



# BHDТА Official News



Photo: Dicky Jim

## Official News

The council wish all the BHDТА members, their friends and our loyal supporters a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a successful season in 2012.

## Council Meeting

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

## Can you help?

The recent notice asking for volunteers for a new treasurer produced two very strong candidates for the post. We feel there must be more people within our membership who have professional or technical skills which they could put to good use on behalf of the association. If you feel you fall into this category, we would be delighted to hear from you. Your skills may not be needed at this moment, but may come in useful in the future; it would be excellent to have a pool of people who can be contacted as and when the need arises. We are also happy to hear from friends who would be willing to volunteer, even if they are not members. Please contact the BHDТА office in the first instance if you, or someone you know, would be willing to volunteer.

## Membership renewals

It's the time of year again when annual subscriptions are due for renewal. If, over the festive period the form has been misplaced (it was sent with your December Office News), you can print one from the website or join online. Alternatively you can make a direct bank payment. This is becoming more common and the BHDТА wish to move with the times. Another advantage is that we receive the full amount of your subscription without a deduction for the credit card fee. Did you know that almost £5 of a full membership and just over £2 of an associate membership goes to the credit card company? Multiply this by the number of

BHDТА members and it comes to a significant sum of money annually.

Membership cards will be sent with the Yearbooks before the end of January. Please do NOT phone the office before the end of January unless confirmation of insurance cover is urgently required for new members. Existing members are insured until 31 January 2012.

## 200 Club

With your December Office News, you will have received a letter from Heather Clark with an invitation to join the Supporters' 200 Club. This will be run slightly differently this year and Heather has full details in her letter.

## 2012 Clinic Dates

The Combined Conference for National Judges, National Technical Delegates and National Course Designers takes place on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 March at the Unicorn Trust, Stow-on-the-Wold. Coffee and tea will be served at 9.30 am on arrival for a 10.00 am start. This format was popular when tried in 2010 as it enabled a greater degree of interaction and understanding of the roles of each of the groups and their effect on each other.

The cost for both days is £45 and this includes lunch and refreshments. Should you wish to attend the dinner at the trust on Saturday evening, the cost (including the meal) is £63. You will find a booking form enclosed with your December Office News.

The facilitators for the clinic are Diana Brownlie, Andrew Counsell, Pammy Hutton, Philip Bateman, Ian Douglas and international course designer Christian Isjeli (SUI).

As yet, we do not have any information about club clinics. Please look out for information on the website and hopefully this can be included in the January Office News.

## New Committees

Individual BHDТА committees have been updated on the website. In due course it is

*Carol Boswell, with Stephen Sloan backstepping; the 2011 National Tandem Champion retaining her 2006 title from a field of five.*

planned to create a system of portfolios, each under the control of a director, which will mirror the system adopted by the BEF.

## Mission Statement & Objectives

At the most recent council meeting, the following Mission Statement was adopted by the BHDТА:

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

### Primary Objectives

#### Participation

To increase participation and enjoyment in horse driving trials by:

- Inspiring more adults and children to go driving more often
- Increasing the satisfaction of participants and volunteers to sustain and grow driving participation

### Safety and welfare

- Work with all individuals and organisations associated with HDT in conjunction with the appropriate agencies so that the number of preventable incidents and deaths is reduced.
- To ensure the welfare of horses involved in the sport.

### Representation

To represent recreational HDT freedoms and responsibilities:

- to maintain the BHDТА's position as an undisputed upholder of recreational drivers' freedoms and responsibilities.
- to protect drivers' rights to enjoy their activity by working with relevant local, regional, national, European and international organisations.



- to promote responsible and sustainable HDT, in safety and in harmony with the environment and other land users in UK.

### Performance

To raise standards:

- of HDT, drivers, grooms, coach/trainers and officials in order to enhance competition and for the overall enjoyment of HDT throughout the UK.
- to achieve international competitive success at significant international championships and in world rankings.
- of education
- to maintain the BHDTA as the primary source of HDT information and training programmes.

### Membership

To expand the membership base:

- to sustain and develop the membership base of the BHDTA.
- to enhance the BHDTA's image.
- to provide regular communication with members.

### Associated Objectives

#### Widening Access

- to ensure that the BHDTA's services and programmes are inclusive and accessible to all, including under-represented groups.
- volunteering
- to develop a well-informed, skilled and motivated network of volunteers
- to promote HDT and deliver the BHDTA's programmes at club, regional and national level

- to encourage more BHDTA members to become involved with the running of the association and its programmes at all levels.

### Communications

To raise the profile of the BHDTA and maintain the BHDTA's position as the recognised 'voice of competitive driving' in the UK:

- to understand and represent the views of the HDT community.
- to seek wider recognition by key audiences of the BHDTA's views, commitment and achievements.
- to liaise with associated industry to promote common objectives.

### Financial

To be financially strong:

- to achieve an annual operating surplus.
- to increase turnover from subscription, trading and sponsorship income.
- to minimise the working capital requirements for trading operations.
- to grow the accumulated fund to the equivalent of nine months' administrative expenditure.

## Young Drivers

### Young Driver Dates

The Young Drivers have arranged the following dates for 2012:

**January 29:** On Foot clinic open to all young drivers at the Unicorn Trust

**January – March:** Regional Training (more details to follow)

### April: Week commencing Monday 9:

Easter Clinic

**April 15:** Young Drivers Display at South of England Carriage Fair, Merrist Wood Arena, Guildford, Surrey

**July 11-15:** Junior World Trophy Austria

**August 25-26:** Young Drivers National Championships, Henbury

These dates will be up on the website shortly along with a date for the summer camp.

## Junior World Trophy 2012

The JWT is to be held in Stadl Pura, Austria

**11-15 July 2012.** The event is for young drivers aged 7-18 and will be run under ICKD rules.

At this stage we have not received confirmation from the organisers as to whether they will also run an FEI event along side, if they do, the age range will extend to 21 years. ICKD rules allow for a three-phase event specifically designed for children, with the marathon replaced by an arena based phase similar to a World Cup round, ie a combination of cones and obstacles.

British Young Drivers are planning to send a team of eight children to represent Great Britain and the selection events include BHDTA Summer Camp at Ashfields, and the Junior National Championships (both of which have already taken place), the Indoor Championships 2012 and BHDTA Easter Camp 2012. Those wishing to be selected need to attend three out of four of these events.

The English team brought home the bronze medal in 2008, now team GB hope to better this in 2012. Any sponsorship is welcome!

