

# BHDTA OFFICIAL NEWS

## OFFICE NEWS

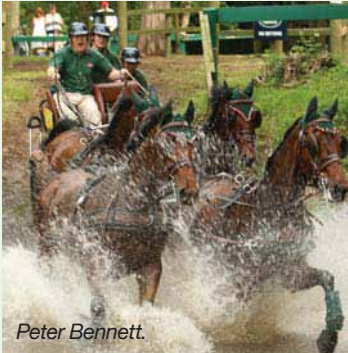


Photo: Dicky Jim

Peter Bennett.

Merry Christmas and a very happy and successful New Year from everyone at the BHDTA. There is an exciting calendar of events for 2009 with the introduction of four new regional events. Details are published on the BHDTA website and in the 2009 Yearbook which will be sent out with your membership renewal cards in January.

## 2009 Clinics and Training

The following dates have been arranged for the coming year. Please complete and return the booking form sent out in December or download one from the website. Although there is no charge for the Rules Clinic, it is still important to indicate if you intend to come so that we can ensure the room is of sufficient size and the hotel is prepared for the number of bar lunches that may be ordered.

### Rules

18<sup>th</sup> January Haydock: Diana Brownlie/  
Ian Douglas/Philip Bateman

### National Course Designers and TDs

31<sup>st</sup> Jan/1<sup>st</sup> Feb Unicorn Trust: Richard Papens

### Club TDs and Cones CD

15<sup>th</sup> March Penrith: Jean Lane and Carol Meredith

### Stewards

22<sup>nd</sup> March Leeds/York area – venue tbc: Philip Bateman

### Club Dressage Judges

28<sup>th</sup> March Unicorn Trust: Sarah Garnett

### Club TDs and Cones CD

29<sup>th</sup> March Unicorn Trust: Jean Lane/Carol Meredith

### Judges

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March Unicorn Trust: Dr. Vetter

The Rules Seminar is being taken by Diana Brownlie, Philip Bateman 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.

## 2009 Subscriptions

All members will by now have received a BHDTA Office News with a membership renewal form and clinic booking form. Memberships are due from 1<sup>st</sup> January and none will be processed in December so if you want to send it in early with a post-dated cheque, we are happy for you to do this. Your existing insurance is only valid until the end of January.

## International Committee

Following the introduction to members of the new committee structure in the July issue of *Carriage Driving*, each of the five main com-

mittees' roles and responsibilities are being looked at in more detail to give members a greater insight into the full range of issues dealt with by the BHDTA. The spotlight falls this month on the International Committee.

The chairman Philip Bateman, writes: "The International Committee is somewhat unique, as it consists of one member only, its chairman. This committee intercedes between the British competitors, the BEF, the FEI and the organisers of international events.

Every year there are two FEI World Championships and a Junior World Trophy is held every two years. The objective is to ensure a British team (not to be confused with a four-in-hand) gets to each of these prestigious events. We are bidding for the 2012 Four-in Hand Championships ourselves at Great Leighs in Essex. This follows the World Equestrian Games, which is held every four years, and takes place in Kentucky in 2010.

There is a huge amount of work to get British competitors, not only to these world championships, but also to the qualifying events in Britain and on the continent. Schedules must be obtained, passports checked and competitors' certificates of capability completed. The competitors must be entered into the events, and for championships all the relevant qualifications need to be obtained.

Selection and qualification events must all be carefully chosen to make sure that the best possible available competitors are sent to represent our country. In addition, training is offered to competitors and chefs d'equipe who will go abroad. Lots to do and very often little time in which to do it."

## GENERAL

### A new addition

Olivia Nicole Exell was five days late which was a bit of a shock for her mother, Preetha, after James arrived so early, but when she decided to



Boyd, Preetha, and James  
Excell with Olivia.

make an appearance she didn't hang about and arrived in two hours flat on the 20<sup>th</sup> November. Luckily Boyd was not only in the country but in Leicestershire as well. He had

been teaching at a clinic at Mark Broadbent's yard earlier in the week so it was lucky she decided not to make an appearance then or he would have missed this one too!

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### 2009 Subscriptions

Membership renewal forms were posted out in December. If yours has become misplaced over the Christmas period, forms can be downloaded from the website where there is also the option of joining on line.

Please note that if you rely on your BHDTA membership to provide your legal liability cover and personal accident insurance, you must have renewed by 31<sup>st</sup> January or your cover will lapse. The rates remain unaltered for 2009.

### 2009 Rule Books

The new rule books will fit into the existing blue covers and continue to cost £10. They can be ordered through the merchandise section of the website, using the on-line payment facility, or by printing out a form and sending it with a cheque. You can also view the rule book on-line on the BHDTA website.

## GENERAL

### Training 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 have been looked at in more detail. The spotlight falls for the final time this month on the Training Committee, chaired by Sydney Smith.

Over the years the Training Committee's brief has widened with the development of the sport.

Originally it was the "Training and Selection Committee" and in the 1980s it was subsidised by the Sports Council with a grant that was divided equally between training and travelling for the British team. Subsequent to a change in the selection policy, the Training Committee evolved to organise training clinics for officials. In addition, an annual 'activity' was organised to raise funds that the HDT used to subsidise training grants for clubs. The clubs were encouraged in turn to have a training officer and to organise clinics for their own members.

Training became a 'must do' part of everyone's driving repertoire if they were going to aspire to successful competition driving. 'Pods' of training were organised by individuals across the country, which were both educational and fun while improving standards across the board. Many well known competitors who were committed to training gave generously of their time to these activities.

With the introduction of indoor driving came an influx of new young drivers and the BHDTA's Training Committee's efforts have been invaluable to their development. The British National Young Drivers Group was created, with Easter and Summer camps for training as well as the Young Drivers' National Championships. These have been running for four years and are well supported. To make the championships even more competitive a team competition is included with entries from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Further proof of their success includes individual gold and team bronze at the World Young Drivers Championship in 2008 under the guidance of Sara Howe and Anna Grayston. Also the Talented Athletes Scholarships Scheme, available in England,

has recognised driving and awarded five young drivers a scholarship grant.

The Drivers with Disabilities have formed a competitive group. They are very well organised with a structured training plan which has brought them international success. Rachel Stevens has recently taken over from Margaret Brockie as chef d'equipe for this group.

The Government, endeavouring to improve standards in sport, has introduced a UK Coaching Certificate. It has created universally accepted standard levels of coaching ability across all disciplines. Andrew Counsell and Ann Varley have been instrumental in developing this for carriage driving and the BHDTA can now post an increasing, bona fide list of UKCC Coaches with government qualifications.

As the sport has grown worldwide, international championships for singles, pairs and combined ponies as well as disabled drivers have given more impetus to furthering the structure of training. Although training is considered to be the individual's responsibility, organised team training for those interested in international competition has developed and follows a more professional approach, modelled on the World Class Development Programme.

The Training Committee has formed the World Class Performance Driving Committee (WCPDC) with each international class represented by its chef d'equipe. There is now a plan to improve performances through exchange of knowledge and use of professional modern sciences.

In 2008 Government money was promised to encourage participation in the sport by retaining existing participants and encouraging new ones. The committee is hoping to co-ordinate this with the clubs' regional representatives but we do not know whether this money will be forthcoming in the present financial climate.

In 2008, the chairman rationalised the Training Committee to represent all these training aspects of the sport.

### HDT...the real meaning?!

Emma Fenwick, a newcomer to the world of competitive carriage driving in 2008, reflects back on some of the more memorable moments of her first season as groom to Owen and Janet Pilling.

Horse driving trials, for me as a showjumper, was a sport enjoyed mainly by the ageing, grey haired population and the mention of driving horses instantly produces a perfect picture of an auld coloured cob, plodding down the road on a Sunday afternoon.

OK, OK – fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and I take back the 'auld coloured cob' and replace it with an over confident orange beast (obviously no references to Jed there Owen) and put it together with an almost identical neurotic, skippy orange beast, then add one scary woman with (wait for it) a grey Irish pony, four carriages, three dogs, an extra groom, half of Tesco's supermarket, a lorry, two trailers, around 300-odd miles to each event and no, you don't have the travelling circus but something much more entertaining – Camp OPG!!!

Take all that on board and then factor in the 'real' meaning of HDT which is to complete the dressage without getting beeped at by the good looking judge at 'C' and the marathon without getting lost, hooking your horses up on a post, losing a groom or running through the wrong gate backwards. Having survived both these phases you are now expected to party on into the wee small hours of Sunday morning before reaching for the

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Photo by Vic Kusin.

Owen Pilling driving his pair, Jed and Tango at Hopetoun 2008.

hangover cure and completing the cones in the correct order, without missing any out, knocking any balls off or chucking up! Hmm... whatever happened to that auld coloured cob trotting down the road on a Sunday afternoon?

There was much more to taking part in this extremely hair-raising sport than I first suspected – like taking a wee grey pony six hours down the road to Catton, only to find out it had a sore leg and was substituted for an unknown little bay pony who likes to stand on his back legs and wave at the judge during the halt! Then the night before Erddig, Janet had to trail her groom (me) to A&E with 40 wasp stings. On route to the National Championships the arrogant orange beast says, 'I'm not feeling well folks – let's detour to the nearest (and dearest) vets in Cheshire before going on down to Windsor' – Well done Jed!!

We had just left to go to West Newton when we got a puncture on the trailer and had to wait for three hours in a lay-by just outside our village for a mechanic, drinking tea and singing 'Five Wheels on my Wagon...' Then we limped into the services with a shredded tyre on the way to Ashfields before making our grand entrance with the postman hot on our heels shouting 'Oi, mate!! You nearly took the side out of my van!!' Yes, the Driver of the Year Award goes to Mr OPG himself!!

However let's not dwell on the dramas but look to all the entertaining and successful memories of season '08, including Owen's miracle win at Hopetoun; Colin very nearly coming off the back at Erddig; getting a cold hose bath at Windsor and, the event of the year, Janet nearly causing a very serious crash as she proudly showed unsuspecting motorists a flash of sassy pink underwear and a Scottish white bum!!

Putting all the events before events aside, all in all, as a first time groom to carriage driving, I've had a great season,

which has opened my eyes to how much skill is involved within the sport. Camp OPG has been fairly successful this year and has completed a huge learning curve for all horses and people involved.

