

# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

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

### Council Meeting

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

### 2011 Clinic Dates

**Sports Psychology Talk** with Jennie Killilea takes place on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**, starting at 1 pm in the Lancashire Manor Hotel, Wigan.

She can help you achieve a winning state of mind and how you can achieve your goals through controlling nerves, tackling competition pressures and getting into 'the zone'.

**National Course Designers** take place on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February** and will be taken by Christian Isjeli from Switzerland. The venue is the Lancashire Manor Hotel, Wigan at 9.30 for 10am and will cost £25 which includes tea and coffee.

**National TDs** take place on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February** and will be taken by Philip Bateman. Venue times and cost as above. If anyone wishes to attend both clinics, the cost will be £40.

Should you wish to stay over, the Lancashire Manor Hotel is able to offer a special bed and breakfast rate of £50 for a single or £75 for a double room. These have to be reserved in advance and early booking is recommended.

*Please phone the hotel direct on 01695 567260.*

Two course lunches will also be available at a cost of £12 which includes a choice of main courses (hot dishes and cold meats with salads), followed by a choice of dessert and coffee. Should you prefer, there will also be a bar snack menu. Dinner will be available in the evening, with your order placed earlier in the day from the table d'hôtel menu, priced at £20 per person.

**National Judges** takes place on weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> February and will be taken by Diana Brownlie and Andrew Counsell. The venue is the Unicorn Trust at 9.30 for 10am and will cost £40 which includes refreshments and lunch on both days.

### AGM and Conference 2010

Please make a note of the 2011 BHDТА Conference and AGM date in your new diaries. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. This should miss the Welsh Pony and Cob sales and also the BDS function.

### Membership

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that memberships for 2011 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 office newsletter. If, over the festive period this has been misplaced, you can print one from the web-site or join on-line. Membership cards will be sent with the Yearbooks before the end of January.

### New Vice Chairman

At the recent Council meeting, Jock McFarlane was proposed for the role of BHDТА Vice Chairman and elected unanimously. Jock converted from ridden eventing to driving trials and started out with his event horse in harness on the Scottish club circuit.

He progressed rapidly and purchased Wodka as a more specialised driving horse with whom he won the Open Single



*Owen Pilling with Jed (near side) who has been doing some ridden dressage and has been rather successful!*

Horse National Championships in 2010. He is keen to move up to the Advanced class and in due course will drive a horse pair. He started competing them at some club events last year.

### New Committees

Individual BHDТА committees have been updated on the website. Frank Campbell will liaise with Chris Hillman to promote marketing through use of social media, Jock McFarlane has joined the F&GP committee, Fiona Bonney now takes on the task of chairing the Judges Committee and will be joined by Philippa Thompson while Philip Bateman and Mark Ingham have joined Jean Lane to head up the Training Committee.

### 2011 National and Regional Events

15-17 April	NAT	Arena UK (Grantham, Lincs.)
6-8 May	NAT	Ashfields Carriage Centre (Essex)
14-15 May	REG	St Fort (Newport on Tay, Fife)
27-29 May	NAT	Hopetoun (Broxburn, West Lothian)
5-6 June	REG	Windsor Park (Berkshire)
18-19 June	REG	Newnham (Plymouth)
24-26 June	NAT	Sandringham (Norfolk)
8-10 July	NAT	Catton Hall (Derbyshire)
16-17 July	REG	Allerton Park (North Yorkshire)
22-24 July	NAT	Erddig (Wreccsam, North Wales)
5-7 August	NAT	Holker Hall (Cumbria)
12-14 August	REG	Necarne (Co Fermanagh)
20-21 August	REG	Goodwood (Chichester, West Sussex)
27-28 August		Young Drivers and Para Equestrian Championships, Henbury Hall
9-11 September		National Driving Championships, Windsor

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## International Events

11-15 May Royal Windsor International Grand Prix  
24-28 August World Pairs Championships, Conty (FRA)  
22-25 September World Combined Pony Championships, Lipica (SLA)

## Horse Pairs Class Rep

Margi Hawkins has stepped down as Horse Pairs class representative after many years of offering effective communication for the competitors in the class.

Louise McCutcheon has agreed to take on this role. She can be contacted as follows:

Springfield Farm, Biggar, ML12 6NP. Tel: 01899 220140, mobile 07957 222028, email [louise@wellsgray.co.uk](mailto:louise@wellsgray.co.uk) or [louise.mccutcheon@talk21.com](mailto:louise.mccutcheon@talk21.com).

## Selection Events

The following selection events for 2011 World Championships are now confirmed as follows:

**Horse Pairs:** Ashfields, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Erddig

**Combined Ponies:** Ashfields, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Catton  
Selection events in 2011 for 2012 World Championships are confirmed as follows:

**Horse Fours:** Holker

## Qualifying Events

Qualifying events in 2011 will take place at Ashfields, Hopetoun, Sandringham, Catton and Erddig. Royal Windsor will offer a further opportunity for those invited. Please check with the event which classes will be allocated qualifying status and try to qualify your horses as early as possible.

## INTERNATIONAL

## FEI Driving Committee

The FEI have confirmed that Australia's Boyd Exell has become a member of the FEI Driving Committee. He replaces Mieke van Tergouw, who was the driver's representative on the Committee since 2006.

The FEI Driving Committee currently consists of:

Richard Nicoll (USA) - President 2001 - 2011

Diana Brownlie (GBR) 2007 - 2011

Michael Freund (Ger) 2007 - 2011

Karoly Fugli (Hun) 2008 - 2012

Boyd Exell (Aus) 2010-2014

## GENERAL

## Out and About

Jock McFarlane has competition for his driving horse as his wife Mary, a ridden dressage judge and trainer, recently enjoyed a mark of 81.11% in the Novice Music at the Gordon Dressage Group competition in Aberdeenshire, riding to a Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Queen compilation.

The judge was very impressed, saying, "He's uphill, light on his feet and has the most amazing rhythm." Mary noted that she is allowed to ride Wodka over the winter to improve his dressage so he can show off in his driving trials.

Owen Pilling's horse, Jed (his original single horse), has been doing some ridden dressage and has been rather successful! Emma Fenwick, Team OPG's event groom, qualified him for the Scottish Farmer finals at Rowallan EC where she was placed sixth.

This encouraged her to try for the Scottish & Northern Equestrian series where she qualified at her first attempt with wins in both Prelim and Novice classes. In the finals she was second in the Prelim with 68% and ninth in the Novice with 61% - a great achievement considering Jed is a marathon specialist all summer!

## Horses Inside Out 2011

The Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold, hosts the Horses Inside Out Conference 2011 titled Posture, Performance and Injury Prevention. The dates are **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March** and features:

- Rachel Murray MA VetMB MS PhD MRCVS Dip ACVS Dip ECVS, a vet with particular interest in sports horse training, performance and injury

- Eric Smiley FBHS, Coach FEI International Judge

- Dr Andrew Hemmings MSc, Neuroanatomist  
This Conference will look at practical aspects, the science behind training and the support of the horse as he progresses.

For an application form, or more details, email [shirley@horsesinsideout](mailto:shirley@horsesinsideout), ring 01159 212648 or see [www.horsesinsideout.com/lp110305.html](http://www.horsesinsideout.com/lp110305.html).

*Jock McFarlane, the new BHDTA Vice Chairman, ex ridden 3-day eventer who with Wodka won the Open Single Horse National Championships in 2010.*



Photo: Dicky-Jim

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 **16<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

### Membership

Please remember your insurance cover will lapse if you have not renewed your membership by 31<sup>st</sup> January. You should have received a renewal form in December with your office newsletter. If, over the festive period this has been misplaced, you can print one from the web-site or join on-line. Membership cards will be sent out with the Yearbook before the end of January.

### Paying On-line

Due to restrictions placed on us by Payment Card Industry legislation, it is no longer possible to accept credit card payments on-line with our previous system. A new system has therefore been introduced where on-line payments will be collected using Paypal which is a world wide secure payment system. You can use an existing Paypal account to make payments but you do need to have one. Payments can also be made by using the "pay by credit card" option. E-mail confirmation will be sent in the usual way.

Please take care when entering your e-mail details. We have been experiencing a number of queries this year about payments which have not received confirmation. In all cases, errors typing the e-mail address have been the cause.

### Attending the National Clinics?

If you are intending to use a SatNav to find your way to the Lancashire Manor Hotel, when you enter the postcode WN8

*Zoltan Lazar competing in Europe last season. His brother Vilmos, also an international driver, is endeavouring to resurrect a "European" four-in-hand Championship in Budapest this summer.*



Photo: Dicky Jim

9QD you may find this comes up for Prospect Place. This is correct. You will be directed up Prescott Road and will see the hotel on your right just as your SatNav tells you to turn into Prospect Place. The hotel do this deliberately as the correct post code for the hotel takes you round the back to a set of locked gates.

Apologies for the error on the booking form for the judges' clinic. The cost of this is £40 and the dinner on Saturday night is £18.

### BHDTA Joins Facebook

Frank Campbell has created a BHDTA page for Facebook. Frank says, "The new Facebook page can be found by typing "BHDTA" into the facebook search bar if you are user. If not just visit Facebook and click join, it's a free and easy way to socialise and keep in contact with members all over the country.

The aim of the page is give members another platform on which to communicate and share content, such as videos and photos. It also provides a new way for the sport to be showcased to potential members by current members. The page relies on people supplying interesting content to give it substance, so don't be shy please contribute!"

### Marketing Update

Chris Hillman has provided an update on the progress he has made so far with promoting the sport and attracting sponsorship. To begin with he attended all the national events and listened to everyone's point of view from competitors to organisers, stewards and supporters. He is developing a Premier League of events linked to a Country Fair style attraction with high quality arena based entertainment and trade stands.

A new business concept of Corporate Executive Coaching has been explored as a joint venture with Ashfields. The benefits include raising the sport's profile, employing our UKCC coaches and creating a revenue stream for the sport. John Lewis are committed to a minimum of 300 senior managers from Oxford Street store in 2011 and there is potential for further expansion.

A sponsorship model for the sport, that meets with serious sponsors' requirements, has been developed through significant TV and live audiences. This links with the production of a high quality sponsorship DVD. TV programmes either aired, in production or planned are Holker, the Junior Worlds in Hungary and the IHDT finals at Keysoe.

