

# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

The Council wish all the BHDТА members, their friends and our loyal supporters a very Happy New Year.

Despite recent reports in other equestrian publications, written in the sensational style of tabloid journalism, we can assure members that, while the number of national events for 2010 is not at its highest, there is no cause for concern at present and new national venues are being sought.

In addition, the BHDТА has enjoyed an increase in membership for the second year running and the level of competitors at national events has been maintained despite the current economic climate. After a healthy financial report from our treasurer at the conference, we were all surprised to discover that some people feel national driving trials is in decline. We are one of the few organisations who have maintained the same level of membership subscription for the third year and event entry fees have been kept the same for 2010.

The introduction of regional events has worked well in its first year and will continue. These remain a stepping stone from club to national events.

We are also looking forward to the new dining arrangements for the summer events following successful pony four-in-hand driver Helen Cruickshank's recent brush with broadcasting on "Come Dine With Me".

Have you been out and about letting people know about our sport? Let us know if you can beat that.



Photo: Diely Jim

*The Robertson family and their four-in-hand of ponies have supported horse driving trials for some 20 plus years, father John driving alternative events with daughter Helen Cruickshank driving the next. Helen now also including television on her CV!*

## Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place at the beginning of January.

## AGM and Conference 2010

Following a number of requests from members to avoid the Welsh Pony and Cob sales and the need to move the date back in the calendar, we are able to confirm the 2010 AGM and BHDТА Conference will take place on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October**.

Please make a note of this date in your new diaries.

## Membership

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that memberships for 2010 fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> January and your insurance cover will lapse if this is not renewed before 31<sup>st</sup> January.

You should have received a renewal form in December with your newsletter. If, over the festive period this has been misplaced, you can print one from the website or join on-line. Membership cards will be sent with the yearbooks before the end of January.

## New Committees

Individual BHDТА committees have been updated on the website. At the last council meeting it was agreed to form a new Officials Committee.

This is intended to oversee all officials and encourage greater interaction between them. The joint conference this year is another step in this direction. At present, judges have their own committee but Course Designers and TDs do not have a collective representation. The committee will be formed by representatives from all the official areas.

## Combined Clinic

The Training Committee has organised a joint conference on the weekend of **27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February** at the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold. You should have received a booking form with your December newsletter.

This is aimed at judges, course designers and technical delegates. A Safety Clinic is also being incorporated into this weekend. The format is changing this year and now includes a working dinner on the Saturday night at the Unicorn Trust.

All meals are being subsidised and will only cost £18 for dinner and two lunches. This has been made possible by a grant from the Special Development Fund and the usual generous sponsorship from the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

## Club Judges Clinic

There will be a Club Judges Clinic on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at Croft Top Equestrian Centre in Haslingden, just north of Bury and Manchester.

A further venue is being sought in the south; watch the website for further details as they become available.

## Get inside a CD's head

On **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February** there will be an opportunity for everyone, whether you are a club or national competitor or an official, to hear an expert view on the aims of the cones course designer.

Richard Papens is a well known FEI International Course Designer and TD from Belgium and will help you understand what to look for when walking the cones. After the morning presentation there will be a break for lunch then a move to the indoor school where cones will be set out for our guinea pig drivers.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

The venue is Arena UK which is one minute off the A1 signed from both directions near Grantham and is a 45-minute drive from East Midlands Airport. Please aim to be there at 9.30 for 10 am start. The course should finish around 4pm. The café will be open upon arrival for tea/coffee/cakes, etc and will serve hot meals at lunchtime.

*ALL WELCOME: Entry: BHDTA members in advance £15, Young Drivers £10, non-members or tickets at the door £20.*

## EVENTS

### New Regional Events

We are delighted that Allerton Park is to be run as a regional event on **12-13<sup>th</sup> June**. This has been an incredibly popular venue for the North East Club for many years.

This takes the total of regional events to six for 2010 with Blandings and Newnham also running in this format for the first time.

## INTERNATIONAL

### FEI Selection Events

The following selection events for 2010 are now confirmed as follows:

*Horse Four-in-hands:* Ashfields, Royal Windsor, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Beekbergen.

*Horse Pairs:* Catton

*Horse Singles:* Ashfields and Hopetoun

*Combined Ponies:* Erddig

### FEI Qualifying Events

Qualifying events are being applied for at Ashfields, Hopetoun, Sandringham, Erddig and possibly the National Championships, but it may be some time before these are confirmed. Please check with the event that qualifying status was granted and try and qualify your horses as early as possible.

### Single Horse Chef d'Equipe

We are delighted that Jill Holah will bring her wealth of international experience to the role of single horse chef d'equipe.

The FEI Single Horse Championships take place in Italy at Pratoni from **30<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August**.

### World Championships

Following the withdrawal of the British bid for the Para-equestrian World Championships in 2010, this event has been assigned to Breda in the Netherlands.

The FEI Horse Four-in-hand World Championships, after the World Equestrian Games this year, will take place in Riesenbeck in 2012.

## GENERAL

### BHDTA/BEF EQL Coaching Certificate Course for Equestrianism

*Jean Lane, Chairman of the Training Committee, reports from the recent BHDTA run UKCC course.*

At the beginning of December I was lucky enough to be allowed to sit in on an inspirational weekend course. Ann Varley and Minta Winn were hosting the BHDTA/BEF/EQL UK Coaching Certificate Course for Equestrianism at the Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre, Nr. Dunmow, Essex.

The UKCC qualification has been devised by Sports Coach UK under instruction from and funded by central Government. The aim is to deliver effective and high quality coach education programmes for every sport within the UK against agreed criteria, with quality assured administration, management structure and training provision. The basic course, devised by the BEF, is the same across all equestrian disciplines, but has been adapted by Ann Varley to satisfy the specific requirements of sport driving.

These UKCC Coaches will set standards and ensure that what they teach is technically correct and delivered consistently across the whole sport. As well as looking at competition performance, participants will learn co-operation with others, general 'life' skills and development of values and attitudes to become independent, self-developing sports people; encouraged, ready and confident to obtain their goals. Thus the coaches are looking at the 'whole athlete' and not just the competitive element.

They will help make our sport a safer, more enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants, by taking the participant-centered philosophy and encouraging them to develop their own problem solving skills.

Seven of BHDTA's Leading Trainers were selected to attend this weekend. Another eight will be attending the second course, which will be held in January at the Unicorn Trust. These coaches will support Talent Development within the BHDTA.

The UKCC Coaches will have the responsibility to support and promote BHDTA driving trials at all levels from club to international competitors. By creating consistent standards across the sport, carriage driving will be strengthened and will develop in a unified way allowing better progression for horses and drivers.

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



# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

Everything was very picturesque for the festive period this year but the cold snap certainly played havoc with the stable water supply and horse turnout.

Hopefully your event schedule was not disrupted too badly and your horses coped with the distinctly Arctic conditions at the start of the year.

## Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**. Sadly the January meeting has had to be postponed due to the difficult travelling conditions and the forecast of yet more snow.

## Membership

Your 2010 membership card and yearbook should be with you by the end of January if you have renewed your subscription for 2010. Remember to tell your friends about the benefits of membership and there is a discount for the affiliation fee paid by clubs if you are a BHDTA member.

## 200 Club

Sheila Hawking is running the 200 Club again on behalf of the Supporters. This provides a valuable source of funds as the profits are returned to the sport.