*If you require further information please email [byd@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:byd@horsesdrivingtrials.co.uk).*

## International

### Selection events

The following selection events for 2012 FEI World Championships are now confirmed as follows:

**Single Horse:** Ashfields, Hopetoun, Sandringham and Catton.

**Horse Four-in-hands:** Ashfields, Drumlanrig, Sandringham and Catton.

Selection events in 2012 for 2013 FEI World Championships are confirmed as follows:

**Combined Ponies:** Catton

**Horse Pairs:** Erddig

Remember that it is helpful, especially for multiples, to achieve the required FEI qualifying scores before you start the selection process.



The 2011 National Advanced Pony Champion, Janet Pilling with backstepper Angie Pickford, after a very close tussle with Nicola Blandin a margin of 1.1 penalties.

Photo: Dicky Jim

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8am to 12 noon





# BHDTA Official News

## Official News

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Tuesday 10 April.

### 2012 AGM

Please make a note in your diaries that the date of the 16th BHDTA AGM has now been confirmed as 13 October. As yet the venue has not been confirmed; Barry Hilditch is in discussion with Julie Camm about alternative possibilities.

## Events

### Volunteers List

Over the past few years it has become apparent that many event organisers struggle to get stewards both at club and national events. Sometimes many phone calls and emails are required to other clubs so it was suggested that one up-to-date list of all stewards would be beneficial.

Julia Crockford has kindly agreed to take on this task. She has been involved with the White Harness Horse Club events, worked as Farleigh stewards' co-ordinator for two years then the National Championships in 2010 and 2011. Her capacity for organisation and office based skills make her the ideal candidate to create one database for all to access.

Please contact Julia via e-mail: [jjcrockford@aol.com](mailto:jjcrockford@aol.com), tel: 01264 364054 or mobile 07850 249107.

### Event dates

#### National

4-6 May	Ashfields Carriage Centre (Essex)
25-27 May	Hopetoun (West Lothian)
15-17 June	Drumlanrig (Dumfries)
29 Jun-1 July	Sandringham (Norfolk)
13-15 July	Catton Hall (Derbyshire)
10-12 Aug	Erddig (North Wales)
7-9 Sept	National Driving Championships, Windsor

#### Regional

19-20 May	Windsor Park (Berkshire)
16-17 June	Newnham (Plymouth)
21-22 July	Goodwood (West Sussex)
28-29 July	St Fort (Tayside)
17-19 Aug	Necarne (Co Fermanagh)

#### Young Drivers / Para Equestrian

25-26 Aug	Young Drivers Championships, Henbury
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#### Novice Qualifiers

21-22 April	Escrick
21-22 July	Allerton
9-10 June	Offchurch
16-17 June	Llanymynech

## International

### RWHS Invitations

Council have revised the guidelines for allocation of invitations to the Royal Windsor International Horse Show in May. The new system will invite

the winner of the National Championships and the top three placed in the Points League. This will not affect any of the people eligible for invitations to the 2012 event.

### PrimeVal CAI Beekbergen hosts international horse single competition

At the PrimeVal CAI Beekbergen event, 19 to 22 July, the organisation will, for the first time in its history, also host an international (CAI-A) competition for horse singles.

The international combined driving competition at Riant Equestrian Centre, in Beekbergen will be an important event for the single and four-in-hand drivers, for which 2012 is a FEI World Championship year.

The four-in-hand drivers prepare for the FEI World Championships in Riesenbeck, Germany, from 16 to 19 August. The single drivers will start from 13 to 16 September at the FEI World Championships in Companhia das Lezirias, Portugal.

The organisation of the PrimeVal CAI Beekbergen would like to host the FEI World Championships classes singles and ponies every other year. "The international driving competition for horse pairs and horse fours will always remain our basis. These classes have contributed to the success of our event and we would like to cherish this," says Riant owner and organiser Mieke van Tergouw.

The CAI-A 1/2/4 Beekbergen will take place from 19 to 22 July at Riant Equestrian Centre in Beekbergen.



Photo: Vic Kusin



## FEI Vaccinations

The BEF have sent the following information to keep competitors up to date with the latest confirmation they have received on the vaccination rules of the FEI.

The FEI Regulations state: "ANNEX VI EQUINE INFLUENZA VACCINATION

From 1 January 2005 onwards, influenza vaccination for all Horses competing in FEI competitions requires a vaccination within six months + 21 days of the competition.

1. All Horses intending to participate in FEI competition must have at least received an initial primary course of two vaccinations, given between 21 and 92 days apart. Thereafter, a third dose (referred to as the first booster) must be given within seven months after the date of administration of the second primary dose, with at least annual boosters given subsequently (ie within one year of the last dose).
2. If the Horse is scheduled to take part in an FEI competition, the last booster must have been given within six months + 21 days of arrival at the FEI Event. (The 21-day window has been provided to enable vaccination requirements to fit in with the competition schedule).
3. No vaccination shall be given within seven days of the day of arrival at the FEI Event."

It appears that some French vets have misinterpreted this rule and are producing red warnings in passports if the owners have not given consistent six monthly booster injections and some have gone so far as insist that the primary course of injections is re administered.

Jenny Hall (director of equine development at the BEF and a member of the FEI veterinary committee) has confirmed the following:

"The excerpt from the FEI regs is correct so the vet at Haras du Pin was not. This is a situation that has arisen previously in France and the outcome of the FEI Veterinary Committee meeting discussion was that the FEI Veterinary Department will develop a feedback form for the use of team vets and National Federations so when inconsistencies such as this arise the FEI Veterinary Department may be notified in a standardised fashion enabling them to feedback to the FEI Veterinary Delegate at the competition in question."

The BEF hope this clarifies the situation and confirms that passports do not need to have six monthly booster injections to keep them up to date but if they are competing they must adhere to point 2 of the regulations in Annex VI.

## FEI Rule Changes

### NON OLYMPIC SPORTS: DRIVING

The FEI General Assembly approved the Technical Committee chairman's report and the modifications to the FEI Rules for International Combined Driving Events, 10th edition were approved.

The most significant change is the introduction of a Driving single pony class for children aged between 12 and 14. The Marathon will have three sections (A, D, and E) and will

Daniel Naprous



Photo: Vic Kusin

have a maximum of three obstacles with four gates each. The cone competition will consist of a maximum of 15 cones and will be held at a speed of 220m/min.

These changes will be applicable as of 1 January 2012. The updated FEI Rules for International Combined Driving Events are published on both the BHDTA and the FEI websites.