It is planned that all the Premier Events next year will acquire a level of TV coverage.

Since June 2010 more than 100,000 people (this number increases every day) in 27 different countries have viewed HDT videos produced by Cavewood. The Kia advert has recently been put on You Tube and has had an incredible reaction from people all over the world, becoming a Facebook favourite.

Chris has generated considerable confirmed sponsorship already and a number of well know companies are considering their involvement. He predicts, with the opportunity to acquire Sport England Match Funding & a Comic Relief

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grant possible, year 1 should see a minimum income of £80k. In conjunction with the clubs, Chris has been working with MDTG and EACDG who have submitted proposals to Sport England under their Small Grant scheme for up to £10,000. Other projects are still in development or awaiting a decision. These include

- The possibility of holding a World Cup style indoor driving event at HOYS in 2011
- Providing arena based ideas for the World's biggest Game Fair
- Working with personalities such as Dame Kelly Holmes with the hope of convincing her to take part in a Children in Need/ Comic Relief HDT competition e.g. The Dame Kelly Holmes Sporting Stars vs. The Chris Evans presenters.
- Developing a partnership where HDT is to be the pilot discipline for a new Horse and Country TV community based section on their website.
- Website advertising.
- A Top Gear Challenge proposal.

In the next six months Chris plans to maximise the revenue stream through more sponsorship, donations and funding, increase the sports exposure by creating exclusive media opportunities with interesting individuals eg Dame Kelly Holmes, Chris Evans and Simon Mayo, explore the partnership opportunities to be gained by running driving trials alongside major three-day eventing venues, continue to develop the corporate executive coaching concept into a national programme and work with clubs to acquire more media interest, sponsorship and recruitment through the funding it is hoped will be forthcoming.

## EVENTS

### New Rules

There have been a number of changes and the ones that will affect most people include the following:

1. Cheques for the Start Fee should be sent with your entry as a separate cheque and made payable to BHDTA.
2. The new test for Novice classes at National events is now available on the web-site. Laminated copies of the test, from the point of view of A or C and both 80m and 100m arenas, can be purchased from the Merchandise section of the website.
3. Competitors in National Novice classes at Regional or National events, or any competitor at a Regional event, can compete as BHDTA Associate members and their groom only has to be a member in order to compete at the National Championships.
4. Mats are now compulsory when using side stabling at most events with a £100 fine for non-compliance. This is to enable land owners to reinstate their ground more quickly after the driving trials for other users. Please check individual schedules.
5. Grooms may compete with two turnouts, and a driver may also act as a groom, but they must compete as the driver first. This is at the discretion of the organiser who may not be able to accommodate all requests within the constraints of their schedule.

6. Horse Tandems, when competing in mixed classes if numbers are low, will have more relaxed walk speeds.
7. Electric fencing may be permitted at some National events at the discretion of the organiser. Please check the schedule carefully before entering.
8. Back protectors are not compulsory on Section E (this only applies at International events).
9. Spare horses may still be led from the carriage while exercising at National events if an additional person is on the carriage with responsibility for the spare horse (although this is no longer permitted at International events).
10. It is now necessary to have the appropriate number of grooms in attendance when exercising at events. The groom may still drive the turnout while the driver walks the cones as they will still be in attendance.
11. Progression from Novice to Intermediate now follows 3 wins or a finish in the top half of the class at the National Championships. You may still progress earlier if you wish. Full details on the website under Reference then Competitions: classes.
12. Progression from Open to Advanced singles is now compulsory after six wins over two years but you can progress earlier if you wish. Full details on the website under Reference then Competitions: classes.

## INTERNATIONAL

### European four-in-hand Championships

The Hungarian Federation are planning to put in a bid to organise a 2011 FEI "European" four-in-hand Championships in Budapest. The Championships will, if allocated, take place in Budapest City Centre on the national holiday weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> August. The goal of the event is to create a true highlight for Budapest city. The event will not only include the driving competitions, but also many shows to attract the public.

The first European four-in-hand Championships took place in 1971 in Budapest and Vilmos Lázár is looking forward to welcoming back a European Championship, which were discontinued in 1979, to now hopefully be reborn exactly 40 years later.

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

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.

### 2011 memberships

You should have now received your membership card and Yearbook for 2011. We would like to thank everyone for their patience this year while the new membership database was installed. The timing could not have been worse but circumstances beyond our control forced us into this action.

We are indebted to Mike McCutcheon, who will be familiar to many of you backstepping for his wife Louise in horse pairs, for the time and effort he has put into creating a new database that retains the best features of the previous one but has numerous additional features. Mike had to do this remotely as he works abroad.

The introduction of Paypal for online memberships has been smooth and is working well.

## EVENTS

### Novice Qualifiers

Many National events will now run novice qualifying classes. To enter these you need to be a BHDTA member in either the Club (restricted) or Associate categories. Grooms do not need to be a BHDTA member until they compete at the National Championships.

### New Novice Dressage Test

A new Novice dressage test has been written to replace last year's Novice test and is called Novice 80 (2011) for 80m arenas and Novice 100 (2011) for use in 100m arenas. The two tests are the same but the angles you come off the sides are slightly different so the test is available from the merchandise section of the website in both sizes and in both orientations ie from A or C. We are grateful to Sarah Garnett for her time and effort creating the new test.

She explains the rationale behind its conception.

*With the re-introduction of Novices classes at National events, the Competitions Committee felt that it was necessary to produce a test which was suitable to be driven in a 100 x 40 metre arena, to avoid the necessity of altering the size of the arena at competitions. The Committee felt that simply modifying the existing 2008 test would be confusing, and I was asked to write a new test.*

*Aware as I was, that this could be a 'minefield', I asked Barry and Leonie Marshall for their help. They were very supportive and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them.*

*We felt that the test should be pitched half way between the existing Pre Novice test and the Intermediate test, with the emphasis on asking the horses and ponies to show the correct way of going with regard to rhythm, straightness, suppleness, and obedience. The judging of the test should take particular note of the quality of the transitions between paces.*

*I can do no better than to quote from an email I received from the maestro, George Bowman. "Our National Novices are not complete beginners and most of them are driving mature horses. We must give them something to try to do and therefore encourage them to train. We also need to give the Judges something to judge."*

*The test is, as far as it is possible to be, symmetrical, which aspect appeared to be popular with the Intermediate test. There is an 80 x 40 version, which may be more suitable for Club level competitions.*

*I hope you enjoy driving this test, and look forward - although with some trepidation - to receiving comments on it in due course.*

### National Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations

The FEI have put in place revised Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations ("EADCMR"), and have requested that all National Federations (The BEF in our case) should develop National Regulations on broadly the same basis. The BEF have developed National Regulations and your Council have agreed to adopt these as well. The full regulations are published on the BEF website if you want to see the complete text and the lists of banned substances and



*George Bowman competing at The Royal Windsor Horse Show's Driving Grand Prix marathon in 2008 this year to be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.*

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Photo: Vic Kusin

Barry Hunter.

controlled medication. The implications for BHDTA are:

- All doping and medication testing will be done by the BEF and BHDTA will not have any say in where or when testing will be done.
- Testing will be limited to National and Regional Events.
- Although we have requested that our existing policy of testing only those classes with International Championships in the year, the BEF have indicated that they will probably also carry out random tests to other classes as well. This will be done at events organised by all the BEF Member Bodies and is to im-

- In the case of juniors competing, a responsible person will have to be specified at the time of making an entry, and you will see that entry forms have been adapted to allow for this. These new rules will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and random tests will be carried out as usual during the 2011 season.

## GENERAL

### Queen's Award for Equestrianism



The BEF member bodies are invited annually to submit a nomination for this prestigious award, presented by Her Majesty. The BHDTA Council were unanimous in their support this

year for Ian Gilbert who has worked tirelessly to benefit the sport for many years. He is a modest man, rarely seen in the spotlight, yet without whom many events would struggle to continue. He has served on Council for seven years and never missed a meeting. He chairs the Competitions Committee, serves on F&GP and is a Director of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association. He has organised training days at his home, run club events for 25 years and, since 2000, run Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials, one of the best events in the country; he built the

obstacles, a full size arena, roads to facilitate access and enhanced the water supply dramatically. Is there anything he cannot do?

He played a leading role in reintroducing the Holker National Event to the competition calendar in 2010 and in its organisation. No task is too much trouble, and he often assists in the BHDTA office with preparing mailings for members.

His help and advice are freely given and widely valued. At the age of 68, when many might think of retiring from the sport, he is still an active competitor and organiser.

### RSPCA Dogs Summit

BHS representatives attended this week's RSPCA summit on status dogs, to highlight that dangerous dogs are not just an inner city problem, but can also be prevalent in rural and peri urban areas, affecting equestrians and their horses.

BHS Director of Access, Safety and Welfare Mark Weston said, "The Society receives increasing reports of dog attacks. It is important that we work with the relevant authorities to tackle this problem. I would ask that any equestrian who is unfortunate enough to suffer such an incident reports it on our new website [www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk)."

## INTERNATIONAL

### Promotion for Barry Hunter

Barry Hunter has been an FEI International Course Designer for many years and his courses will be familiar to British drivers from the successful events at Alnwick and Erddig. The FEI announced his recent promotion to Official International Course Designer which means he can be the course designer at a World Championship. Congratulations Barry. There are very few course designers of this status in the world.

### Passports and Registrations

Please ensure you have your passports up to date and if you require a new FEI passport that you apply for it in good time before your first competition. Don't forget that, in addition to the passport which needs to be renewed every four years, an annual registration fee is payable to the FEI for each horse and driver. All the forms you need are on the website under the Reference menu.

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### Council Meeting

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## EVENTS

### Ashfields National

**Closing date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

Ashfields is now the first National event in the calendar following the cancellation of Arena UK and takes place on **6-8<sup>th</sup> May**. There will be a full range of classes from Novice upwards. The obstacles are conveniently situated within walking distance of the stabling field and in reasonably close proximity to each other. The marathon runs over undulating ground utilising fields and farm tracks.

The clubhouse is the venue for a Pimms reception on the Friday night at 8pm where dressage rosettes will be presented and volunteers, sponsors, judges and competitors can socialise. The popular Saturday evening entertainment is titled "Back to School at Ashfields" this year. The organisers ask that you bring your dinner money to book your tickets before 8pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. They are also providing a hot snack bar during the day which will also serve evening meals and a licensed bar will be open throughout the event.

