BHDTA are indebted to Jill Holah for the work she did compiling the BHDTA Yearbook for 2008. This is a huge task and needed to

be done during the time the Executive Officer was taking up her new post and moving the office. The yearbooks are printed by *Carriage Driving* and will be with members shortly.

Drug testing

All branches of equestrianism are being encouraged by the BEF to be more pro-active in administering drug tests within their sport. In 2007 the BHDTA stepped up the number of tests carried out and specifically targeted classes that were being used as selection events for world championships.

As the process becomes quicker and easier, so the number of tests carried out will increase.

BHDTA Clinics

The series of spring clinics has now got under way and are proving popular. There's still time to add your name to the list for the ones that have still to run.

Remember that there are two venues for the Club Course Designers' Clinic; one in the south in February and one in the north in March. Full details of the clinics can be found on the website, in the January issue of *Carriage Driving* or in the December Office Newsletter.

New tachograph rules

Did you know that from April 2007 there was a change to the law which removed the tachograph private use exemption for vehicles and vehicle combinations in excess of 7,500kg?

Unfortunately, as is quite often the case, this has not been well publicised and, of the few articles in magazines that have been published, some have failed to make the position clear. This has the potential to affect you if you travel to events with a caravan or carriage trailer towed by your lorry or drive an HGV vehicle.

From the 11th April 2007 it has been a legal requirement that all vehicles with a maximum gross weight over 7,500kg, or a vehicle combination with a gross weight which is over 7,500kg, must use a tachograph for all journeys.

For example if your horse box has a gross weight of 7,490kg (maximum weight of most 7.5 tonne vehicles) and you tow a trailer or caravan you are in scope of the regulations and need to use a tachograph while the trailer or caravan is being towed.

Please note: It is not the actual laden weight of the vehicle and trailer, but the weight which the vehicle, or combination, can legally carry when fully laden which you need to take into account.

Further guidance is available in the VOSA guide to rules on drivers' hours and Tachograph for goods vehicles in the UK and Europe. It is recommended that you read this document which can be found at www.transportoffice.gov.uk.

Follow the link for vehicle drivers and then drivers' hours and tachograph rules. Please ensure you follow "goods vehicles", as the rules for passenger vehicles are different.

A more detailed help sheet for members will be included in the next office newsletter.

FEI Driving Rules

Accepted modifications to the 9th Edition 2005 by the FEI Driving Committee in September 2007.

Effective January 1st, 2008.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Article 910

1. Age of competitors
1.1 Competitors in the classes for horse tandems and horse four-in-

hands may compete in international events from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach 18.

- 1.2 Competitors in the classes for pairs and single horses may compete in international events from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach 16 (must be accompanied by a groom of 18 years or more). Competitors in the classes for single ponies, pony pairs, pony tandems and pony four-in-hands may compete in international events from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach 14 (must be accompanied by a groom of 18 years or more).

Class	Driver Age
Horses four-in-hand, pair, tandem	18 years and over
Horse pair, single	16 years and over
Ponies four-in-hand, pair, tandem, single	14 years and over

- 1.3 Grooms may ride on a vehicle at international events from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach 14.

- 1.4 Failure to comply with any of the above paragraphs entails elimination.

ORGANISATION

Art. 901.

11.2.4 For national events to be considered as qualifiers, at least two international judges must be on the ground jury. NFs wishing to use national events as qualifiers must request from the FEI the list of judges from which the international judges may be chosen.

11.2.5 Of the two international judges at national competitions, which are used as qualifiers for championships, one must be foreign and approved by the FEI.

New national venue

The Welsh National Carriage Driving Championships will be held in the picturesque grounds of the Erddig Estate, in North Wales. The 514 hectare National Trust property is situated just south of Wrexham, in close proximity to Chester where it can be easily located off the M54/M56 through to the A483.

The event will make full use of the attractive location. For section A of the marathon, competitors will experience the woodland drives and parkland fields. Section C encompasses a loop around a lake and section E is a mixed route around the 18th century parkland estate and woodland tracks.

The venue has two dressage arenas, at least one warm up arena and eight newly constructed obstacles for drivers to test their skills.

A website for the venue is currently under construction, but more information about Erddig, can be found on the National Trust website or by using the following link <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-erddig/>.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Regional representation

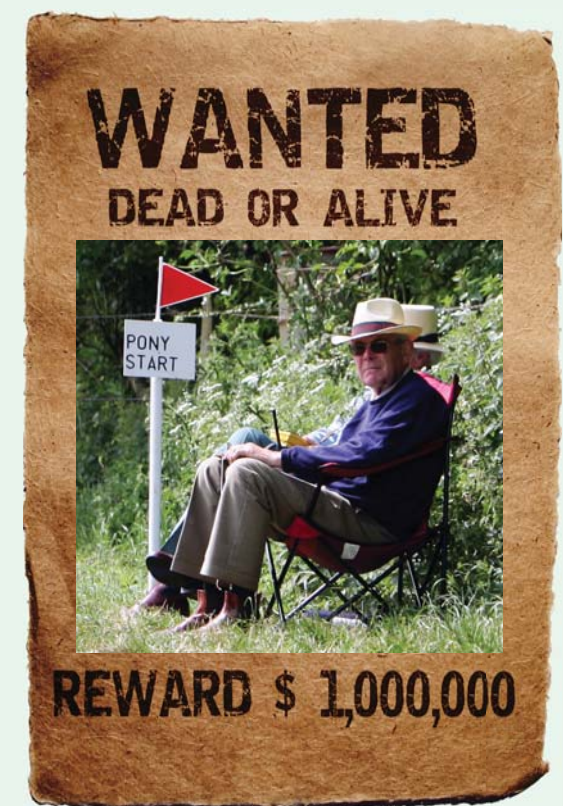
The new regional structure, to enable clubs to have a greater involvement with the BHDTA, is nearing the end of the process. This has been received with enthusiasm by most areas, with an election required where an area had more than one nomination.

The regional representatives will elect from their number representatives to serve on the BHDTA Council. This will give clubs a strong voice within the sport. As this is a new initiative there are bound to be some problems that will need to be resolved but all the

signs are most encouraging so far that the clubs will take full advantage of the opportunity to liaise more closely with each other and the BHDTA.

In England, new Government initiatives for funding are going to use a regional structure to distribute funding rather than allocating funds to each equestrian discipline. Carriage driving now has that structure in place and it is expected that the regional representatives will be instrumental in this process.

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

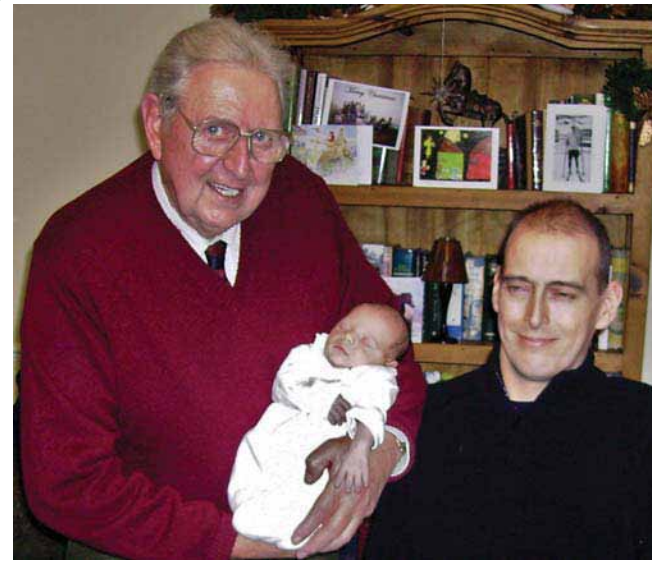


Wanted!

OK, not literally dead or alive, but the sport does need new volunteers to act as stewards, timekeepers, obstacle stewards, dressage writers etc. The list of ways that volunteers can become involved in driving trials are many and varied. Events are usually looking for new blood and working in tandem with more experienced people is a great way to learn as well as being an enjoyable day out.

Try and persuade someone from your stables, local riding club etc. to expand their horizons and experience competitive carriage driving. Invite them to come along and get involved rather than just spectating. Alternatively, encourage some of your regular helpers to volunteer for a job for a morning or afternoon. As competitors, there is a need for everyone to make an effort to recruit new helpers as they are such an integral part of our sport and our enjoyment.





*Three generations of coachmen and BHDTA members!
Grandfather John Cowdery and Andrew, proud father of month-old Samuel. Many congratulations to both Andrew and Lucy.*

200 Club 2007

There's still time before the first draw to join the 200 Club. Those who have received prizes already will confirm that this is a worthwhile investment so don't be disappointed.

Help our immensely hard-working supporters' co-ordinator

to achieve her target of the full 200 members this year.

Contact: Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm, Lumby, South Milford, Leeds LS25 5LD.

Indoor World Cup

Congratulations to Boyd Exell for winning through to the final of the Indoor World Cup in Leipzig. After a little tweaking the team really came together and Boyd had the highest total score of the six finalists.

A substantial crowd of enthusiastic supporters travelled to Leipzig to cheer him on in his bid to take over the mantle of indoor supremo from Michael Freund.

A future coachman

Congratulations to Lucy and Andrew on the birth of their son Samuel Andrew Cowdery who was born at 21.12 on Friday 14th December. He is likely to be participating in coaching activities at the earliest opportunity.

British Horse Driving Trials Association,
East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.

Tel: 0845 643 2116

Email: bhdta@hosedrivingtrials.co.uk

Website: www.hosedrivingtrials.co.uk

Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon
Mon 5pm to 8pm



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Many thanks to everyone for their patience as the office administration settles down and a few technical glitches get ironed out.

Please take time to sit down and browse through these pages as they contain much useful information.

The mailing at the beginning of February contained an office newsletter, membership cards, a Yearbook (remember that Associate Couples and Combined Full/Associate members share one), a formal notice of the AGM and a proxy form.

Please check that your membership category is correct. Many forms contained anomalies and initiative was frequently required to allocate a membership category.

Membership renewals

Members continue to take full advantage of the on-line renewal service which has been offered for the first time this year and is proving very popular. If you are using this facility, please take care to enter your details accurately and fully.

The office database does not possess a post code recognition system so please take the time to submit your full address. This is especially important if you have moved house recently (a note to this effect can help to establish that you are not a new member).

BHDTA AGM

Don't forget that the AGM takes place in the catering marquee at Brighton Horse Driving Trials on Thursday 1st May at 7pm. In addition to the ordinary business of the meeting, the new council will be made known and there will be some time spent dealing with the proposed changes to the Articles of Association to incorporate the new council structure with the clubs' regional representatives.