## General

### Putting the Horse in "War Horse"

Daniel Naprous will be well known to many of you as a successful horse four driver with his distinctive team of greys, but did you know that he was one of the professional horse trainers who was involved in the making of "War Horse" which has been adapted for the cinema by Steven Spielberg? Critics have been less than complimentary about Spielberg's sentimental side, but do agree that he is the most successful director in cinema's history and excels at shooting war movies. These attributes combined to make the production of "War Horse" an attractive proposition with which to become involved. Dan said, "The first thing Steven Spielberg said to me when I met him on the set was that this was a film about horses and their welfare had to be a priority. He is a fantastic person to work with and a genius as a director."

Dan was one of a huge pool of international horse trainers from around the world including America, Spain and Australia. His involvement lasted four months on set, but three months was spent preparing beforehand and training the horses to perform for fun. With plenty of

rehearsal time, the training remained light and entertaining for the horses.

Naturally Dan was involved with the driving sequences. The play and film both stick very closely to the book, but while it is easy to make a puppet look like it is struggling to pull the plough before finally managing to get it under way, this is not so easy with a live horse. In another scene Joey, from whose point of view the story is told, has to pull a cannon to the top of a hill. Dan also became involved with riding postilion.

With Dan's driving team being grey, they did not feature in the film, but there were a total of 14 horses who played Joey. Dan appeared in person briefly, but spent most of his time preparing the horses to be ready for the next scene. Dan's "Joey" played the starring role in the no man's land scene.

Shooting such a complex script with animals was always going to be challenging, one of which was charting Joey's development from being born, being raised on the farm, broken to the plough and then sold.

Dan said, "One of the most memorable aspects of the film for me was the way it stands out for all horsemen; the film is enjoyable for all and the horsemanship was not dumbed down."

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## Official News

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Tuesday 10 April.

### Training clinics

Full details of the National and club training clinics are given on the BHDTA website. Please do not leave booking until the last minute.

## Events

### 2012 dressage tests

Following considerable correspondence and web-based comments, Council have revised their earlier decision to use FEI test 8b for the open single classes.

For 2012, the open singles will drive FEI Test 7a (the same test as 2011). The support for FEI 7a was greater from the pony class, but it was decided to keep all the open singles classes driving the same tests.

### Tandem classes

Council considered the trial of mixed tandem classes and deemed this experiment to have been unsuccessful. Tandems will compete as pony or horse turnouts with all animals in the same category. Organisers have the right to amalgamate classes if numbers are insufficient to run separate classes.

## International

### First-time international competitors

Following council's decision to implement a minimum standard for first-time international competitors, the decision has now been further clarified. Drivers need to



obtain the qualifying dressage score applicable to their class for a FEI world championship, but they have to do this on only one occasion.

They must still complete the event without retirement or elimination, but can do this with any permutation of horses or ponies.

### Pony fours selection

Due to a clash with the young drivers' international competition and the clash of selection classes, which precluded one competitor from obtaining selection points in both the horse and pony fours classes, council have agreed to move the pony fours selection event to Erddig.

*Above: Mixed tandems will no longer be able to compete, turnouts must now be either horses or ponies.*

*Below: The GB team on the ferry heading to France*

### Ferry costs for 2012

With the demise of Sea France, Julie Camm has been negotiating with P&O to obtain the best deal possible for our members. If you are travelling abroad, please use this service as we will only be able to keep these rates if we have enough competitors using the crossing and our account.

Follow the same procedure as Sea France, but go to the P&O gate instead and then pay in the same office as before, but at the P&O desk.

It is a cash account which must be paid in advance over the phone or at the time of check-in. Please take a note of the account number, which is 111646, as you will need this when you book.

#### Rates:

- Accompanied vehicles up to 7.50m: £85
- Accompanied vehicles from 7.51m up to 12.50m: £135
- Accompanied vehicles from 12.51m up to 19.00m: £155
- The price includes ponies and horses and up to 2 drivers.
- The supplement for an extra passenger is £15 each way.
- The fuel surcharge is currently @ £10.50 each way and revised monthly.
- These prices are for a single journey and VAT is excluded.
- For further information and the sailing schedule, please see the website [www.poferriesfreight.com](http://www.poferriesfreight.com).

- The Dover freight office can be contacted 24 hours a day on 01304 862539.



## Supporters

### 200 Club

Heather Clark is waiting to hear from you. She sent a letter which was included with your December Office Newsletter (and printed on brightly coloured paper to catch your eye).

She would be delighted if you felt able to support the 200 Club this year. The system of draws has been revised for 2012 so there will be fewer draws but larger cash prizes. Remember! If you're not in it, you can't win it.

## General

### HOOFF Portal

We are delighted to inform you that the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and its member bodies are, with the support of Sport England grant funding, setting up a portal website [www.hoofride.co.uk](http://www.hoofride.co.uk) to promote horse riding and driving and the benefits of equestrian activities.

At present the data available in relation to facilities is limited and may not include any personal information or comprehensive detail regarding the precise nature of the services which are available.

- *Should you own or run an equestrian facility, and wish further information/detail included to promote your facility, please complete the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/hoof-facilities-survey-2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hoof-facilities-survey-2012). There is no charge for this service.*

*David Matthews storming out of the water at Hopetoun with his advanced horse pair. David finished third overall at last year's national championships*

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## Obituaries

Sadly, two well known members of the driving trials world have recently passed away.

### Jack Collinson

Jack Collinson died in Blackpool Hospital on January 11 after a short illness. He was 83 years old.

Jack was a founder member of the North West Driving Club back in the '60s and helped to build it up, until at one time it was the biggest driving club in the UK. In the early '70s he was one of the 10 people who donated £250 each to start what is now the BHDTA.

Jack was a very accomplished horse man, having been honorary whipper-in to the Vale of Lune Harriers for many years before taking up driving.

He and George Bowman bought the Border Union road coach in 1970 and in 1972 drove it from Edinburgh to London, using 25 horses; six teams and a spare horse which was never used.

In 1974 Jack was a member of the gold medal winning British team at the World Championships held in Switzerland, together with Col Sir John Miller and George Bowman.

In 1975 he won the Royal Windsor International Grand Prix.

It was as a farmer, however, that Jack left his legacy to the world. Jack attended Newtonrig agricultural college and went on to become world famous as a progressive farmer, being years ahead of his time and first with rare breeds. He often boasted that he bought

his first farm with the proceeds from one litter from a Land Race pig that he had imported from Sweden.

He won the Royal Show on more than one occasion with his Jacob sheep. It was his wish to be buried in the fleece of a Jacob sheep.

He was one of the first men in Europe to go into factory farming with cow kennels, slurry lagoons and an 18 cow rotolactor milking machine. At this time he hit the headlines, being one of the first men to import Holstein cattle from Canada and double his milk yield. Milking three times a day and occasionally having to miss a driving event did not suit Jack, so he changed from dairy to beef farming. Soon he was topping all the markets with his Charolais and Belgian Blue beef cattle.