You should have received an application form with your December newsletter but if it has become misplaced over the festive period, please contact the office for a replacement.

## CLINICS

A booking form for clinics was sent out with the December newsletter and can be downloaded from the website. A number of new clinics have now been added so please make sure you give details of the clinic for which you are booking if the details are not on the booking form.

## National Training and Clinics

### Judges, TDs and CDs:

The Training Committee has organised a joint conference on the weekend of **27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February** at the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold.

This is intended for qualified and probationary officials.

### First Aid:

The Unicorn Equestrian Trust is hosting a second 2-day BHS Equine Specific First Aid Course on **28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January**. The course is accepted by the BHS for their trainers in place of the more expensive 4-day generalist First Aid at Work Course.

To maintain the resulting qualification a 1-day refresher course is required to be undertaken once every two years.

The BHS training cost for this 2-day course is £99 per head. There are limited places so please help us by applying to the Unicorn Trust as soon as possible.

Please ring 01451 832317 or email [info@unicornequestriantrust.org.uk](mailto:info@unicornequestriantrust.org.uk).

## Club Training and Clinics

**North:** There will be a Club Judges' Clinic and Club Course Designers' Clinic on **3<sup>rd</sup> April** at Croft Top Equestrian Centre in Haslingden, just north of Bury and Manchester. The judge's trainer is Sarah Garnett who has a wealth of experience judging at all levels and Mark Ingham will be sharing his extensive knowledge of the art of course design.

The clinic starts at 10am and will finish at approximately 4pm. The cost per person is £20 including a light lunch.

**South:** As the Regional Representative for the South, Julian Burleton has been working hard to secure a venue for a Club Judges' and Course Builders' training day.

The date has been set for **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March** to be held in the Guards Polo Club's club house on Smith's Lawn in Windsor Great Park starting at 10.00 am. The trainer for the judges will be Liza Wood and the trainers for the course builders will be Mark Ingham.

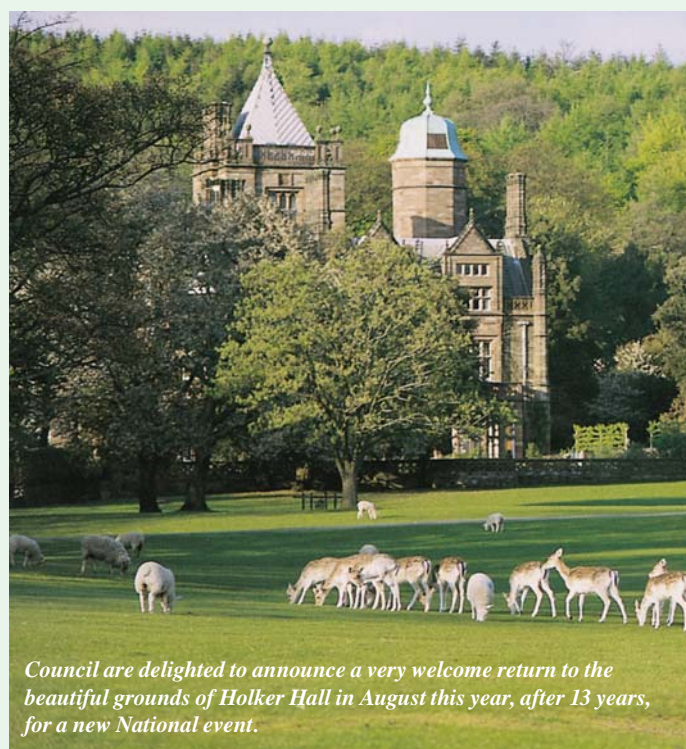
The fee will be £10 which will include refreshments and a light lunch. Tea and coffee will be available as delegates arrive. This will be followed by class room training in the morning with practical training outside after lunch (weather permitting).

A Stewards Training Clinic will also take place (dates and venue as above) where all aspects of stewards' duties in all three phases of an event will be discussed. The cost is £10 and the clinic starts at 9.30 for 10.00 am.

## EVENTS

## New National

There is a new national for your diary - Holker Hall **6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August**. Please note that this event is not listed in your yearbook so please make a note of the date. You will receive details on a separate



*Council are delighted to announce a very welcome return to the beautiful grounds of Holker Hall in August this year, after 13 years, for a new National event.*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

sheet enclosed in your yearbook when you have renewed your subscription. Alternatively you will be able to access the schedule from the website.

By kind permission of Lord and Lady Cavendish, Holker Hall is returning to the national calendar after a break of 13 years. It will run on the Lowther weekend and all classes will be qualifiers for the national championships.

The venue is about 30 minutes from Junction 36 of the M6, with dual carriageway and 'A' class roads to get you within 5 miles of the Estate.

Holker Hall boasts beautiful scenery where the picturesque marathon course will take you along the edge of Morecambe Bay, and across the parkland, with the Lakeland Hills as its backdrop.

There will be a 'Welcome Reception' in the estate buildings on the Friday evening for competitors, stewards and sponsors to mingle. On Saturday evening there will be music provided, and the bar facilities will be open to us both evenings.

Competitors' facilities will include hot showers!

Further details and schedule will be available shortly. (Postcode is LA11 7PL.)

Please visit [www.holker.co.uk](http://www.holker.co.uk) for further details of Holker Hall and gardens.

## Side stabling

We have received a plea from some of the event organisers (particularly Catton) who have asked if competitors could please consider putting down matting under the bedding in their portable stabling to protect the grass and prevent it being killed off.

Competitors may be unaware that it often takes many months for the ground in the stabling field to recover which can cause embarrassment for landowners whose land is used for other events during the summer.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Seafrance rates

Julie Camm has again been negotiating furiously on behalf of BHDTA members to secure an excellent rate for ferry crossings in 2010. Please let Julie know if you are able to obtain a better rate elsewhere. The more people that use Seafrance, the lower the rate will be.

Prices have only risen £1.50 for each category and Seafrance have offered the following rates each way:

Vehicles up to 6.99 metres	£88.50
Between 7-9.99 metres	£103.50
Between 10-11.99 metres	£128.50
Between 12-14.99 metres	£150.50
Vehicles over 15 metres	£168.50

Prices include one passenger and VAT has still to be added. There will be a fuel levy charge to pay, which is amended monthly. Full details of the surcharge calculations are available on

request, or can be found on their website, [www.seafrancefreight.com](http://www.seafrancefreight.com).

To book, either call or fax the freight office in advance on 01304 203030 (phone 24/7) or 01304 212726 (fax 24/7).

Bookings can also be made by email on [freightcustomerservice@seafrance.fr](mailto:freightcustomerservice@seafrance.fr).

You will need to quote the account number, 26452, the vehicle registration and the vehicle length along with the payment method.

Bookings must be prepaid by credit card or paid at the port prior to departure. Alternatively bookings can be made on the day of departure.

## Horse passport alert

All horses and ponies competing at international events abroad need to have an FEI passport. This is in fact a cover which goes round your horse's existing passport. FEI passports last for 4 years and should be applied for or renewed through the BHDTA office.

If you need an FEI passport or if your horse's passport is out of date, please download the FEI Passport Application/Renewal Form from the Reference section of our website. Remember that the passport application/renewal **procedure can take several weeks**, so apply in plenty of time. An additional fee is charged for express applications.