Rule book amendments

Updated inserts will be available for existing rule books from the beginning of March. If you require a copy, please send a SAE, with stamps to the value of 60p, to the office.

BHDTA CLINICS

Club Course Designers' Clinic

For members situated further north, there is a Club Course Designers' Clinic on Sunday, 16th March, in the George Hotel, Penrith. Mark Ingham will be the trainer and the day costs £25 (inc lunch tea/coffee etc.) If you wish to book a place, phone the organiser, Ian Gilbert, on 01294 832461.

Club Judges' Clinic

A Club Judges' Clinic has been arranged and takes place on the 23rd March at Scropton. It will be run by Sarah Garnett. All club members are invited – you do not need to belong to the organising club. The venue has a meeting room which opens out onto an all-weather arena and there is a café for refreshments.

Stewards' Training Day

A Stewards' Training Day has been organised on 27th April, at Escrick Park, near York (A19). Philip Bateman will be giving everyone the benefit of his vast knowledge of the sport and demonstrating how rewarding and enjoyable stewarding can be. Proceedings get under way at 10am with free light refreshments available for everyone.



International and National Course Designers who attended the recent clinic with Richard Nicoll, Chairman of the FEI Driving Committee.

This training is open to anyone wishing to become a steward as well as existing stewards at both national and club level. If you wish to book a place, please telephone Sheila Hawking on 01977 682298.

Details of the clinics can also be found on the website.

Feedback from the clinics

Philip Bateman and Sydney Smith will need a week to recover from the recent clinics at The Unicorn Trust where four ran back-to-back directly after the two-day Judges' Seminar. These have all been very constructive and produced a number of interesting points.

Judges

The Judges' seminar expressed concern over the speeds demanded for the marathon walk section having a detrimental effect on this pace in the dressage.

Another point that gave the judges cause for concern was the complexity of the tests for tandems. Amendments are to be implemented and these recommended to event organisers. Tandems please note that you may be driving tests other than those published in the schedules.

The position of the driver on the box seat and the associated skill in lengthening and shortening reins were also fully discussed as this had been noted as an area of weakness for many competitors. Heavier penalties will be given where the driver's posture and rein handling are not seen to be effective in communicating clearly with the horse.

Driving the Dressage Tests

Diana Brownlie delivered an incredibly helpful presentation on how to drive the new dressage tests being introduced in 2008. She removed her judge's hat and focused on the competitor's point of view, showing how the arena could be used to best advantage to maximise the number of marks achieved in this phase. This had also been well received when she delivered it in Canada and Hungary to international audiences and we are privileged to have the benefit of her experience before the forthcoming season.

International and National Course Designers

The concern over walk speeds was picked up at the International Course Designers' clinic too and the Rules Committee will be asked to make a submission to the FEI to request that the speed is reduced to reflect the original concept of enabling the horses to relax. Richard Nicoll, chairman of the FEI Driving Committee, who was taking the clinic, indicated that this request would need to come from a number of federations. As the clinic was international, there were five present on this occasion and all supported the suggestion.

Technical Delegates

When the Technical Delegates met there was some very productive discussion. One issue affecting competitors was the amount of paperwork issued and a solution to reduce this is being sought.

Club Course Designers

Club Course Designers benefited from the combined talents of Mark Ingham and Gunnar Larsson on the Saturday. It was unanimously

agreed that this should remain a separate clinic from the National clinic as different issues required priority.

Chefs d'Equipe

On the Sunday, existing and potential chefs d'equipe had the opportunity to pick the combined brains of Philip Bateman and Jill Holah who have extensive knowledge of international matters. The discussion was productive and very helpful, lasting considerably longer than had been anticipated.

COMPETITIONS

Yellow cards

The BHDTA are adopting the FEI system which enables event officials to issue a warning to competitors in the form of a yellow card where there is abuse of the horses in any form or incorrect behaviour towards event officials or any other party connected to the event.

Full details are available on the website under the heading "Rules and Tests" in the Reference Section.

Intermediate class update

Note: The intermediate class run by NEDTL is at Allerton Park on August 2/3rd and not as previously published.

INTERNATIONAL

Congratulations to Ian Douglas who has been promoted to Official International Technical Delegate.

With the office no longer located at Stoneleigh, please note that it will take a few extra days to process passports as they will have to be posted to the BEF. If you intend to compete internationally in 2008, make sure you are well organised, with your paperwork up to date in good time. This will reduce stress levels of all concerned.

FEI Passports and registrations

The BEF has notified the office that FEI passports will only be issued to competitors who intend to compete internationally. Don't forget that the FEI now require all drivers and horses to be registered before competing. Forms for horse and driver registrations are available on the website under the "Reference" section.

The FEI database requires horses to be registered before a passport can be renewed or upgraded to an FEI one. This has created some confusion so far but everyone will be more familiar with the system by the end of the season.

Vaccinations

For horses that are competing internationally (defined as horses that are registered for that calendar year with the FEI), six-monthly vaccinations are required. Should your horse withdraw from international competition, a letter of explanation is required from your vet if the vaccination is not administered. Annual vaccinations should be continued and the frequency increased to six-monthly when international events are resumed.

International competitions

If you wish to compete at any international events abroad, please send a note of the events at which you intend to compete to the BHDTA office, after you have renewed your subscription. The BEF have requested that entries are made through the



office and endorsed by the BEF prior to being sent to the event. This should ensure that all the appropriate registrations have been completed.

Selection procedure

At the recent meeting of the BHDTA Council, the selection procedure for our world championship teams was discussed at great length. Consideration was given to various means of selection including awarding points for each phase of the competition. The surprising outcome from the trial runs we made, using last year's results, was that no matter which system we used we always finished with the same result as first past the post.

The council therefore decided to adopt first past the post as the selection criteria for all classes. One minor change to this system is that competitors may now put their name forward at a later stage of the selection process.

Qualifying events

Six events have confirmed that they will run international qualifying classes in 2008, with Erdigg and Farleigh likely to gain approval in the near future. Please check nearer the time but it is hoped that these will be allocated as follows:

Royal Windsor - Horse and pony fours, horse singles and pairs.

Hopetoun - Horse and pony fours, horse singles and pony pairs.

Sandringham - Horse and pony fours, horse singles and pairs.

Catton - Horse and pony fours, horse and pony pairs.

Lowther - Horse pairs and pony fours, pairs and singles.

National Championships - Horse pairs and pony fours, pairs and singles.

Erdigg - Horse pairs and pony fours, pairs and singles.

Farleigh - tbc.

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

200 Club 2008

There's still time before the first draw to join the 200 Club. Those who have received prizes already will confirm that this is a worthwhile investment so don't be disappointed. Help our immensely hard working supporters' co-ordinator to achieve her target of the full 200 members this year.

Contact: Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm,

British Horse Driving Trials Association,
East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116

Email: bhdt@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk
Website: www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk
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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Rule book amendments

Updated inserts are now available for existing rule books. If you require a copy, please send a SAE, with stamps to the value of 60p, to the office.

Insurance

There has been a wide range of questions asked this year on the subject of insurance. One thing that has become clear is that no one is clear about insurance. When you receive your yearbook with your membership card, please take time to read the policy summaries given on pages 79-84.

COMPETITIONS

Are you ready?

Before the season begins, have you checked:

- your paperwork and vaccinations are up to date?
- your lorry and caravan comply with the rules on fire extinguishers and these have not passed their 'sell by' date?
- you have applied for an ATV pass from the BHDТА office where appropriate?
- your marathon groom is a member of the BHDТА?
- if you are aiming at international qualification for world championships, the organiser has confirmed this is an option for the class you are entering?

Entry forms and start fee forms

These are available on the website [George Bowman being congratulated by HRH The Princess Royal at the The British Horse Society's Equestrian Hall of Fame ceremony.](#) in PDF format for you to print as required. If you have a PC and

use Microsoft Word, there is also a word version of both these documents to enable you to download and save them onto your own computer. Once you have filled in the information, it can be saved and used for subsequent events with a few minor changes. If your computer uses Works as its word processing programme or you have a Mac, you will need to print out the PDF version.

If you do not have Internet access, please telephone or write to the office with a note of the number you require.

Walk speeds

After considerable discussion by the BHDТА Council and the Rules Committee, it has been decided that no recommendation will be tendered at present to the FEI to reduce walk speeds. It is intended to hold trials at events throughout 2008 to gauge competitors' views and the effect on the horses and ponies. The times for classes which are FEI World Championship selection events will not be altered.

Tandem Test

Council have decided to recommend Test 6a for pony tandems in 2008. The proposed new tandem test will be discussed in the months ahead and trials held to establish its suitability before its implementation at competitions.

EVENTS

Brighton

The closing date for entries is **Wednesday April 9th**. Brighton is a selection event for the FEI World Single Horse Championship 2008.

Hopetoun

Hopetoun takes place on **23rd - 26th May** and preparations are well underway, with Ian Gilbert and Colin Smith busy planning changes to some of the obstacles. You will have noticed in the yearbook that for the first time there is a three-section marathon for all classes. This will make it much easier for the organisers, and competitors will be pleased to know that you will still get the interesting drive along the shore of the Firth of Forth.

There are selection classes for horse four-in-hands and single horses for their world championships and Hopetoun has been approved as an FEI qualifier with Gé König and The Hon Sarah Mullins as international judges. It will be well worth travelling north, particularly if you still have unqualified horses.

We have put on a special class to allow disabled competitors, training for this year's IPEC World Championships, to compete at Hopetoun but to drive the IPEC dressage test.

The BDS organises private driving Classes on **Sunday 26th May** and this year has a much greater variety of classes. BHDТА competitors are welcome to enter and schedules can be obtained from Ann Varley on 01576 610399.

We look forward to seeing many of you at Hopetoun and please help by sending your entries in good time; the closing date is **Friday 25th April**.

Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running novice qualifiers for the national championships.

APRIL

Midlands Driving Trials Group at Thoresby **19th/20th April**

Scottish Carriage Driving Association Ltd at Dalmeny **26th/27th April**

MAY

Scottish Carriage Driving Association Ltd at St Fort **10th/11th May**

Windsor Park Equestrian Club at Windsor, Berks **17th/18th May**
White Horse Harness Club at Redenham Park, Andover **24th/25th May**
Full contact details were given in the December office newsletter and the January 2008 edition of Carriage Driving.