In 1980 he retired and went to live on the Isle of Man, where he became very popular and was instrumental in encouraging the Manx drivers to come over to the main land to compete. It was at this time Jack resurrected one of his early loves and started to take part in horse ploughing matches.

In the last few years he has come over and attended nearly every national event. He could be found sat on his quad bike at the dressage ring, always surrounded by a group of people, mostly young, listening to him criticising the dressage. He was an international judge in the 1970s.

He will be greatly missed by his family and his many, many friends; not just because of his jovial company, but because of his ability to remember and tell stories of days gone by.

God bless you Jack old friend. Get your leaders out of draught and straighten your back.  
**GB**

### Ann Maxwell

Ann Maxwell died on 5 December 2011 in her 91st year. She was the youngest of five children and from an early age the family lived in West Haddon, Northamptonshire and there started a lifetime of involvement with horses and ponies.

She married John Maxwell in 1944 and in 1966 they moved to Perthshire, where she bred, broke and drove Welsh ponies. She competed very successfully in driving trials in both single and pony pair classes during the '70s and '80s, winning the pony pair class at Holker Hall two years in succession.

Ann's years of experience of breaking and driving ponies helped many of her friends get started in competitive and private driving and she also played a leading role in both riding and driving for the disabled in Perthshire.

After retiring from driving in the early 90s, Ann became a regular judge at both driving trials and BDS events where she was able to pass on some of her expertise.

Ann was an accomplished artist, particularly in watercolours, and in later years she took up sculpture and created likenesses of many different animals.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to her son and daughter, her grandchildren, great grandchildren and all her many friends who will truly miss her.

**JJC**

# Monthly update

## Official News

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Tuesday, 10 April.

### Yearbooks

Apologies for the delay in the distribution of the Yearbooks. These will be posted to members at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, schedules and entry forms are available from the BHDТА website.

### Report on the Joint Clinic at the Unicorn Trust

On a rather cold wet weekend at Stow on the Wold, even though the sun did manage to show its face occasionally, a total of 47 attendees arrived from all over the British Isles, for a lively and interesting joint clinic for all BHDТА officials.

The judges were treated to Andrew Counsell and Diana Brownlie analysing driven dressage tests on video, which included tests from the recent FEI World Championships for Horse Pairs and Combined Ponies.

Following this first session Boyd Exell, FEI World Champion Four-in-Hand Driver, gave a superb exhibition with his horses, entertaining and instructing the audience with his mastery of horsemanship. Boyd kept all participants enthralled with his skills and talents during another session after lunch. Before the end of the day, the international course designer, Richard Papens gave an interesting and enlightening talk on obstacle cones driving to a further joint session of all participants.

Sunday brought Pammy Hutton, a well known ridden dressage rider with her family to help, giving another slant on dressage. Although she admitted her knowledge on driving was very limited, her knowledge of dressage is immense. As well as her family riding, Alice Pritchard,

gave ridden exhibitions while Pammy explained the finer points to everyone. Alice said her ridden dressage had considerably improved.

Richard Papens returned, with his course designers and built an obstacle cones driving course. This was then driven by Anna Grayston and Wilf Bowman-Ripley, to allow the judges to watch and put the theory into practice. Richard showed everyone two new open multiple obstacles, which are likely to be used in this year's FEI World Championships at Riesenbeck and Lezirias. The day finished with a final joint session, at which all agreed, that this format first tried in 2010 was the way they wanted to go in the future.

Richard Papens led a small number of course designers through a clinic, mostly devoted to the obstacle cones driving phase of an event.

This was Richard's third clinic in this country, as he is proving very popular with course designers and the judges. Richard, who is the technical delegate at the FEI World Singles Championships later this year, went through all the twists and turns of obstacle cones driving.

Philip Bateman and Ian Douglas had six technical delegates for an interesting new form of clinic. A discussion forum replaced the more traditional questions and answers. Discussion focussed on last year's problems and unusual situations encountered and various ways to solve them; always remembering that we do not have problems, only solutions.

The whole clinic, as always, well orchestrated by Sydney Smith and her team at the Unicorn Trust. On the Saturday night, Fran cooked a three course dinner for 48 people and more than one person was after her for the recipe of her bread and butter pudding. It was the best I have ever tasted.

*Taking part in Driving Back to Sport*

*Top right: Practising rein handling skills at Fenix.*

*Top middle: Sue Mart runs through harnessing up*

*Below: Tackling a cones course at Bennington*



## Events

### Start fees

Start fees will be reintroduced to competitions this year but, thanks again to an extremely generous donation from Hugh Scott-Barrett, these will be significantly reduced.

### Rule book amendments

2012 Rule Book amendments have now been printed. These can be obtained from the BHDТА office by sending a self addressed C5 envelope and postage for a LARGE letter. They can also be obtained from the BHDТА stand at the forthcoming South of England Carriage Fair.

### Young Driver rules change

Please note that the FEI have introduced Young Driver additions to the rules. From January 1, 2012, following much lobbying from the ICKD, the FEI have introduced a rule change for the reduction of the age limit for young competitors. These were missed from the rule amendments in our rule book, but are published on the BHDТА website and also give other criteria for these younger drivers.

The age limit, which was 14 years of age, has now been reduced to 12. This is only for competitors driving single ponies and accompanied by an adult of 18 years and older.

Both Ashfelds and Sandringham are holding classes for these younger competitors this



coming season, in anticipation of the Junior Championships to be held in Weiner Neustadt in July. There will be two parts to this event; one part under FEI Rules and the other under ICKD Rules. For these classes, FEI passports are not required but passports will be needed for drivers in the FEI classes in Austria. FEI passports are not required for the JWT classes in Austria.

## BHDTA Rules changes for 2012

This is a summary of the rule changes. Be sure to check the rulebook for full details.

### Course Designers 910.2.3 National:

“National course designers must have attended a course designer clinic in the previous three years prior to the event for which they are appointed.” (There had been talk of changing this to two years).

### 903.4 Driving Event Location:

This is now clarified to explain that the competition rules apply “from the published opening time of the stable area until midnight on the last day of the competition.”

This means, for example, that training taking place before the stable area is opened for the event can use training aids not permitted in competition. Of course the welfare rules always apply.

### New cones layouts:

Annex 8 has two new cones open multiple obstacles; ‘the wave’ and ‘the triangle’.

### Annex 11, qualification for advanced singles:

4.4.2.2 A win in a class of one does not count towards the six wins which make it compulsory for an open competitor to move to advanced class.

### Note:

In paragraph 4.4.4.2, the dressage score should read 55. This is incorrectly shown as 60 in the new printed pages and the 2011 downloadable yearbook (This will be corrected for 2012 online rules).