When the forms have been completed, send them with the original passport and appropriate fee to the BHDTA office. The paperwork is completed here and then forwarded to the BEF (British Equestrian Federation).

If it is a **new** passport, the BEF add the FEI cover and return it to the owner. The owner then signs the passport and sends it back to the BEF to be over-stamped. The BEF will then return the passport to the owner.

If the passport is being **renewed**, the BEF will stamp it and return it to the owner so renewals are processed more quickly than new applications.

At peak times when demand is high, the **BEF can take a number of weeks** to process each application so it is advisable to keep a photocopy of your horse's passport before sending it away. We also recommend that Special Delivery is used for added security.

## Horse and driver registration

Please remember that all horses/ponies and competitors taking part in International FEI classes at national horse driving trials, require to be registered with the FEI annually.

Forms can be downloaded from the BHDTA website.

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

Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: [bhdt@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:bhdt@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk) Website: [www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk)

Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon



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## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

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

### Cones Clinic

*Janet Pilling reports from the recent cones clinic:*

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February saw the first of the spring training courses organised by the BHDTA and there was a good turnout with over 50 attendees. Richard Papens, an FEI International TD and CD from Belgium, was made very welcome and entertained us all with his excellent advice on how to tackle cones driving.

The course venue was Arena UK and was ideal for our requirements with a classroom area right next to an indoor arena where two short cones courses were laid out.

Richard started the day with a review of the rules, as there is no point in learning how to understand and drive an obstacle course if you are then to be eliminated for breaking a silly rule. He pointed out that some rules refer to the competition, after the bell has been rung, however some are effective from the moment you enter the arena and careful attention must be paid.

He then used some slides to show how a cones course is usually made up of patterns and it is up to us as drivers to find these patterns and drive them accordingly. He also showed where it is possible to make up speed and where it will cost you on accuracy and the best places to plan rein changes in order to give yourself most time and keep your horse balanced.

We then had two drivers tackle his two short cones courses. They were timed and we were asked to observe and make notes on their performances, which we then discussed back in the warm classroom. Richard encouraged discussion and showed us his observations on the success of a course from his own point of view, in the form of spreadsheets drawn up from the results of various classes at a range of events.

All results in a class were listed and comparisons made between speed, driving penalties and the number of cones being knocked down. This left us with food for thought as we had a break for lunch in the cafeteria.



### Speed is not always a winner

After lunch there was some further discussion and the drivers were asked to drive each course again armed with the knowledge and experience of their first rounds and both showed considerable improvement. They also demonstrated that a fast round can often incur knockdowns while a steady well driven clear might have only one or two time penalties or even be a double clear.

The entire group was then given the opportunity to walk Richard's courses and make our own observations which gave us all more food for thought as the courses were quite different

from our original impressions when walked! This proved the value of a concentrated course walk.

Back in the warm again we offered our own observations on the various challenges each course presented and wound up the day with an enthusiastic vote of thanks to Richard for his tips and advice.

I'm sure everyone saw areas where they could improve their own performances and the course was well worth the trip. It was great to have the expertise of such a qualified and experienced enthusiast and hopefully we shall see more clear rounds in the coming season.

## CLINICS

### Club Training and Clinics

There is a booking form on the events page of the BHDTA website to download if you wish to attend any of the clinics below. Alternatively, you can use the online booking option.

#### South:

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March** at the Guards Polo Club Windsor  
9.30 for 10am Cost: £10

*Organiser: Julian Burleton Tel: 01628 624640*

Judges trainer: Liza Wood

CD trainer: Mark Ingham

Stewards trainer: **tbc**

#### North:

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at Croft Top, Bury  
10am Cost: £20

*Organiser: Barry Hilditch Tel: 01924 848951*

Judges trainer: Sarah Garnett

CD trainer: Mark Ingham

### BYD Easter Training Clinic

**5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April** Unicorn Trust, Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos.

This is the flagship junior training event. It has seen many of our current champions (including Anna Grayston, now a regular trainer at this event) start their carriage driving careers and help bring them on to the top level.

There will be three trainers including Sara Howe and Anna Grayston, both UKcc Level 2 (Driving) coaches, who will be taking the drivers through their paces. In addition this year invited advanced young drivers will be trained by Sarah Garnett - BHDTA Judge and Horse Pairs Champion.

It is open to young drivers of all ages and abilities. The clinic benefits from the continued generous sponsorship from Baileys Horse Feeds and the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

For an information pack and entry forms details please contact the *organiser*:

*Sydney Smith sydney.smith@unicornequestriantrust.org.uk.*

NOTE: entries close on 22<sup>nd</sup> March so please help by getting your applications in early.

### BYD Summer Camp

**10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> August 2010**, Ashfields, Essex.

Put the date in your diaries and organise your summer holiday at this great venue.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## EVENTS

### Ticket discount for Royal Windsor

The Royal Windsor Horse Show is a spectacular event where you are able to view all types of equestrian activity with nearly 3,000 horses and ponies taking part in the event in the magnificent private grounds of Windsor Castle from **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

The programme of events at Royal Windsor is enormous, which means there is something for everyone. The Land Rover FEI International Driving Grand Prix runs from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May starting with the horse pairs and pony four-in-hand's dressage on Thursday and finishing with the obstacle driving on Sunday.

ALL BHDTA members are entitled to TICKET DISCOUNTS if booked in advance.

Call the box office on 0844 412 4631 quoting BHDTA or book online at [www.rwhs.co.uk](http://www.rwhs.co.uk) using the code BHDTA and you will receive tickets at the following rate: Adults £10, Concession £7, Child £4, Family £25.

### Schedule error

Please note that there was an error in the schedule for the Regional Event at Allerton Park. The entry secretary's email address for this event should be [janetnichols251@btinternet.com](mailto:janetnichols251@btinternet.com).

### Showcase for driving trials

As an opportunity to bring driving trials to the attention of a wider audience, the Three Counties Show at Malvern last year invited the BHDTA to run an arena based event.

As the local affiliated club, Wolverley & District Driving Club readily took up the baton, and with the support of the IHDT, the format was agreed.

An Indoor/Outdoor event was the result, and three 50 x 30 arenas used – one for Precision & Paces, one for Cones, and the third for the two obstacles. Facilities for box parking and overnight stay were excellent.

The competition ran throughout the day, but at 2pm, a representative number of turnouts entered the show's main arena to give an exciting display of driving an obstacle. It was quite breathtaking to see images of trials driving on an enormous display TV screen.

Well received by the show directors and public alike, the invitation has been repeated for **Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>**.

For schedule and more information contact [lindasprosen@hotmail.com](mailto:lindasprosen@hotmail.com).

### A new challenge for clubs

A world cup driving event is being organised for club drivers in the coming season. Competitors drive a course of cones including one to three marathon style obstacles in an arena indoors or outdoors, against the clock. Its short format makes it simple to run and competitors have no need to stay long at the event.

We are looking to BHDTA affiliated clubs to arrange a series of these events around the country giving drivers another opportunity to drive competitively. Drivers will gain

points for a national points league that will be the route to a final drive off. The final is for club drivers rather than for those who compete at national events and takes place at the Windsor National Championships on the Saturday.

*Martyn Willis is championing this initiative - please put any questions and offers of help to Martyn, 07973 623980, [mwillis@orange.net](mailto:mwillis@orange.net).*

### Sponsored Drive

On **Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>** NEDTL are holding a Sponsored Drive at Escrick Park, York, in aid of "Help for Heroes".