BHDТА CLINICS

Stewards' training day

A stewards' training day has been organised on **Sunday 27th April** at Escrick Park, near York (A19). Philip Bateman will be giving everyone the benefit of his vast knowledge of the sport and demonstrating how rewarding and enjoyable an experience stewarding can be. Proceedings get under way at 10am. Free light refreshments will be available for everyone attending.

This training is open to anyone wishing to become a steward as well as existing stewards at both national and club level. If you wish to book a place, please telephone Sheila Hawking on 01977 682298.

Details of the clinics can also be found on the website.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Competence cards

These require to be completed by anyone wishing to take part in their first national novice (level 2) with a single or their first national (open) with a multiple. They are available to download from the website or by contacting the BHDТА office. These should be filled in on the day. It is important to let the organiser know if you are completing a competence card so that the judges can be asked to pay particular attention to your turnout.

'Old' Dressage Test 7

A number of clubs have intimated they wish to continue using the 'old' number 7 dressage test. Copies of this can be found under 'Archive' on the website with the up to date tests.

INTERNATIONAL

Pony measuring

The FEI has notified National Federations that 2008 will be the last year requiring height certificates for international pony passports. From 2009, driving will fall into line with the other equestrian disciplines where ponies will be measured at the event.

Team fund-raising

There have been cheques arriving from numerous sources, all supporting the efforts of our teams to travel abroad. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed by organising, sponsoring or taking part in any of these activities.

The single horse fund received a very generous donation of £650 recently, raised by Sarah Owlett and a number of friends. On 20th December they held a buffet supper where Paul Chambers was able to demonstrate the finer points of his culinary skills. A raffle and auction contributed to the success of the evening. Pam Neill held a barn dance at their farm and raised £770.

Competitors hoping to take part in the Junior World Trophy

organised a successful raffle at the end of season dinner which raised in excess of £400. Since then individuals have written letters to attract sponsors from a variety of businesses, held cake stalls, table top and second hand sales etc. The fundraising activity has raised a great deal of interest and a number of young drivers have been on their local radio stations spreading the good news about carriage driving in general and JWT in particular.

Two families got together and organised a carriage driving supper for 100 guests. Mark Broadbent of Fenix Carriages was the chief after dinner speaker and he took the opportunity afforded by the event to hand over a cheque for £250 for the JWT fund. The dinner raised £950 in addition to Mark's generous donation.

GENERAL NEWS

TASS

Recently, the British Equestrian Federation made the BHDТА aware of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). Applicants must hold a UK passport but be resident in England.

Eight applications were considered by a panel of five trainers from the BHDТА Training Committee who independently ranked the applicants on their merits according to the criteria. The BHDТА put forward their allotted quota of the first five candidates and four applications have been successful. Congratulations to our young drivers: Rosanna Walter-Symons, Roger Campbell, Edward Foster and Frank Campbell.

BHS Hall of Fame

The British Horse Society's Equestrian Hall of Fame was launched in July 2005. The plaques are on display at the new permanent home, the Household Cavalry's Hyde Park Barracks. The ceremony, on Wednesday 20th February, was attended by many of the BHS Equestrian Hall of Fame's Laureates and two of the great horses. The unveiling ceremony was performed by HRH The Princess Royal. The plaques can be viewed by the public from Hyde Park.

The sport of carriage driving has three Laureates: HRH Prince Philip, George Bowman and Cynthia Hayden. George (19 times carriage driving British National Champion) attended the recent ceremony.

British Horse Driving Trials Association,
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AGM

Don't forget that the AGM takes place at 7pm in the catering marquee at Brighton Horse Driving Trials on **Thursday 1st May**. You should have received the paperwork with your membership card and Yearbook. The annual accounts for 2007 have been sent with the April newsletter. Please let the office know if you did not receive a copy.

As there were three vacancies on council and three candidates willing to stand for election, no ballot was required this year. Barry Hilditch, being elected to council for the first time, had prepared the following statement which council felt would be appropriate to share with the members:

"I have been the regional representative for the north for two years and was co-opted to council a year ago. My involvement with driving trials is at both club and national level. I enjoy the thrill of grooming as well as the challenge of organising events such as the Escrick competition for NEDTL.

"Being able to provide help to the Catton team in the crisis management of the National Championships, even down to being the stand-in stable manager, was extremely rewarding.

"If elected I would wish to continue to support the work of council, and in particular look at two specific areas, namely:

- To continue the development of closer links between the clubs and BHDTA. As chair of the Club Liaison Committee I am in a position to encourage this process.
- To further the review of national events and to seek the views and opinions of the competitors as to the way forward. This work has already been started by the Competitions Committee of which I am a member.

I would like to thank all those people, at both club and national events, who have encouraged me to stand for council".

Want a half-price 2009 subscription?

On behalf of BHDTA Council, the Competitions Committee have been asked to circulate a questionnaire to members regarding the future of national events. You should have received this with the April mailing from the office. There will be a draw made from all the returned questionnaires and the first out the hat will receive a half-price subscription in 2009. Please take the trouble to complete the questionnaire. Council wishes to hear your views.

EVENTS

Royal Windsor

The following classes will be competing at Royal Windsor Horse Show from **8th-11th May** in Home Park Private, Windsor Castle:

- Horse four-in-hands - Horse pairs
- Horse singles - Pony four-in-hands

The driven dressage takes place on Thursday and Friday, with the marathon on Saturday in the Home Park and cones on Sunday.

The coaching marathon takes place on Friday afternoon. There are showing classes, international show jumping and a host of other attractions. With numerous opportunities for retail therapy, the show has something to appeal to everyone.

Art Exhibition

The J Manley Gallery will be hosting an equestrian art exhibition featuring recent works by 24 leading members of the Society of Equestrian Artists from **Thursday 8th to Saturday 24th May**, at 27 High Street, Eton, Windsor. The exhibition coincides with the Royal Windsor Horse Show and everyone is invited to attend. *The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10am-5pm and can be contacted on 01753 865647 or by e-mail mleach@manleygallery.com.*

Farleigh

June 6th - 8th

The closing date for entries to Farleigh is **Wednesday 21st May**. The event takes place entirely on the Farleigh House estate.

The undulating marathon follows tracks and headlands on Section A with excellent views. Section E follows woodland tracks, leading to seven obstacles that are situated within walking distance of each other and not far from the stable field.

If you are bringing any non-horse friends, the gardens of Farleigh House will be open during the weekend; these are well worth a visit.

Don't forget that your entry fee to Farleigh includes two tickets (three for four-in-hands) for the hog roast on the Saturday evening. By popular demand the same live band that played in 2007 will be back to entertain competitors, so please support this event.

Sandringham

June 27th - 29th

The closing date for entries is **Monday 9th June**. This year includes selection events for the FEI World Single Horse Championships in Jarantow, Poland and the FEI World Horse Four-in-hand Championships in Beesd, Holland. Foreign judges at Sandringham are coming from Spain, Snr Joachim Medina and Hungary, Mr Jozsef Borka.

Preparations are well underway. The new obstacle this year will be number 8; during the winter a tree came down causing considerable damage so a complete rebuild is necessary. After last year's monsoon, all tentage is being resited on higher ground and it is hoped that the planned flooded marathon route, which was abandoned last year, will be used this time in warm sunny weather! Sandringham offers a wonderful three stage marathon, great obstacles and flat arenas for dressage and cones. Please come and support the event as the organisers need your entry.

Ted and Pauline Genge will be stable managers as usual. This year competitors' catering will be by Kate's Kitchen and a mobile bar will be available. Both of these will be sited in the horse box park (same as Catton Park nationals) and a barbeque will also be organised for Saturday night.

Anyone who wishes to come and support a competitor or just have a day out will be most welcome, with free entry at the West Newton gate. Or why not try stewarding? The organisers

can make sure you are paired with experienced stewards who will show you the ropes and you will have a most enjoyable day. There is a stewards' caravan park or just come for the day. *Anyone interested please phone Sally Moreton on 01526 388643.*

Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running Novice Qualifiers for the National Championships. Remember that in order to be eligible to enter a novice qualifier, the driver must be a BHDTA member and have submitted a completed competence certificate to the office prior to entering.

It is not essential that grooms are BHDTA members at this level as novice qualifiers are held at club events. If a competitor qualifies for the National Championships at Windsor in this class and decides to participate, the groom will need to join. In this case, there is an option for a single event groom membership at a cost of £10. Scottish Carriage Driving Association at St Fort 10th/11th May Windsor Park Equestrian Club at Windsor, Berks 17th/18th May White Horse Harness Club at Redenham Park, Andover 24th/25th May North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd, Escrick Park 31st May/1st June Midlands Driving Trials Group, Offchurch Bury 14th/15th June Chester Horse Driving Trials Group, Erddig 21st 22nd June *Contact details in the December office newsletter and the January 2008 'Carriage Driving'. Alternatively use the website at www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk*

INTERNATIONAL



Ferry travel

Julie Camm has been negotiating furiously on behalf of BHDTA members to secure an excellent rate for ferry crossings. SeaFrance has offered the following:

Vehicles up to 6.99 metres	£85 each way
Between 7-9.99 metres	£100 each way
Between 10-11.99 metres	£125 each way
Between 12-14.99 metres	£148 each way
Between 15-17.99 metres	£165 each way

Prices include one passenger and VAT has still to be added. Extra passengers are £14 (no VAT). There will be a fuel levy charge to pay, which is amended quarterly.

To book, either call or fax the freight office in advance on 01304 203030 (phone 24/7) or 01304 212726 (fax 24/7). Bookings can also be made by email on freightcustomerservice@seafrance.fr.

You will need to quote the account number, 26452, the vehicle registration and the vehicle length, along with the payment method. Bookings must be prepaid by credit card or paid at the port prior to departure. Alternatively, bookings can be made on the day of departure at the port.

Para equestrian update

March saw the first para equestrian driving squad training session at the Unicorn Trust. The two-day intensive programme encompassed observation and coaching across



Heather Clark, driving Barney at the para equestrian training.

all three disciplines. Each driver and horse/pony had shown substantial improvement over the past year and the selectors will have an extremely tough job on their hands.

A very full schedule of half hour to one hour sessions, morning and afternoon over the two days, was set out. When drivers weren't engaged in driving, veterinary sessions or sports psychology sessions, they were all actively involved in listening, learning and offering feedback on each other's training sessions. (See page 45 for the full report).

GENERAL NEWS

Horseboxes to cross Severn Bridge for £5.30

James Broome has been campaigning enthusiastically on behalf of horsebox drivers to reduce the toll paid to cross the Severn Bridge.