*Below: Getting to grips with walking a cones course, part of the Driving Back to Sport training at Fenix*



### More notes:

The rule on back protectors is unchanged:

917.6.2 Back protectors are not required at any National or affiliated event within the jurisdiction of BHDTA. But body protectors are still required for juniors at Young Drivers events – see the Young Drivers rules appendix.

### Mixed tandems/other multiples

This is to confirm that a multiple containing both horses and ponies is not allowed to compete at national events (except h/c with the organiser's agreement).

## Drumlanrig/Raehills

With much regret, the proposed reintroduction of Drumlanrig HDT has been cancelled. A regional event will run at the nearby Raehills estate and the plan is to upgrade this to a national event in 2013. This is an excellent venue, five miles from junction 15 of the M74, and the estate has a network of existing roads for ease of access.

## International

### Strong signs that Lezírias will go ahead

It has been reported that currently there is every possibility that the proposed FEI Single Horse World Championship in Portugal will go ahead.

Uncertainty has plagued this venue, but signs are currently looking promising for a September competition. Lezírias is hosting a trial event for the championships in two weeks' time and the new obstacles should be ready in time for this event. Jean Lane will be the assistant technical delegate. The single horses will hold their National Championship at Erddig as they will be unable to all compete at Windsor.

## General

### Driving Back to Sport

Following the generous donation from Hugh Scott-Barrett and the Sportsmatch funding awarded by SportEngland, the Driving Back to Sport programme was able to become a reality. The initial sessions are well under way



*Above: Enjoying the training on the Driving Back to Sport programme with Mark Broadbent at Fenix*

and Anne Clarke, the project manager, sends the following update:

Snowfall, freezing temperatures and heavy downpours failed to dampen the enthusiasm of budding carriage drivers taking part in ‘Driving Back to Sport.’

The team of coaches across the venues worked together to shape each introductory session, providing workshops on all aspects of carriage driving from cones to dressage, and even a chance for everyone to take the reins and drive a carriage for the first time.

Project manager, Anne Clarke of Instinctive PR, is thrilled with the programme's success: “The launch of Driving Back to Sport couldn't have gone better. The coaches have been amazing at delivering superb sessions and each venue has seen a fantastic bunch of participants. Everyone is looking forward to the remaining sessions. We feel we have successfully introduced a huge number of new faces to the sport of carriage driving.”

Participants at each venue; Fenix Carriages in Devon, Bennington Carriages in Nottinghamshire, Adlington Equestrian Centre in Cheshire and Ashfields Carriage & Polo Club clearly enjoyed the sessions, with a feedback session gleaned comments such as:

“An opportunity like this just never comes up. I have had such a fun day and have thoroughly enjoyed learning so much from the coaches. Getting the chance to actually drive a carriage was just brilliant.”

“I couldn't sleep last night because I was looking forward to the course so much. At my age, I didn't think I did ‘excited’ anymore.”

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# Monthly update

## Official News

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Tuesday 12 June.

### Date and venue change for AGM and Conference

The date and venue of the BHDTA AGM and Conference has been changed. This will now take place on Saturday 17 November and not as previously advertised. The new venue is Addington Manor Equestrian Centre which is just off the A413 between Buckingham and Aylesbury. During the day a premier show jumping event will be taking place.

In the evening, the Horse Four drivers will be taking part in a selection event to determine who will receive the wild card entry to the Indoor World Cup event, which has now been confirmed will take place at Olympia, should the BHDTA be invited to take part in the selection process.

This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the sport to a wide audience. During the day the BHDTA have sole use of the restaurant area for the Conference and AGM. As there will not be the opportunity to divide this area into smaller rooms, the format for the day has yet to be finalised.

### Lord Onslow

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the 7th Earl of Onslow will be held in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, at

noon on Wednesday 23 May. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to M. Arnoldi, Room 23, the Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted by 14 May.

All are welcome to apply and it is hoped that everyone who knew Michael through his enthusiasm for horse driving trials will be able to attend.

## Events

### Anti-doping: what you need to know

Did you know that novice competitors are now just as likely to be tested as those in the selection classes? There will be no advance warning of which events will be targeted by BEFAR for testing. If you are a BHDTA member who competes in Horse Driving Trials national classes, or internationally under FEI rules, you need to be aware of a new national equine anti-doping and controlled medication system that came into effect on 1 January 2012.

The new system, which is a requirement of our affiliation to the FEI, applies to all BHDTA affiliated members at every level. It's essential that everyone understands this as the penalties are strong.

Since the system closely mirrors the FEI system, it should be relatively familiar to internationally registered members. However, those who do not compete internationally will need to take on board some new concepts.

### Understanding the new system

There is a new set of cross-discipline BEF Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (BEFAR) and a new Prohibited Substance List that mirrors the FEI list for national competitions.

Under the new system, doping (which falls under the World Anti-Doping Code in the same way as doping in humans) is separated out from medication control (which is there for welfare reasons).

This is linked to a change in the approach to the Prohibited List, which is now very specific about what is prohibited, allowing riders and their vets to have increased certainty and helping them to avoid mistakes.

All substances on the Prohibited List are known as 'prohibited substances', but this is sub-divided into two substance groups: doping substances, which are now referred to as 'banned substances' (i.e. they should never be used in the horse); and legitimate equine medication substances, which are referred to as 'controlled medication substances'.

It may be possible to obtain a National Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption (NETUE) for a controlled medication substance in advance of competing, but a NETUE will never be given for a banned substance. Similarly, there are no threshold levels for banned substances.

The new system will see an increasing number of anti-doping tests across the disciplines, and all BHDTA members should

*Pippa Bassett competing in the demonstration Indoor World Cup event at Olympia in 2011*



Photograph by Tim Spurgeon.

expect their horse to be tested, whether you are competing at grass-roots level or at a national championship.

### What are the implications?

- If found guilty of a doping violation, the rider, and potentially also the horse, will be disqualified from the competition concerned and could be disqualified from the entire event.
- The standard sanction in addition to that is a two-year suspension, plus a fine and potential legal costs. This standard sanction can only be reduced if specific mitigating conditions can be met – this very much reflects the human doping system of imposing standard sanctions. During suspension, the driver cannot compete internationally, or nationally, or be involved in any way in any activity organised by the British Horse Driving Trials Association, any other BEF discipline, the FEI, the National Federation or any international or national event organisation.
- In contrast, the medication control system concentrates very much on the welfare of the horse when competing. Unlike a banned substance, it is possible to apply for an NETUE for a controlled medication substance if tested.
- The sanction for a first offence is up to two years ineligibility; the exact length will be determined by looking at a number of specified conditions.
- BEFAR recommends that a medication logbook should be kept for each horse, recording the date, substance and dosage of all treatments administered to the horse that involve a prohibited substance (controlled medication substances), along with details of the person who administered the treatment.