Now the end of the season has come and as the carriages are safely stored away for the winter, we set to work turning those arrogant orange beasts into dressage superstars and well, let's just say Owen may be glad not to have to listen to my constant whinges of 'Are we there yet?' and my season's favourite, 'Oh, but it's so hard not to!' for a few months while I go work out whatever happened to that auld coloured cob and the silver haired gentleman who used to drive him on a Sunday afternoon!

**Emma Fenwick**

Competition groom to Team OPG.

## Recognition for members

Ruth Skinner, an enthusiastic carriage driver and member of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for her services to Riding for the Disabled Association and to the community in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire.

Tandem driver David Gulley has become the first British farrier to be elected as president of the European Federation of Farriers' Association (EFFA). He says he is determined to publicise EFFA's work in raising standards throughout Europe.

Micky Flynn has received the MVO in the New Year's Honours List. Micky has competed internationally for Britain and supported the Duke of Edinburgh's team in horse driving trials for many years.



Photo by Vic Kusin.

Micky Flynn with the Duke of Edinburgh, competing at Lowther 2005.

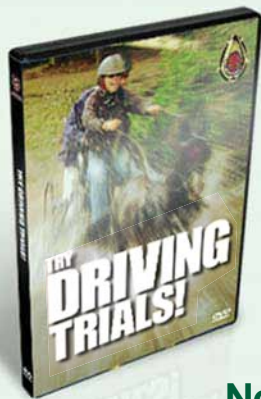
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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### 'Try Driving Trials' on TV



With the help of sponsorship from **Bennington** and **Zilco**, the BHDTA has commissioned a DVD, which will be available to all clubs via their regional representatives, to promote the sport. The first transmission slot is 9pm on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Further details on the BHDTA website in due course and on page 4 of this magazine.

### New Rule Book

Many members have now purchased a new 2009 Rule Book. They fit into the existing blue covers and continue to cost £10. They can be ordered through the merchandise section of the website, using the on-line payment facility, or by printing out a form and sending it with a cheque. Please note there is a £3.50 P&P charge.

Some of the main differences that people will note regarding the new rule book:

#### Dressage

- Dressage tests online.
- Read 901.2 - 901.11 for all changes on welfare including suitability of bits, fit of harness, adjustment of blinkers and nosebands, use of devices to prevent tail swishing and fly defences.
- The 'driving event location' has been clearly defined and has implications for welfare; this bans the use of certain training aids at events.
- Officials' lists on line (the list of officials will not be published until the end of March after the clinics).
- See the website for new rules regarding the issue and acceptance of yellow cards.
- New regulations regarding whips in all three phases.
- Ability to bring additional horses to events.

#### Marathon

- More scope for advertising.
- Finishing under minimum time 0.2 pens/sec.
- Penalties for starting late at the start of A, starting before the signal or failing to stop.
- Compulsory flags on the marathon driven out of sequence = elimination.
- Failing to stop in an obstacle for leg over pole, shaft or lead bar = elimination - this is the driver's responsibility.
- Failing to stop in an obstacle for leg over trace = 20 pens - this is the driver's responsibility.
- Groom leading a horse through an obstacle = 20 pens.
- Min distance between obstacles 250m.
- New regulations for measuring vehicles at the start of Section E.
- The 'seat belt', if used, may only be held in the hand at the unattached end (ie not wrapped round anything).

- There is no limit on the number of dislodgeable elements
- After the last obstacle competitors may only stop within 30m of the obstacle.
- Passing through an obstacle is now defined as the whole turnout, not just the rear axle
- Putting two feet on any part of an obstacle counts as the ground = 10 pens.

#### Cones

- Entering arena without lamps or rear reflectors = 5 pens.
- Groom leading a horse through cones = 20 pens.
- Passing through an obstacle is now defined as the whole turnout, not just the rear axle.
- Maximum of three multiple obstacles allowed – not including bridge or water.
- When an obstacle has to be rebuilt and driven from the first element again, the clock will re-start when the competitor is approximately 10m from that obstacle.

### Errata

There are a couple of errors in the new Rule Book.

#### Quad Bikes:

Quad bike passes are no longer issued by the BHDTA office. 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 to be carried if the bike is designed to carry a passenger. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to ride quads or similar motorised transport at events.

If you have a permanent disability, please apply in writing to the office to request a pass enabling you to access the obstacles and cones with your quad bike. Should you suffer a temporary disability, short term passes can be issued.

The issue of a pass does not carry any insurance provision and it still remains your own responsibility to ensure you have suitable cover.

#### Yellow cards:

Please see the website for details of the new BHDTA rules for yellow cards. These have changed to be in line with the revised FEI rules. It is no longer possible to refuse to accept of a yellow card.

### Membership

Membership renewals have been arriving steadily in the office. Please note that it is perfectly acceptable for friends to join the BHDTA to gain the benefit of the attractive level of cover offered for legal liability and personal accident.

The rates can be kept so low due to the number of members we have. If you have not received your yearbook, it is probably because you have not yet renewed your subscription so your insurance will have lapsed.

### Marathon grooms

As competitors prepare for the forthcoming season it can sometimes be difficult to find a suitable groom. Please note Annex 11 (page 143) 3.1 which states: "It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that their groom or grooms are fit and capable of rendering speedy and efficacious assistance at any time".

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

For the 2009 season, drivers will need to include their marathon groomers' names on the declaration form. A frequent mistake is the number of times a groom can pay a single event groom membership. This is only valid for one event as the name of this membership category suggests.

Grooms are required to pay the £30 marathon groom membership if they compete in a second event. As the BHDTA wishes to encourage membership of the association, we are happy to upgrade members so they only have to pay the balance owed to raise their membership to the next level.

*BHDTA members on the Course Builders' Clinic and Technical Delegate meeting with Richard Papens, the Belgium FEI International Course Designer, seated in the front row.*



## Competence Cards

If you require to have a Competence Card signed by the officials in order to progress to national novice or open pairs, you must indicate this to the organiser before the start of the competition to enable the officials to monitor your turnout. Official's signatures cannot be obtained retrospectively.

## Rules Clinic

All the members present (and there was an excellent turnout) agreed that this had been an incredibly informative day. The triumvirate responsible for the inception of the new Rule Book were present to explain the purpose and intention of the new rules.

This is the most major revamp of the rules for eight years and the new volume is slimmer with rules referenced in only one place and sections such as the dressage tests and officials now available on-line.

## Course Designers' Clinic 2009

The last day of January and the first day of February saw 24 course designers, probationary course designers and observers from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland assemble for one of the most interesting clinics in the past few years. Richard Papens, an FEI International Course Designer, from Belgium, delighted all the participants with an exciting and very interesting presentation, with a slide show and three hrs obstacle cones driving in the indoor arena. Although Richard has been to clinics

at the Unicorn Trust before, this was his debut at presenting a clinic in this country. The general feeling was that he should come back next year and do it again for competitors and course designers at Stow and at Penrith. Everybody learnt a tremendous amount in addition to enjoying his great ideas. On Saturday night he was treated to dinner at the Fosse Manor along with 20 other participants. A separate TD clinic took place on Sunday.

## SUPPORTERS

### Stewards' parties

Following the marathon at all national events, there will be a party organised by the BHDTA for all the stewards who gave so generously of their time to enable us to enjoy the sport of horse driving trials. Sally Moreton will be coordinating these functions. Competitors will be welcome if they would like to drop in for a chat and show their appreciation of the stewards' efforts.

### 200 Club

The BHDTA Supporters are again running the 200 Club 2009 and this raises money which comes back into horse driving trials.

The 200 Club is now open for members so please support your sport and remember that if you're not in it, you can't win it. You do not need to be a BHDTA member to join.

*Forms can be obtained from the BHDTA office and should be sent to: Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm, Lumby, South Milford, Leeds LS25 5LD.*

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.  
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: [bhdt@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:bhdt@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) Website: [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk)  
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## OFFICIAL NEWS

### VOSA shock

You may have missed the recent headline features in the equestrian press regarding the equestrian industry and the fact that VOSA has changed its mind on regulations concerning lorry driving times.

This has serious implications for our sport in particular, as many driving trials competitors have lorries over 7.5 tonnes.

The problems arise from the definitions laid down by European legislation regarding lorry drivers and rest periods. The revised interpretation may now mean that any carriage driver or parent who has an unconnected full-time job to their hobby is not legally able to drive their horses in a large horsebox for both days of every weekend. The fuller story is on page 52 of this issue.

The BHDTA is very aware of the seriousness of the problem and has been liaising with the BEF to see what if anything can be done.

### Date of next council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**.

### Insurance

When you receive your BHDTA Yearbook with your membership card, please take time to read the policy summaries given on pages 79-84.

### 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?
- Your marathon groom is a member of the BHDTA?
- If you are aiming at international qualification for FEI World Championships, the organiser has confirmed that the class you are entering is an FEI approved qualifying class?

### Event entry forms

These are available on the website in pdf format for you to print as required. If you have a PC and use Microsoft Word, there is also a Word version to enable you to download and save it into your own computer. Once you have filled in the information once, it can be saved and used for subsequent events with a few minor changes. If your computer uses Works as its word processing program or you have a Mac, you will need to print out the pdf version. There have been a few changes to the format of the entry form so it should only be necessary to print one page if sending a postal entry.

A number of events are now able to offer on-line entries and it is hoped to expand the number of events able to do this so keep watching the website for updates. If you do not have internet access, please telephone or write to the office with a note of the number of entry forms you require.

### Start Fee/Declaration Forms

Competitors should note that these will now be collected with payment **at the event** and should not be sent with the entry.

You will also be asked for the name of your marathon grooms so please ensure they are BHDTA members.



Photo: dleym.co.uk

*Local member of the Brockham Harness Club, Pippa Bassett, gave her team an early outing at their South of England Carriage Fair in a very competitive international class.*

## EVENTS

### Brighton

In order to further improve spectator access, some of the obstacles are being relocated with a number moving up to the area in front of Stanmer House. A feature obstacle will now be located at the end of the main arena which can be viewed from the comfort of the catering tent.

The organiser's offer of an early entry discount proved to be a massive success with almost 40 entries fully paid by the middle of February which is most reassuring for the organising committee as this creates confidence to proceed with the event.