From 17th March 2008, horseboxes with permanent living accommodation will be able to cross the bridge as a Category 1 vehicle. This means that horsebox owners, whatever size their lorry, will only have to pay £5.30.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdt@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon Mon 5pm to 8pm



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

AGM

The 11th AGM of the British Horse Driving Trials Association took place at Brighton on 1st May. The usual business of electing directors confirmed that Sarah Garnett and Adrian Puddy will serve a further three-year term on council and Barry Hilditch was appointed to council. There had not been an election this year as there were only three nominations for the three vacancies.

The special business was then transacted. It is many years since the Articles of Association were last changed. The intention of this initiative is to create a stronger link with the affiliated clubs and give them a more powerful voice within the BHDTA. The special resolutions were passed unanimously. This allows the person elected by the club liaison committee to be a full member of council for two years. Next year, one further member of this committee will be added to serve a two year term.

Presentations were made to the Earl of Onslow to recognise his contribution as BHDTA chairman and to Derrick Mayes who has served the association as treasurer for the last six years.

New appointments

Tony Bache has been appointed as the new BHDTA chairman. (See page 40 for Tony's profile). Before he retired he was senior partner of a chartered surveying practice in the West Midlands. He competed in horse driving trials with a single Connemara pony and with a tandem of Connemara ponies in the '80s and '90s. He was twice national pony tandem champion and points league champion three times. He has helped to organise ridden horse trials at club and area level and horse driving trials at club, national and international level, recently acting as safety officer at Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Jan Szczuka has been co-opted to council as treasurer. Prior to his recent retirement he was a patent attorney, becoming a full equity partner in the Marks & Clerk Group (now one of the world's foremost firms of patent attorneys). He has been fully involved in supporting his wife, Faith's driving activities since around 1980, in the single pony, tandem, pair and pony four-in-hand classes. He competed with a single pony during one season and was placed second in national novice qualifiers at St Fort and Drumlanrig.

Barry Hilditch takes on the role of BHDTA vice chairman. Barry will be well known to many as a keen back-stepper for his wife Judy as well as a key figure in the promotion of stronger links between the affiliated clubs and the BHDTA. He chairs the regional representatives' committee at present. He organises two club events at Escrick Park for the North Eastern Driving Trials Club.

Audrey Barron, chairman of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association and Regional Representative for Scotland, was the person elected to take up the first council appointment.

Audrey Barron, chairman of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association and regional representative for Scotland, newly appointed to BHDTA Council.

Audrey is a keen competitor in the advanced single pony class and an enthusiastic breeder of Highland Ponies with which she has had much success in driving trials.

ATV passes

It has been decided by council that ATV passes will no longer be issued to competitors wishing to take their quad bikes or scooters to events. The previous system was virtually impossible to police and the office, not being a trained insurance agent, found it difficult to establish if someone's household insurance or policy for a tractor covered the vehicle adequately.

Unless an event organiser specifically states otherwise, these vehicles can still be used freely at events. The main difference is that the burden of responsibility for insurance now falls onto the competitor. The owner or driver of the vehicle will be fully responsible in the event of an accident.

Please make sure you have adequate cover for these machines and ride them sensibly; phone the office if you have any queries. It is recommended that hard hats are worn at all times and passengers are only carried if the bike is designed to carry one.

Passes for competitors with disabilities will still be issued. These passes do not confer any insurance cover on the owner/driver of the vehicle and competitors remain responsible for obtaining their own cover. These passes will entitle the competitor to use their machine in the obstacles and on the cones course.

BHDTA Affiliated Clubs - Regional Representatives

The creation of BHDTA Regional Representatives is intended to strengthen the links between the clubs and the BHDTA Council. A full listing of the affiliated clubs is given in the BHDTA Yearbook and on the website www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk. The website details should be the most up to date.

The following regional representatives can be contacted if you have any issues you wish raised. Through the BHDTA council meetings and meetings among themselves, it is hoped that information can be more effectively filtered to the clubs by the regional representatives.

Following the AGM, an additional region was created and we are delighted to welcome Julian Burleton as regional representative for the south and Mike Watts for the east.

Scotland: Audrey Barron 01241 872 579

Dumfries & Galloway
Scottish Carriage Driving Association
South West of Scotland Horse Driving

Northern Ireland: Berry McCrae 028 92 651 506

Castlebay Pony Driving Club
Castleberg & District Pony Driving
Crossgar & District Horse & Pony Driving
Loughshore Driving Co.
Markethill Horse & Pony Driving
Mourne Horse & Pony Driving
Northern Ireland Carriage Driving Assoc.
Tullylagan Driving Club Ltd
Tullylagan Driving Association

England:

The North: Barry Hilditch 01924 848951
Carriage Driving Sports Group DD

East Durham Ride & Drive
Manx Harness
North Eastern Driving Trials
Northumberland & Durham H & P Driving
North West Driving
Red Rose Carriage
Ribble Valley Driving

The Midlands: Tony Gregory 01902 763 209

Chester Horse Driving Trials Group
Lincolnshire Carriage Driving Group
Midland Driving Trial Group
Poacher Harness
South Forest Harness
Wolverley & District Driving

The South West & Wales: Martyn Willis 07973 623980

British Heavy Horse Driving Trials
Forest of Dean Driving Trials
Great Western Harness
South Downs Harness
White Horse Harness

The South East: Dick Carey 01424 892 051

Oaks Driving
Shepway Harness
Stour Valley Harness
Weald Harness
Indoor HDT UK

The South: Julian Burleton 07986 856 598

Bradbourne Carriage Driving
Brockham Harness
Windsor Park E C

The East: Mike Watts 07710 467 774

East Anglian Carriage Driving

EVENTS

Saddlers' Company Awards

The Saddlers' Company generously present awards to drivers every year. These take the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for saddlery and horse clothing from a member of the Society of Master Saddlers. The vouchers are worth £60 and can be used as part payment for a more expensive item.

Following the re-structuring of the national classes, these will be awarded to the winners of the intermediate classes for ponies and horses. The highest placed young driver (under 25 on 31/12/07) at a national event will also receive an award. The intermediate classes run at club events will receive awards this year too. At the national championships, vouchers will be presented to the winners of the novice classes as the intermediate classes will receive leather reins. The driver with the lowest overall score at the young drivers' championships will be awarded a voucher in 2008.

Catton 11th-13th July

Catton has been in the hands of the same family since 1405, and the present Hall, built in 1745, is the home of Robin and Katie Neilson. Catton has acres of flat parkland which allow for stress

free parking and make ideal dressage arenas. The marathon course runs over tracks, parkland and undulating farmland. The course demands fit horses and ponies. You can find out more information about Catton Hall by logging on to their website at www.catton-hall.com. **Entries for this year's event close on Friday 27th June.**

Erddig 25th-27th July

With July fast approaching, staff and volunteers are busy making preparations for the first Welsh National Driving Championships that are set to take place at Erddig in Wrexham.

The National Trust estate has seen a number of changes recently with the completion of five of the eight obstacles. Each uniquely designed obstacle will have its own theme and will test even the most competent of drivers. The long path to the entrance of the lorry park has also been widened and resurfaced to aid competitors gaining entry.

Two international judges have now been confirmed for the championships. The organisers are very pleased that Martha Hanks-Nicol (USA) will join The Honorable Sarah Mullins (IRL) to judge the event. Gratitude also goes to the seven judges already involved.

Arrangements have been made for a special competition to take place during the event - The Erddig Challenge. This will be a competition for pony and horse, four in hands and a monetary prize will be available to the top three competitors in each class. However, most significantly the first entries have been received.

Closing date for entries: Saturday 12th July.
Please note that entries should be sent to: Mrs Heather Hulme, 7 Old Pale Cottage Stoney Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0SX.

INTERNATIONAL

FEI promotion

Congratulations to Mark Ingham who has been promoted to full international status as an FEI course designer. Members attending the national and club course designers' seminars, run by the BHDTA earlier in the year, were able to benefit from his experience.

SUPPORTERS

Sheila Hawking reports that there are still a few spaces available if anyone would like to join the 200 Club. The first three draws have been made this year.

May - Royal Windsor Horse Show
Rosemary Milne Holm £100 - Stephanie Byrne £50
- Derek Holah £30 - Gary Power £20.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon Mon 5pm to 8pm



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Members' questionnaire results



Sue Norris, the lucky winner of the half-price BHDTA membership.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to return the recent members' questionnaire. The 127 responses, 64 from members who competed at a national in 2007, have provided some interesting information which the Competitions Committee discussed at their meeting on June 3rd. They now have a set of proposals which were

put to the council meeting in June.

Good dressage arenas and warm up facilities in conjunction with a good water supply and easy access to toilets were rated as essential by competitors. There was not a clear vote on the marathon section issue.

There was a 77 per cent vote for consideration of a limited number of events with top class facilities with smaller regional events, but a small majority for two-day events. Further discussion will now take place regarding the way forward for our sport.

The prize draw for a half price BHDTA membership for 2009 took place during Saturday's award ceremony at Hopetoun. FEI international judge Sarah Mullins picked the winner, who is Sue Norris from the Winchester area. Sue is a member of both South Downs Harness Club and the White Horse Harness Club. Initially she started driving 20 years ago but family commitments meant she concentrated on riding until six years ago. She is now entering one-day events and hopes to do some indoor competitions in the winter. Taking part she says is mainly for fun and enjoyment. Good luck Sue.

The Queen's Award for Equestrianism

Each year the BHS invited the various equestrian disciplines to nominate a member who has made a significant contribution to their sport, to be considered to receive The Queen's Award for Equestrianism. Last year we nominated His Royal Highness Prince Philip and he was chosen by the BHS Trustees. Last month, Her Majesty The Queen presented him with his award at a short ceremony in the BHS marquee at The Royal Windsor Horse Show.

This year our nomination for the award is Dick Carey and his name has now gone forward with eight others, for the trustees to decide who will receive the award next year. We wish him luck.

EVENTS

Novice qualifiers

The remaining novice qualifiers for 2008 take place at the following venues:

East Anglian Carriage Driving Group, Blandings Farm 2-3rd August

Contact Fiona Powell 01473 735732.

Brockham Harness Club, Borde Hill Sussex 16-17th August.

Contact Sara Simmons 01903 812885 or 07802 335705.

Necarne County Fermanagh 22-24th August.

Contact Sylvia Ingram 028 92648 724.