### What should you do now?

The BEF has launched a helpful Clean Sport section of its website, [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk). Take a good look at the site and, at a minimum, read the Athlete's Guide and download a copy of the new Prohibited List. You need to make sure that your vet, grooms and other support personnel become familiar with what is and is not on the Prohibited List, so that you can make absolutely sure that you will be fully compliant. If you have any questions or queries about this, contact the BHDTA office in the first instance. The BHDTA web-site has copies of all the forms mentioned in this article under the Reference section.

## International

### Passport rules update

The FEI have changed their rules for issuing passports. They will no longer issue an FEI passport unless the horse or pony has a DEFRA approved passport submitted with



*Young drivers manning their stand at the South of England Carriage Fair*

the application. In addition, if the horse has an existing FEI passport issued by an EU country, it will remain valid as long as there are no gaps in the revalidation process. The date of the revalidation can be backdated but then it will not be valid for the full four years.

Another point to be aware of is that if a horse is purchased with an FEI passport issued by a country outside the EU e.g. Switzerland or USA, the passport will remain valid until the expiry date, but cannot be revalidated. An EU passport would then have to be obtained and the FEI cover applied to it.

### International handbook

Derrick Mayes has very kindly used his extensive knowledge of international affairs and travelling arrangements to produce a guide for competitors wishing to compete abroad. This will be of particular use to first time international competitors but will also serve as a check list for seasoned travellers.

It is available from the International section of the web-site and all the forms to which it refers are available in the Reference section.

## General

### BHDTA attends Carriage Fair

We were pleased to have a stand at the South of England Carriage Fair and congratulate Brockham Harness Club in putting on an excellent programme of events in the main arena. The stand was manned throughout the day by Jock McFarlane (chairman) and Dave Titmuss (treasurer) who were pleased to welcome members, sponsors and friends.

A number of enquiries were received from prospective drivers that hopefully will produce some new participants, with the Driving back to Sport project creating

substantial interest. The stand was shared with the British Young Drivers who did sterling work fund raising for the forthcoming Junior World Championship team.

### Help shape the future of sport in England

With the Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, sport has rarely had a higher profile and Sport England wants to build on this by creating a lasting legacy.

Sport England, in partnership with Ipsos MORI, is conducting its fourth annual sport satisfaction survey which aims to understand people's sporting experiences across the country.

With your help, Sport England and British Equestrian will gain a greater understanding of what motivates people to play sport, the challenges participants face and what can be done to improve sport for you.

By taking part in the survey, you will help British Equestrian become more responsive to your needs and do more to encourage new participants. As a 'thank you' for your time, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a draw to win up to £250 of High Street 'Love2shop' Vouchers – a prize which has kindly been provided by Ipsos MORI.

As well as the opportunity to win this prize, you will play a part in driving and shaping sport in England in the years to come.

- To take part in the survey log onto <http://www.ipsos-mori.com/Equestrian>

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Tuesday June 12.

### Club clinic report

Following low numbers due to date clashes, the Southern Club Clinic was in danger of being cancelled until Martyn Willis stepped in with a revised format to enable it to go ahead at Berkshire College. This proved to be a success backed up by comments on the feedback forms.

Eleven delegates, most of whom travelled from Powys and the Forest of Dean, proved nearly too many for the classroom. This was the base for the morning sessions and the indoor school was used in the afternoon.

A wide variety of sessions were held as follows:

- **Session 1** Event health and safety.
- **Session 2** Joint TD and course designer class room activity.
- **Session 3** The 2 Judge candidates were taken to Windsor Park event and sat in with Di Hayes during the advanced horse pairs class.
- **Session 4** The course designers put the morning's work into practice and set up a cones course.
- **Session 5** The TD and judge candidates checked and commented on the course which had been laid out.
- **Session 6** Joint review and debrief.

The format, with mixed sessions and discipline specific sessions, appeared to work very well. It is hoped to offer more opportunities to integrate these training clinics with actual events.



Photo: Dicky Jim

## Events

### Newnham

#### Closing date for entries June 2

Newnham Horse Driving Trials takes place on 16/17 June and runs a marathon with seven obstacles, including water crossings and a bridge, which totals 14-16km. There will be a fastest obstacle cash prize sponsored by David Whitfield Metals Recycler. A BBQ with homemade salads and desserts will be served on Saturday evening. Your entry includes a BBQ ticket and additional tickets can be purchased at a cost of £8.

*Top right: Barry Capstick (IRL) at Royal Windsor  
Below: Team Orchard at Ashfield's HDT*

### Nidd Hall:

#### New novice qualifier

#### Closing date for entries June 8

Following the cancellation of the North East's Novice Qualifier at Escrick (just one more casualty of the exceptionally wet weather) an alternative event has been allocated this qualifier which will now take place at Nidd Hall Event, between Ripon & Knaresborough, on June 23 and 24. Schedules and entry forms are available from the BHDTA or club websites.

### Sandringham

#### Closing date for entries June 2

The Diamond Jubilee Sandringham Horse Driving Trials, including the British Para-Equestrian Driving Championships, takes place from June 29 to July 1 in the Royal Estate by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.

The marathon course runs over tracks, parkland and farmland on the Sandringham Estate. There will be a licensed bar on Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a hot snack bar during the day.

For a bit of luxury, why not visit the Diamond Jubilee Enclosure where you can enjoy a delicious sit-down lunch with coffee in the Diamond Jubilee Marquee situated alongside the arena. This will be available on all three days at a cost of £25 per day. This must be booked and paid for by Monday June 25. Full details are available from the entries secretary.

### Catton

#### Closing date for entries June 29

The beautiful Catton Hall estate is again hosting driving trials from July 13-15. A licensed bar



will be provided on Friday pm and Saturday with hot snacks served during daytime. The marathon course runs over tracks, parkland and undulating farmland. The organisers advise that the course demands fit horses and ponies.

## International

### New FEI regulations

Compulsory micro-chipping of horses to be newly registered with the FEI will come into effect on January 1 2013 (Veterinary Regulations - Article 1011.1.2.3). If you are planning to compete internationally in 2013, it would be worth asking your vet to microchip your horse if they are visiting anyway this year to avoid incurring additional expense next year.

## Supporters

### 200 Club

The 200 Club's first draw of 2012 took place at Ashfields National HDT.