For further information please contact Sheila Hawking on 01977 682298.

## INTERNATIONAL

### FEI Clean Sport Campaign

The FEI has launched a new website [www.fei-cleansport.org](http://www.fei-cleansport.org) dedicated to its ongoing Clean Sport Campaign. The site contains information about the new regulations that the FEI is implementing this year to combat doping in equestrian sports and is specifically tailored to the needs of athletes, vets, officials, media and others to help them understand their roles in the Clean Sport Campaign.

The site also contains details about the new Equestrian Community Integrity Unit that was a key recommendation of the Joint-Commissions to help monitor corruption, identify offenders and conflicts of interest in equestrian sports, as well as safeguard horse welfare.

The new Clean Sport website will be complemented by the FEI's revamped main website [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

*One of the FEI International TD and CD from Belgium, Richard Papen's interesting cone courses at the Cone Clinic.*

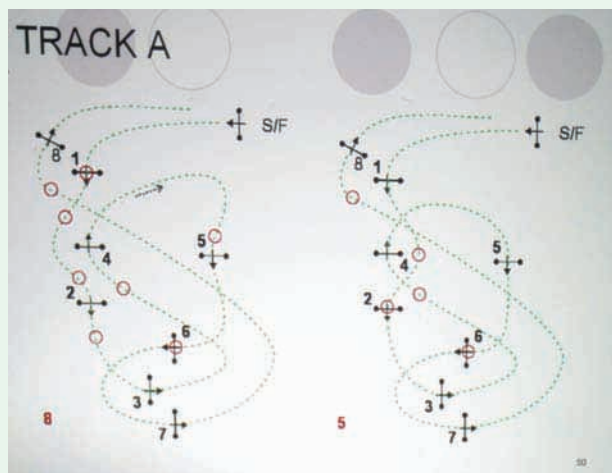


PHOTO: JANET PHILLIPS

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

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**.

### Publicity

We have been offered an opportunity to take a journalist from *Horse & Rider* magazine round Catton National to promote our sport. The journalist is Nicky Moffatt who is a competent horsewoman with extensive riding experience. She is also taking part in an Endurance GB ride in 2010. She is fit and active and happy to take on the role of a competition groom.

We are looking for an experienced driver and horse or pony combination to allow her to experience the thrills of the marathon phase of the competition and to give her some background information on the day. Would anyone be willing to volunteer to have her as their marathon groom at Catton in July? This would be for a feature in early 2011 as the publication features schedule is planned well in advance.

### Single Pony Class Representative

Sara Simmons has resigned as Single Pony Class Representative and we are grateful to her for the work she has done on behalf of her fellow competitors. There will be a meeting of the Single Ponies (all classes including Novice) at Ashfields to elect her successor. This will take place at 6pm on Thursday evening at Cathy Willis' lorry. Please ask the stable manager for directions if you don't know Cathy's lorry. If you are unable to attend but wish to nominate someone for this post (with their permission!), send a note to the BHDТА office by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

## CLINICS

### National Combined Training Clinic

This year the Training Committee decided on a joint clinic for all the BHDТА officials so that everybody could learn and appreciate the various jobs that are done by the different officials which go towards the teamwork required to make a successful driving event. The emphasis of this clinic was communication and cooperation.

Three top course directors took the 62 officials through an extremely interesting two days at The Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold. On Saturday morning Barry Marshall, a top ridden dressage rider, List 1 judge and pony driver, along with Andrew

Counsell, produced an extremely instructive separate session with the judges, using Robert Buck and Frank Campbell as 'guinea pigs'. Johann Jacobs from the Netherlands, an Official FEI Course Designer, gave some equally interesting instruction to the CDs, and Philip Bateman, our own FEI Official TD, took charge of the Technical Delegates with assistance from Ian Douglas. In the afternoon there was a really instructive joint session with a power point presentation given by Philip.

There was another change to the evening format; this year the Unicorn Trust laid on a great 'sit down' dinner for everyone. Seating arrangements had been done by a draw so that many people were sitting with colleagues that they did not know well, and this resulted in a really good evening of discussion and exchange of ideas.

We must give a huge vote of thanks to Sydney Smith and all her helpers at the Unicorn Trust. Every year they make us welcome. All three clinics were very well received and the feedback from them has been very good.

We are especially grateful to the Trustees of the Special Development Fund for their generous sponsorship of this event.

## EVENTS

### New Initiative

Following requests from some competitors, Council agreed that events may run an additional class at the end of the day for anyone wishing to compete with a second turnout. This class would therefore accommodate a wide variety of different turnouts. Please contact the event organiser if you wish to enter such a class as this will depend on demand and the schedule for each event.

### Entry Forms

These are available on the website to print as required. The Word version enables you to save it into your own computer. 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.

### 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 BHDТА office. They 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.

*The interested crowd of officials at the BHDТА National Combined Training Clinic watching the demonstrations in the superb indoor arena at the Unicorn Trust.*



# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## Novice Qualifiers

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

### **North East Driving Trials Club**

at Escrick Park, N Yorkshire 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> April

### **Scottish Carriage Driving Association**

at St Fort 15<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup> May

### **Windsor Park Equestrian Club**

at Windsor, Berks 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> May

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

## Ashfields

**Closing date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

Ashfields 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 Spring Party take place with a western theme this year.

For further details and tickets costing £20 each, please contact Lisa Jopson on 07956 177015. Tickets can also be paid with your entry which should be sent to Jacqui Clarke whose contact details are in the Yearbook.

The following classes have been scheduled as FEI qualifying classes: Advanced Horse Singles, Advanced Horse Pairs, Horse Fours, Advanced Pony Singles, Advanced Pony Pairs and Pony Fours.

## Hopetoun

**Closing date: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

Hopetoun HDT runs from 28-30<sup>th</sup> May. This is the northernmost National held in the UK, yet less than 2 miles from a motorway. There has been no increase in entry fees for 2010. This year's marathon runs through the stunning grounds of Hopetoun House, with a few changes to two of the obstacles. Last year's innovation, hot showers, will be available again!

Selection classes this year are for Horse Four-in-Hands and Advanced Horse Singles. FEI qualifying classes are scheduled for Advanced Horse Singles, Advanced Horse Pairs, Horse Fours, Advanced Pony Singles, Advanced Pony Pairs and Pony Fours.

As usual there is a drinks reception on Friday evening and a ceilidh on Saturday evening with an on-site bar and catering by Highland Cuisine in the main marquee and the stabling field from Thursday onwards.

The Farriers' Award will be presented to the farrier and owner of the best-shod animal in the Intermediate Horse and Pony Single and Open Horse and Pony Single classes.

## Rayrigg Kia Holker Press Launch

The Rayrigg Kia Holker Horse Driving Trials 2010 had a press launch recently. Lord Cavendish made members of the organising committee and the press very welcome and took an active part in the promotion. George Bowman and his crew

brought the horse team, and talked eloquently about Holker's resurrection.

Chris Hillman worked really hard to get all the press together, including *Border Tyne Tees* and *BBC Radio Cumbria*. The *Westmorland Gazette* photographers and reporters were there as were the *North-West Evening Mail* reporter and photographer. Check the BHDTA website for links to all the publications.