**Closing date for entries is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

### Hopetoun

This year's event promises to be even better than before with selection classes for the British teams to compete in the FEI World Combined Ponies Championships and World Horse Pairs Championships.

Janet Pilling, an active competitor in open pony class, has come on board as assistant organiser and Ian Gilbert's challenging marathon course will have a brand new obstacle. Existing obstacles will have new themes thanks to the talented Jacky Jeffrey and all are to be spruced up by SCDA members at the annual painting party – a social fixture now in its own right!

Once again the event will have excellent catering facilities so don't pack too much in the way of supplies – come and have a well earned break in the marquee and take advantage of the tasty meals and snacks prepared by Highland Cuisine. As in previous years there will be a drinks reception on Friday evening and a traditional ceilidh on Saturday night.

The British Driving Society will be running the Lothian & Borders Area Show at the event with a variety of driving classes on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** to include novices, donkeys and exercise vehicles as well as all the usual private driving classes with qualifiers for the 2009 Osborne Refrigerators Championships.

*For a schedule please contact Ann Varley on 01536 510399.*

Last year this event was very well attended and is growing in popularity every year. So don't miss Hopetoun – it's well worth the trip!

**Closing date for entries is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## Sandringham CAI-B

As Sandringham is being run as an FEI international event in June 2009, here are a few briefing notes for competitors in the international classes: advanced single pony and horse, advanced pony and horse pairs, pony and horse fours. No FEI Passports are required for competitors from the host nation, however all horses must comply with the FEI Vaccination Regulations (within the 6-month period).

In addition, all horses and the competitor must be registered with the FEI; this procedure is done through the BHDTA office. The charge is £15.00 per horse or competitor and all the relevant forms are available under the reference section on the website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).

A single horse competitor will therefore pay £30 and a four in hand competitor with five horses will pay £90.

All competitors are advised to read the FEI schedule for the event, which can be viewed from the BHDTA website, to assure themselves that they are aware of procedures and the times that inspections happen. The first inspection will be on Thursday at 1.00pm.

All those entered in the FEI classes must have their horses inspected at this time; there will be no further inspections, so please do not be late. The final observation will take place 30 minutes before the obstacle cones driving on Sunday.

A full set of competitor briefing notes will be sent out with the paperwork just before the event, to facilitate competitors' arrival.

*Further information can be obtained from the BHDTA office.*

## Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running early Novice Qualifiers for the National Championships.

Scottish Carriage Driving Association

at St Fort **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May**

Windsor Park Equestrian Club at Windsor,

Berks **23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May**

North East Driving Trials Club at Escrick Park,

N. Yorkshire **23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May**

East Anglian Carriage Driving Group at Euston Park,

Norfolk **30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May**

*Full details and links to the organising clubs are available on the website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).*

## Competence Cards

Anyone wishing to qualify to take part in their first National Novice (Level 2) with a single or their first National (Open) with a multiple will be required to have a completed Competence Card. These are available to download from the website or by contacting the BHDTA office.

The card should be filled in at club competitions **on the day**. It is important to let the organiser know if you want a Competence Card to be completed so that the judges can be asked to pay particular attention to your turnout.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Note to competitors

Please note the new section on the website which gives information to help competitors who intend to compete abroad.

## CLUB NEWS

### Club carriage drivers get new challenge

Martyn Willis, BHDTA club representative for the south west, in collaboration with the Indoor Horse Driving Trials club, has taken on the challenge of developing the South of England Championships open to club carriage drivers from Land's End and South Wales to Margate, from the following affiliated clubs: Bradbourne Carriage Driving Club, British Heavy Horse Driving Trials Club, Brockham Harness Club, Forest Of Dean Driving Trials Group, Great Western Harness Club, Indoor Horse Driving Trials UK, Oaks Driving Club, Shepway Harness Club, South Downs Harness Club, Stour Valley Harness Club, Weald Harness Club, White Horse Harness Club, and Windsor Park Equestrian Club.

The event is planned for the weekend of **26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2009** at Rockborne Ride (UK Chaser Course), Tenantry Farm, Rockborne, Nr Salisbury, Wilts.

Drivers will qualify for the championship by finishing in the top six at events run by these clubs which have three sections with a minimum 6km marathon.

Schedules for the event will be available via the clubs and a championship website is currently under construction.

### 'Try Driving Trials'



In our current effort to promote our sport to a wider audience, the council commissioned Cavewood Productions to produce a DVD entitled 'Try Driving Trials'.

Sponsored jointly by Bennington Carriages and Zilco Harness, the aim is to show that driving trials is a fun and friendly sport.

"With interviews from doyen of the driving world, George Bowman, to relative newcomer Chris Ainscough and many in between, everyone has been keen to 'big up' driving trials!" said Jackie Herd of Cavewood Productions. "We were able to get some fantastic footage of driving last year and hope we've put it together to make an excellent showcase for the sport".

*Available from BHDTA office £5.00 plus £1.50 postage.*

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.  
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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Date of next Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June**.

### Officials' Lists

As the lists of officials are no longer published in the Rule Book, these are now available on the website. The lists will be linked from a number of locations and can be found under the menu heading 'BHDTA Officials', in the 'Reference' menu or via the Index.

### Sporting Satisfaction Survey 2009

Sport England, working with Ipsos Mori, have set up a survey in order to measure satisfaction within sport. This important research study, which is the first of its kind in the UK, will establish what is important to people when they take part in sport and how satisfied they are with the quality of their sporting experience.

The purpose is not to try and sell anything; it is purely a research study. They are targeting two specific groups within the equestrian community:

- Equestrian club participants (volunteers, club members and competitors at club level) <http://surveys.globalepanel.com/wix/p286573946.aspx?type=2&Sport=Equestrian>
- Members of the equestrian talent pool (competitors at national driving trials) <http://surveys.globalepanel.com/wix/p286573946.aspx?type=3&Sport=Equestrian>

Links to both these addresses are available on the BHDTA website.

Sport England will use the results of the survey to establish a baseline with which it can measure improvements in performance.

Sport England, through the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), have asked us to contact our members, above the age of 16 years only and resident in England, to encourage you to follow the link to Ipsos Mori and register your details.

All of your personal information will be kept in the strictest confidence and used only for the purpose of this study. Ipsos Mori are seeking approximately 2,000 responses from each group so please take two minutes to register your details. Only if selected, will you be asked to complete the questionnaire.

## DEFRA

In the national press recently, details of the Government's plan to



*Di Hayes added to her numerous wins, Championships and FEI Medals by taking the National Indoor Supreme Championship at Keysoe. She and Matador produced an outstanding Paces & Precision test with a penalty score of 8, 22 ahead of her nearest rival. There were 12 in the class.*

create a database of all horse owners were released. This could be seen to duplicate the work done by the National Equine Database (NED) which is run in conjunction with the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and will incur further cost.

If you feel strongly about this issue and wish to make your opinions known, log on to the DEFRA website, [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk), and look for the consultation paper for the horse owners' database.

## EVENTS

### Saddlers' Company Awards

The Saddlers' Company generously present awards to carriage drivers every year. These take the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for saddlery/harness 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.

These are awarded to the winners of the Intermediate classes for ponies and horses. The highest placed young driver (under 25 on 31/12/08) at a national event will also receive an award.

The Intermediate classes run at the new regional events will receive awards this year too. At the National Championships, winners of the Intermediate classes will receive leather reins. This is a substantial incentive for newly qualified drivers from the novice classes to move up to Intermediate level and for young drivers to get out competing in 2009.

### Hopetoun

This year's painting party was a most enjoyable day out (can anyone detect a hint of irony in the tone here?) and Ian Gilbert supervised construction of a new obstacle to challenge competitors.

The Worshipful Company of Farriers will be presenting an award to the owner and farrier of the best shod animal in the advanced and open pony pairs classes.

*Don't forget that entries close on **Friday 1st May**.*

### Farleigh

Farleigh runs on the weekend of **12-14<sup>th</sup> June**. There will be seven obstacles and a three-section marathon which never leaves the estate. If there are sufficient entries, the barn will be the venue for the 'Drinks and Nibbles' party for sponsors, stewards and competitors on Friday night while Saturday evening sees the traditional hog roast for which tickets are included in the entry fee.

*Entries close on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**.*

### Regional Events

In the first year of this new initiative, Council are exceptionally pleased with the initial response where there will be four well spread regional events (details below under novice qualifiers). Vouchers from the Worshipful Company of Saddlers will be awarded as detailed above. These events run qualifiers for the national championships including the Dodson and Horrell Advanced and Open Single Horse National Championships.

With the recession affecting more and more people, competitors will be delighted to know that an associate BHDTA membership will be acceptable to enter these competitions. Marathon grooms will need to be members as usual. If you qualify for the national championships, and wish to compete at Windsor, competitors will have to be full members. An upgrade to your existing membership will be acceptable; don't forget that there is a £70 introductory full membership rate available.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## 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. These can be downloaded from the website at [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) using the 'Reference' option from the menu on the left and then choosing 'Forms'.

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.

Further details of these events, including a detailed map of the location and links to the organising clubs, can be found on the BHDTA website at [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).

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

- Scottish Carriage Driving Association  
at St Fort **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> May**
- Windsor Park Equestrian Club  
at Windsor, Berks **23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May**
- North East Driving Trials Club  
at Escrick Park, N. Yorkshire **23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May**
- East Anglian Carriage Driving Group  
at Euston Park, Norfolk **30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May**
- Chester Horse Driving Trials Group  
at Mostyn Hall, Holywell, Flintshire **6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June**

## INTERNATIONAL

### Selection events

*Combined Ponies:* - Brighton, Hopetoun, Farleigh and Sandringham.

*Horse pairs:* Hopetoun, Farleigh, Sandringham and Catton.

### Qualifying events

International qualification for championship classes: Royal Windsor (restricted), Hopetoun, Farleigh, Sandringham, Erddig and the national championships.

### Affiliated membership cards

Following discussion between the clubs and the regional representatives, a suggestion was put forward to council proposing that membership cards are issued to all affiliated BHDTA members. These will be distributed to all club members who will become affiliated to the BHDTA through their clubs' annual affiliation payment.

They will be sent to the club secretaries in April and will be forwarded by the clubs to their members who do not already have BHDTA membership. Please contact your club secretary for further information of the timing and method of distribution.