Full contact details were given in the December office newsletter and the January 2008 edition of *Carriage Driving* which can be viewed on our website at www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

Intermediate classes

Intermediate classes will be run by NEDTL at Allerton Park on 2-3rd August and at Necarne on 22-24th August.

Start fee and declaration forms

Organisers are reporting that some competitors are not completing their declaration forms accurately and omitting vital information such as the passport numbers. If the information on the declaration form is deficient, the result cannot be forwarded to the FEI so they will not record the horses/ponies as qualified for championship events.

The organisers have gone to the trouble and expense of providing two FEI international judges so that the results can count for FEI qualification. Please do them the courtesy of completing your declaration forms properly.

If you are sending your start fee with your entry and do not yet know which horses you will be using, please make sure you update the organiser before you start the event.

At the Farleigh event the declaration forms were checked when competitors finished Section E and this proved very effective.

Lowther – 8th-10th August

This year's event will once again be kindly sponsored by Edinburgh Woollen Mill and Cumberland Ale and will be the first year at Lowther for course designer Barry Hunter. All eight obstacles are brand new and competitors may be delighted to hear that the infamous bomb hole will not be used this year. The marathon will be three-phase for all classes with a slightly longer section A than in previous years. This cuts out completely the steep hill which competitors have had to negotiate in the last few years after the end of A.

Ever conscious of the massive increase in costs, particularly fuel, faced by us all, the event organisers are delighted that Edinburgh Woollen Mill have again generously offered prize money to the winners of each class which will cover their entry and their start fee. We are extremely grateful to Edinburgh Woollen Mill and their owner, Philip Day, for this wonderful support.

On Sunday, after the finish of the cones competition, the Lowther Challenge will be staged again in the main arena. The



John Pickford and Angie turned from gamekeepers to poachers for a couple of hours when they took their organiser's hats off at Farleigh and competed in the horse pairs class; they won the cones and came overall fourth overall.

exact format is still to be agreed and will depend on entries but overall prize money for this exciting competition, which has become one of the highlights for the public as well as competitors, is a staggering £1,000.

The highlight in the main arena will be the first appearance at Lowther of Jean Francois Pignon. Details are on the website www.lowther.co.uk.

The Worshipful Company of Farriers also presents an award to the best shod horse, which this year will be judged from the tandem classes.

Castle Kennedy - 15th-17th August

It is hoped that the marathon route at this year's event will include new tracks through some of the wooded areas. Section A wends its way through the beautiful Stair estates, giving views of Loch Ryan. You will pass famous gardens and woodland before venturing onto Section E.

Barry Hunter will be working hard in August as he will have officiated at Lowther the week before he uses his skill to test the competitors here.

The organisers are looking forward to an event full of entertainment for all the family run in conjunction with the driving trials. Other attractions include falconry displays, terrier racing, fly-casting, vintage cars and tractors, show jumping, working hunter, dog agility, Clydesdales, and a pet show. You will also be able to visit the craft marquee, trade stands and a variety of food stalls.

The closing date for entries is Saturday 26th July.

Website: www.castlekennedydriving.com.

Normanhurst – 23rd-24th August

The Normanhurst HDT is near Battle in East Sussex. This is 1066 country and has the attraction of many seaside towns close by such as Hastings, Rye and Eastbourne.

This event will use 'on top of the ground' obstacles after the very successful trial use at Brighton HDT and do not have posts driven into the ground but are protected by knockdowns.

This method reduces building costs, helping to keep down the entry fee. The marathon route comprises a good course over fields and tracks with little to no road work. Entries close on Wednesday 6th August.

A club event will run parallel to this event with a new class for young single drivers, between the ages of 18 and 25 years. Small ponies, novice drivers and younger drivers will also be catered for at this event.

GENERAL NEWS



Another team driver?

Congratulations to Daniel and Lucy Naprous on the birth of their son Felix. To save Dan the stress and worry of the possibility of Lucy going in to labour while he was at Hopetoun, Felix made his appearance into the world on 18th May, weighing 7lb 2oz.

SUPPORTERS

International cones

The Supporters Club hope that the competitors have enjoyed driving through the new international cones which they presented to the BHDTA. They were first used at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Please keep supporting the tent, as this enables the Supporters Club to keep buying equipment for you all.

Erddig National

Any volunteers who wish to help out at Erddig will be most welcome. Please contact Andrew Simmons on 07971 683841 or email andrewsimmons@tiscali.co.uk.

200 Club

Sheila Hawking made the draw at Escrick Park and following are this month's lucky winners:

£50 James Broome - £30 Peter Collins - £20 Mary Ford.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.

Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdt@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk

Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon Mon 5pm to 8pm



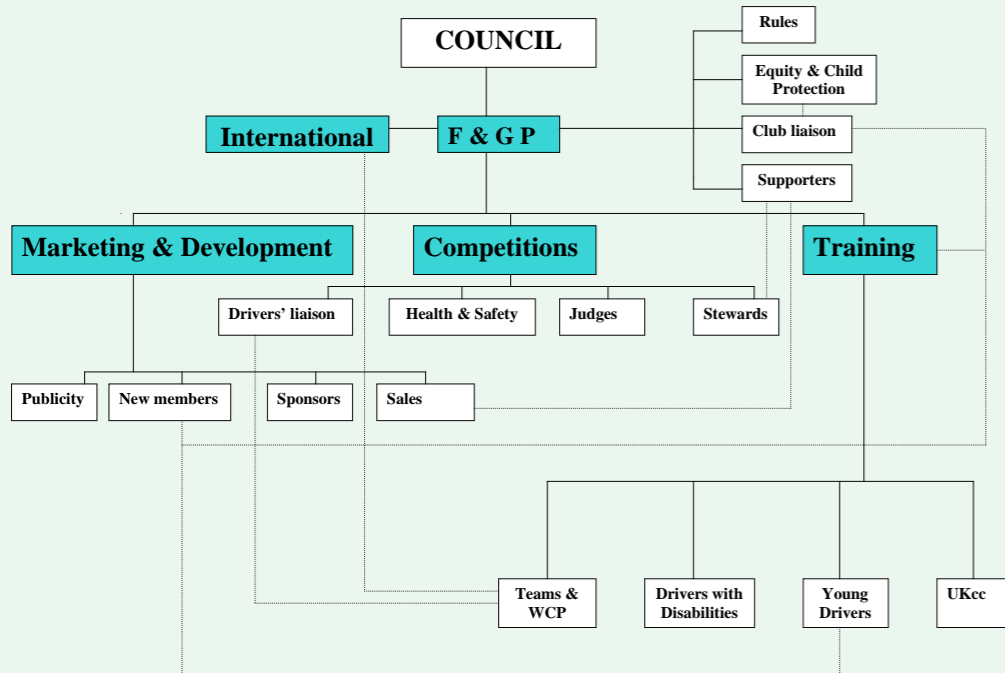
BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

New committee structure

Tony Bache, following his appointment to the chair of the BHDTA, has implemented some new ideas. One of these is the restructuring of a number of the committees. These had become too numerous to manage efficiently so a solution to enhance communication with council was required. Tony developed a new committee structure where there will be five committees acting as umbrella bodies to the others. The chairpersons of these will all be council members. Each chairperson will collate the decisions and activities of the other committees within their remit and disseminate this information to council to ensure the members are continually updated.

The five umbrella committees are 'Finance and General Purposes' chaired by Jan Szczuka as treasurer, 'Competitions' chaired by Ian Gilbert, 'Training' chaired by Sydney Smith, 'Marketing and Development' chaired by Adrian Puddy and 'International' chaired by Philip Bateman. The diagram below shows the committees within the remit of each umbrella committee and the pathways that connect them. Each committee has its own range of responsibilities which we will look at in detail in future issues.



EVENTS

Guidance for use of ATVs

The government has produced an informative document which gives much information that is relevant to users of ATVs at events. It is well worth a read. It is too lengthy to reproduce but can be found by accessing the following link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais33.pdf>. To ensure members are aware of the need for responsible riding and adequate insurance cover, a short declaration will soon be included at the foot of the entry form.

National Championships

Arrangements are well under way for this year's National Championships at Windsor, with one totally new obstacle designed by Mark Ingham, while the bridge obstacle is getting a 'face lift'.

There is plenty going on in addition to the championships with the usual top-class private driving classes on marathon day culminating in the Meet of Champions, an invitation class for the top county show winners of the season. There will also be exercise vehicle and pleasure driving classes to encourage more local competitors to participate.

In addition, the Cranborne Agility Club will be putting their dogs through their paces on Saturday, and the popular Windsor Classic Vehicle Show will be held on Sunday.



Patti Atkinson driving at the National Champs 2006.

Daily admission is free to BHDTA members upon production of their membership card. Caravan bookings must be made in advance to the BHDTA office (£15 for BHDTA members, £30 to non-members) with cheques payable to BHDTA National Championships.

The Long Walk Dinner, which was instigated in 2007 but which, of course, never took place due to Foot and Mouth, is to be held on the Saturday evening, 13th September, in the marquee alongside Obstacle 8. There will be a three-course sit-down dinner with pre-dinner drinks, and an opportunity to enjoy an evening with friends without leaving the showground! Tickets at £36 each are available from Mrs Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm, Lumby, South Milford, Leeds, LS25 5LD (Tel. 01977 682298). Cheques payable to BHDTA National Championships.

For more information go to the official website - www.windsordriving.co.uk.

This year's event will be the penultimate with Jill Holah at the helm. Jill has is to stand down as organiser after the 2009 Championships, and the BHDTA is looking for someone to succeed her.

Worshipful Company of Saddlers

Event	Int Horse	Int Pony	Young Driver
Brighton	Lucy McGill	Ann Davey	Jessica Meredith
Hopetoun	David Hewat	Susan Don	Jessica Meredith
Farleigh	K Scott-Barrett	Granville Styler	
Sandringham	David Matthews	No entries	Jessica Meredith
Catton	Vicky Irwin	Kerry Kirby	Chris Ainscough



Jessica Meredith has achieved three young driver's awards at national events.

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers generously present vouchers, each valued at £60, to the winners of the intermediate horse and intermediate pony classes at national events and the intermediate classes run by clubs. Novice winners will receive vouchers at the National Championships. These are also awarded to the highest placed young driver at the national events and the competitor with the lowest overall score at the National Junior Championships. Well done to all those that have been successful so far.

Dress code for walking cones course

There seems to be some confusion about the dress code required at national events when competitors are walking the cones course so this matter was discussed at a recent BHDTA Council meeting. Competitors will be required to wear their dressage/cones outfit with jackets and hats after the first competitor has started. There is no requirement for this if you are walking the course prior to commencement of the first class.