#### Congratulations to the winners

- Rita McGregor - £120
- Mr & Mrs Hawley - £60
- The Lady Brabourne - £40
- Heather Nestel - £20
- Paddy Marris - £10

The next draw will be at Sandringham in June. It's not too late for anyone wanting to take part in the remaining draws this year. Just dig out the green form that came with your BHDTA membership pack or email clarky.clark199@gmail.com who will send one to you.

## General

### Gladys Dale

By Jane MacInnes

There will hardly be a driver in the country who has not come across, or at least heard of Gladys and Seacliff. She is a legend and at 90 still in good heart.

This forthright but fair lady has lived life in the fast lane. Born into a farming family in Mid Lothian, she decided to do something for her country, after a bomb had dropped near

*Below: Belgian driver Mia Allo at Royal Windsor*



Photo: Dicky Jim

the house she was staying in with her maiden aunts. She saw a picture of a motorbike, and decided that was for her. Before long, she was roaring up Edinburgh's Princes Street on a 500 Velocette, carrying dispatches at the age of 17. She soon progressed to driving a variety of lorries as a convoy driver; learned to sort out any mechanical problems, and earned a reputation of being a fast driver as we all know, that has stayed with her.

She saw service abroad driving lorries in wartime in Belgium and France, with some pretty near misses. On return to Scotland, she met Tommy, who farmed at Seacliff, and they married in 1949 and set up home in the farmhouse at Scoughall near North Berwick.

Gladys had always had an interest in horses, and as a child her father used to hire a pony for her for each school holiday, which she had to ride 27 miles from Edinburgh to her home in East Linton. When expecting her first child, she could not stand the smell of paint in the farmhouse which was being renovated, so found great solace in the stables with the five pairs of working horses. Gladys produced six children, and she always made sure they all had something to ride.

It was only after a visit to the Royal Welsh Show in 1964, and a chance meeting with Pauline Taylor, from the famous Llanarth stud, that she became interested in Welsh Cobs.

Her famous Scole stud started with the purchase of a well bred ridden mare from the Welsh sale and to this day has produced many winners, both ridden and driven.

Tommy always said his wife was at her best when organising something.

She and the children were all involved in Pony Club, and her forward vision brought Tetrathlon and Pick-a-Fence to Scotland. Her leadership skills also led to the formation of the Lammermuir Riding Club and the East of Scotland Carriage Driving Association.

Her own carriage driving career had a disastrous start. The pony took off, tipped her out, and she had a spell in hospital with a damaged vertebra. Then she purchased Caegwerlas Jago, who turned out to be a real gem, giving Gladys and daughter, Carol, many successes. Interestingly, she purchased and drove him in one of the first two-wheeled carriages made by Michael Mart of Artistic Iron products (now Bennington).

Gladys really developed her knowledge



Photo: The Scottish Farmer

*Above: The legendary Gladys Dale*

about driving when she became an HDT judge in the mid 80s. She was also elected to the newly formed BHDTA after horse driving trials split from the BHS, and ended up in charge of the supporters club. Frequently in demand as a TD for club events, she was well known for her 'no nonsense' approach.

For 24 years she motored regularly to Wales as a valued committee member for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. She also served for many years on the Scottish committee of the British Driving Society, and of course we will never forget the wonderful national event she hosted and organised at Seacliff, overlooking the Bass Rock in the 80s and 90s. Riding on the beaches, and swimming the horses in the sea were all part of the enjoyment.

Daughter Carol (Boswell) has lived with and cared for Gladys for the past 11 years, in her house high on the cliffs overlooking the Rock and Firth of Forth. In this stunning location Carol carries on the tradition of horses, running her Seacliff Riding Stables with some of her horses from mum's Scole breeding.

She continues her very successful career in horse driving trials, particularly with her horse tandem. Even last summer, Gladys was out driving Scole Jemima around the farm.

Gladys, we salute you on your birthday. Characters like you are rare and to be treasured.

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Friday 12 October.

### BHDТА AGM and Conference

Please make a note of the changed date for the BHDТА 2012 AGM and Conference which will now be held on Saturday, November 17 at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire.

The BHDТА has been offered exclusive use of the restaurant area at Addington for its AGM and Conference, which will take place during a premier show jumping event.

Following the day's proceedings, members will have opportunity to witness one of the most exciting events in the driving trials calendar – a Horse Fours Indoor Competition.

There will be a charge of £10 for the evening.

More details of the format for the day will be published nearer the time.

### Event Organisers' Meeting

As the BHDТА Conference will not now take place until November, it was decided to run the Event Organisers Meeting in October as usual.

The format will be slightly different this year. Instead of the meeting taking place on a Friday, it will take place on Saturday, October 13.

A number of clubs who regularly run two-day events will be invited to send two representatives to a meeting in the morning. This will be followed by a complimentary lunch for all delegates.

These clubs will then be able to sit in on the National and Regional Events Organisers Meeting in the afternoon.

Having looked at the geographical spread of National and Regional events, the Best Western Lancashire Manor Hotel, Skelmersdale, near Wigan, Lancashire WN8 9QD (where the 2011 National CD and TD clinics were held) was agreed as a central venue which has the advantage of being very close to a motorway.

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

*Main: Ian Gilbert with his wife Anne on the backstep driving the new water obstacle at Hopetoun 2012*



## Events

Despite the cancellation of many smaller events and high profile ridden events, the organisers, Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Zoe Morgan, held their nerve and risked running the first national event of the season at Ashfields.

Despite having to remove one obstacle, the course drove surprisingly well as competitors were sloshing around in deep mud in the parking field with vehicles having to be towed in and out. Two months on however, the fields show very little trace of the event.

Hopetoun for once enjoyed perfect weather. The sun shone making the course a pleasure to drive. Although there were a number of reported cases of sunburn, this was due to the cool breeze which was ideal for the horses on marathon day.

Unfortunately, Graham Heath cooled off too much when taking an unscheduled dip in the new water obstacle.

With David Brown taking over the role of course designer this year, Ian Gilbert finally managed to compete in the event for which he has been the driving force for so many years.

### St Fort National

#### Entries close Monday July 2

The popular location of St Fort makes a welcome return to the national calendar on 28 to 29 July this year after a number of club level events.

Did you know that St Fort has organised horse driving trials since 1981 without a break?

However, please note that late entries will not be accepted as the organiser will cancel the event if sufficient entries have not been received by the closing date.

There are also club classes offered this year.

There will be a hog roast (two course plus wine) in the marquee on Saturday evening.

Please apply for tickets with your entry.

### Erddig National

#### Entries close Thursday July 12

Erddig runs on August 10-12 and the organisers request that you post your entry before you leave for Catton and remember to include the hog roast ticket money.