*Minta Winn competing in the Indoor Championships with a new hackney leader for her tandem, Stapleford Pocket Rocket owned by Avril Lewis.*

## SUPPORTERS NEWS

### 200 Club Draw

The first 200 Club draw in 2009 took place at the stewards' weekend and the following lucky winners were drawn:

£50	Sarah Owlett
£30	Duchess of Rutland
£20	Jackie Herd

### Stewards clinic report

A stewards clinic was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the WI Hall in South Milford, Yorkshire. Organised by Mrs Sheila Hawking and the North East Driving Trials Club, kindly sponsored by the BHDTA Supporters Club.

The clinic was taken by Philip Bateman and attended by approximately 40 club and national stewards. Philip had a very good PowerPoint presentation explaining the three phases of the national driving trial, giving examples of all the necessary event paperwork, some of it revised for 2009, with examples of how it should be correctly completed. Also very good photographs of the ideal stewarding facilities, mainly taken in the USA where money is no object!!

The new rule changes that apply to stewarding for 2009 were also explained. The emphasis was made on the importance to 'observe and record' not forgetting where and when to stick the 'red dot'! The small differences between club and national events were also discussed.

As usual Sheila produced a delicious lunch, time was taken to chat and catch up with friends that are only met at events.

Many thanks to Sheila, Philip and the North East team for a very successful and informative day.

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

With the first event now past and the season under way, the trials and tribulations of a British winter are fading fast. A steward recently remarked that one thing that sets driving trials apart from other equestrian disciplines is the way competitors thank the stewards, especially after each obstacle. It's not practical for this to be done in ridden eventing which is another good reason to be carriage drivers; long may this tradition continue.

### Date of next Council Meeting

The date of the next Council Meeting is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### Junior clinic at Unicorn

*Jay Snow, Age 10 writes:*

This was my fifth Easter camp at Unicorn. My sister Fleur and I go every year and the whole family looks forward to it. The instructors are very friendly and get you driving better straight away.

This year we had two sessions with an instructor every day to work on our dressage, cones and obstacles. Then on the last day there was a competition and prizes not just for the winners but for the most improved, the best newcomer and even the pony the instructors most wanted to take home.

Every Easter clinic we learn something new. This time it was how a horse moves. We spent an afternoon painting bones on some patient ponies that stood still for hours. Then we watched how the bones moved when the ponies were walked and driven. Knowing what's going on under a pony's skin will help us drive them better. Last year we learned how to feed our ponies to get them performing better. Our sponsor, Baileys, kindly sent a nutritionist to advise us and everyone had lots of questions.

There's always lots of fun at Unicorn too. It's good to meet up with old friends and make new ones. There's always someone to talk to and have fun. And if you like food there's a very good cook (Fran's brownies are excellent). And on the last night there are team games where everyone joins in.

I'm already looking forward to next year's Easter clinic but before that it's summer camp at Ashfields and that will be great too.

### A sporting tribute

"A Sporting Tribute to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, presented by the CCPR" (Central Council of Physical Recreation) is to be held in the ballroom at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The evening will be a celebration to mark the retirement of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as President of CCPR after no less than 58 years' service.

The event will begin with a drinks' reception at 7.00 pm, followed by a three course dinner with wines. Rory Bremner will host an action-packed evening with showcase performances by representatives from CCPR members.

A grand auction will take place to raise funds for CCPR's nominated sporting charities.

*Details and a booking form for the dinner available from the BHDТА office or please call Fireball on 202 8704 4141, email [info@fireballmanagement.com](mailto:info@fireballmanagement.com) or visit their website at [www.fireballmanagement.com](http://www.fireballmanagement.com).*

## EVENTS

### Entries

Organisers have telling us that many competitors are not including email addresses on their entry forms. It is enormously helpful to have a cheap and simple system of communication in order to help keep costs to a minimum.

If you find it too arduous to write the same information out every time, please remember that the website has the entry form in Word format too. Use 'Save As' to save it to your own computer where you can enter all your own details. When you enter an event, you just need to change a few details and it's beautifully clear for the organiser to read, with all the requested information and it can be sent with the minimum of effort.

### Sandringham CAI-B

Remember that Sandringham is being run as an international event in June 2009. The international classes are: Advanced Single Pony and Horse, Advanced Pony and Horse Pairs, Pony and Horse Fours. No FEI Passports are required for competitors from the host nation, however all horses must comply with the FEI Vaccination Regulations (within the 6-month period).

In addition, all horses and the competitor **must be registered with the FEI**; this procedure is done through the BHDТА office. The charge is £15.00 per horse or competitor and all the relevant forms are available under the reference section on the website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk). Please contact the office for further information.

All competitors are advised to read the FEI Schedule for the event, which can be viewed from the BHDТА website, to assure themselves that they are aware of procedures and the times that inspections happen. The first inspection will be on Thursday at 1.00pm. All those entered in the FEI classes must have their horses inspected at this time. The final observation



*Karen Bassett at the Royal Windsor Land Rover Driving Grand Prix, one of only two competitors who took the alternative shorter, but wetter!, route in the water obstacle. (Report page 34.)*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

will take place 30 minutes before the obstacle cones driving on Sunday.

A full set of competitor briefing notes will be sent out with the paperwork just before the event, to facilitate competitors' arrival.

**Closing date for entries is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Catton

The glorious Catton Park estate hosts the horse driving trials event in July and offers a testing marathon over tracks, parkland and undulating farmland that requires fit horses and ponies. There are plans to revamp most of the obstacles to increase the number of flowing routes and possibly create a more horse and carriage friendly entry to the water from the bridge. Hot snacks are available during the day with a licensed bar on Friday and Saturday evening.

**Closing date for entries is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running Novice Qualifiers for the National Championships. Contact details are available on the BHDTA web-site.

Midlands Driving Trials Group, Offchurch Bury,

**Leamington Spa 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July**

The Cricklands Team, Cricklands,

**Chepstow 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July**

Northern Ireland Carriage Driving Assoc  
(REGIONAL HDT), Necarne,

**Co. Fermanagh 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> August**

Midlands Driving Trials Group (REGIONAL HDT), Grangewood,

**Derbyshire 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August**

Scottish Carriage Driving Assoc (REGIONAL HDT)

West Newton,

**Arbroath 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August**

Normanhurst, (REGIONAL HDT)

**East Sussex 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August**

## INTERNATIONAL

### International registrations

The FEI have now updated their website to again allow competitors to check their own horse and driver registrations and driver numbers. Go to [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org), select the box on the left for the website then choose 'Driving' from the green box which lists all the disciplines.

You will find a link on this page which lets you access the lists. You can either enter a name or passport number in the relevant boxes, or if you wish to see the whole list, select GBR under 'Administering NF' and 'Registered' from the drop-down menu in the Registration box.

When you have done this the website will automatically update and offer you a choice of discipline. Please double check that your horses appear as expected and that the information currently held for them regarding owners etc is accurate.

### Combined Pony Fund

The Combined Pony Fund (for the team going to the FEI World

Championships in August) would like to extend their thanks to Dave and Susan Skeggs, Sara Howe and all those who donated prizes for the raffle at the Indoor Finals which raised £700, and also to the Indoor Horse Driving Trials who very generously donated a further £300 to make the total for the weekend up to £1,000.

### WEG funding

The BEF are hoping to field a team of possibly 16 from various disciplines to raise money for WEG by running the London Marathon 2010. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Anna at [anna.greenway@bef.co.uk](mailto:anna.greenway@bef.co.uk).

### International success

Britain has enjoyed considerable international success recently when three British drivers competed abroad. At CAIP-B Emsdetten (GER), Robert Buck won the single pony class (32 competitors) and Julie Camm came 19th. At CAI-A Conty (FRA), Angela Flannagan finished 4<sup>th</sup> in a class of 17 single horses.

## SUPPORTERS NEWS

**The 200 Club draw has been made for April:**

£50 Don Wood | £30 Vicky Irwin

£20 Nigel Chandler

## GENERAL

### FEI on the box

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) has launched its new broadband based video platform FEI.TV. This unique video website, [www.feitv.org](http://www.feitv.org), enables the global horse-sport community to watch and enjoy high quality video from the world's most prestigious equestrian events from one central place.

Special prominence will be given to the major continental championships including the Alltech FEI European Championships Jumping & Dressage 2009, the HSBC FEI European Championships Eventing 2009 and, of course, the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010.

FEI.TV combines live coverage, video on demand, highlights, interviews and equestrian lifestyle features and incorporates an archive area which enables visitors to look back at favourite rider and horse career-defining moments.

FEI.TV can be accessed through a combination of free-to-air and subscription; content can also be downloaded for quick and easy user access.

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## Marcin Skrzydlewski

It was with shock and great sadness that we heard of the sudden death on 26<sup>th</sup> May of Marcin Skrydlewski, Angela Flanagan's groom.

Marcin, 28, had worked for Angela for five years and was well-known on the driving trials circuit, being ever-present on the back of her carriage at club, national and international competitions. Always ready to give a helping hand, he was a brilliant horseman and will be much missed by all who knew him.

Ironically, it was only recently that Angela had the opportunity to pay public tribute to his worth when being quoted in Horse & Hound after a win at Brighton, following a great result in France, saying she 'couldn't have done it without him'.

Angela and Marcin's family would like to thank everyone who has left messages and sent cards, texts and emails. She said: "Marcin's Mum and Dad and his sister Jolanta have taken a lot of comfort in knowing just how many hearts he has touched in the five years he was with me. He was simply the very best groom and a friend - I'm glad that I told him that many times. A real gentle man, he had three loves in his life - his family, the horses and his Yamaha R1."

Marcin was buried in the cemetery at his village in Poland, the funeral taking place on the eve of his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. **WP**

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date of the next BHDТА Council meeting is 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### 'Try Driving Trials'

These DVDs are available for anyone who is able to show it at a local equestrian club e.g. riding club or hunt to promote the sport of driving trials. If you know of a suitable opportunity, please contact your Regional Representative who has copies of the DVDs. Full contact details are on the clubs' page on the BHDТА website.

### Pony Pairs Class Representative

Following a meeting at Brighton, Jo Rennison has agreed to take on the role of Pony Pairs class representative. She can be contacted on 07711 929713 or email her at jo.rennison@btpenworld.com.