Two of the main sponsors were also at Holker. Rayrigg Kia are the title sponsors and the official name is now The Rayrigg Kia Holker Horse Driving Trials 2010. David Smith, the owner and Stephen Slattery, the dealer principal came to the launch. They will lend at least two of their vehicles for use by officials throughout the three days.

Cumbria Crystal are sponsoring the Saturday and also donating a wonderful goblet worth £75 to each class winner. Ian Dillon, the MD is very pleased to be involved with such a prestigious local event, and will be presenting the goblets personally to all 14 class winners on the Sunday. Briery Homes are sponsoring the Sunday but unfortunately no one was available to attend.

## Wallace Cameron Trials at Sandringham

The chairman and organising committee are pleased to announce that Wallace Cameron Ltd has agreed to be the main sponsor at the Sandringham National Driving Trials in 2010.

Wallace Cameron Ltd has been servicing the needs of the first aid market for over 60 years and have been involved at Sandringham for some time, but this year are extremely welcome as the event's full sponsor.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Horse Fours Selection Events

Following the reintroduction of Holker to the National calendar, it has been agreed by Council that the selection events for the Horse Fours in 2010 are Ashfields, Royal Windsor, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Holker. This means Beekbergen, which clashes with Holker, will no longer be a selection event.

If it is not financially possible to send a team to WEG 2010 in Kentucky, it is planned to use the selection events to send teams to international team competitions on the continent in 2011.

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 next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

### Changes to Driving Legislation

New driving licensing legislation revoking 'grandfather rights' to accompany learner drivers in small lorries, buses and vehicle plus trailer combinations will have a profound impact on the equestrian industry according to The British Horse Society.

From 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 drivers who passed their car driving test before January 1997 will no longer be able to act as 'supervising' drivers to those learning to drive small lorries, buses and vehicle plus trailer combinations (but not car/horse trailer combinations ie Category B+E). Crucially for the equestrian industry this will include 7.5 tonne horse boxes.

A detailed description of the changes from the DSA is available on The British Horse Society website.

## CLINICS

### In the South

The southern affiliated clubs' combined officials training was held at The Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. There were a total of 65 delegates; one person came all the way from Co Tipperary.

Peter Bridson started the day with details of health and safety and risk assessment and its relevance to horse driving trials. Delegates then split into groups with Ian Douglas taking the stewards, Mark Ingham took the course designers and Liza Wood addressed the judges.

Although the weather was inclement, with light rain, the delegates moved out to a prepared dressage arena, where three guinea pigs were ready to perform the intermediate test for the judges to practice what they had learned from their training, our thanks must go to Sue Mayes with her single pony, Gill Anslow, with her pony pair and Sarah Garnett, with her single horse, who all braved the uncomfortable rain.

Meanwhile the course designers were split up into groups to flag a prepared obstacle using "on the top" elements. Two of the plans were chosen by Mark for the course designers to physically flag up and measure, using a wheel. The drivers were then asked to drive the obstacle to enable the delegates to discuss the outcome.

The stewards were asked to time the drivers and were able to compare their times. Ian also took a group of stewards to practice the holdup procedure.

There was also a short cones course laid out for delegates to discuss while one of the volunteers drove the course.

At about 4pm the delegates returned back to the club house for cake and biscuits and had the last chance to discuss the day before finally finishing at 5pm.

Thanks must go to the trainers, the three guinea pigs and Martyn Willis and Steve Lucas who helped set up and put away the outside arenas, and the Guards Polo Club for the use of their new club house.

### In the North

Fifty people attended the joint Club Judges and Course Designers' Clinic at Croftop Equestrian Centre in Lancashire on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. With numbers fairly equally divided it became obvious that the ladies were more interested in dressage while course designing was definitely more for the boys.

Trainer Mark Ingham started with a power point presentation and a discussion on building dressage arenas and designing marathon courses and obstacles. He also reminded everyone of the rules revisions for this year.

Sarah Garnett emphasised the need, especially at club level, to be encouraging to drivers and give positive comments to help them improve and gave advice on how to deal with lame or unsafe horses and errors of course in the dressage phase.

After a much needed bacon roll and coffee Mark took his participants into the school to build an obstacle "by committee". Jeff Ormerod then drove it and a discussion was held on how it drove and alternative routes. To finish with Mark put up a few cones and gave advice on right angles and measuring of distances and possible loops.

Sarah moved into the larger school where Jeff, Glenys Ellis and Christine Twigg drove dressage movements and all those taking part worked in groups allocating marks. Many people were surprised at how many things the judge had to look at and take into account.

All delegates commented how much they had learned from both trainers.

## EVENTS

### Novice Qualifiers

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

**Scottish Carriage Driving Association**, St Fort, Newport on Tay, **15/16 May**

**Windsor Park Equestrian Club**, Windsor, Berks **22/23 May**



*The current Intermediate Single National Champion, Roger Campbell, with Margi Hawkin's Othello.*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

**Blandings Regional Event**, Cambridgeshire, **5/6 June**  
**Newnham Regional Event**, Plymouth, **19/20 June**  
**Chester Horse Driving Trials Group**, Llanymynech,  
Powys, **19/20 June**  
**East Anglian Carriage Driving Group**, Sandringham,  
Norfolk, **26/27 June**

For the full list of dates, details and links to the organising clubs, please log on to the BHDТА website  
[www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk)

## Blandings

**Closing date: Sunday 16th May**

The first of this season's regional events is at Blandings on **5/6 June**. This is a new venue to the national circuit based on the Cambridgeshire / Suffolk boarder with easy access from the A11.

Blandings is on flat, sandy, free-draining soil, has beautifully flat dressage arenas and eight challenging open obstacles. The event includes junior classes.

A warm welcome awaits competitors and stewards alike.

## Brighton

**Closing date: Thursday 20th May**

Brighton Horse Driving Trials, 2010 will see the end of an era of Horse Driving Trials held at Stanmer Park.

The first Brighton HDT event was held in 1981 after a group of non-carriage driving people from Brighton Council, lead by Mike Griffiths, thought it would be a good idea. Mike did a great deal of the work with the help of Peter and a few others. After a year or two Sue Vine took over as secretary and remained as such for more than 20 years. What a record! In those days obstacles were called hazards, and consisted of barrels, posts and floating bollards in the dew pond. Carriages were of any type from traditional to decidedly country and most were original as the sport was still young and few had thought of "a marathon vehicle".

The marathon course was over rough tracks hardly wide enough for a single let alone a team, up and down the steep hills (brakes – what brakes?) across the fields and tracks on the farmland that surrounds Stanmer Park.

Hazards clinging to the steep sides of the park, around trees and in them as well. As time passed the obstacles became more subtle, bridge and steps were introduced, those steps were something else! Distance: anywhere from 20 to 27 kilometres, sometimes three sections – sometimes five sections.

Sadly all good things come to an end and Brighton Horse Driving Trials at Stanmer Park is in the final stages of life.

The park and land ownership have changed, making the course a little more difficult to find each year.

Breaking with tradition, Brighton is running later in the season this year, **11th – 13th June**, so hopefully the weather will be more settled. The dressage will be in the normal place providing one of the best arenas in the country.

Dave Watts and Andy Hunnisset have carried the course builder's banner for many years, building great obstacles and will build this final course. Hopefully the park has not changed too much with the 'improvements' that are being made.

There will be a reception on Friday evening for the presentation of awards and dressage rosettes plus the TD briefing.