Intermediate classes

Intermediate classes will be run by NEDTL at Allerton Park on 2-3rd August and at Necarne on 22-24th August.

INTERNATIONAL

Selection events

Since the National Championships are being used as a selection event for horse pairs, pony singles, pony pairs and pony fours, the event will be open to anyone wishing to put their name forward for selection irrespective of whether or not they have qualified to compete in that class. They will be able to compete for selection but will compete HC in the national championship placings.

Fenix Carriages National Points League

Due to the FEI World Championships clashing with our national events, single horses will be eligible for points league points as their championships clash with Normanhurst. The other international team travelling abroad is horse four-in-hands who will not be eligible to claim points in the league in 2008.

SUPPORTERS

Time clocks

Our thanks must go again to the continuing efforts of the Supporters. This time they have purchased a new master time clock and a slave to replace equipment that had become faulty with use. They give freely of their time to support our sport; please support them by visiting the tent at events and stopping for a chat over a coffee or by purchasing some merchandise.

200 Club

Sheila Hawking made the draw at Sandringham and following are this month's lucky winners:
 £100 Sally North £50 Anthea Shipley
 £30 Steve Lucas £20 Linda Nuckley

GENERAL NEWS

BHS Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events

A new 'BHS Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events' has recently been published. Item 5.4 caused the BHDTA to withhold their endorsement of this document.

5.4 Stabling

5.4.1 Under no circumstances should any horse be kept stabled in a trailer or horsebox overnight. Prior arrangements should have been made if stabling is required. In the event of an emergency, show organisers may be able to assist the competitor in finding suitable stabling in the area.

The BHDTA were unable to ascertain exactly why such a firm stance was taken against overnight stabling in a trailer or lorry. The introduction to the code says:

"In all cases where there are differences between the rules of a governing body and the guidelines contained within this Code of Practice, the rules of the governing body take precedence and supersede this code. However, in all cases the welfare of horses at events should remain paramount at all times."

This gave the BHDTA a problem as our rule book does not have set guidelines for use of lorries or stables as overnight accommodation for our horses and ponies. Competitors' ingenuity in creating a cost effective overnight stable is impressive. The BHDTA Chairman, Tony Bache, makes the point that in the case of horse driving trials the equines have a human sharing the lorry or sleeping in adjacent accommodation. Unfortunately the BHS were unable to remove this item from the code and the BHDTA were therefore unable to endorse it. The full code can be viewed on the BHS website at www.bhs.org.uk.

Discipline

Following an incident involving cruelty to Ray Aziz's pony four-in-hand at the Sandringham Horse Driving Trials, Anne Chambers' name has been deleted from the judges' list.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
 Tel: 0845 643 2116
 Email: bhdt@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk
 Website: www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk
 Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon Mon 5pm to 8pm



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

OFFICIAL NEWS

BHDTA AGM and Conference

The title of this section might give you a surprise but it's true! It has been decided to hold the annual BHDTA AGM in conjunction with our conference in October. The council members who were due to retire in May 2009 will be asked to extend their term of office to October. However to fulfil our legal requirements as a limited company, it will be necessary to hold a second AGM in 2008. This will precede the conference which is being held in the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, 3 Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derby, Derbyshire, DE74 2DF.

The following meetings have been arranged:

Friday 17th October

Event Organisers' Meeting	Whitehouse Hotel	4pm
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Saturday 18th October

Stewards' Meeting	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	11am
Club Representatives	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	11am
AGM	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	2.15pm
Members' Conference	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	2.30pm

Council members will be present and will do their best to answer any questions and consider suggestions put forward by members. It is easier to get a definitive answer if the question is known before the conference so any necessary research can be done. Please send any questions or suggestions to the BHDTA office by **Monday 13th October**.

End of Season Party

This has been a wonderful function in recent years and again Rachel Stevens will be at the helm. There will be dancing to a live band and disco. Tickets cost £40 for adults and £28 for young drivers.

For anyone wishing to stay over, a number of rooms have been reserved for this function. The hotel will only hold these until 31st August so book now to avoid disappointment – when booking mention that you are with the BHDTA function. Rooms are available as double or twin and cost £70 including B&B (£35/person if there are two people) on the Saturday night or £120 for two nights if you stay Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday.

Watch the website: in due course there will be a form to complete with your nominations for the 'Alternative Awards'.

Hotel reservations: Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel telephone: 01509 672518.

F&GP Committee

Following the introduction to members of the new committee structure in the July issue of *Carriage Driving*, each of the five main committees' roles and responsibilities will be looked at in more detail over the coming months.

The spotlight falls this month on the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPCOMMITTEE). Although the BHDTA is essentially run by its members for the benefit of the members, it does have a significant turnover and important responsibilities, and requires to operate much as any other business. This involves the keeping of detailed accounts and monitoring of its financial position throughout the year with reference to a previously prepared annual

budget for its activities, as well as a wide range of other matters. These range from making sure the 'business' operates efficiently and controlling costs, to ensuring compliance with the ever-increasing 'red tape' burden.

All this is a primary concern of the treasurer working together with the other members of the F&GP Committee. Of course, as with any other business, there is often pressure from 'customers', ie members, for greater value for money, as well as outside pressures which can result in increased costs or reduced income. There can also be proposals for new activities such as action to raise the profile of the sport. As you so often hear said in business circles 'no change is not an option'.

Another important function of the F&GP Committee is therefore to look at what changes can be made to ensure that the BHDTA can satisfy its existing member's aspirations and become stronger by attracting more members, as well as the cost implications of any changes and of any new spending plans.

Certainly in the last year or two, some significant changes have been made, including relocation of the BHDTA's office and reduction of the staff, which have resulted in considerable savings. Savings have also been made for the benefit of members in the area of newsletter publication through the good services of *Carriage Driving* magazine!

More work is now underway reviewing membership costs and the costs of competing.

There is also the 'General Purposes' side of the F&GP Committee's role as they draw together the reports and comments from all the other committees and ensure that there is a 'joined up' theme to the working of council. They also pick up on issues that arise during the year and ensure that these are discussed by the appropriate committee before being presented to the council for a decision

National Championships' Organiser

As we intimated last month, the 2009 National Championships will be the last event with Jill Holah at the helm. Anyone who might be interested in taking on this role might like to 'shadow' her at this year's championships to get an overview of what is involved.

Please telephone the BHDTA office in the first instance

EVENTS

National Championships 2008

Qualified competitors should all have received their entry forms and schedules. The full qualification table is published on the website. Novice qualifiers please note that, while your current level of BHDTA membership is adequate, your groom must be a BHDTA member if you intend to compete at the National Championships. The £10 single event marathon groom category will suffice.

For more information about the other entertainments on offer go to the official website - www.windsordriving.co.uk.

Everyone is invited to the Long Walk Party on the Saturday evening. Tickets at £36.

Contact: Mrs Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm, Lumby, South Milford, Leeds, LS25 5LD. Tel. 01977 682298.

Young Drivers' Championship

The British Young Drivers' National Championship will be held at Escrick Park in Yorkshire on **27th and 28th September**.

The BHDTA and Sydney Smith have worked hard over the last few years to encourage young drivers into the sport and to

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Young driver, Jeff Ormerod driving a double clear in cones at Catton trials this year

give them a goal for their achievements. With this in mind, the Young Drivers Championship was set up with support from the North East Driving Club, BHDTA Supporters Club, Baileys Horse Feeds and the Worshipful Company of Saddlers. All help make this a memorable occasion, along with an army of helpers and stewards who generously give their time.

The event is open to competitors aged 10-25 years and is split into classes according to age and competitive experience. Drivers must have completed two club (three-phase) events without elimination, or been assessed at a Young Drivers' Clinic run by the BHDTA Training Committee.

The marathon is approximately 14 kms on the flat with six obstacles. Some of the permanent obstacles in the park are used and some are imaginatively designed especially for the event. Dressage tests are according to age so no one needs to be fazed by this section! The cones course is designed by Carol

Meredith who knows the job better than most! Entries close on **17th September**.

Details and an entry form can be downloaded from the BHDTA website, from the BHDTA office, from Junior Chariots at www.chariots.org.uk or ring Amanda on 01576 610248.

The Erddig event

The new event at Erddig, North Wales ran in glorious sunny weather and ran, from the competitors' point of view at least, without a hitch. The obstacles were well received and presented a number of challenges with a variety of routes. Steve Griffiths, the event organiser said, "It was a vertical learning curve as we had only organised club events before. Many of the organising committee were National Trust employees and had never seen what a national driving trials event was like. There are changes we will make to further improve the event for next year. We have funding in place for the next three years."

Lowther

Flanders & Swann's Hippopotamus song chorus, "Mud, mud, glorious mud..." springs to mind when thinking of this year's event at Lowther. The weather was in total contrast to that of Erddig and without wellies you had no chance of survival. Our thanks go to all the dedicated stewards and organisers who kept going despite the conditions, retaining their sense of humour too.

For the first time in its 35-year history, the country fair was cancelled on the Sunday, with the driving trials cones competition being the sole survivor.

Congratulations to Jessica Meredith on adding another Saddlers' Award to her tally this year for the lowest score for a young driver and to Jeff Ormerod who won the award from the Worshipful Company of Farriers for the best shod ponies or horses in the tandem classes.



Rain did not stop play at this year's Lowther trials!

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon Mon 5pm to 8pm



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

National Championships

The BHDTA National Championships had a record entry this year with 118 competitors making the trip to Windsor. The farthest travelled were Jane Isaac, driving in the intermediate horse class from north of Oban and Audrey Barron from Arbroath, just north of Dundee, driving in advanced pony. Both had to spend two days on the road!

The varied weather caused some headaches for the organiser Jill Holah and sections of the marathon route were shortened at the last minute. Some later competitors struggled in the dressage as they were caught in a tremendous thunderstorm. Fred Pendlebury was heard to say he had seen rain that hard before but never any harder. This made the ground extremely slippery for the early marathon competitors but the ground dried out after a glorious sunny afternoon of exciting competition. The entries on the gate were boosted with the cancellation of Blenheim Horse Trials as many spectators re-routed to Windsor.

The full report of the event is on page 34 in *Carriage Driving* but there are always more successes that merit a mention.

Following the award of vouchers by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers at all the intermediate qualifiers, leather reins were presented to the winners of the horse and pony divisions: Karen Scott-Barrett and Nicola Blandin. Naomi Harbach won the Young Driver's Award.