## EVENTS

### Start Fees

Would competitors please note that cheques for Start Fees should be made out **to the event**.

Only cash or cheques can be accepted.

### Erddig

The organisers at Erddig have not been complacent following the success of the first event in 2008. This year further improvements are being made with a larger lorry park so that all competitors are parked together. Considerable work has been done in constructing a new dressage arena and it is hoped this will be ready for use in July 2009. Course designer, Barry

Hunter, is working on two completely new obstacles with one featuring a bridge to test the skill of competitors this year.

The obstacles can all be accessed on foot from the lorry park and are sited in reasonably close proximity to each other. The marathon route is contained in the beautiful Erddig estate and undulates through woods and parkland giving splendid views of the house and grounds. A number of water crossings feature in Section E.

A mobile shop, or transport to local facilities, will be provided to serve the needs of competitors morning and night. A licensed bar will operate from Thursday evening with hot snacks available during the day. Live entertainment and hot food will be available on Saturday night at a cost of £8 per person. These tickets can be purchased from the Supporters' Tent from 12noon on Thursday.

**Closing date for entries: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

### Ashfields

Ashfields will run as a full National event for the first time in 2009. Many competitors will already be familiar with the venue which has easily accessed obstacles which are all within walking distance of each other and not far from the stabling field.

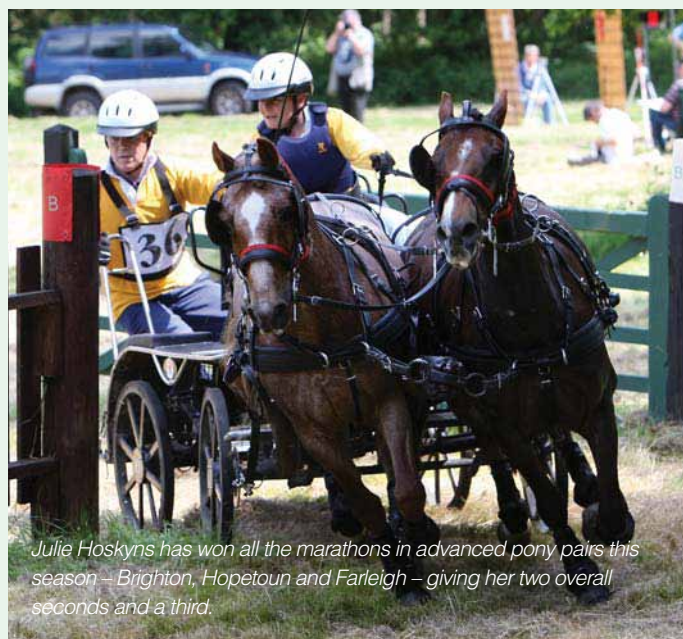
There will be a licensed bar throughout the event which will serve hot snacks during the day. Make sure you keep Friday evening free for the Pimms reception for volunteers, sponsors, judges and competitors in the Clubhouse. Saturday evening sees the Ashfields Charity and Summer Party take place with a grand buffet and entertainment.

Tables of 10 are offered with discounted tickets for competitors. For further details and prices, please contact Lisa Jopson on 07956 177015.

**Closing date for entries: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

### Necarne (Regional)

Necarne makes history in 2009 as the first of the new format Regional Events to take place. If you are new to driving trials or not set up for overnight stays with your horse, this is an ideal event to attend as it offers permanent stabling which can be



*Julie Hoskyns has won all the marathons in advanced pony pairs this season – Brighton, Hopetoun and Farleigh – giving her two overall seconds and a third.*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

hired. Catering will be provided on site from Friday to Sunday. Keep Friday evening free for the wine and cheese reception and Saturday evening free for the supper dance in a local hotel.

Competitors do still need to pay a start fee, although this has been reduced for all classes other than National Novice, but are able to enter as Associate members of the BHDTA. Points will be awarded in the Fenix National Points League and Windsor Insurance Novice Points League with 6 points for a win and competitors will qualify for the National Championships from these events. Full membership will be required should you qualify and wish to attend the National Championships. Further details can be found on the BHDTA website.

**Closing date for entries: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

## Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running Novice Qualifiers for the National Championships. Contact details are available on the BHDTA web-site.

Midlands Driving Trials Group, Offchurch Bury,

**Leamington Spa 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July**

The Cricklands Team Cricklands,

**Chepstow 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July**

Northern Ireland Carriage Driving Assoc, Necarne,

**Co Fermanagh 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> August (REGIONAL HDT)**

Midlands Driving Trials Group, Grangewood,

**Derbyshire 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August (REGIONAL HDT)**

Scottish Carriage Driving Assoc, West Newton,

**Arbroath 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August (REGIONAL HDT)**

Normanhurst, East Sussex

**29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> August (REGIONAL HDT)**

## INTERNATIONAL

## FEI World Single Driving Championships

The confirmed dates for the FEI World Single Driving Championships in Pratoni del Vivaro (ITA) are from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

The BHDTA have approved the following as Single Horse selection events for 2009: Sandringham, Catton and Erddig.

The remaining two selection events, to be held in 2010, will be confirmed in due course.

## Channel Cup 2009

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> August** – Ashfields Carriage Driving Centre

The Channel Cup is an international event for young drivers aged 7 to 25 years. It is a three-phase, arena-based competition run under International Collective for Kids driving (ICKD) rules. Entries are welcomed from all UK young drivers.

Please see the website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) for more details and the entry form and schedule. This is a selection event for anyone hoping to be part of the UK team for the Junior World Trophy in 2010. Hopefully there will be a huge British crowd to cheer on our young drivers at this excellent venue.

## Combined Pony Fund

The Combined Pony Fund (for the team going to the FEI World Championships at Greven in August) would like to thank Kerry Whiteman, groom to Anna Grayston, and Tina Graham who helps Susan Skeggs, for a fantastic effort which raised £500 with a sponsored fancy dress at Brighton HDT!

## SUPPORTERS NEWS

## 200 Club

The latest 200 Club draw took place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show with the following lucky winners:

£100 John Reid - £50 Valerie Dawe

£30 Gary Power - £20 Kim Bassett

## GENERAL

## Tick awareness

With the current increase in tick numbers, it is important to know how these insects can spread disease as events are a potential source of bites. It is helpful to make sure that you've got a tick remover with you although deterring ticks from biting you or your pets is the best defence against tick-borne disease.

If you are unfortunate enough to get bitten, removing a tick correctly can help prevent disease transmission. Specialist tick removers are available or a pair of sharp pointed tweezers can be used. Ticks screw themselves into your skin so always turn them anti-clockwise to remove them safely. For more information on ticks, go to [www.bada-uk.org](http://www.bada-uk.org).

## Mapping Britain for equestrians

The BHS's Access Department is asking members of the public to sign up as Mapping Volunteers and provide information on the routes they use. The BHS can provide printout maps of an area for the volunteer to mark up and return. The project aims to recruit at least 500 mapping volunteers throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

If you are interested in becoming a mapping volunteer, contact Sarah Shackleton by email on [emagin@bhs.org.uk](mailto:emagin@bhs.org.uk), stating which part of the UK you are interested in mapping.

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date of the next BHDТА Council meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### Equine Passports

The Horse Passports Team at DEFRA has notified us that the parliamentary process for the domestic regulations will be slightly delayed. However, the intention is that the Horse Passports Regulations 2009 will come into force in early August. Once they have been laid in Parliament they will be available on the DEFRA website.

It's important to remember that, even though the domestic legislation will be delayed, the Commission Regulation will still apply from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and that, after that date, the changes detailed in that document shall apply (including the change that means that no passport applications will be accepted by a UK Passport Issuing Organisation unless the horse is microchipped).

encourage progression for competitors from novice qualifiers at club events to national events. For this reason a reduced start fee will be charged and competitors can enter with an associate BHDTA membership. Their groom does not need to be a BHDTA member. Competitors will qualify from these events for the National Championships but a full BHDTA membership will be required, with the marathon groom also joined, should this place be taken up. Points will also be awarded in the Fenix National Points League. Please see the yearbook for details of the classes being run at each of the following events and the website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) for further information.

Necarne, Co Fermanagh **7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August**

*Entries close Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July*

Grangewood Farm, Derbyshire **15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August**

*Entries close Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August*

West Newton, Arbroath **29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August**

*Entries close Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August*

Normanhurst, East Sussex **29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August**

*Entries close Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August*

## EVENTS

### Novice Qualifiers

The following events will be running novice qualifiers for the National Championships. Contact details are available on the BHDTA website.

Northern Ireland Carriage Driving Association

at Necarne, Co Fermanagh

**8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Aug (Regional HDT)**

Scottish Carriage Driving Association at West Newton

**Arbroath 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August (Regional HDT)**

Normanhurst, East Sussex

**29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August (Regional HDT)**

### Regional Events

The following events are running as regional events for the first time in 2009. This new format of national event is designed to

## INTERNATIONAL

### British Combined Pony Team

Following five selection events held at venues in England and Scotland, the British team for the FEI World Combined Pony Driving Championships in St Martin Greven-Bockholt, Germany (**13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August**) has been confirmed.

The five-driver squad includes

**James Broome** - the son of former world champion showjumper David Broome - representing his country for the first time at this level. Monmouthshire-based James, who is the reigning national pony pairs champion, will be taking his chestnut Welsh section Ds Penraven Prince, Beechwood Bracken and spare pony Fred Bojangles to the championships. "Representing your country is the greatest honour any sportsman can have," says James, a show organiser at his family's David Broome Event Centre in Crick. "I've had a great time getting here and have some big boots to fill. Fingers crossed, I'll be able to do it."

**Anna Grayston**, from Edenbridge, Kent, will join James in the



The British Team for the FEI World Combined Pony Championships Jill Holah (chef d'equipe), Faith Szozuka, Julie Camm, James Broome, Anna Grayston, Sue Denney, Sarah Howe (assistant chef d'equipe).

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

pairs division competing her Welsh Section D Bluewillow Johnny Reb, part-bred Hackney and King's Irish Song, with his sire King's Blaze as a spare. A former regular competitor with a pony four-in-hand on British, World and European championship teams, Anna has won her past three competitions and will be driving a pair for the first time on a British squad.