It is hoped that another venue in Sussex to replace Stanmer Park and a new revitalised team can be found so that horse driving trials will continue to flourish in the south east of England.

## Allerton Park

**Closing date: 3rd July**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the Allerton Park Regional HDT has **had to be changed**.

The event will now take place on **17th -18th July**.

## INTERNATIONAL

## FEI Passports

It is essential to check that your horse has a valid flu vaccination record with a minimum of the first two injections before submitting it to be upgraded to an international passport. Remember that new applications have to be sent back for a stamp after you have signed it so leave plenty of time for this to happen; at least four weeks is needed and longer at times of high demand.

All the relevant forms can be found on the BHDТА website.

## WEG

Sadly Britain is unable to send a driving team to WEG in America this year. The BEF fund-raising has not generated sufficient funds to meet our needs and the BHDТА is not in a position to offer any financial support.

Entries for this year's FEI World Championships are likely to be very low. Many leading driving nations, including the Hungarians, are unable to send teams because of the cost involved.

## BHDТА Supporters

If you are attending any of the National Events or Royal Windsor Horse Show, remember you can pop into the Supporters Tent for a chat and a coffee. They also sell various items of merchandise.

## FEI World Cup Final

Well done to Boyd Exell - the new FEI World Cup Driving Champion 2010, see page 47.

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 BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

### Insurance

Please read the information regarding "What is Covered?" by your BHDTA insurance which is detailed on page 79 of your BHDTA Yearbook. The cover is for legal liability and personal accident. Legal liability covers you in case you are sued by a third party and you are found to be at fault; this can be millions if there is a severe injury.

This type of insurance is not paid out until a full and thorough investigation has been conducted by the insurance investigators. If you wish to have the additional cover of an "all risks" policy in case of an accident, this will be considerably more expensive but there are many insurance companies who can offer this to individuals.

If you suffer damage caused by another member's horse or carriage you are not covered directly. You have to claim off the other member, and the insurance will pay out if, after investigation, he/she is found to be legally liable.

## EVENTS

### Novice Qualifiers

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

- **Blandings Regional Event**, Cambridgeshire, **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June**
  - **Newnham Regional Event**, Plymouth, **19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> June**
  - **Chester Horse DTG** at Llanymynech, Powys, **19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> June**
  - **East Anglian Carriage DG** at Sandringham, Norfolk, **26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June**
  - **Midlands Driving Trials**, Offchurch Bury, Leamington Spa, **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> July**
  - **Allerton Park Regional Event**, N. Yorkshire, **17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> July**
  - **Necarne Regional Event**, Co. Fermanagh, **13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August**
  - **Grangewood Regional Event**, Derbyshire, **21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> August**
  - **Brockham Harness Club**, Goodwood, W. Sussex, **21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> August**
  - **West Newton Regional Event**, Arbroath, **28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> August**
- For the full list of dates, details and links to the organising clubs, please log on to the BHDTA website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).*

### Newnham Park

**Closing date: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

After a few years break, we are delighted to welcome Newnham Park back to the driving calendar as a Regional Event in 2010 on **19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June**. The three-section marathon includes a water obstacle and offers a fastest obstacle cash prize.

Additional barbecue tickets can be purchased for Saturday evening if required but remember that your entry fee includes tickets. For further information about the park and surrounding area.

*Look up the website at: [www.newnham.co.uk](http://www.newnham.co.uk).*

### Wallace Cameron HDT at Sandringham

**Closing date: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

The event at Sandringham takes place from **25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June**. Once again there is a different 3 section marathon this year. There have also been improvements made to the water obstacle, which has been reconstructed and cleaned out, and the crown obstacle, number four, is also being re-designed. This should make the marathon a very interesting drive. There will be the usual bar but this year there will also be a marquee served by Kate's Kitchen food outlet.

Please help the organisers who need more stewards on marathon day Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The stewards' caravan park is probably in one of the best parks in England and you are very welcome to come and spend a few days seeing the Norfolk countryside and beaches.

All the organisers ask in return is your time on marathon day. If you are not an experienced steward please do not worry as you will be placed with an experienced crew who will 'show you the ropes'.

*Contact Sally Moreton: 07739 479241 or 01526 388643.*

### Saddlers' Company Awards

The Saddlers' Company generously present awards to drivers every year. These take the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for saddlery and horse clothing from a member of the Society of Master Saddlers.

The vouchers are worth £60 and can be used as part payment for a more expensive item.

These are awarded to the winners of the Intermediate classes for ponies and horses at National and Regional events. 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 in 2010.

### Arena Trials: Chepstow

This event is based on the combined obstacle and cones courses originally created by the World Cup series for four-in-hands. It will take place as a demonstration event, during a 40-minute slot in the main arena of the Chepstow Agricultural Show on **14<sup>th</sup> August**, using a number of different turnouts. Michael Wall and James Broome will commentate and the Forest of

*Robert Wilkinson in obstacle two at the Land Rover International Driving Grand Prix at Royal Windsor. Land Rover have extended their valued sponsorship of this Four-in-hand World Cup qualifier for another three years.*



Photo: Dicky Jim

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

Dean Driving Trials Group are doing all the stewarding and course building.

Information will be available about the sport in general and the local club. If there is anyone that would like to help promote our sport to a rural community, please contact James Broome as follows.

Contact: [james@theshowground.com](mailto:james@theshowground.com).

## Clarification of Dressage Tests

There appears to be some doubt with competitors regarding movements 11, 12 and 13 in the BHDTA Dressage Tests 1a and 1b (2009) and the Judges Committee wish to clarify these movements.

The written size in metres of each loop refers to the depth of the loop along the centre line. The tests require a straight part in each loop as it reaches the centre line, where a different movement is performed. All loops in movements 11, 12 and 13 go to the edge of the arena in both tests.

Movement diagrams can be downloaded from the reference section and laminated versions can be obtained from BHDTA Merchandise.

## New look to cones

Carol Meredith, one of our foremost cones course designers, has suggested some alternatives to the traditional zig-zag in the cones phase. These were approved by Council so you can expect to see them being introduced at a number of events this season.

You can view details of the various new options on the BHDTA website.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Potential Conflict between Club and National events averted

The BHDTA Council has set a deadline of midnight on the Sunday prior to an event for competitors at a club event or who are using the permanent obstacles as a training facility. The flags for the national competition will not be put in place until after this cut-off point.

The course designers of the respective events will work together to ensure the obstacles are flagged differently and, where possible, move the entry and exit gates to ensure a different appearance to the obstacle.

### Qualifying Events

Competitors with international aspirations may be delighted to know that there is a further opportunity to secure FEI qualifying scores at the 2010 National Championships.

### Equine Doping – What FEI registered drivers need to know

From 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010, equine doping rules changed. There will

be a new set of FEI Rules and a new Prohibited List. For the moment that list will set out that bute and the other NSAIDs are prohibited substances. That situation may change after the FEI GA in November when the issues will be debated in full and a decision taken, so watch this space for updates.

Doping (which falls under the World Anti-Doping Code in the same way as doping in humans) is separated out from medication control (which is there for welfare reasons) in the new FEI Rules. This is linked to a change in the approach to the Prohibited List which is much more specific about what is prohibited so this should allow riders and their vets increased certainty and enable them to avoid mistakes.