Grooms are often overlooked but without them there would be no competition. They were recognised by "Jack in a Box" who presented a memento to the winning groom in each class. In addition, Harry Luff kindly presented rosettes to the backstepper(s) supporting the best marathon driver in each class and to the grooms of the winning dressage driver in each class. The winning drivers also received a memento and those in the open and advanced single horses were

presented by Dodson and Horrell.

A number of trophies were presented to the winners of the dressage in a variety of classes. The Deemster trophy, for the Advanced Single Horse class was won by Di Hayes, the Lynn Harrington memorial trophy for the advanced single pony was won by Julie Camm while Barnaby Bowman was awarded the Bryan Belsham trophy for the horse pairs. Barnaby was driving his father's leaders and they also excelled on the marathon. The members of the horse pairs class had all put up money for a sweep for the fastest through obstacle 5 which Barnaby won.

Sue Denny won the trophy presented by Michael and Diana Zatoroff for the best overall marathon in the four single pony classes while the Mary Matthews trophy was won by Wilf Bowman-Ripley for the best marathon in horse pairs. Champagne was presented by Bennington to the highest placed Bennington driver in each class, Brockham Harness Club presented a bottle to the fastest competitor in each class in obstacle 1 while Sovereign Wines and Spirits awarded a bottle of sloe gin to the fastest competitor in obstacle 8.

Northernplan.com presented canvas prints to Di Hayes for achieving the best overall dressage score and to Frank Campbell for the best Open/Advanced marathon. Framed photographs were presented to Nicola Blandin for the best Intermediate marathon and Frank Campbell for the best novice marathon. A canvas print, the 'King of the Cones' award, was received by Fred Pendlebury for achieving the best double clear cones round of the day.

On Friday evening, competitors were invited to a champagne reception, generously sponsored by Richard Broad of Sovereign Wines and Spirits. The chairman, Tony Bache, took this opportunity to present Verna Matthews with the David Broadbent Memorial Trophy in recognition of her many years of service to carriage driving as a steward. The applause from the crowd reflected the esteem in which Verna is held.

Sunday morning will be talked about for sometime due to John Nisbet's heroic rescue of a runaway horse during the presentation for the novice classes. We wish Judy Hilditch a speedy recovery as she was taken to hospital where she was kept in overnight and unable to continue in the competition. Bates Sound of Lincoln did their customary excellent job of the public address system. Our international teams are indebted to them for lending radios for the recent world championships for horse singles and fours. Overall the whole event ran smoothly and shows how much time and effort Jill Holah and her team put into the preparation.

Talented Athlete Scholarships

Congratulations to young drivers Mark Bell, Katie Bell, Frank Campbell, Roger Campbell and Rosanna Walter-Symons who have been successful in their applications for a TASS award. This funding will help them to access areas where support can be used to enhance their performance while they are studying.

Elections, AGM and Conference

Following the close of nominations for council, there will be an election and you should have received your voting papers by now. Remember that it has been decided to hold the annual BHDTA AGM in conjunction with the conference in October which is being held in the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, 3 Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derby, Derbyshire, DE74 2DF.

The following meetings have been arranged:

Friday 17th October		
Event Organisers' Meeting	Whitehouse Hotel	4pm
Saturday 18th October		
Stewards' Meeting	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	11am



Di Hayes achieved the best score in dressage of all the drivers, a penalty of just 27.95, but Ian Bertram took the Advanced Horse Championship with a storming marathon and a double clear in cones.

Club Representatives	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	11am
AGM	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	2.15pm
Members' Conference	BW Premier Yew Lodge Hotel	2.30pm

Please send any questions or suggestions to the BHDTA Office by Monday 13th October. This will enable a well researched answer to be offered by the council members present.

End of Season Party

Now that the national championships have finished, drivers and friends can look forward to the end of season party which follows the AGM and conference. You should have received a booking form in your last Office Newsletter and they can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the BHDTA Office. Watch the website: in due course there will be a form to complete with your nominations for the "Alternative Awards".

Competitions Committee

Following the introduction to members of the new committee structure in the July issue of *Carriage Driving*, each of the five main committees' roles and responsibilities will be looked at in more detail over the coming months. The spotlight falls this month on the Competitions Committee, chaired by Ian Gilbert.

One of the main roles of the Competitions Committee is to organise the driving calendar and liaise with organisers. This can sometimes be an impossible task requiring a great deal of tact.



Verna Matthews was presented with the David Broadbent Memorial Trophy at the nationals by BHDTA Chairman Tony Bache in recognition of her years of service as a steward.

At all times one of the primary aims is to keep the sport moving forward and encourage new participants.

The committee also oversee the implementation of the class structure and advice competitors about the level at which they are entitled to compete. The well worn phrase, "You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time but never all of the people all of the time" is particularly relevant when trying to arrange classes to suit all levels of ability and experience. Following the dramatic class restructuring at the start of the 2007 season, the new system has settled down and seems to be working reasonably well. The Competitions Committee will review this at the end of the 2008 season when the classes have been in place for two seasons. One or two things have been identified for updating and these changes will be announced at the conference. Most competitors will have heard that changes are proposed to the events structure and discussions on this are ongoing with the event organisers.

The committee also oversees the points league, inspects prospective new venues and supervises the appointment of course designers and TDs. The committee liaises with the Judges Committee regarding production of new dressage tests and checks that new rules are effectively implemented. Overall the Competitions Committee has jurisdiction for most aspects of event organisation and a wide ranging remit that requires a flexible approach and forward thinking individuals.

EVENTS

Royal Windsor Driving

Grand Prix 2009

Royal Windsor driving committee have advised the BHDTA that they do not intend to honour the 2007 agreement that horses and ponies would be invited to compete in alternate years.

Single ponies will definitely not be receiving an invitation in 2009 and the situation regarding pony pairs is still unclear.

We regret this but it is out of the control of the BHDTA.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdta@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk
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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

2009 Clinics and training

The following dates have been arranged for the coming year and more details will be published in due course. Some dates/venues have still to be finalised.

National Course 31st Jan/1st Feb Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold
Designers and TDs

Club TDsJ two dates tbc Unicorn Trust and Penrith

Judges 7th/8th March Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold

Rules 18th January Haydock

The Rules Seminar is being taken by Diana Brownlie and Ian Douglas to look at changes in the new 2009 Rule Book. Anyone can come: judges, course designers, technical delegates and competitors. Rules will not be given the usual attention at the other clinics as there would be too many to discuss in the time available.

Elections, AGM and Conference

Unfortunately the deadline for submission of our news pages to *Carriage Driving* means the reports from the AGM and Conference will be published in the December issue.

EVENTS

International selection

The FEI are considering proposals to limit each country to two qualifying national (CAN) events for FEI World Championships. This may clearly be a problem for British competitors who have limited access to international competitions, especially with the FEI World Combined Pony Championships in 2009. For this reason Sandringham will be run as a CAI-B so that there are three opportunities for competitors with Royal Windsor also available for horse and pony fours and horse pairs.

Another proposed new rule for 2010 is that any horse that completed all three phases at the previous world championships with a qualifying dressage score will automatically be qualified for the next championships.

Also on the subject of dressage, for 2009 there is a proposed new rule that says a competitor at an FEI World Championships who does not attain a score which equates to the qualifying score plus a percentage, may be eliminated.

Keep a check on the website and newsletters for confirmation as these are still proposals at this stage.

Language please!

The chairman has had occasion to speak to a couple of competitors this year regarding inappropriate language being used at events.

Please, if you wish to rant at your horses, other competitors or the judges, wait until you have returned to the privacy of your own lorry.

GENERAL

Combining business with pleasure

Jane Wilson, script editor for Cavewood Productions tells us how it can be done.



Jackie Herd enjoying competing with her own pony – the hobby side of the business.

Jackie Herd rode ponies before she could walk. With a mother who was a keen horsewoman herself, Jackie and sister Lisa were regulars at all the local gymkhanas in East Yorkshire. In the early part of her adult life Jackie worked as a professional groom to Graham Fletcher – among others – travelling the world in charge of a string of show jumpers. She had no interest in the family recording and duplication business which at that time was decidedly non-horsey.

Her interest in driving had a very slow start and initially it was mother Vicky who started down this path. "Jackie made it very clear indeed that she had no interest at all in coming out driving with me," said Vicky, "and she thought the whole thing was very pedestrian and boring compared to show jumping." However, one day Jackie grudgingly agreed to help her mother at a club drive "just this once", caught the driving bug and the rest is history.

Driving: a revelation

Jackie's first foray into competition carriage driving was with the North East Driving Trials group at Rudding Park near Harrogate back in 1990. "We had a fabulous 13.2hh dun pony called Rocky who turned out to be a lot older than we thought and a horse-sized Bennington two-wheeler," Jackie remembers. "We thought we were going so fast but finished half an hour late on section E!"

Things have changed since then however, and in 2007, Jackie campaigned her Hackney pony Chapelhowe Firecracker throughout the season which culminated in her winning the National Open Single Pony Championship. "It was a fantastic year," said Jackie, "but it meant that it was difficult to give as much time to work as I should have!"

Cavewood Productions is born

However, as the advent of the internet had made a big impact on the family business, it became obvious that a new direction was needed. "Horses are my passion," said Jackie, "but I had to knuckle down and try and think of a way to find more work for the company. I suddenly thought how marvellous it would be if I could do something which combined my greatest interest with my day to day work." With partner Tim Maloy already an accomplished cameraman, it soon became obvious that it would be a natural step for the family business to make the progression into film and television and Cavewood Productions was born.

They had undertaken some corporate work before but the first equestrian job was to make a promotional DVD for the European eventing team gold medallist, Amy Young. It continued to be carriage driving that interested Jackie, so when the opportunity came to make a programme for Horse and Country TV about that very subject, she and Tim jumped at the chance. They headed down to Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre to film the East Anglian Club's spring competition in April. "It was a fantastic event but the weather couldn't have been worse for filming," said Tim. "We had rain – which was bad enough – but then on marathon day it was foggy! The sun did eventually come out – just in time for the last two competitors to come through the obstacles." With presenter Gary Docking on his usual good form it was easy to show just what fun people have while carriage driving. Jackie commented, "We wanted to show that all different sorts of people take part in this sport at all different levels and the Ashfield event certainly allowed us to illustrate that well".