**Sue Denney** from the Isle of Man, the current pony singles national champion, was on the 2005 bronze-medal winning team with Anna at Catton, Staffordshire, in 2005. With her Welsh cross Arab pony, Rolls Silver Spirit, Sue secured her team place earlier in the season.

**Julie Camm** is Sue's fellow singles driver. Julie is a hotelier, of Bristol, who has represented Britain at every World Pony Championship since the inaugural event in Karlstetten, Austria, 2003. Julie's Welsh Section D Thorneyside Emperor was third after the dressage phase at the 2007 championship in Dorthyleast, Denmark, and won the final two selection events for his driver.

**Faith Szczuka**, the Scottish four-in-hand driver, who will be driving her team of Welsh Section Ds. Faith, an outreach teacher working with teenagers excluded from their schools, who lives near Edinburgh, is another championship first-timer.

## Wealth of experience

British Horse Driving Trials chairman Tony Bache said, "We are very happy to be in a position to send a strong team with a wealth of experience from both competitors and the support team."

The team will be joined in Germany by chef d'equipe Jill Holah and assistant chef d'equipe Sara Howe, the current FEI World Single Pony bronze medallist. Wilf Bowman-Ripley will act as team coach, with Holly Applewhite as team vet and Nicola Baguley as team equine physiotherapist.

## British Pairs Team

The selection process for the team for the FEI Horse Pairs World Championship reached a nail-biting climax at Catton. David Matthews, a farrier from Berkshire, had guaranteed his place after the event at Farleigh but the other two places were not finalised until the last cone had been driven. Sadly, Geoff Brown had to make the difficult decision to withdraw after winning at Catton as he only had two qualified horses following elimination at Sandringham.

Barnaby Bowman from Cumbria and John Pickford from Hampshire, who organises the Farleigh event, were in a strong position following excellent results at Sandringham and their selection for the team has been confirmed. Finishing only one point behind were Joanna Attenborough and Mark Lee on equal points, although Mark just has the edge on marathon scores which are used to separate drivers on equal points, so Mark, also from Berkshire, is the non-travelling reserve.

Barnaby said, "I am over the moon to have made the team. It's a great honour to represent your country. We've got three good drivers so hopefully we'll be able to get a good team result in Hungary."

Derrick Mayes, team chef d'equipe, is looking forward to the championships. He said, "It's been a great competition between an enthusiastic and talented bunch of competitors which went down to the very last phase of the final selection event." He congratulates and looks forward to working with the successful team members who will be supported by team trainer George Bowman and

assistant chef d'equipe Georgie Matthews, sister of team member David. Team vet, Patrick Martin of Blair Court Veterinary Clinic, will be with the team for the duration of the championships.

## SUPPORTERS NEWS

### 200 Club

The latest 200 Club draw took place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show with the following lucky winners:

<b>£100</b>	John Reid
<b>£50</b>	Valerie Dawe
<b>£30</b>	Gary Power
<b>£20</b>	Kim Bassett

## GENERAL

### BHS calls for Coastal Mapping volunteers

A recent call from The British Horse Society for mapping volunteers has generated an excellent response, but now the society is asking for specific help from volunteers who are willing to map coastal areas of the UK as part of its Coastal Access for Equestrians campaign.

The Marine Bill, currently under debate in Parliament, had contained no provision for equestrians, although the BHS campaign has seen amendments made to the Bill in the House of Lords.

In order to save the right to ride and drive along the British coastline, the BHS needs to collect data on currently used coastal routes.

BHS Senior Executive for Access, Heather Holmes, said, "It is so encouraging that there are people who are eager to help us map Britain on Horseback (and driven). However, it is crucial that we get more volunteer help to support our coastal access campaign, and the work must be undertaken quickly. If you live near the coast and care about protecting the right to ride or drive both now and for future generations, do help us out by becoming a mapping volunteer."

Anyone wishing to help map the coast should first contact the BHS GIS Officer Sarah Shackleton, who will assign mapping volunteers to a BHS Regional Access and Bridleways Officer and specific area of the coast.

*Please contact Sarah Shackleton on 01926 707812 or email [emagin@bhs.org.uk](mailto:emagin@bhs.org.uk) with the area you feel able to map.*

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date of the next BHDТА Council meeting is **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September**.

### AGM and Conference

The BHDТА AGM will precede the conference which is being held on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October** in the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, 3 Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derby, Derbyshire, DE74 2DF.

You should have received a nomination form for council and a copy of the annual accounts with your recent "Office News". Please give consideration to who you would like to see represent your interests on council (while remembering that meetings are mid week and at the council member's own expense).

Council members will be present at the conference 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 in advance so any necessary research can be done.

*Please send any questions or suggestions to the BHDТА office by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 £30 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 **18<sup>th</sup> September** so book now to avoid disappointment.

Phone reservations can be made to the Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel direct on 01509 672518 – mention that you are with the BHDТА 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 ever popular "Alternative Awards".

## EVENTS

### National Championships

This year there are over 130 qualifiers for this event. BHDТА members can obtain free admission to the public parking on production of their membership card. Caravan passes can be purchased from the BHDТА Office at £20 for members (£40 for non-members).

Why not treat yourselves and enjoy the event on Saturday/Sunday in the

comfort of the Victoria Enclosure which offers:

- Priority parking • Morning coffee
- Delicious buffet lunch • Afternoon tea

Tickets at £35/day can be purchased from Sally Moreton, Campney Grange Farm, Bucknall, Woodhall Spa, Lincs, LN10 5DX. Special two-day tickets available at £65.

On Saturday evening there is the opportunity to enjoy a delicious three-course meal with pre-dinner drinks and live background music on the showground at the Long Walk Dinner. Tickets at £38 are available from Sheila Hawking, Pollums House Farm, Lumby, South Milford, Leeds, LS25 5LD.

Even if you are not competing in the National Championships, there is the opportunity to participate in the private driving classes on the Saturday, including classes for exercise vehicles and pleasure driving. The private driving and concours d'elegance classes include a four-mile drive around the park.

Finally, don't forget the popular Windsor Classic Vehicle Show for the non-horsey on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>!

There are still some sponsorship opportunities for rosettes, plaques or obstacles.

*Please contact Jill Holah on 01347 878655 if you are able to help.*

### King (or Queen) of the Cones

This competition is in its first full season and more competitors from all the classes are winning due to the handicapping system. Northernplan.com came up with the idea while offering prizes to organisers. They were the usual prizes, best marathon and best dressage. The problem was that the winners were usually from the same class and quite often the same people. If you were in a multiple class it was highly unlikely that you win a prize.

After speaking to a few drivers an idea was suggested by Georgina Frith and Libby Castle of Northernplan.com. They both said that they thought the only fair way would be a handicapping system using the cones element of the competition. From this 'King of the Cones' was born. It is currently sponsored by Northernplan.com and Baileys Horse Feed.

**What is King of the Cones?** The simplest description is the quickest double clear under the designated time for their class eg if a horse four-in-hand class had a time of 210 seconds to complete the cones course, and the competitor completed a double clear in 195 seconds, this makes it 15 second under the designated time. If a single pony had a time of 200 seconds to complete the cones course and drove a double clear in 190 seconds, this would be 10 seconds under the designated time. The winner would be the four-in-hand driver.



*Sue Mart getting some very vocal encouragement from GB supporters at the FEI World Pony Championships were she finished seventh overall, (see page 58 for report). Left to right: Anna Sadler, Rhian Fletcher, Philippa Howe, Tracey Fletcher, Zoe Morgan, Ian Simmonds, Wilf Bowman-Ripley (Team Trainer), Michael Mart, Felicity Woodland and Margaret Mart.*

Photos: Daisy-Jim

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Photo: Dicky Jim

Michael Mart of Bennington Carriages added a touch of classic charm, driving his 1930 Ford Model 180A in the closing medal ceremony of the FEI World Pony Championships. Enjoying the experience too were Erica Hine, Sue Mart and Hannah Harris.

In the new format, the King or Queen of the Cones Championship will be competed for at all events, including regional competitions, but excluding the National Championships where an award will be presented. This will be judged as follows:

1. The competitor with the most King of the Cones wins.
2. In the event of a draw, the winner will be the competitor with the most double clears over the season at national events.
3. If it is still a draw the competition will be won by the competitor who has the biggest time difference when winning King of the Cones during the season.

## King of the 'Club' Cones

This will be run with the same rules as King of the Cones but at club events. In addition to the event winner, there will be a club league with King of the Club Cones at the end of the season. This will start at the beginning the 2010. If any clubs are interested in being part of the league, please contact Nic or Libby at [kingofthecones@northernplan.com](mailto:kingofthecones@northernplan.com).

## INTERNATIONAL



### Join Team GBR Ontrack Today

Team GBR Ontrack is now live, bringing together all equestrian and horse sport activity in the UK under one supporters club. Visit [www.teamgbrontrack.com](http://www.teamgbrontrack.com) to join today.

Team GBR Ontrack aims to raise the profile of equestrian sport in the UK and to provide funds to help potential medal winners train, compete, and achieve their goals. Join today for your chance to win a VIP trip to the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010 in Kentucky, USA.

Team GBR Ontrack is designed for anyone that has an interest in equestrianism and the countryside and who wants to be part of

Team GBR and show their support. It offers a range of benefits and includes two options to join – basic membership is completely FREE and full membership includes a one-off fee of just £20 which includes significant further benefits.

All members will receive a monthly e-newsletter to keep you abreast of what is going on across the equestrian sports and a variety of special offers and discounts. You will also receive invitations to exclusive GBR Ontrack fund-raising events and access to the online publication *Impulsion*, which will now only be available to GBR Ontrack supporters.

Vitality, by purchasing full membership and using your card you will be helping to raise funds to help potential medal winners train, compete and achieve their goals.

## SUPPORTERS NEWS

### 200 Club

The lucky winners following the Erddig draw are:

£100 George Spencer - £50 Arthur Laws - £30 WngCom Alan Bannister - £20 Sydney Smith

## GENERAL

Sophie Ann Collingwood Hunt was born at 10pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July weighing 6lbs 15oz. Her mother, Georgina Hunt (née Frith), is thoroughly enjoying the change of pace and all are happy and healthy.