A Medication Logbook must now be kept for each horse recording the date, substance and dosage of all treatments administered to the horse which involve a prohibited substance and details of the person who administered the treatment.

This logbook can be inspected by the FEI Tribunal if a violation of the rules is alleged. The FEI have set up a very useful Clean Sport website at [www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org).

Take a good look at the website and, at a minimum, look at the Athletes' Guide and download a copy of the new Prohibited List: ([www.feicleansport.org/ProhibitedSubstancesList\\_Jan2010.pdf](http://www.feicleansport.org/ProhibitedSubstancesList_Jan2010.pdf)).

For the full text of this article from the BEF and a sample logbook which can be downloaded, look in the news and international sections of the BHDTA website. There are also extensive amounts of information on the BEF website under Information for Competitors where the FEI has produced a top 10 list of things you need to know.

## GENERAL

### Be Tick Aware

Lyme disease charity BADA-UK (Borreliosis and Associated Diseases Awareness-UK) has issued a warning to be aware of tick-borne disease while out and about over the spring and summer months.

Ticks carrying Borreliosis (also known as Lyme disease) are found throughout the UK and pose a health risk to driver and horse alike. Lyme disease is transmitted via the bite of an infected tick and can lead to serious complications including damage to the nervous system, joints, heart and other tissues.

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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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

### Golden Hippo Award

This prestigious award was presented by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials. The award recognises the determination to compete displayed by the recipient despite enormous trials and tribulations.

This year it went to George Bowman as he suffered his *Annus Horribilis* in 2009. This was a popular award and hugely applauded by the competitors at the evening reception.



Photo: Ian Raper

*George Bowman was the winner of the 2009 Golden Hippo as he suffered his Annus Horribilis last year.*

## EVENTS

### Dope Testing

We are happy to announce that no prohibited substances were found in the drug testing samples from Ashfields or Hopetoun.

### Single Pony Class Representative

Following a meeting at Ashfields, Sue Mart was elected by the Single Pony class as their class representative. She represents all drivers from Novice up to Advanced so if you have an issue you wish to discuss with her, she can be contacted by phoning the Bennington workshop on 01400 281280 or by email [sue@bennington.co.uk](mailto:sue@bennington.co.uk).

### Allerton Park Regional

**Closing date: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Please remember the date change for the event at Allerton Park. This event now takes place on **17/18<sup>th</sup> July** and not as printed in your Yearbook.

This picturesque estate is situated just off the A1 on the outskirts of Knaresborough in North Yorkshire. North East

Driving Trials Ltd. have been holding successful club events here for many years. Carriage driving must be one of the few sports where you are invited to so many spectacular venues. It is hoped that competitors will support this event in its inaugural year as a Regional Driving Trials.

### Erddig Wrexham

**Closing date: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Erddig takes place from **23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> July** in the scenic National Trust estate near Wrexham which is easily accessed from north or south. 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 mobile shop will be available on site providing bread and milk etc. A licensed bar will operate from Thursday evening with hot snacks available during the day and a disco on Saturday night.

### Rayrigg Kia Holker Hall

**Closing date: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

The title sponsor of the re-introduced horse driving trials at this well loved venue is Rayrigg Kia who will be supplying cars for the officials at the event. Plans are going apace for the 'Rayrigg Relay' involving teams of horses and Kia vehicles, to be run on the Sunday afternoon, as a fitting conclusion to what should be a superb weekend of carriage driving.

Ian Raper of Photocall is the official photographer and will have his images on display for competitors to order copies.

Briery Homes are generously sponsoring the dressage day, Cumbria Crystal are kindly sponsoring marathon day and presenting crystal goblets to all the class winners and Cartmel Sticky Toffee Pudding are sponsoring the obstacle cone driving.

Friday evening hosts the drinks reception and the organising committee are extremely grateful to John Gaynor, who will be well known to many competitors as a very successful driver, for sponsoring this social event where competitors, stewards and officials can mingle and chat.

There will be dancing until late with a live band on Saturday evening after the prize-giving for the dressage and marathon; please have your coach ready to collect you by midnight.

Please try and enter in good time to reassure the organisers that they have sufficient entries; the schedule was not printed in the Yearbook as it was confirmed after the copy date for publication.

### Training for Trials (Midland Region)

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

This event is heavily subsidised by Sport England and offers training for anyone wanting to get involved in driving trials, whether as a steward, back stepper or driver (the only stipulation is that they must not have competed at a National Driving Trials. Full details on the BHDТА website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).

## INTERNATIONAL

### Single Horse World Championship Team Selected

The selection for the FEI Single Horse World Championship team had everyone biting their nails until the announcement was finally

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

made. In the end, Joanna Broadbent finished on a total of five, one point ahead of the other three. After the ratification panel had met, it was announced that Ian Bertram and Pam Neill would be the other two team members with Emily Bennett as reserve. This decision was based on marathon scores at mutually contested events, which were Ashfields and Hopetoun, and Emily's penalties on the walk proved expensive.

How big a coincidence is it that all three team members are not only Scottish but born in or near Edinburgh, the venue for the final selection event?

Photo: Ian Rapier



## Jo Broadbent

Born in Edinburgh, Jo has been driving for 16 years. Initially, she was taught by BHDTA judge Joan Martin (Harland) and helped her at events. When she decided to expand her knowledge, she spent a summer helping Caroline Dale-Leech. She met Mark when he was teaching in Scotland and returned to his yard to gain further experience. The rest, as they say, is history as she remained south of the border. Her horse, Ulex A, was initially bought for Mark's coaching team.

Although his half brother works well in the wheel, Ulex A was not a team player. In order to sell him, he was driven as a single whereupon he demonstrated his potential. Jo said, "I was upset when he was nearly sold but delighted when the sale fell through." Joe and Ulex A's training is assisted by husband Mark and benefits from twice weekly lessons with an event rider.

Jo feels she has the last experience but is looking forward to the international competition and hopes she will be a valuable member of the team. She said, "I have learned a great deal from the whole selection process."

## Pam Neill

Also born in Edinburgh, Pam has extensive experience of foreign travel as she works for showjumper Lynda Birke who competes regularly on the continent. Pam started driving when Lynda fancied

a horse and carriage to visit the local hostelry at weekends. This led to some driving for Pam, who discovered the joys of competitive carriage driving, finishing as Novice Indoor Champion in 2001/2002 and reserve champion at the National Championships in 2004 with My Last Rolo.

Pam saw the importance of the dressage phase and looked for a horse with good movement for her next venture, finding Pablo Diablo six years ago. Although a showjumper when purchased, he had driven in Belgium so she took him back to basics and he made rapid progress. "He's a very tough character," says Pam, "but this can work both for and against you." It helped when Pablo Diablo suffered a life threatening injury in 2005; he was found in his stable in the morning with multiple fractures of his jaw.

The anaesthetic produced complications as he was very fit at the time of the accident. After eight months and further surgery, he pulled through to make a full recovery. Pam took him to Saumur in 2009 to see how he would cope with the experience of crowds, travelling and stabling and he performed very well. She is looking forward to representing Britain at the forthcoming World Championships.

## Ian Bertram

Ian was born in West Calder, a mere 17 miles west of Edinburgh, has already been on British teams twice and was a member of the 2006 gold medal winning team which he cites as his greatest achievement so far.