### St Fort Regional

**Closing date: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

This popular venue, which hosted a National event for many years, hosts a Regional event (**14-15<sup>th</sup> May**) for the first time and runs in tandem with a club event. A snack bar will offer a range of hot food on Saturday and Sunday and there will be a reception in the marquee on Saturday evening.

The marathon runs over varied terrain and offers an interesting course to test drivers' skill while, if you have time to look, the views over the Firth of Tay are tremendous. The organiser, Andrew Mylius, has taken the unusual step of offering a **free entry** to all pony and horse four-in-hand competitors.

### Free 6<sup>th</sup> Start Fee

Council have looked at the books and have agreed that competitors entering more than five National or Regional events in one season will not pay any further start fees.

In order to administer this, please continue to pay the start fee in the usual way but, after your last event of the year, send a list of the events at which you competed, with a note of your request for a refund, to the BHDТА Office.

You will then be reimbursed for any start fees you have paid, over five, during the season.

### Special Offer for 2011

For 2011, anyone entering a Regional Event can do so as an Associate BHDТА member. Council are hoping this initiative will attract more entries to these events. It is obviously difficult in the current economic climate to know if entries will hold up this year.

Council are doing all they can to help members keep costs down. Grooms, at Regionals, only need to be members in order to compete at the National Championships.

### New National's Secretary

The BHDТА are delighted to announce that Rita Bundock has agreed to take on the role of National Championship organiser. Rita has an enormous amount of experience having been at the helm of the popular and successful events at Brighton and Normanhurst. She is also instrumental in organising the Indoor Horse Driving Club UK and the indoor events.

We are indebted to Jill Holah for doing a huge amount of the early preparation for this year's event.

### Rule Amendments 2011

Rule book amendments to keep your publication up to date will be available in the near future. If you want a copy, please send an sae with postage for a LARGE LETTER to the BHDТА office. There is no charge for these as the cost is incorporated into the initial purchase cost.

- 1. The requirement to use mats in side stabling has come about at the request of land owners who have other users of their ground as mats help the ground recover much more quickly. They will be required in side stabling, pens, electric paddocks and when horses are tied to the side of lorries for extended periods. Organisers would prefer that they are solid, but in the event of members already having mats with holes in then they will be accepted provided that they have a waterproof membrane below them and bedding on top. Please check individual schedules for the event's position regarding use of mats.*
- 2. Spare horses may be led from the carriage but there must be an additional groom with responsibility for this animal. The Council appreciate that many people cannot ride their spare horse and do not have the facility to take an additional single carriage for this purpose. This rule is to be used at National Events although this practice has been banned at International events.*
- 3. Smart dress will be required to walk the cones from 30 minutes before the first class so no more pyjamas after that point! Council reduced the recommendation for this to be done from 60 minutes before the first class.*
- 4. At the discretion of the organiser who has to cope with scheduling competitors, grooms will now be able to go round twice and a driver may act as a groom as long as their driving round has been completed first. Competitive entries will remain at one per driver with additional entries acceptable as HC.*



Rita Bundock who has taken over the mantle from Jill Holah as Secretary and organiser of the BHDТА National Championships this September.

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

5. Electric fencing will now be permitted in some circumstances but its use controlled. There is a limit of 10ft x10ft for paddocks and any fencing or barriers used must be firmly attached to the side of the lorry or trailer. Only one is permitted per competitor and competitors using electric fencing will be parked together. The intention is not to give everyone turnout for their horse but the BHDTA Council wish to make the transition up to National events from club ones as smooth as possible.
6. Cheques for the Start Fee should be sent with your entry as a separate cheque and made payable to BHDTA.
7. Competitors in National Novice classes at Regional or National events can compete as BHDTA Associate members and their groom only has to be a member in order to compete at the National Championships.
8. It is now necessary to have the appropriate number of grooms in attendance when exercising at events. The groom may still drive the turnout while the driver walks the cones as they will still be in attendance.
9. Progression from Novice to Intermediate now follows 3 wins or a finish in the top half of the class at the National Championships. You may still progress earlier if you wish. Full details on the web-site under Reference then Competitions: classes. Progression from Open to Advanced singles is now compulsory after six wins over two years but you can progress earlier if you wish. Full details on the website under Reference then Competitions: classes.

## INTERNATIONAL

### New FEI rules

- 901.12 At the event location whenever the horse(s) are fully harnessed or being harnessed to a vehicle, groom(s) must at all times be in attendance and able to render assistance if needed.
- 901.12.2 The Driver may only dismount from the vehicle when grooms are at the horses' heads, or the reins are given to another responsible person on the carriage.
- 901.12.3 No horse may be led from a moving carriage.
- 901.13 For contravening any of these rules, a verbal warning or Yellow card must be given by the Ground Jury. Subsequent offences at the same event will entail a second yellow card.

## GENERAL

### Supporters

We wish to extend our thanks to the Supporters Club who have purchased new cone numbers which will be available for



*A study in concentration; Graham Heath and his backstepper Alie tackle an obstacle at the National Championships to win the 2010 Championship in the Intermediate Horse Class.*

Photo: Dicky Jim

events to use this year. This demonstrates the 200 Club money going back into the sport.

### Sports Psychology Talk

**Tony Gregory reports from the recent talk by Jenny Killilea:**

Having been widely advertised in the December 2010 Office News and on the Association's website front page, it was very disappointing that only 17 members turned out for this fascinating talk on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

It was delivered over two hours by leading Sports Psychologist Jennie Killilea, MSc. in a manner that everyone could appreciate.

It was illustrated that a good mental attitude is the most necessary quality for success. Everyone completed a self assessment of their own Performance Profile in many different areas including physical and mental preparation, lifestyle, imagery ability, self confidence, motivation, concentration and relaxation ability, and anxiety and worry management.

With help from Jennie, by the end of the afternoon, everyone was aware of their individual strengths and weaknesses, and learned how to identify the actions necessary to improve their competitive performance; one's goal all the time being to be in 'The Zone' by the time of the competition.

All in all, a very good way to spend a dreary, damp, cold day in a newly refurbished warm hotel in Wigan!

What a pity that more members didn't take the opportunity.

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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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June**.

### Sport England Satisfaction Survey

Our ongoing funding depends on you! Please help us by completing Sport England Sport Satisfaction Survey which you will find on the BHDТА website [www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk). We need as many people as possible to respond as the number of responses is monitored by Sport England. This is their way of establishing whether or not the funding they are giving us is being used to best effect.

Please make sure you choose the appropriate survey for your current standard. Most people will complete the one for club members but if you have been in receipt of Sport England funding through any of the training initiatives then select the Talent Pool one for your age range.

Please do not put this off. You can respond to the survey up until 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### Clinic Reports

#### CD and TD Seminars

This year's seminar was taken by the FEI World Championship Course Designer Christian Isjeli from Switzerland. With his vast knowledge and 10 World Championships under his belt, Christian was able to put forward all the latest ideas and techniques to the BHDТА National Course Designers. Ten attended this year's seminar with six observers.

Rule Changes for 2011 were noted followed by a lively discussion concerning all aspects of Course Designing. Christian brought a fine Power Point presentation on Obstacle Design and some examples of new and interesting Obstacle Cones Courses. Heated discussion followed regarding course measuring and how many "Double Clears" should be sought.

Nine TDs attended their seminar, taken by Philip Bateman and ably assisted by Ian Douglas; these are the two Technical Delegates acting at both this year's World Championships. After the Rule Changes and new points for the coming season, there were 25 questions to test the participants' knowledge.

There was great emphasis on the understanding of the new FEI Education Syllabus followed by lively discussion of the many problems and incidents encountered the previous year.

#### Judges Seminar

Both of this country's official international judges, Diana Brownlie and Andrew Counsell, took the National Judge's Seminar in February at Stow on the Wold. Diana had brought wonderful DVDs of the FEI World Equestrian Games and other events so there were some very fine tests to look at, as well as some obstacle cones driving, including all types of amazing mistakes.

On Saturday afternoon Andrew had a session in the indoor arena on rein handling and used some volunteer turnouts to give an excellent demonstration to all the participants.

Diana had various presentations on Sunday with a questionnaire producing some interesting answers. Great emphasis was laid on the judging of obstacle cones driving, which seems to keep causing problems.

### Club TDs and Safety (north)

The seminar for club TDs at the George Hotel in Penrith was taken by Philip Bateman; 23 people attended, 7 of whom were from Scotland. His detailed talk and slide show lasted three hours. Everything was covered starting with the first site visit, rules, the duties and the responsibilities of the TD right to the end of the event. Copies of this paperwork can be downloaded from the BHDТА website.

In the afternoon Peter Bridson took a Club Safety Seminar. Delegates received over 40 pages of incredibly useful information covering dos and don'ts, rolling risk assessments, health and safety, and numerous other related topics.

There was a strong feeling that more people should attend these clinics as this would encourage competitors as well as officials to be more aware of how they could be more safety conscious. It was suggested that some one from all club events should attend. One delegate described the day as "very frightening but very good."

## EVENTS

### Hopetoun 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### Entries close Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April

With entries already coming in, the Scottish Carriage Driving Association is looking forward to welcoming competitors to Hopetoun with some Scottish hospitality right from the moment you enter the Blue Gate.

This year we are running Novice to Advanced Classes with selection classes for Advanced Horse Pairs and the pony classes along with qualifiers for FEI World Championships. Additional sponsorship this year from Simple Systems Ltd means prizes in kind for all class winners.

After dressage on Friday, join us at our popular drinks reception, sponsored by NFU, which will be preceded by a vaulting demonstration by the Scottish Equestrian Vaulting Team trained by John Eccles. Whilst you are out on the marathon on Saturday, the main arena area will be hosting a BDS Show, a classic car rally and a dog show – and then there is the ceilidh to look forward to in the evening. During the cones competition on Sunday there will be the usual judging for the Farriers' Award for the Novice, Intermediate and Open classes.

We are also hosting a dressage and cones competition for RDA Drivers throughout Scotland which will run on Thursday afternoon. This is the first of what will hopefully become a nationwide programme to help promote competition again for RDA drivers culminating in a National RDA Driving Championships in the future.

And don't forget – we are the event with hot showers!