The Hunt family.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.  
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: [bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) Website: [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk)  
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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### AGM and Conference Questions

The BHDТА AGM, commencing at 2.15pm, will precede the conference which is being held on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm** in the Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, 3 Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derby, Derbyshire, DE74 2DF. Full details can be found on our web-site.

Remember to send any questions or suggestions to the BHDТА Office by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October** so that Council members have time to do some research in order to offer fuller responses at the Conference.

## EVENTS

### End of Season Party

Make sure you don't miss the end of season party. Tickets cost £40 for adults and £30 for young drivers. Booking forms are available on the website and were sent with your August newsletter.

Please note that there is a choice of menu this year so Julie Camm needs an email address with your booking to organise the dinner.

Don't forget to nominate your choices for the popular "Alternative Awards". This can be done using the form in your newsletter or on line via the website.

For accommodation phone the Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel direct on 01509 672518.

### Drug Testing

In line with the BEF policy, the BHDТА carried out two drug tests at Catton and are delighted that both were returned from the laboratory labelled negative.

### Stewards' cakes

The stewards have been enjoying tea and cakes, kindly donated by a generous member, after the conclusion of the marathon at events throughout the year.

This is a great way for people to get together and discuss the day and provides a fitting conclusion to the marathon phase of the competition for all the willing volunteers that make our sport possible; our heartfelt thanks to you all (including the donor of the

cakes) for manning stopwatches and gates in all weathers and undertaking all manner of tasks to make the events run smoothly.

### Worshipful Company of Saddlers

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. These were also awarded to the highest placed Young Driver at the National Events in 2009. Well done to all those that have been successful this year.

Event	Intermediate Horse	Intermediate Pony	Young Driver
Brighton	Jackie Ellis	Colin Wheeler	Philippa Howe
Hopetoun	Jock McFarlane	Mike Walsh	Chris Ainscough
Farleigh	Jackie Ellis	Phillipa Howe	Roger Campbell
Sandringham	Patti Atkinson	Ann Davey	Philippa Howe
Catton	Lorraine Davies	Frank Campbell	Frank Campbell
Erddig	David Wagstaff-Myers	Frank Campbell	Frank Campbell
Ashfields	no award	Frank Campbell	Frank Campbell
Necarne	no award	Victoria Lyons	no award
Grangewood	Jane Smith	no award	Joseph Adams
West Newton	Lyndsey Brown	Andrew Moodycliffe	Ollie Dernie
Normanhurst	Jenny Burrows	Naomi Harbach	Naomi Harbach

## COACHING

### UKcc Courses & Talent Development

Sport England Funding has been made available through the BEF. We applied for funds to increase participation in our sport by holding "Have a go days", driver training at all levels, developing new events, supporting disabled drivers and volunteer training.

In their wisdom BEF awarded us £9,000 to train coaches to UKcc Standards and £3,000 for Talent Development. In conjunction with RDA we were also awarded £5,000 for development of disabled drivers. There was nothing for any other schemes.

These sums are for far less than we applied for, but are at a higher level than in previous years.

The funding for the UKcc courses is ring fenced. Final arrangements are now being made for these courses which will be substantially funded. Potential coaches who work at this level will be invited by BHDТА to attend and will be expected to progress to Level 3 in the near future. They will be involved with the sport of driving trials both as active coaches and competitors/judges, etc. BHDТА drivers who compete at any level may wish to nominate an inspirational coach/trainer to join these funded courses. If you want your favourite coach to be put on the list, please send their name and contact details to the BHDТА office with some details of what they have done to make a difference to your driving. Invitations to join these courses will be sent out within the next few weeks.

To enable broader participation, other UKcc Level 2 courses will be available through regional coaching bursaries. These courses will be organised regionally and are likely to be run across equestrian disciplines and not driving specific. Assessments will, however, be done through driving.

Photo: Dicky Jim



*Jill Holah has been the organiser of the BHDТА National Championships for very many years and is handing over the reins in 2010. In recognition of the immense amount of work that she has done for the membership Tony Bache, the Chairman, presented a silver frame to her during this year's event.*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



*Hugh Scott-Barrett, Karen's husband and back stepper, very generously put up a £250 prize for the fastest through obstacle 7 "Pastoral Pursuits" at the Nationals that he also sponsored. The winner was Advanced Pony driver Sue Denney with her Rolls Silver Spirit in a time of 40.12 seconds.*

Talent Development involves competitors who are just below the elite level, but will include singles and multiples. They will be drivers who are, or will be competing at, national level. The support for this will be training provided through the regions and the clubs and will be delivered by UKcc qualified coaches. This will enable the Talent Development programme to support the trained coaches and have the impact required by BEF, developing competitors who have the ambition to succeed and go on to the elite level.

## GENERAL

### Fight against Horse Tax

There is currently a huge amount of work being undertaken through PLMR (Political Lobbying & Media Relations Limited), by the BHIC (British Horse Industry Confederation), BHA (British Horseracing Authority) and BHS and BDS over the prospective Defra inspired horse tax.

Administrative support is being provided through the BEF and the larger member bodies and will be of enormous benefit to members of the BHDTA.

## INTERNATIONAL

### FEI Awards

The FEI feel the time has come to involve the larger equestrian community and ask them to help identify and pay tribute to the heroes of equestrian sport. To achieve this, they have launched a new award scheme.

This year FEI Awards in five categories will be presented:

- **Athlete of the Year** – to a rider, driver or vaulter who has shown exceptional sportsmanship and prowess;
- **Rising Star** supported by HSBC – to a rider between the ages of 14 and 21 who has not only demonstrated significant talent but also love of the sport, commitment and practice;
- **Development** supported by Alltech – for a development project, individual or organisation that has shown exceptional skill,

dedication and energy in expanding the sport.

- **Against All Odds** – to celebrate a para-equestrian rider or driver of any age who has demonstrated that disability is no hindrance to sporting proficiency.
- **Groom of the Year** – to the often uncelebrated yet important person who works behind the scenes.

Nominations will be open to everyone and will be done online through the dedicated website [www.feiawards.org](http://www.feiawards.org). Please notify the BHDTA office by e-mail if you make a nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **17<sup>th</sup> October**. The winners, who will be selected by a panel of international experts chaired by the FEI President HRH Princess Haya, will be invited to receive their awards at this year's gala dinner in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 19<sup>th</sup> November.



### Join Team GBR Ontrack today

Team GBR Ontrack is now live. Visit [www.teambrontrack.com](http://www.teambrontrack.com) to join and win a VIP trip to the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010 in Kentucky. Team GBR urgently needs to raise additional funds in order to take a full team to the FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010.

All members will receive a monthly e-newsletter, invitations to exclusive GBR Ontrack fund-raising events and access to the online publication Impulsion.

While basic membership is completely FREE, full membership includes a one-off fee of £20 and includes significant further benefits including a Team GBR Ontrack membership card, which also acts as a loyalty, discount and prepaid debit card. This card will give access to a wide range of further discounts, special offers and additional benefits. The discounts are on the things you really need – feed and forage, veterinary services, saddlery, tack, clothing and tickets at selected events.

### Team GBR Auction

An online auction has been launched by Equestrian Team GBR to raise funds to send the British team to the FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010.

The site is very easy to use, setting up an account will only take a few minutes and then you can start bidding straight away on any of the items.

Also look out for the exciting Team GBR raffle which will be coming very soon with the exciting first prize of a £100,000 Olympic Horsebox and some great runners-up prizes.

Visit the auction via [www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk](http://www.equestrianteamgbr.co.uk) and find out more about the other initiatives at [www.teambrontrack.com](http://www.teambrontrack.com).

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**.

### Promotion

Congratulations to Maxine Ingham and Andrew Mylius. Following the successful completion of their probationary periods, Maxine has been promoted to a List 3 judge and Andrew is now upgraded to the Technical Delegate list.

Following her attendance at the FEI seminar in Riesenbeck, Jean Lane has been promoted to FEI Candidate TD. Mark Ingham is already an FEI Candidate course designer.

### Clinics

To facilitate an exchange of information between the various different officials needed to successfully run horse driving trials, the Training Committee has organised a joint conference next year. There will also be an opportunity for judges to specialise in cone judging. The clinic takes place on the weekend of 27/28 February 2010. A Safety Clinic is also planned and details will be notified as they become available.

A further opportunity to obtain clinic qualification for judges will be available on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Croft Top Equestrian Centre in Haslingden, just north of Bury and Manchester. This will run in conjunction with a club judges clinic.

### New membership category

To address the needs of young drivers, Council have introduced a new membership category for 10-16 year-olds to offer third party legal liability insurance. This will not include competing at national events but will enable youngsters to attend clinics organised by BHDТА without the need for insurance to be sourced elsewhere.

### SEA

The Scottish Region of the British Horse Driving Trials Association has now formally joined the Scottish Equestrian Association as a full member. It is hoped that this will enable Scottish clubs to access funding, similar to that available from Sport England through the BEF, and to assist with the costs of UKcc training.

### BHDТА AGM and Conference

The BHDТА AGM and Conference were held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Full details will be published in next month's edition of *Carriage Driving* as the copy date for the magazine falls before these events took place.

### End of Season Party

Full report and photographs next month.

## SUPPORTERS

### 200 Club

The following lucky winners were drawn from the hat at the two recent championship events.

### National Championship

£100 Anthea Shipley  
£50 Malcolm Ladell  
£30 Di Hayes  
£20 Jeff Bannister

### Junior Championships

£100 Judy Hilditch  
£50 Heather Clark  
£30 Tina Elliott  
£20 Lynne Longbottom

## EVENTS

### Drug testing

Following two random drug tests carried out at the National Championships, we are again delighted to report that the tests were negative. Please note that these tests can be carried out in any class and not just selection classes.

### Regional events

Following the first year of regional events, these have generally been well received and have provided a secure stepping stone for competitors wishing to progress to national competitions. It was noted that many of the competitors who qualified at regionals, performed very well at the National Championships.

The Competitions Committee will continue to review the development of these events and look at further ways of improving their viability. No doubt there will have been a number of points raised at the conference which will be taken into account during their deliberations.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Selection: WEG 2010

At the request of the class, and as a one off measure due to the unique circumstances of the venue for WEG 2010, it has been agreed to include a foreign international event in the selection process. The selection events have still to be finalised but competitors will count three scores from four events which will include RWHS, one foreign event and two national events. It is stressed that this is not a precedent for future selection processes but a response to the particular difficulties next year.