Cavewood follows the team

With 'This is Competition Carriage Driving' in the bag, Jackie and Tim set off to accompany Britain's para-equestrian drivers to their World Championships in Greven, Germany. "We'd filmed the team contenders from early in March and initially the intention was just to provide them with a training tool by way of video they could watch," said Jackie, "but we found them to be such a fantastic bunch of people to be around that we wanted to be involved further and so we loaded up the lorry and followed them to Greven!" The resulting film was also shown on Horse and Country TV so now Cavewood Productions really did have the bit between their teeth.

Copies of the DVD, which cost £15 including VAT and postage, are available from Fairview Duplication, Cavewood Grange Farm, Common Lane, North Cave, East Yorkshire HU15 2PE.

What's on next?

Next came an invitation to film the National Championships at Windsor and for once the weather was kind. The team, consisting of Jackie, Tim, Patrick Wilson, Jonathan Richards and Trevor Hearing spent the entire day of the marathon up an assortment of scaffolding towers to get the best possible shots. "Thank goodness it was warm and sunny!" said Jackie. "I hate to think what it would have been like up there if it was windy and raining."

The result was some absolutely stunning

footage of the British driving trials world's best which Cavewood is busy editing into a sports programme cum documentary for television. Jackie noted, "Editing all the film we took into a programme is hard work but I just love watching horses in slow motion to nice music. It makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up!" Covering all three phases of the championship, this programme is scheduled to be shown some time in November; the exact date will be publicised on the BHDTA website.

What lies ahead?

So what's next for Cavewood Productions? Well, a programme all about driving trials which it's hoped will tempt more people into the sport, has been commissioned by the BHDTA and Jackie and Tim have already started preliminary work on it. "Driving trials is such brilliant fun," said Jackie, "but I think there's a perception in the equestrian world in general that perhaps it's something you should consider only when you're too old and stiff to ride anymore! That couldn't be further from the truth but we need to let people know and I hope that's one of the things we can do with the next project."

As for Jackie's driving career? Well having taken 2008 off from competing to get the production company up and running, she hopes to be back on the circuit in 2009. "I'm probably going to have to learn to drive with one hand and hold a camera with the other, but Tim and I definitely plan to be back on the carriage next year!" In the meantime, those of you with access to Sky channel 280 can keep your eye out for driving programmes on TV or you can access Horse and Country TV's website on www.horseandcountry.tv.

The para equestrian team leaving with cameraman, Tim Maloy, poised for action – business end.



British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.

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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

2009 Clinics and Training

The following dates have been arranged for the coming year and booking forms can be downloaded from the website, or by emailing or phoning the BHDTA office.

National Course Designers and TDs

31st Jan/1st Feb Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold

Club TDs and Cones CD

15th March Penrith: Jean Lane and Carol Meredith

Club Dressage Judges

28th March Unicorn Trust, Sarah Garnett

Club TDs and Cones CD

29th March Unicorn Trust: Jean Lane and Carol Meredith

Judges

7th/8th March Unicorn Trust: Dr Vetter

Rules

18th January Haydock: Diana Brownlie and Philip Bateman

The Rules Seminar is being taken by Diana Brownlie, Philip Bateman and Ian Douglas to look at changes in the 2009 Rule Book. Anyone can come: judges, course designers, technical delegates and competitors. Rules will not be given the usual attention at the other clinics as there would be too many to discuss in the day. The seminar will focus on the FEI rules with the BHDTA amendments included to help competitors and officials to understand the intention and interpretation of the rules. The venue is the Inkeepers Lodge which is 2.6 miles on the A580 East Lancashire Road, towards Manchester, from Junction 23 of the M6. The seminar will start at 10.00am and is free for anyone wishing to attend. Lunch can be purchased in the hotel if required.

AGM change agreed

The change of date and venue of the BHDTA AGM met with unanimous approval from the members. There was little official business as the accounts had been approved earlier in the year. Following the recent ballot, it has been confirmed that Tony Bache, Jean Lane and Philip Bateman have been elected to Council for a three-year term of office and Sally Moreton has been elected for one year.

Positive Conference

This followed straight after the AGM and was a very positive and upbeat meeting. The chairman, Tony Bache, noted that entries had been good over the season although there were slightly fewer competitors who competed at more events.

He went on to thank the Council members for their work during the year. Many people do not appreciate how much it costs our elected members of Council as they pay all their own travel expenses to the meetings. The competitions committee has been listening closely to members' views and has produced a number of new proposals while the marketing committee is producing a DVD for broadcast on Horse and Country TV to promote our sport.

Peter Bennett, winner of the Fenix National Points League for horse four-in-hands, being presented by the sponsor Mark Broadbent.



Sara Howe, winner of the Carriage Driving Sports Personality of the Year 2008, being presented by Owen Pilling of OPG.



Tony also thanked Vic Kusun for maintaining an excellent website on a voluntary basis and Mike Watts for moderating the forum.

The young drivers successful English team, who won a bronze medal in Austria this year, were presented in uniform to the members, who saluted their success. Roger Campbell received the award for the best young driver in 2008 even though he was not in the team that travelled to the Junior World Trophy competition. Still on the subject of international competition, particular mention was also made of George Bowman's third place in the dressage and Boyd Exell's individual bronze medal at the FEI Horse Four-in-Hand World Championship in Holland.

The treasurer, Jan Szczuka, then reported on the buoyant state of the current financial position; with the BHDTA having made considerable savings by moving the office and reducing the number of staff employed to administer the association. Proposed cuts in the cost of membership had been put on hold due to the uncertainty of the current financial position of the economy.

Competitions committee chairman, Ian Gilbert, gave the members an opportunity to consider the new proposals for the event and class structure. Sarah Garnett commented on the proposed new dressage test to address the needs of competitors at both national and club level and this was well received. There will be two versions; one suitable for an 80m arena and one for a 100m arena.

In his event organisers' report, Robert Benson, organiser of Lowther, asked competitors to change hats and consider how events ran from the organisers' perspective. He appealed for early entries as many of the expenses have to be paid even if an event is cancelled. Organisers are permanently worried that the entries will not be sufficient to cover their costs and repeated that post dated cheques were always welcome. There will be a new format for paying start fees in 2009; they will all be paid at the event so remember to take cash or your cheque book or you will be unable to obtain your paperwork. It is hoped that this will simplify the process.

Barry Hilditch, chairman of the clubs' liaison committee, reported that the regional representatives had been making contact with clubs in their area and, although this committee was only recently formed, progress in improving communication between the clubs and the BHDTA was being made.

The chairman's award was a popular choice, with Rachel Stevens the recipient for 2008. She has committed a huge amount of time and effort to the sport and in particular her role as chef d'equipe to the para equestrian team. Tony Bache then presented Amanda Nisbet with a token of the members' appreciation for the five years she has served as a member of Council. His final presentation was made to John Nisbet who had performed a heroic rescue when one of the horses became unsettled and set off round the arena during the awards presentation at the national championships. Mark Broadbent of Fenix Carriages, sponsor of the Fenix National Points League, then presented a number of awards to members who were unable to attend the evening function, before the floor was thrown open for members' questions.

End of Season Party

This was a splendid event with an excellent atmosphere, which rounded off a successful season in style. Mark Broadbent presented the awards to the winners of the Fenix National Points League and Owen Pilling, of OPG who sponsored the band, presented the Alternative Awards as follows:

Carriage Driving Supplier of the Year: WBR Carriages for the second year in a row!

That Was the Moment 2008: Mark Bell's individual gold medal at the Junior World Trophy.

Team of the Year: The bronze medal Junior World Trophy Team.

Carriage Driving Sports Personality of the Year 2008: Sara Howe.

Special Award: Jackie Herd and Tim Maloy for their HDT DVD.

Rachel Stevens deserves a huge vote of thanks for all her work in organising this function, for preparing the slide show of competitors during the season which kept everyone entertained throughout their meal and for orchestrating the alternative awards.

EVENTS

New event structure

Following members' suggestions, the competitions committee have introduced a new level of national event called a regional event. These events will be able to offer the full range of classes from club classes up to horse fours with a lower start fee. They can be run over two days if desired and will not have such stringent requirements for officials or obstacles. Points will be awarded in the Fenix National Points League and Windsor Insurance Novice Points League with six points for a win and competitors will qualify for the national championships from these events. The full details can be found on the BHDTA website. So far West Newton in Scotland, Grangewood in the Midlands and Normanhurst have confirmed that they will run regional events. It is hoped that other clubs and organisers will come forward in due course.

New class structure

The main change to the class structure is the introduction of advanced and open pairs classes for horses and ponies. The intention is to encourage progression and competitors will be able to choose at which level they wish to compete, but anyone who has

not previously competed in the multiples or pairs classes will need to qualify for the advanced class.

2009 Dressage Tests

The new BHDTA 1a 2009 dressage test was approved for tandems, intermediate singles and open pairs. An alternative version for an 80m x 40m arena, BHDTA 1b 2009, is also available and suitable for clubs to use.

National Novice BHDTA Novice test (2008)

Intermediate Horse and Pony BHDTA 1a 2009

Open horse and pony FEI 7a

Advanced horse and pony FEI 7a

Advanced horse and pony FEI 9

Open horse and pony pairs BHDTA 1a 2009

Advanced horse pairs FEI 8b

Advanced pony pairs FEI 10

Horse and pony tandems BHDTA 1a 2009

Pony fours FEI 10

Horse fours FEI 8a

Lowther out for 2009

Sadly, due to the weather making reinstatement of the ground impossible, Lowther has taken the difficult decision to cancel their event in 2009. It is scheduled to run on their usual weekend in 2010. Wilf Bowman-Ripley has kindly stepped in to run Ashfields on the August date to prevent a gap developing in the calendar. Other regional events are currently under discussion so watch the website and the news pages for updated information.

The full list of events is available on the BHDTA website and is printed on page 6 of *Carriage Driving*.

2009 qualifying events

Hopetoun, Farleigh, Sandringham and RWHS are scheduled to be qualifying events for anyone with international aspirations. The new FEI regulations have reduced the number of possible opportunities to qualify horses for international competitions. As it is undesirable to be trying to qualify at selection events, particularly for multiples, competitors are advised to try and qualify as early as possible.

2009 selection events

The combined ponies and horse pairs will both hold their world championships in 2009. Both classes are having five selection events with the best three scores to count starting at the national championships this year. The remaining four events in 2009 are as follows:

Combined Ponies: Brighton, Hopetoun, Farleigh and Sandringham.

Horse Pairs: Brighton, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Catton.

Single Horse: Eddig and Ashfields with other dates tbc. The situation will be reviewed should the venue change.

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