### Windsor Park Regional 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> June

#### Entries close Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Taking place in Windsor Great Park on 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> June, this Regional event offers a three-section marathon with seven obstacles including water for a wide range of classes. There will be catering on site both days and a social event on Saturday evening.

The organisers can put you in touch with local B&B and stabling if required and remind competitors to use mats if possible to prevent unnecessary damage to the grass. The lorry park will be open from noon on 3<sup>rd</sup> June; please do not arrive early!

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## Newnham Park Regional 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June Entries close Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Newnham takes place on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June. Once a regular venue for national competitions, Newnham Park, Plymouth, has seven permanent obstacles including a purpose made over and under bridge, several water crossings and uses the terrain to provide unique yet horse and driver friendly challenges.

The lorry park is flat and free draining and the dressage arena and cones course are close to the stabling. The obstacles are scattered around the arena area and are placed so as to give spectators a good view.

The Great Western Harness Club is hosting this event with kind permission of Mrs J Cobbold, a long time supporter of horse driving trials. There will be something for everyone with a full selection of national classes to the Newnham Special class which only uses section E of the marathon and is always a popular class at club competitions.

The marathon section is mainly off road with sections of forestry tracks and fields round the Newnham Park Estate.

There will be a BBQ on Saturday giving a chance for everyone to get together; drivers get a free ticket for supper as part of their entry fee. The venue is only a few miles from the A38 and easy to reach. Tesco Metro is about a mile from the camping field as well as a full selection of take-aways and other stores a little further on.

For a club schedule [www.gwhc.co.uk](http://www.gwhc.co.uk) or a National Schedule [www.bhdta.co.uk](http://www.bhdta.co.uk). Address any queries to the entry secretary – Mary Jane Campbell 01752 830221.

## 2011 BHDTA Conference

Council have asked a small group, Mike Watts, Chris Hillman and Barry Hilditch to look into ways to improve the BHDTA Annual Conference for all members.

We will publish some options for discussion on the BHDTA website in the near future. If you wish to take part and do not have internet access, please send an s.a.e. to the office asking for a copy of the Conference Consultation which will be sent as soon as it is available.

Double Olympic Gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes has kindly agreed to be the guest speaker at this year's conference.

Dame Kelly experienced the adrenalin rush of driving trials when she attended a day at Ashfields with her work team prior to Christmas. On her blog she described the day as "awesome"!

Dame Kelly is one of the most sought after sporting personalities in the country, with considerable corporate and television commitments, so we are delighted she agreed to be a guest speaker at our conference.

The DKH Legacy Trust is a charity set up by Dame Kelly to help develop skills, knowledge and self belief in youngsters using sports stars as mentors. As part of the agreement, we will be working with DKH Legacy Trust groups in the summer.

It is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to listen and meet a true British sporting icon. If you have never attended a

BHDTA Conference before, make sure you attend this year. The Conference will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## Celebration of the Horse Raceday

A bumper crowd of more than 9,000 enjoyed a day of quality Jump racing as well as a celebration of the horse at Newbury Racecourse.

Personalities from the world of horseracing and equestrianism along with representatives from Go Affiliated encompassing the BEF Member Bodies including Carriage Driving, who were represented by Julie Camm, were all present at the Berkshire track supporting the day which was dedicated to raising funds for Riding for the Disabled (RDA).

## SUPPORTERS

### 200 Club

The following lucky winners were drawn from the hat at the Escrick Park Sponsored Drive.

£50 Mike Howard - £30 Jock McFarlane  
- £20 Alan Wilkinson

*Julie Camm, represented BHDTA at the Celebration of the Horse Raceday on Newbury racecourse which was dedicated to raising funds for Riding for the Disabled (RDA).*



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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June**.

### Southern Clinics

The Stewards Clinic was a thoroughly enjoyable day where the attendees' experience ranged from international stewards to nervous first timers at local club level. The day was well organised and facilitated by Ian Douglas. Maxine Ingham was a willing guinea pig who drove her turnout endlessly through the obstacles while stewards practised timing, hold ups, obstacle drawing and a range of other relevant tasks. It was a shame that the attendance was not higher but hopefully word will spread of the benefits of this course before the next one. It was a very friendly and informal day which was very much focussed on the range of tasks stewards need to cope with. It proved to be an excellent learning curve for less experienced stewards and an excellent refresher course for others.

The TD clinic suffered from very low numbers but went ahead regardless. Ian Douglas provided a wealth of information and it was a shame more people did not benefit from his experience. He stressed how much more work was involved for a club TD rather than at national or international level as many of the duties covered by others are devolved to the club TD. He pointed out the increased responsibility a club TD has. It is a hard job as there is no back up from other officials such as a President of the Jury and there is no ground jury present. At club level TDs do many different jobs and can often find themselves assisting with course building and clearing up after the event.

## EVENTS

### Your first National or Regional event?

Don't forget that to assist competitors while the country struggles in the grip of a recession, the BHDTA has suspended start fees for 2011 thanks to a very generous donation from Hugh and Karen Scott-Barrett. In addition, drivers can compete in any Regional event as an Associate member and for their first year at full National events as an Associate member. Grooms will need to be BHDTA members. They can join as a Single Event Marathon Groom if they only wish to compete in one event. When they compete a second time they have to be a Marathon Groom at a cost of £30.

### 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 2011.

Vouchers will be forwarded to competitors after the event as they will now be presented to the highest placed competitor in the class who qualifies for the National Championships rather than the winner

of the class. Results need to be checked and verified before the awards can be made.

### Novice Dressage Test

The new Novice 80/100 (2011) dressage test has received positive feedback so far. One point which has arisen is the position of the horse's nose for the halt on the centre line. The test does not indicate where the nose should be therefore the normal rules of dressage apply and the test should be driven with the horse's nose on the centre line unless otherwise specified.



*Derek Mayes taking the backstepper's role for his regular groom Diane Phillips driving 24 year old Hachney, Highmore Supercharge, during the recent Windsor Park Sponsored Drive.*

Photo: Dicky Jim

### Changes to the National Equine Anti Doping and Controlled Medication rules announced

The British Equestrian Federation has today announced a new set of National Equine Anti Doping and Controlled Medication rules (BEFAR).

The new rules, which closely mirror the FEI guidelines, will affect all BEF Member Bodies in FEI disciplines and will be incorporated into their rules on publication of their forthcoming rulebooks. All disciplines will be fully compliant by 1st January 2012 which is the date the changes will be introduced to the BHDTA Rule Book.

Representatives from the BEF plan to attend the BHDTA National Championships in September to raise awareness of the new legislation. They will be available to answer questions from competitors. More information will be available in due course.

The new system will see an increasing number of anti-doping tests across the disciplines and all affiliated members should expect their horse to be tested, whether they are competing at grass roots level or at a National Championship. The Equine Anti Doping and Controlled Medication Rules for international competitors remain unchanged.

The new rules, which have been instigated by the FEI, apply to all National Federations. It is hoped that the creation of standardised national guidelines will make things clearer for competitors, particularly those that compete in more than one discipline. Once all of the FEI disciplines introduce the new rules, the prohibited

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



*Georgina Hunt and her four-in-hand.*

substances, procedures and sanctions will be the same, whatever the discipline someone is competing in.

It is important to note that the new system, in line with the FEI, adopts their prohibited substances list in its entirety, including a ban on Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs). Under the new National system, these will be classed as Controlled Medications, which, if found in a horse's sample during competition, will result in a violation. BEFAR is supported and funded by all BEF Member Bodies and UK Anti Doping (UKAD).

The BEFAR and prohibited substances list can be found on the BEF website under the Information for Competitors section.

## Sandringham

**Entries close Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

The Wallace Cameron Horse Driving Trials at Sandringham take place on the 24-26<sup>th</sup> June.

Once again a different 3 section marathon this year, the water obstacle has been reconstructed and cleaned out and the crown obstacle, number 4 is also being re-designed, so this should make the marathon a very interesting drive. There will be the usual bar but this year with a marquee and Kate's Kitchen food outlet.

The organisers have asked for more help as they need more stewards on marathon day which is Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. If anyone can volunteer their help on the day, please contact Sally Moreton on 07739 479241 or 01526 388643. 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 that is asked in return is your time on marathon day. If you are not an experienced steward please do not worry; you will be allocated to an experienced crew who will 'show you the ropes'.

## Catton

**Entries close Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

The scenic location of Catton Park offers a wide variety of obstacles which are ideally sited for ease of viewing. The parking field is level and sits on the banks of the River Trent which makes for a lovely holiday if you are able to assist with stewarding. The marathon route runs over tracks, parkland and undulating farmland and requires fit horses and ponies. Catton has been in the hands of the same family since 1405 and still remains the private home of the Neilsons.

## INTERNATIONAL

### European Championships

The 2011 European Four in Hand Driving Championships is cancelled for 2011. It will take place in Heroes Square and Park in 2013. The Hungarian Federation have now completed the bid for the 2012 World Singles Championships at the same location.

## GENERAL

### BHS Hi-Viz Survey

Do you wear hi-viz? Wearing hi-viz equipment when out on the road can give vehicle drivers a valuable THREE seconds extra 'reaction time' that could save the life of both horse and driver! To put it into context, those three seconds are equivalent to a car, driven at 30 mph, travelling the length of a dressage arena! Yet still a worryingly high proportion of riders choose not to make use of this lifesaving equipment.

This is a great concern to the BHS, where the safety of horse and driver is paramount. To discover why more riders and carriage drivers don't wear hi-viz clothing the BHS have launched a national survey. They want to know what hi-viz items you use on yourself and your horse – and if you don't, why not. The aim is to establish what can be done to encourage more riders and drivers to put their safety first.

The survey can be completed online from the BHS homepage or [www.horseaccidents.org.uk](http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk). Anyone who responds will have the chance to win British Horse Society Gold membership free for a year, plus British Horse Society gift vouchers.