### International Competition Points

Historically 10 points have been awarded in the Fenix National Points League if a competitor was abroad at a FEI World Championship and unable to compete in a national event. This had particular relevance for invitations to Royal Windsor. As these are no longer relevant, points will not now be awarded for competitors on international duty.

## CLUBS

### Northern Regional Representative

An election was not required this year as only one nomination was received for the post of Northern Regional Representative. The club Liaison Committee welcomed Nigel Williams when Barry Hilditch stepped down from this role at the 2009 Conference.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## Clubs' insurance

A further level of insurance has been provided for clubs by the BHDTA. The Directors and Officers liability insurance protects the people who give generously of their time and expertise to run the club.

This covers a wide range of potential claims eg defamation by a club official of a member (libel and slander), action against the club officials for alleged mismanagement and breach of duty, action against a club/event for corporate manslaughter, loss of documents or publishing details of a show that were incorrect causing financial loss.

Many clubs previously took out their own policies to protect their officials but this is now being provided by the BHDTA at no additional cost.

## GENERAL

## Drivers' hours and Horse Tax

The BHS are continuing to lobby the Government strenuously over the issue of VOSA's literal interpretation of drivers' hours.

We have also been supporting the BDS over this issue and Tony Bache has had a number of discussions with John Parker who asked us to inform him of any instances where VOSA were targeting our events. Please contact the BHDTA Office in the first instance if you are aware of any such issues.

It is well worth the effort of writing to your MP to make your views

known. Sample letters can be downloaded from the BDS or Horse and Hound web-sites.

We are similarly also supporting BHIC (British Horse Industry Confederation), British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and BHS over the proposed DEFRA horse tax. They have the time and personnel to be involved in these protracted negotiations with Government.

## BEF Funding

The funding from the BEF is based on the targets set by Sport England. For the 2009-2013 funding there are three primary targets:

1. Grow: encourage more people to actively participate for longer periods of time and introduce new members to our sport. This will be done through training to increase the number of UKCC coaches.
2. Sustain: retain existing members and reduce the fall off in participation between 16 and 25 yrs of age.
3. Excel: increase our medal winning potential at international level by identifying up and coming talent and offer additional funding to assist competitors to move up a level. This funding will be administered by the World Class Performance Driving Committee with judges asked to recommend suitable candidates.

## TASS



TASS is a government funded scholarship recognising outstanding talent in sport. In 2009 the BHDTA had to nominate three young drivers to be the recipients of this funding. The three drivers successful this year are:-

Roger Campbell – Roger has had a very successful year in the Intermediate horse class not driving the same horse at any two events while being placed with them all. He drove one of Margi Hawkings pair at their first event together to win the BHDTA National Intermediate Horse Class.

Mark Bell – Mark, an apprentice farrier with Gary Power, has made the step up this year into the pony tandem class at national level with great success culminating in him winning his class at the BHDTA National Championships in September.

Rosanna Walter-Symons – Rosanna qualified in both the novice pony class with her own pony and the novice horse class with her mother Ann's cob. Leading from the first day Rosanna went on to win the Novice Pony title with a double clear round in the cone driving phase.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.  
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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place early in January.

### BHDTA AGM and Conference

The BHDTA AGM and Conference were held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Attendance was slightly down on previous years which could be due to the current economic climate or that the members are generally happy with the administration of their association at present. Vic Kusun had collated a slide show from the 2009 events which was well received, keeping members entertained before proceedings got under way.

The AGM was a short meeting where the election result for Council members was announced with Ian Gilbert, Mark Ingham and Jan Szczuka elected to Council for three years. The Chairman, Tony Bache, thanked Sydney Smith for her contribution for many years, first on the Driving Committee while the association was part of the BHS and from the formation of the BHDTA in 1997. He also thanked Sally Moreton, who had chosen not to stand for re-election, for her work on behalf of the BHDTA and reminded members that she would still be very much involved in her new role as National Championships organiser.

In his report to Conference, Tony Bache thanked the members of Council for their hard work which is completely unpaid and recognised the contribution made by an army of volunteers who support a relatively small number of drivers so enthusiastically. Jan Szczuka survived intact after presenting the financial position to members and was followed by Ian Gilbert who reported on event dates and class progression which is detailed below and mentioned that the dressage tests will remain unchanged in 2010. He also reported on the split in the pairs classes which has been a successful venture and encouraged quite a number of new pairs to become involved at National Level.

Barry Hilditch reported on the work done by the Club Liaison Committee and mentioned that there were plans underway to produce guidelines for club event officials. Clubs had welcomed the new BHDTA Affiliated Member card which recognised the contribution from club members. He reported very positive feedback from clubs about the Club Pack which contains a wealth of reference information and is easy to update. Further amendments to the Safety section will be sent in the New Year.

Vic Kusun reported on the website which is proving to be a well used resource which contains a huge amount of information and provides a popular Discussion Forum. He also noted that "live" results were possible with the present software but a volunteer was required to attend the event and upload the results after every class. He thanked numerous photographers for sending contributions and Mike Watts for his help moderating the forum.

The annual awards were then presented with Rita Bundock receiving the Chairman's Award for her immense contribution through Brighton, Normanhurst and the Indoor Driving Trials Club. David and Lesley West were nominated by the stewards to receive the David Broadbent Memorial Trophy for their contribution to running the sport. The award for the most promising young driver was made in the evening to Rosanna Walters-Symons who won the Novice Pony class at the National Championships.

### BHDTA AGM and Conference 2010

The BHDTA AGM and Conference are to be moved back two weeks and held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010 as we have received a number of requests to avoid the Welsh Pony and Cob sales.

### Christmas Gifts

Don't forget that the BHDTA sells a range of merchandise for the carriage driving enthusiast. You can purchase a variety of gifts which make excellent Christmas presents or stocking fillers from marathon bibs or DVDs to brooches and baseball caps. Why not consider a subscription as a present? Gift cards can be issued by the BHDTA office to present to friends or family until the membership pack follows in the middle of January.

## CLUBS

### Northern Ireland Regional Representative

Berry McCrae has tendered her resignation as Regional Representative for Northern Ireland and clubs in this area have been invited to submit nominations for her successor.

We are indebted to Berry for her hard work on behalf of the area and her enthusiasm in involving all the clubs. She is instrumental in organising Necarne Regional HDT and will now be able to devote more time to this.

### Appointments to BHDTA Council

Audrey Barron is already appointed to the BHDTA Council and she will now be joined by Mike Watts who was elected by the Club Liaison Committee which he will now chair following the resignation of Barry Hilditch. Barry will be greatly missed as he was instrumental in setting up the Club Liaison Committee. Barry remains on the BHDTA Council as an elected member.

## EVENTS

### 2010 Dates

Following a number of revisions, dates have been arranged for 2010. Sadly Lowther will not be returning to the driving calendar despite earlier indications to the contrary. This may cause further rescheduling of some events in August so don't book your holiday

Photograph by Vic Kusun



David and Lesley West (right) being presented by Tony Bache (left), BHDTA Chairman.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

just yet. Farleigh will return to the calendar in 2011.  
International dates are in italics.

Ashfields	7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> May	National
<i>Royal Windsor</i>	<i>12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>CAI-A</i>
Hopetoun	28 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> May	National
Blandings (South East)	5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Regional
Brighton	11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> June	National
Newnham (South West)	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Regional
Sandringham	25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> June	National
Catton	9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> July	National
Erddig	23 <sup>rd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> July	National
Necarne (Ireland)	15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Regional
West Newton (Scotland)	21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Regional
Grangewood (Midlands)	21 <sup>st</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Regional
National Championships	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> September	National
Young Drivers		
Championships	25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> September	
<i>Pratoni: Single Horses</i>	<i>30<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August</i>	<i>FEI World Championships</i>
<i>WEG Kentucky:</i>		
<i>Horse Fours</i>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>FEI World Championships</i>

## Progression from Open to Advanced

Following comments on the website discussion forum and numerous letters voicing a wide range of opinions, the BHDTA Council has accepted the recommendation of the Competitions Committee that the score which must be achieved by a competitor to progress from Open classes to Advanced will be reduced from 60 to 55 from next year. This does not affect anyone who has been promoted this year as they all achieved good dressage marks on more than one occasion. Although some competitors are reluctant to be promoted, there was an equal volume of support to leave the system as it is which enables more drivers to achieve success in the Open classes.

## Young Drivers' Clinics

Young Drivers, please note there is an Easter clinic running from **April 5-7<sup>th</sup>** with the Summer Camp dates still to be decided.



Photo courtesy of Les Gibbon Hill News & Pictures

## Young Drivers' Championships

The Young Drivers' Championships are to continue at Escrick Park in 2010 from **25-27<sup>th</sup> September** and will run alongside a new Para Equestrian Championship. There will be a new team taking on the organisation of this event with Sheila Hawking at the helm.

## INTERNATIONAL

### New FEI Rules

With no warning or consultation, the FEI are planning to introduce two new rules: the first makes back protectors compulsory on Section E and the second is elimination in the cones for deliberately driving over a cone. The BHDTA Council is asking the FEI for further information and is not prepared to support the introduction of the rule in its present format.

## GENERAL

## BHDTA Members Raise £3,000 for Charity

Having completed their coaching trip from Limerick to Dublin in September, the Bowman family raised over £3,000 for the Barretstown Children's Camp. This Charity aims at rebuilding lives affected by childhood cancer and was started in 1994 by Hollywood actor Paul Newman. Four coachmen, 15 horses and an army of helpers rattled buckets across Ireland for this worthy cause.

*If anyone would like to purchase a DVD of the trip please visit [www.cavewoodproductions.co.uk](http://www.cavewoodproductions.co.uk).*

## Horses for Heroes

Horses For Heroes, in aid of Help For Heroes, will see 2,010 horses driven and ridden in a sponsored event from Ascot Racecourse, round Windsor Great Park and back to the racecourse before racing begins on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010. It is hoped that the initiative will bring together horses, drivers and riders from across the equine spectrum in a show of support for our armed forces and will raise at least £1 million for the charity.

Final details are still to be confirmed but the website is already online for those who wish to register an interest in being a part of this very worthy event. Visit [www.horses4heroes.co.uk](http://www.horses4heroes.co.uk).

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