Ian's riding career was cut short by a car accident, so thirty years ago he took up carriage driving after seeing a local demonstration of the sport. His father supplied his first driving pony and helped him to get started, having experience of working horses on his farm. Ian now drives the stallion Hamewith Lonach, and expanded the horse's experience of showing and hackney classes to include horse driving trials at which he excelled.

Ian's wife and backstepper, Catriona, is an invaluable member of the team. She is hoping that their horsebox will be finished before the trip abroad as Ian prioritises orders from other clients, in his business IB Horseboxes, which build custom made boxes for the riding and driving market. An injury to Lonach in 2009 prevented Ian from contesting 2 of the selection events. He sounded relieved when he said, "I knew a win at Hopetoun was essential. If there was ever a time to drive a double clear in the cones, this was it." Ian says his calm and relaxed personality are a huge help when facing the pressure of international competition and hopes the success of 2006 can be repeated by the team this year.

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



# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



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Photo: by Vic Kusin.



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photo: Marie Lewellyn



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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**.

### Training Clinics

Annual training clinics will be on the last two weekends in February. The venue for the Course Designers (**Sat 19<sup>th</sup>**) and Technical Delegates (**Sun 20<sup>th</sup>**) is the Lancashire Manor Hotel, just off junction 5 of the M58. The judges' clinic is the **26/27<sup>th</sup>** at the Unicorn Trust, Stow-on-the-Wold.

### AGM and Conference

The conference day commenced with well attended meetings for

Before the AGM Jeff Liles spoke to an interested audience about his proposal, which had been well aired on the BHDТА Discussion Forum, to replace the present system of scoring dressage with a

of the competition.

Following some very lively discussion, a show of hands from the

The AGM was largely a formality with no opposition to the Council's

members. They now have to stand down for one year before they can be re-elected. Following this year's election, Jock McFarlane, Barry Hilditch and Frank Campbell were appointed to Council for three years.

### Increased membership

The conference opened with the Chairman's report where Tony Bache highlighted the increased membership for the fourth

at present. He explained how the funding from SportEngland, which is administered through the BEF, was spent. He commented on the sad loss of Brighton and Farleigh and complimented everyone involved with Holker for their part in getting this event up and running so quickly.

He also mentioned the new national event which will take place at

decision to appoint a Director of Marketing and told members that they would hear a presentation from Chris himself later.

Ian Gilbert then detailed changes to the class structure and published the 2011 event calendar. He noted the events which would hold selection classes. These are published on the website and will be detailed in your 2011 Yearbook.

### New marketing vision

Chris Hillman then presented his vision for the future and gave members the background to his appointment. He showed where he

DVDs which demonstrated how he could increase sponsorship. He reported on the work he had done so far.

One exciting possibility could involve the Bowman family participating in chuck wagon racing!

The Chairman's award was presented to Ann Varley in recognition of the work she has put in to get the UKCC training programme up and running. Ann complimented the team with whom she worked and highlighted her priority to inspire and offer quality coaching. She

wants to provide coaches for clubs and training from grassroots upwards with a formal coaching structure.

The Chairman informed members that the Stewards' Award was presented at the National Championships as the recipients, Brenda May and Brian Evans were unable to attend the Conference. They are avid supporters of the BHDТА and for many years have travelled the length and breadth of the country stewarding at national events.

### Open forum

to put suggestions to Council, initiate discussion topics and ask questions. At the recent Council meeting these issues were raised.

1. The ability for competitors to compete more than once and for a driver to also act as a groom at the same event is being given further consideration.
2. The ability for a groom to go round more than once at an event has been agreed but please do not expect the organiser to alter the schedule to accommodate this request.
3. TDs will be asked to give horse tandems more generous walk speeds in combined classes.
4. from their size in obstacles.
5. marathons will be given further consideration.
6. The suggestion that dressage scores be presented as a percentage will not be implemented as the Conference showed overwhelming support for the present system.
7. national events was given careful consideration as this could encourage greater participation. Council therefore decided to remove the ban on electric fencing from the General Regulations in the rule book and leave the use of electric fencing to the

*Ellen Littlechild, a BHDТА member from Jersey with her KWPN to a Fenix*



Photo: Dicky Jim

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

- 8.
9. The decision not to implement a rule requiring back protectors  
Chairman of the Safety Committee, Peter Bridson. He noted that there was no history of back injuries in the sport and he will continue to monitor the situation.
10. An increase in membership fees to replace start fees was considered by the F&GP committee.

## End of Season Party

This function was well attended and the evening got off to a good start with sangria in the bar before everyone was seated for dinner. The table decorations this year had a Halloween theme and were organised by the Young Drivers, however no-one complained if they

dinner was served.

During coffee, the Windsor Novice and Pony Points League and Fenix Horse Points League presentations were made. Council noted that there was a disappointing turnout of winners.

This was followed by the presentation of the Alternative Awards which had produced a high number of votes. Many thanks to Wilf Bowman-Ripley for his generous donation of the prizes of bottles of Champagne and to Zoe Morgan for making the presentations. There were too many nominations to mention them all here but they are listed in full on the web-site.

**Personality:** Boyd Exell, Clare Iveagh and Wee Gypsy made it into the top four but were beaten by Maesbrithdir Sparkling Jewel

including the Para Championships in Breda.

### Supplier:

Bennington who offer a great after sales service.

**Volunteer:** A tie in this category saw Sally Moreton and Cavewood Productions beaten by Davy Brown and Jim Ainsworth. Davy is indispensable on the Scottish club circuit and at Hopetoun and Holker nationals as a course designer and TD while Jim is equally indispensable in his role of obstacle painter and steward.

**Event Organiser:** This was an incredibly close category with only three votes separating the top four places. Louise Garget,

was nominated as the most fun event of the season.

**Most Entertaining Moment:** The last event at Escrick, Matt Were and Barnaby Bowman all entertained the spectators but the clear winner was the 4x4 Challenge at Holker with Fred Pendlebury, Owen Pilling and Barry Capstick racing their horse pairs in an international challenge with a Kia car.

**Groom:** Clearly many people appreciate their grooms and Emma Fenwick, Janet Reeves and Sue Campbell all received considerable support, however the runaway winner in this category was Paul Reynolds who, while grooming for Wilf Bowman-Ripley at

This was captured on video so his heroism was witnessed by those present. As a precaution for next year, Zoe presented him with a set of cricket pads.



*Rachel (nee Stevens) and Paul are the trainers!*

## SUPPORTERS

### 200 Club

The draw at the Annual Conference produced the following winners:

£50 Countess of Iveagh - £30 Sally North -  
£20 Derek Holah

## GENERAL

### A New Driver

The next member of the juniors, Sebastian Belliere-Wilson, bounced into the world on 19th September. His buggy is a four-wheeler with

with harness but, as he is still very young, he is sticking mostly to the indoor circuit (the house) for the time being, with fair weather visits across country to the farm and stables.

He is still doing a fair bit of sleeping, dreaming mostly of milk at a guess, but this has left a bit of time for Team Belliere-Wilson to experiment with the pony team (thanks to SJ and Andrew Wilson for all their help)!

Rachel and Paul, his proud parents, look forward to introducing Sebastian to you all next year.

### Carriage Driving Offer

*Carriage Driving Magazine* is delighted to offer the BHDTA members a 10 per cent discount on their subscription. Please mention "BHDTA 10 per cent" when you call to subscribe on 0800 137201.

British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.  
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdt@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk