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# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

At their recent meeting the members of Council adopted the following three aims which are intended to improve governance of the association and the relationship between Council and the members. Council are elected by the members to represent their interests, however there can be a feeling that decisions are taken without sufficient consultation with the members on major changes. They plan to be more open about the decision making process:

#### 1. Aims

**The main aim of the association is to increase the quality and quantity of horse driving trials at all levels in the UK.**

*This does not replace the aims in the articles of association which are quite general to create an outline of what the association does. This is to remind us what we are trying to do.*

#### 2. Values

**The BHDТА council agrees that in carrying out its business it will consult members and be as open as possible, while providing leadership. Involve, inform, inspire.**

*This is a statement of values, not specifics. It can mean, for example, that if we propose major changes we put out a discussion paper first and ask for comments.*

#### 3. Planning

**The BHDТА council will come up with a three year plan for development of the sport, update the plan regularly and monitor progress.**

*The council must give a lead, whether our strategy is how to survive the recession or plans for growth. This will take some time to formulate but will give the Association a clear focus and measure of its performance. With this intention being put into practice immediately, please see the next item below.*

### 2011 BHDТА Conference

Over recent years the Annual Conference has been reasonably well attended but Council would like to hear your views on the format and content of your conference in order to produce a programme which is stimulating while giving an opportunity for more dialogue between members and Council.



### Suggestions

- Sessions for all from 10am so that people are not coming for just a two- to three-hour session in the afternoon.
- Special interest groups to be added to the current ones: clubs, international and stewards.
- Networking and interest fair. Allocation of areas to groups and members circulating.
- Should awards be made at the conference and not in the evening?
- Domestic arrangements to give everybody the opportunity for coffee and lunch. Perhaps included in an overall package.

### Possible agenda

10.00	Specialist meetings/workshops
11.30	Networking and ideas fair
12.30	Lunch
1.30	Keynote speaker
2.00	AGM
2.15	BHDТА Reports
3.15	Plenary discussion-structured around reports and members issues
4.30	Summary session

We would like your responses and suggestions to this paper either through the forum or direct

email Barry Hilditch: [barryhilditch@janton.demon.co.uk](mailto:barryhilditch@janton.demon.co.uk)  
or Mike Watts: [m@mikewatts.com](mailto:m@mikewatts.com).

## EVENTS

### Allerton

**Entries close Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd. is pleased once again to be hosting a BHDТА Regional event in the grounds of the beautiful Allerton Park in North Yorkshire on the weekend of July 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>

Held entirely within the estate grounds, with no road work whatsoever, the competition boasts probably the finest water obstacle in Britain. With gates situated on an island in the lake and accessed by causeways, newcomers to the Allerton Park event cannot fail to be impressed.

The adjacent Allerton Castle is simply magnificent as are the Capability Brown designed parklands. Volunteer stewards and helpers along with competitors gain access to areas not normally open to the general public. The cones course and dressage arenas are situated beneath the hill top observatory which creates a spectacular backdrop to the driving.

The nearby towns of Knaresborough and Harrogate provide some excellent amenities while the ancient city of York is within easy driving range.

*Carol Boswell and Balgoed Explorer Eric have set themselves a challenge to compete in the Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials (driving tandem with Scole Balnasuim) and Hopetoun International British Eventing in aid of Cancer Research and Parkinson's UK.*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Robert Bowman competing at Allerton last year.

## Erddig

**Entries close Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

2011 sees the fourth Welsh National Horse Driving Trials hosted at Erddig, Wrexham. The grounds and surrounding parkland are a real treat for competitors and spectators alike. The event field, located close to the lorry park, will be expanded this year to include a small country fair with events and entertainment for spectators to enjoy at their leisure and for competitors to take a stroll through in that elusive thing called free time!

The marathon course winds its way through the beautiful Erddig estate, taking in woodland, open parkland and a number of river crossings. The eight obstacles present a range of challenges that will test even the most experienced drivers. The event itself provides a wealth of opportunities to get up close and personal in viewing the competitors at their best but if you need more then you can visit Erddig House and gardens, an evocative 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century upstairs downstairs house with stunning formal gardens.

Located just two miles south of Wrexham, Erddig is easy to travel to and provides easy access to all town centre facilities / shops/restaurants providing the perfect mix for an ideal carriage driving weekend away.

## Holker

**Entries close Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Lord and Lady Cavendish again extend a warm welcome to competitors, who will be able to enjoy the stunning scenery, ranging from the high fells to Morecambe Bay, on the marathon course.

The Harbinger Main Arena is being used on the Friday for Dressage and Sunday for Obstacle Driving (Cones.) The Harbinger 2 Dressage Arena will also be very near to the lorry park, while the practice arena will remain where it was last year.

This year's course builder is David Brown, with Colin Smith assisting. There are eight obstacles, including water. The public will be able to see at least six of the obstacles. Pauline Scott is in charge of obstacle decorating, so look out for the witches again! Carol Meredith, our cones course designer, will have her work cut out to incorporate the Kankku Challenge course into the main obstacle driving (cones) course.

We are again grateful to John Gaynor for sponsoring the Friday evening reception where invited guests, sponsors, competitors,

stewards, and officials can mingle and chat over a glass of wine.

Our marquee will also be the venue for the Saturday evening prize giving and dancing.

We are indebted to the following sponsors, without whom there would be no event:-

Aloe Vera, Baileys Feeds, Hugh Scott-Barrett, Bennington, Brookes Pet Care, Cancer Care, KKanku, Lanquestrian, Northwest Stables, Orton Market, Zoe Ross, Todds the Saddlers, and Xtreme Valeting. Holker Hall is again having a Trade Stand area with many of our sponsors having a pitch. Please support them if you are able.

Please get your entries in as soon as possible – it saves the organiser the overuse of worry beads and her dogs and cat can have a more peaceful home life!

## GENERAL

### Royal Windsor 2012

Council are canvassing views from the representatives of the classes invited to take part at Royal Windsor Horse Show over a new proposal.

The system of the first two drivers in the National Championships and the first two from the Fenix Points League will remain with the invitation passing down the Points League should there be duplication of names. The proposal is to introduce a dressage standard which requires a driver to achieve a score of 65 or less at a National event in the preceding season (this will be 70 for horse four-in-hands). Please speak to your class representative to ensure your views are heard.

### Hopetoun Challenge

Carol Boswell is well known to many driving trials enthusiasts as both an experienced competitor and judge. She and Balgoed Explorer Eric have set themselves a challenge to compete in the Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials (driving tandem with Scole Balnasuim) and Hopetoun International British Eventing.

Carol is raising money for Cancer Research and Parkinson's UK. She believes this may be the first time such a challenge has been attempted unless, using Esther Rantzen's well known catch phrase from "That's Life", you know differently.

Donations can be given at [www.virginmoneygiving.com/carolboswell](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/carolboswell)

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 on **Wednesday September 7.**

### Clinics

Following a review by the Training Committee, council accepted their recommendation that the frequency for attendance at Judges Clinics will revert to every two years. It has been confirmed that the venue will move around the country.

## EVENTS

### Notes for Competitors

A win at open level will be discounted for promotion to the advanced class if there is only one competitor in the class.

Please remember the new rules for National Championship qualification which are published on page 29 of your Yearbook and on the website.

Presentation guidelines for National Novice classes have been revised and are published on the website.

### Necarne

**Entries close Thursday August 4**

This event, which offers a 16km marathon with eight obstacles including water, runs on August 12-14. Catering is available on site with a supper dance organised in a local hotel on the Saturday evening. An additional feature of this event is the availability of permanent stabling on site.

### Goodwood

**Entries close Wednesday August 10**

Brockham Harness Club is running the Regional Event at Goodwood on **August 20-21.** The marathon will be approximately 14km with seven obstacles including water. On-site catering will be available both days with a barbecue and party on Saturday evening.

### Young Drivers and Para Equestrian Championships

**Entries close Wednesday August 17**

Competitors are reminded to ensure they have fulfilled the required qualification criteria for this event which runs on the weekend of **August 27-28;** please see your Yearbook for full details. The CHDTG are organising a hog roast accompanied by live music on Saturday evening.

### The National Carriage Driving Championships

**Entries close Tuesday August 16**

This prestigious event takes place from **September 9-11** on the Queen Victoria's Review Ground, Windsor Great Park. The venue is clearly signposted by the AA from a considerable distance out.

This year marks a few changes at the championships, some small and one big one. The introduction of a country fair,

which will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 10am, will hopefully increase the number of spectators and displays and demonstrations will fill the arena on both days.

A new obstacle is being built to test the nerves and expertise of competitors. Many of the obstacles will take on a new lease of life after the 'pre-event team' have worked their magic on them. A grandstand to watch all phases of the competition will be strategically placed for the best view of the marathon obstacles on Saturday.

Caterers will be available in the horsebox/stable parking area for that quick cuppa and bacon bap, (recommended) full breakfast, etc, for competitors and stewards. Main caterers will provide nourishment for those not wanting to cook and a licensed bar for liquid fortification. There will be other quick food outlets around the many trade stands where you can shop until you drop. Enjoy Saturday evening at the race night or dance until late at the caterer's marquee to the disco of Owen Rumble.

Why not enjoy the Victoria Enclosure for that social day with your friends? The cost is just £36 per day, which includes admission, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a programme with the added advantage of somewhere to sit (in the dry should it happen to be wet.)

The BDS Private Driving Show is on Saturday in the Harbinger Arena. Full details are available from Mrs Beth Foster who can be contacted on 01636 892203. In the Pastoral Pursuits Arena you can watch the excitement of the dog agility competitions. In addition, there will be around 20 Rolls Royce and Bentley cars for you to wish for.

The Championships Committee would like to thank all those who have so generously sponsored all the classes and rosettes via the Supporters Club and Sheila Hawking. Also grateful thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Hugh Scott-Barrett, who have so generously donated every competitor's Start Fee during the season and given their support to the sport.

*Georgina Hunt competing in the four-in-hand event at Aachen. Robert Wilkinson and Daniel Naprous also attended.*

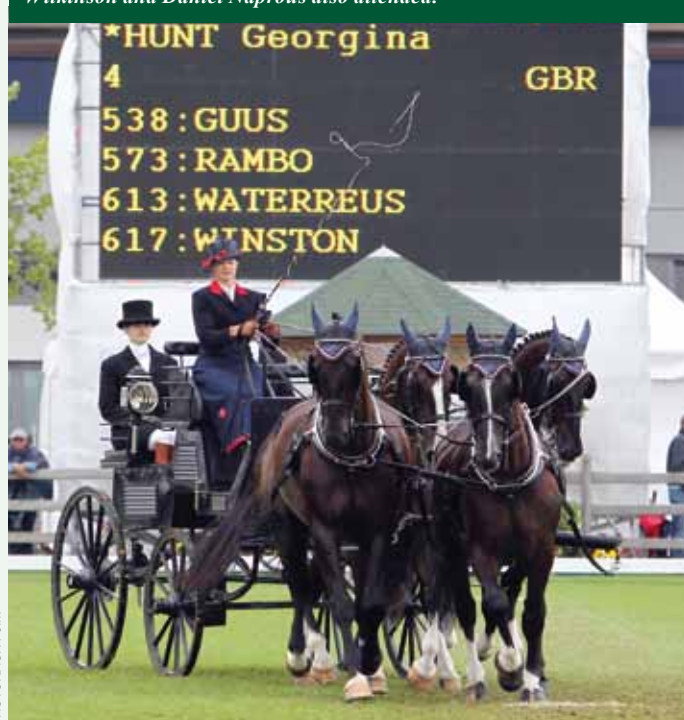


PHOTO: DICKY JIM

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

FREE ADMISSION on Friday, £10 each on the other days.

FREE ADMISSION to ALL BHDTA members for all three days ONLY on PRODUCTION OF a VALID MEMBERSHIP CARD at the entrance gate.

All details are available from Rita Bundock, the National Championships organiser, at: [championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) or 01227 768769.

## INTERNATIONAL

### FEI World Driving Championships and FEI World Equestrian Games

The first conclusions of the FEI Driving Committee regarding the format of FEI World Driving Championships and FEI World Equestrian Games™ have been issued by Richard Nicoll, Chair of the FEI Driving Committee.

Detailed replies had been received from many National Federations and were considered, along with comments sent to the athletes' representative, Boyd Exell, by the Driving Committee when they met in May.

The majority of replies were in favour of keeping the current schedule of championships and the committee is happy to support this with the possible addition of the European Championship for teams in the odd years between FEI World Equestrian Games.

Regarding the proposal to include singles and pairs on the FEI World Equestrian Game programme, the majority was in favour of maintaining the status quo, that is, with just the four-in-hand represented.

After much discussion, the committee proposes that for the FEI World Equestrian Games 2018 it could be beneficial to showcase a small representative group (five or six each) from the singles and pairs division. This would be based on the top driver standings at the time. The singles and pairs drivers would not be a part of a national team but would compete as individual drivers for individual medals only.

This proposal will be further considered and discussed in the coming years.

### Changes to Passport and Recognition Cards issued by the FEI

The FEI have issued a notice which contains a section with new guidelines for issuing recognition cards and full FEI passports. Important documents which you should be aware of, can be viewed on our website are as follows;

- Letter to EU National Federations
- Guidelines for National Federations
- Summary Q&A Table

The guidelines indicate the changes required for the expiry and revalidation of full FEI passports.

The BEF passport administrator has posed several scenarios to the FEI in an attempt to gain further clarification on the subject and summarised the most important changes below:

1. A new or duplicate full FEI passport cannot be issued. If a duplicate is required on a valid FEI full passport, the owner will

need to get a national passport and pay for a duplicate recognition card

2. If the horse has an FEI passport which is still valid and has been revalidated every 4 years without interruption (from the issue date of the passport), the FEI passport is still valid, and the horse can keep it.
3. If the horse has an FEI passport which is not valid anymore and/or has been revalidated with interruption, the FEI passport is not valid anymore. The owner must apply for an EU compliant national passport, and a duplicate FEI recognition card has to be issued.
4. A full FEI passport can be revalidated if; it has been valid from the first day it was issued and has no gaps in the revalidation dates; AND it was issued originally in a EU member state. If however the lapse occurred in between revalidation then it will not be possible to revalidate the passport.
5. The passport for a horse that has come from outside the EU for permanent residence and competes within EU member states and has a full FEI passport, cannot be revalidated once it has expired. The owner must apply for a national passport and then a duplicate recognition card.
6. A horse that no longer competes at FEI competitions and has a full FEI passport that has expired, the owner must get a new national passport or face possible prosecution.
7. Reminder: Section IXs must be completed, signed and stamped.
8. We must be satisfied that the owner of the horse intends to compete in FEI competitions to issue a FEI recognition card.

Please note that many horses have Recognition Cards which is an FEI cover around their existing National passport.

## SUPPORTERS

### 200 Club

The following winners were recently drawn from the hat:

### Royal Windsor Horse Show

- £50 Heather Nestel
- £30 Jacky Jeffrey
- £20 Michael Whittaker

### Sandringham

- £100 Michael and Amanda Hawley
- £50 Prilly Baron
- £30 John Reid
- £20 Nigel Chandler

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 BHDТА Council takes place on **Wednesday September 7**.

### AGM and Conference 2011

The AGM and Conference take place on **October 15**. Please give consideration to who you would like to represent you on Council as there will be vacancies this year. The closing date falls after the National Championships, which is a good opportunity to get the paperwork signed. Notices will be sent with a copy of the Office News which will contain further details of additional meetings.

Dame Kelly Holmes will be addressing the conference and the plan is to have meetings to interest members throughout the day with lunch available in the hotel for everyone.

### New Club Affiliates

Eppynt Carriage Club has recently joined the ranks of driving clubs affiliated to the BHDТА. They are a newly formed group of enthusiasts from Brecon and borders of Mid Wales. They have a wide range of ages and experience within the club and offer support to drivers with disabilities.

The club aims to promote carriage driving and horse welfare and give encouragement to all who wish to enjoy the sport of carriage driving. They plan to run three-phase outdoor and indoor events throughout the year.

*For further information contact the secretary, Chloe Lloyd, on 01591 620492 or email [chloe1@hotmail.com](mailto:chloe1@hotmail.com).*

*James Broome in obstacle 6 at Holker.*

## EVENTS

### Dope testing

We are delighted to announce that all dope tests carried out this year have been returned with no prohibited substances found.

### The National Carriage Driving Championships

Schedules and entry forms have been sent to all qualified competitors. If you're not driving, don't forget to put the date in your diary from **September 9 to 11** on the Queen Victoria's Review Ground, Windsor Great Park. The venue is clearly signposted by the AA from a considerable distance out.

Attractions include a country fair, a grandstand to watch all phases of the driving trials, BDS private driving, dog agility and vintage cars. Catering will be available and they will also supply a licensed bar.

Why not enjoy the Victoria Enclosure for that social day with your friends? The cost is just £36 per day, which includes admission, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a programme with the added advantage of somewhere to sit (in the dry should it happen to be wet.)

If you wish to take a caravan, passes can be purchased from the BHDТА office. These include the cost of admission and are excellent value at £20 for members and £40 for non-members.

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*All details are available from Rita Bundock, the National Championships organiser, at: [championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) or 01227 768769.*



Photo: Mary Kusin

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL

### Combined Pony Team

The FEI Combined Pony World Championships in Lipica in Slovenia takes place from **September 21-25**. Jill Holah will act as chef d'equipe and be supported by assistant chef Sue Mart, team vet Holly Applewhite, team trainer, Boyd Exell and assistant vet/equine physio Nicola Baguley. The team are:

#### *Sue Denney*

Sue will be contesting her third world championship with Rolls Silver Spirit. Sue and Roly, who is now 18 years-old, have not had the best luck at this level until now. She is hoping that will change this year and feels Britain has the strongest team yet and a serious chance of a team medal.

Sue says, "Roly always does well in the cones but his real strength is the marathon phase. He's been competing for 10 years and still does a brilliant marathon, giving 100% every time." He knows his job inside out now so Sue is just keeping him ticking over until the championships. She says, "Roly has nothing to prove and everything he achieves is now a bonus. His dressage has improved as he no longer rushes his test while his transitions and paces have improved greatly."

#### *Tracey Fletcher*

Tracey drives Donnerstern who she bought in Germany as a stallion five years ago. Now gelded, she has trained him herself. Tracey is making her debut at this level but is not fazed by the demands of international competition as she makes every effort to ensure everything is right. She feels that she can cope well with the pressure as she knows that if something does go wrong, it's not due to lack of effort.

She says, "Donnerstern can take the pressure too. He will always give that bit more when you ask and can absorb this, keeping a smile on his face." He finds dressage hard and this is the phase he likes least, although training with double world champion Boyd Exell has improved his impulsion. Tracey said, "I am delighted with our last two events when I really felt the pony had clicked and was finding the test easier. This has also improved our cone driving although the marathon remains his favourite phase."

#### *Anna Grayston*

Anna is contesting the pony pairs section. She unfortunately experienced a massive setback when her best pony was injured, but Alan Clarke has kindly loaned her a pony. "The dressage is the ponies' best phase," said Anna, "and much of this is down to training with Barry Marshall who has extensive experience riding and judging at FEI level." She has contested numerous European Pony Team Championships and Combined Pony Championships with considerable success and predicts that the team has a very good chance this year.

She feels that the team spirit is good and all the drivers get on well. "I was delighted to win all the selection events and one of the most satisfying aspects of this campaign was consistently achieving the time for the cones, which we have found difficult to do while maintaining the ponies' balance." Anna hopes her ability to pay attention to detail will stand her in good stead in the forthcoming

ing championships. "I'm also good at getting my ponies to work well together," she said.

#### *James Broome*

James is the other pony pair driver. He has a few international competitions under his belt and loves to compete on the big occasions. James said, "I was particularly pleased with my results in Saumur earlier this year and delighted to be selected. Much of this is down to my superb back-up team. Ian Tyson, my backstepper, and I have a good partnership while my dad (international showjumper David Broome) helps with my training." James has also had some help from Boyd Exell.

While he sees the marathon as his ponies' strongest phase, he was delighted with his recent dressage mark at Holker; let's hope the lucky dressage socks continue to work in Lipica.

#### *Sara Howe*

Sara makes her debut in pony fours although she has previously driven successfully at world championship level with different single turnouts. She has a huge amount of support from Sandy and John Punyer and Trish Jones who formed a syndicate and each own a pony. Sara says, "My ponies are strong on the marathon as they are very nippy. They also match very well and have the 'cute' factor in their favour."

Sara likes a challenge and can be very determined when she has set her sights on something, although she gets frustrated not being able to cope with driving the four on her own which makes it more difficult to practice. Sara is supported by Sarcen Horse Feed and Horse First supplements. "I receive invaluable help from my mother, Leonie Marshall, and Wilf Bowman-Ripley," she said. "Eight years spent working for Peter Munt before setting up my own business was also invaluable."

#### *Wilf Bowman-Ripley*

Wilf drives Faith Szczuka's pony four and usually only gets a chance to drive them at events. He sees their age and experience as a significant advantage while their size (they are bigger than most) can give them an edge in the dressage phase as they look more elegant. "I plan to fit in a couple of international competitions before the championships," said Wilf. "This will help me work out the best routine for preparing them as some need more work than the others before the dressage."

Wilf's record of success with horse pairs and fours at world championships will be an advantage as he knows he can handle the pressure of competition at this level. Part of his training regime is to watch videos as you can pick up numerous tips from other drivers, both good and bad. Wilf cites lack of sponsorship as the biggest problem he has to overcome.

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# BHDTA Official News

## Official News

### Council Meeting

**T**he next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place after the AGM although the date has not been finalised as we go to print.

### 2012 Clinic Dates

To enable forward planning, we can now confirm that there will be there will be an International Clinic on **Thursday and Friday March 1-2**, followed by a combined National Judges, Course Builders and TDs Clinic at the Unicorn Trust. More details will be available nearer the time.

### Farewell

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of Peter Munt, a legend in coaching circles and accomplished international competitor in horse driving trials. We have also lost Ricenda Chambers who competed with a single horse for many years and worked in the BHDTA office.

*Karen and Hugh Scott-Barrett, Open Horse Pairs National Champion 2011*

Both will be greatly missed. More detailed obituaries are published on the BHDTA website.

### AGM and Conference 2011

The AGM and Conference take place on **Saturday October 15**. Voting papers for the Council election have been sent with a copy of the September Office News which contains further details of additional meetings. Dame Kelly Holmes will be addressing the conference. You will have the opportunity to hear about the implications of the new anti-doping rules and speak to people on a one to one basis at the special interest tables.

### Job Opportunity - WANTED

Our Treasurer, Jan, is due to retire in October 2012 and we need someone to be ready to take over this position by then. If you can find you way around a spreadsheet, are comfortable with numbers and are interested in the future of the sport, this would be an ideal opportunity for you to make a significant contribution to the successful operation of the BHDTA.

Initially you would be co-opted onto Council and you will take part in all council

meetings, as well as meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Within three years you would be expected to stand for election as an elected Member of Council.

As the job involves a bit of a learning curve, we would like you to make contact and start getting involved with the operations of the BHDTA as soon as possible. Conveniently you could meet with Jan at conference and learn more about the role there. You can also get more information by writing to: [treasurer@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk).

### Vetting and Barring: the current position

This brief report summarises the current position of the Government's 'Vetting and Barring Scheme' which will change the rules on checking those people who work with vulnerable groups in society, and could have the effect of requiring many more people to register with a government agency.

The scheme was commenced by the previous Government as a result of the 'Soham' killings. A central feature of the Government's action was to set up the 'Independent Safeguarding Authority' for



Photo: Dickey Jim



England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scottish Government has equivalent provisions in place.

The aim for the UK was that these agencies should then create a register of everyone who was likely to work with 'vulnerable' groups. Some 10 million people were expected to have to register before they could work, or continue to work, with those groups defined as vulnerable. Registration will require a criminal record disclosure and a registration fee.

The system builds on that which will be familiar to those, for example, employed as teachers, doctors or nurses, and, within our sport, those who have gained the UK Coaching Certificate.

From our perspective, the impact would be on work with young drivers and some of our disabled drivers, plus grooms/backsteppers. Crucially, the register was to cover volunteers, not just paid employees. We have been monitoring the development of the scheme to see how the sport might be affected, and if it could cover helpers at competitions and training events, for example.

The General Election in 2010 caused a change in the Government's position. The new Government stated that they were to 'review the operation of the vetting and barring scheme and scale it back to common-sense levels.' This was expected to reduce significantly the number of people who would need to register, but the detail of exactly who was to be 'in' and who was 'out' was left for the review.

The detail has still not been finalised. The changes are contained in the 'Protection of Freedoms Bill' which is currently in the middle of its path through Parliament. It may be early next year before it becomes an Act. So we are still several months away from knowing exactly how the vetting and barring scheme will operate.

In the meantime, there is still the need for clubs to operate checking processes within their own child protection policies. It is worth remembering that the BHDTA has adopted the British Equestrian Federation 'Equity and Child Protection Policy.' The BEF website has a very useful information and guidance document in support of this policy, which the BHDTA endorses. Clubs which need information and support can also contact the BHDTA's own child protection officer, John Anslow (phone 01252 781044; email john@anslow.co.uk).

## Events

### National Championships

The first year of the Championships with Rita Bundock at the helm ran smoothly as expected as she has been a successful event organiser for many years. There is a full report of the Championships on page 28. Once again we are indebted to Karen and Hugh Scott-Barrett for their generous



Photo: Jill Holah.

support. Competitors had the added incentive of a £100 cash prize for the fastest through obstacle 6, Hugh's Hurry, in each class.

On Friday night the David Broadbent Memorial Trophy was presented to the steward of the year 2011, Andy Brazier. He started his driving career in private driving but soon moved onto driving trials as both competitor and steward. He performed stewarding duties many times at Brighton and Royal Windsor then went onto refereeing with many a good story to be told. He has been a stalwart of Brighton HDT since 1983, coping with all the jobs from loos to Chief Steward.

He has been with Indoor Horse Driving Trials since its conception and spends many

*Tony Bache making the presentation to Andy Brazier:*

weekends during the winter driving the IHDT van, full of equipment, the length and breadth of the country to set up, help and score at qualifiers. This is often at short notice after a Thursday evening panic phone call! He is always cheerful and after nearly 30 years, still has great enthusiasm for our sport.

A presentation was made to Sheila Hawking from stewards and competitors in recognition of her dedication to the sport through the supporters. She has also recently taken on the role of organiser of the BHDTA Young Drivers and Para Equestrian Championships.

### Training for Trials

We have provisionally arranged two sessions of Training for Trials:

Ashfields 26/27 November - organisers  
Zoe Morgan and Wilf Bowman Ripley

Sparsholt 22/23 October - organisers  
Martyn Willis and Naomi Harbach.



*Sheila Hawking was recognised for her dedication to the sport.*

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# BHDTA Official News

## Official News

### Council Meeting

**T**he next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Wednesday November 9.

### AGM report

The 15th AGM took place on October 15. We are delighted to announce that James Broome and Wilf Bowman-Ripley have been elected to council for a three-year term and Philip Bateman re-elected for a further three years. The chairman extended his thanks on behalf of the members for Jean Lane's contribution during her time on council.

### Conference report

The conference started with meetings for International issues, Affiliated clubs and stewards and volunteers. Reports from these meetings will be published in next month's issue.

The next event was a new initiative with interest tables giving members an opportunity to speak to those with responsibility for the different aspects of the sport and discuss issues amongst themselves. This was followed by lunch in the restaurant which proved very popular.

#### Anti-doping:

Members then returned to the conference suite to hear Janice Shardlow's talk on the new anti-doping rules, which have implications for all competitors irrespective of the level at which they compete. Janice is a solicitor and the Head of Governance and Legal at the BEF. She is responsible for human and equine anti-doping within the federation. She noted that the title was slightly intimidating: the New National Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication System. Her intention was to slightly scare, but also inform members.

She explained that no discipline can compete as a national sport unless they have a system that mirrors the FEI. This has to apply to all that country's disciplines and will apply from 1 January 2012 for driving. Information will go on the BHDTA website over the next few weeks.

Janice highlighted the two systems – doping and controlled medication and the different impacts of each. She explained how to use the National Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption forms, the testing procedures and the implications of this for members.



#### Chairman's Report:

Following the AGM, the chairman gave his report. He noted that two of his main objectives on accepting this role had been achieved: the BHDTA had significantly cut their admin costs and now sent out accurate information which was in date when received by the members. He noted that our ability to have retained the same level of membership fees for five years during a period of recession and instability was excellent news. He still hoped a closer bond between the clubs and the BHDTA could be developed. He noted that the funding from SportEngland had significantly contributed to the development of the network of UKCC coaches now at our disposal and this was a very positive step forward.

He commented on the decision by council to appoint a Marketing Programme Director, which had been a brave one. The association had sufficient reserves to enable this project to be undertaken but unfortunately the level of sponsorship generated was insufficient to prevent a significant dip in the level of the reserves. With this in mind, the council had taken steps to terminate this arrangement and Chris Hillman left his role with the BHDTA at the end of September. He noted that there had been many positive initiatives to raise the profile of the sport with TV coverage on Horse and Country TV and the current match funding bid to bring newcomers into the sport; unfortunately others had been less successful.

He concluded by noting the lack of female representation on council. Louise McCutcheon, the newly appointed Regional Representative from Scotland, will be the only female member of council. He thanked Mary Kusin and Peter Bridson for their help and support during his time as chairman and in particular his wife Gill who had been of immense support.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Jan Szczuka then reported on the loss incurred from the marketing initiative and noted that cost savings in administration had been gradually eroded due to inflation. For this reason, a modest increase in subscriptions was inevitable but this was kept well below the rate of inflation. It would be possible to keep cutting back on costs, but council believe members' interests are best served by improving the service to the members.

He noted that the marketing expectations had not been met, but we needed to build on the work that had been done.

#### Competitions Committee:

Ian Gilbert reported that although Holker had been lost, Drumlanrig was returning to the 2012 event calendar. The National Trust no longer wished to run Erddig, but a new event team had been put in place and the event would continue. Allerton had decided not to run as a Regional. He noted that the



dressage tests for use in 2012 were still not finalised due to changes in the tests used at international events. Selection and qualifying classes would be confirmed in due course on the website and in the yearbook.

Some discussion of the class structure ensued and the members present felt it was important to continue progression so the existing classes would remain at present until the novices had time to bed in at national events.

He also noted that the committee were looking into the possibility of on-line entries.

#### Event Organiser's Meeting:

Jane Isaac noted that the rule regarding mats would be policed more vigorously in 2012, with organisers reserving the right to refuse a competitor the right to start the competition if they did not comply with the rule for mats to protect the ground. The need to use electric fencing with discretion and mat the full area penned off was highlighted.

The relaxation of the electric fencing rule had been abused by a number of competitors; it had been introduced to benefit novices who did not have side stabling and was not intended for use if a competitor had stabling for their horse.

It was pointed out that competitors needed to take greater responsibility for the safe use of quad bikes. Due to a number of hair-raising incidents at this year's National Championships, these would no longer be permitted and only drivers with disabilities would be able to use them.

#### Club Liaison:

Mike Watts then reported that the clubs seemed to be in a positive frame of mind with healthy finances. He mentioned the Training for Trials initiative and asked for members to spread the word and encourage newcomers to support it, although established competitors were also welcome.

#### Training:

Jean Lane noted the progress made with the UKCC training and that we now have around 30 coaches around the country. She noted the system had produced significantly improved results recently in eventing and dressage and hoped that this would have the same effect for driving in due course.

Tony Bache then presented the chairman's award to Derrick Mayes for his long service to the association as treasurer and chef d'equipe, and the young driver award to Roger Campbell who won the open pony class at this year's national championships.

The Windsor Novice Points League and Fenix Open, Intermediate and Advanced Points League rosettes were then presented by Mark Broadbent of Fenix carriages. We are indebted to Fenix for their ongoing and much appreciated support of the points league.

At this point, Tony Bache introduced the new chairman, Jock McFarlane, and retired to a very warm round of applause from the members. Jock will be profiled in the next issue, along with reports from the remaining topics for discussion and reports from the other meetings.

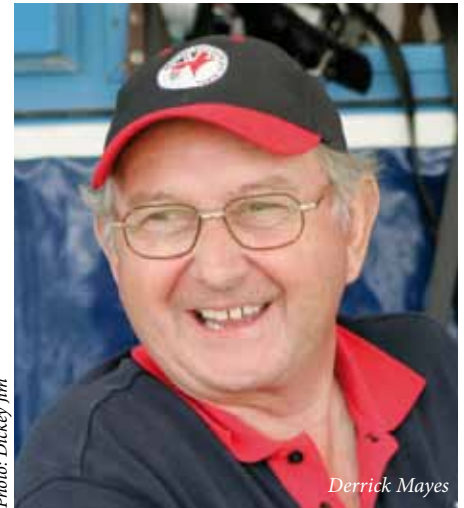


Photo: Dickey Jim

Derrick Mayes

## Events

### On foot for Young Drivers

Fourteen British Young Drivers went to the national championships and, to build on this success, an on foot clinic has been arranged at the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold on **November 19**. This clinic will include sports psychology exercises and an exploration of what can be learnt from other disciplines from their young rider development programs. We will then build on this in the afternoon to set a program for the future of BYD and, in particular, activities for 2012. The emphasis will be on young driver participation in managing the initiatives.

There will also be a chance to discuss how the buddy scheme can be progressed to encourage newcomers and assist more novice drivers.

An on foot will be run in January for all young drivers.

## Supporters

### 200 Club

### Young Drivers Championships

£50 Hugh Scott- Barrett £30 Joan Goodwin;  
£20 Chris Smith

### National Championships

£50 Trevor Challoner: £30 Pat White: £20  
Mary Ford

### Escrick Park, NEDTL

£50 Peter Collins: £30 David Brown:  
£20 Stuart Roberts



Roger Campbell, this year's Open Pony Champion, was presented with the young driver award.

Photo: Dickey Jim

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# BHDTA Official News

Jock McFarlane



Photo: www.pb-photos.net

## Official News

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 17 January, 2012.**

### New Council Members

In addition to James Broome and Wilf Bowman-Ripley, who were elected to Council at the AGM in October, at the meeting on 9 November Louise McCutcheon was formally co-opted to Council as one of the members of the Club Liaison Committee and David Titmuss was co-opted to Council and takes over from Jan Szczuka as Treasurer. There are profiles of all these new Council members on the web-site.

### Council Meeting Report

Council agreed to publish a report on the web-site from each meeting to highlight the main topics of discussion.

### Introducing Jock McFarlane

At the conference in October, Jock McFarlane was introduced to the members as the new BHDTA Chairman. He decided to give up ridden eventing on turning 50 and wanted to try something new. His mother was a very good friend of Gladys Dale so he had a connection with carriage driving and wondered if he could

perhaps drive his 16.3 thoroughbred event horse.

Carol Boswell (nee Dale) helped train his horse to harness and Jock quickly became involved in the SCDA club scene. He admits he had great fun learning to drive his ex-eventer, but decided a proper driving horse was needed (whatever that is!). He bought Wodka, his current advanced single horse, as a 4 year old from Holland in 2007 and agrees that sometimes you get lucky when you buy a horse!

Having acted as SCDA treasurer and been involved with the organisation of Hopetoun, in 2010 Ian Gilbert suggested he put his name forward for election to the BHDTA Council. Before this he admitted he was quite happy for others to do the council thing. However, wanting to help and thinking it would be quite interesting, he agreed.

Before his first council meeting Tony Bache phoned to ask if he would consider becoming Vice-Chairman with the possibility of taking on the Chairman's role the following year when Tony retired. This came as a bolt out of the blue! He can't actually remember saying "yes"!

Jock points out that the BHDTA have 11 excellent council members who live all over the country generously giving up their time on behalf of the sport and its members. He sees his role as aiming to gel the individuals into a team, to drive the sport forward and to develop and promote it into a sport where novice to international drivers can achieve their goals at our wonderful events.

### Conference weekend: Additional reports Later session of conference

On taking over the role of Chairman, Jock McFarlane extended a vote of thanks to Tony Bache and presented him with a piece of engraved glassware as a mark of the members' appreciation.

He then invited Frank Campbell to lead a discussion on the proposals he had published on the web-site prior to the conference. A number of valid points were made and some interesting suggestions received which will be considered at the next council meeting. Fiona Powell then gave a presentation of how she felt the sport could grow and the success of Indoor Driving. This was followed by council responding to questions posed by members in advance of the Conference and from the floor. Douglas Strachan then shared his views on financial matters noting where he felt mistakes had been made and highlighting areas where he felt good work had been done and points that could be built on.

### International Meeting

Philip Bateman chaired a lively meeting where competitors with international aspirations were able to share their views. Selection events for ponies were discussed at length. Ian Gilbert agreed to ask council to revisit this as the pony drivers preferred to have their selection classes at the same event. There was considerable



discussion surrounding FEI qualifying scores and the difficulty of achieving this with a horse which specialised in the marathon. Dates and venues of forthcoming world championships were noted and potential ways to improve international performance discussed.

## Affiliated clubs meeting

Mike Watts chaired the affiliated clubs meeting and started by giving an overview of the membership levels. The number of events was similar to 2010 and clubs' finances remained sound. He focussed on the need to avoid date clashes and that recruitment of volunteers and stewards remained ongoing. Training opportunities, the club packs and scoring were discussed and questions answered. Tony Gregory gave a report as Midlands Regional Representative then break out groups discussed recruitment of new members and progression, indoor driving, the club driver challenge, scoring and technology and avoidance of date clashes. The Treasurer, Jan Szczuka, attended and noted the unfortunate but economically necessary increase in affiliation fees, although this was well below the rate of inflation. He reviewed the insurance provision for clubs. It had been a busy meeting which struggled to discuss the number of topics in the available time.

## Stewards and volunteers meeting

Sheila Hawking was thanked for her time in the chair and her support of horse driving trials. She noted that she was delighted the supporters had helped fund the Young Drivers National Championships and hoped this would continue. Heather Clark agreed to take on administration of the 200 Club. Sheila noted the work done by

Vyrna Matthew and Chris Atkins on recruitment of new volunteers. Leaflets will be distributed to clubs before the start of next season to help bridge the gap between club and national events. It was noted that there had not yet been any volunteers to man the supporters tent at events.

## Events

### New dressage tests for 2012

Following the FEI model, pony fours will now drive the new FEI Test 8c (2012) which has been published on the BHDTA website with the diagrams. Advanced pony pairs and open single horse and pony classes will drive FEI Test 8b.

### Advanced Single Horse National Championships

This class will be held at Erddig in 2012. If the venue or date for the FEI Single Horse World Championships changes (which is currently under consideration by the FEI) then this decision will be reviewed.

## International

### First-time international competitors

Council decided to formalise the process of endorsing requests for first time international competitors and this will mirror the FEI qualification for FEI World Championships. This will ensure that a high standard of drivers representing GBR is maintained. This means drivers wishing to compete abroad or be invited to compete at Royal Windsor Horse Show will

need to achieve the relevant dressage score at a qualifying event in the year of the planned competition or the previous year.

## Selection events

Following requests from the pony drivers, council agreed to allocate the selection classes to the same event. The classes scheduled for Erddig in 2012 will now take place at Catton.

## General

### Extreme Driving comes to Olympia Horse Show

James Broome has been in contact with the organisers and identified an amazing opportunity to promote the sport of Horse Driving Trials during the new Extreme Driving at Olympia. The big screens will hopefully be used to show videos of the sport and the range of turnouts which can be used to compete at both club and national level. This will be done during the time the arena is being set up while the audience are taking their seats for the next performance. During the competition itself there will be a text number for people to contact to book their first lesson. Spectators will be reminded what an excellent Christmas present this would make for someone. This event has been hitting the headlines in the press. Boyd Exell, current indoor and outdoor World Champion and one of the driving forces behind this event, was featured in "OK" magazine with Jodie Kidd. Links to other press articles are on the BHDTA website.

### Driving Back to Sport

Anne Clarke has been appointed as Project Manager to take the Sportsmatch Funding Project forward, deliver it to the successful applicants and demonstrate the final outcomes meet the Sport England targets. She will do this through her company Instinctive PR and asks that anyone interested should contact her colleague in the office, Lucy Cooper email: [lucy@instinctivepr.co.uk](mailto:lucy@instinctivepr.co.uk), tel: 01403 712552 who will handle all future enquiries.

We have received over 160 responses from the article in "Horse and Hound", which is very encouraging and well on the way to finding the 200 participants required for the project. One driver responded to the article about the search for mature drivers to take up this opportunity and won the prize for "Horse and Hound's" letter of the week.



Photo: Dicky Jim

BHDTA is Karen Scott-Barrett who is the Open Horse Pair National BHDTA Champion, with her husband Hugh on the backstep who was a substantial sponsor at the nationals.

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