A mobile shop will be on site providing bread, milk etc and competitors may wish to relax in the licensed bar which is available on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with hot snacks/meals available during the day and evening from Thursday lunchtime until close of the event on Sunday.

Fish and chips are available on Friday evening and you just pay on the field. The hog roast (full meal) on Saturday evening will be followed by a disco. The event takes place entirely on the Erddig estate.

The undulating marathon runs through beautiful parkland providing picturesque views of the house and grounds.

Section E follows woodland and parkland tracks, including water crossings, which lead to 8 obstacles which are all within walking distance of each other and no more than 800m from the stabling area.

Erddig is an atmospheric house and estate, vividly evoking its family and servants.

During August it is open six days a week (closed Fridays).

For more information please call 01978 355314 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

Jack-in-the-Box will be in the stabling area with their comprehensive trade stand focussing on every item a driver could wish to purchase.

Northernplan and Taken Event photography will be on site near the main marquee; other trade stands are planned beside the Harbinger main arena, but there will be no country fair this year.

## Goodwood Regional

### Entries close Wednesday July 11

The Brockham Harness Club are running the Goodwood Regional Event from July 21-22.

In addition the club will run a full range of club classes including an open short marathon class.

For more information please see their website [www.brockhamharnessclub.co.uk](http://www.brockhamharnessclub.co.uk) or contact the secretary.

The marathon is approximately 14km long with three Sections and seven obstacles including water.

There will be a barbecue and party on Saturday evening and tickets should be ordered in advance with your entry.

## New venue for Necarne

The regional event, scheduled to take place at Necarne, will now take place over two days - 18 to 19 August - at Scarvagh House, Scarva, Gragavon, Co Armagh.

## International

### New dressage test

The new test for horse pairs and fours has had changes made after the demonstration at Royal Windsor Horse Show.

This will be introduced from January 1 and will soon be available for publication.

### British success abroad

Tracey Fletcher finished in second place in the single pony class at Dillenburg, Germany where Roger Campbell was fourth and Robert Buck seventh.

With a large class of 18 competitors from a number of nations, this was an excellent result for Roger in his first international event.

In Saumur, France, it was good news for Jo Attenborough, the sole representative from Great Britain, as she took the lead in the horse pairs class after dressage, despite having to battle against gale force winds which blew down one of the ornamental trees into the arena during her test.

As ever, Saumur pulled out all the stops to create a warm and friendly atmosphere, despite the inclement weather. The organisers laid on a welcoming party for the competitors and their teams, taking them on a river trip down the Loire ending at the Chateau d'Saumur for a visit to the equestrian museum and a cocktail party in the grounds.

With an improvement in the weather the following day, Jo drove well to finish in seventh place on the marathon and secure second place overall.

The torrential rain did not help competitors to prepare for the cone driving phase of the competition but Jo finished with one ball down and well within the tight time to retain her second place.

## General

### Lindsey Tyas the knot

Big celebrations were held on Saturday, May 26 when Gordon Paice and International para-equestrian driver Lindsey Tyas finally tied the knot at All Saints Church, Old Buckenham in Norfolk. Alison Tyas (the bride's sister) was bridesmaid.

Unsurprisingly, transport to and from the church was provided by horse and carriage.

Many equestrian and farming friends joined the family to wish the couple well.

Having had pre-wedding photos at home and with her Welsh cob - London Flash Jack, with whom Lindsey competed at the last four Para World Championships - the bride then travelled to the church with her father Paul in a Victoria carriage driven by Chris Van Reen and kindly horsed by two of Mr Allen's chestnut Welsh cobs.

After the wedding Gordon and Lindsey travelled to Banham Community Centre for their wedding reception.

Due to the forthcoming Para World Championships and harvest, the couple's honeymoon plans have been put on hold until the beginning of next year.

*Below: Photograph of the happy couple and some of their guests by Matthew Olley*

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Friday October 12.

### Safety meeting

Following the recent accident at Sandringham, further discussion will take place on the subject of back protectors/body protectors which are compulsory at FEI events, but not at British national events. This meeting will be held on the evening of October 12 to tie in with the next council meeting and the event organisers meeting the following day. The intention is to have a speaker with considerable experience of their use to inform council and BHDTA members. The meeting will be chaired by Peter Bridson, chairman of the safety committee.

The venue is the Best Western Lancashire Manor Hotel, Skelmersdale, near Wigan, Lancashire WN8 9QD.

## Events

The weather this year is not making it easy to run events. Events early in the season fared

better (although Ash fields must have been touch-and-go for a while), but there has been a recent spate of cancellations due to waterlogged ground, or ground being unavailable as many farmers have been unable to harvest crops.

It does not happen often, but, following a sudden improvement in the weather and with rapidly improving ground conditions, the organisers of St Fort horse driving trials took the unusual step of reversing the cancellation to run the event as originally scheduled with National and club classes. After much phoning, the organisers contacted everyone and have the same number of entries that they started with.

They are delighted that competitors had not made alternative arrangements and prepared to attend the 32nd consecutive driving trials event to be run on the estate.

### Erddig

Much now rests on Erddig being able to run.

With the cancellation of Catton, the entry date was extended to accommodate those wishing to enter the hastily rearranged selection classes. With demand from the horse pairs and pony drivers, two international judges were also booked and the FEI contacted for approval for qualifying classes, which we

*Below: Sue Mart competing at Sandringham National Driving Trials*

are delighted to say has been granted. This will give those drivers seeking to qualify horses or ponies for their respective world championship events in 2013 another opportunity to achieve the required dressage score in front of international judges.

### Scarvagh House replaces Necarne

Closing date for entries is Thursday, August 9.

Scarvagh House Horse Driving Trials Regional Event takes place at Scarvagh House, Scarva, Co Down, Northern Ireland on August 18-19 and replaces the event at Necarne.

Scarvagh House is in the heart of Scarva village, approximately 30 miles south of Belfast.

A number of factors have contributed to this change of venue, not least the weather, so no surprises there. Due to recent wet weather and ground conditions, the landowners have asked that no temporary stabling be used.

Permanent stabling is available on site at a charge of £20 per stable for the weekend, including straw bedding.

The route comprises three sections with eight obstacles including water (approx 12km).

On-site catering is available on Saturday and Sunday, with a wine and cheese reception on the Friday evening and a supper function on site for the Saturday evening.

### Raehills

Closing date for entries: Wednesday August 8,

Preparations are under way for the first horse driving trials to be held at the beautiful Raehills estate. Obstacles are being constructed with elevation to full National status for 2013 firmly in mind. Reports so far indicate that the ground is holding up well despite the weather.

Competitors are invited to enjoy a barbecue and party on Saturday evening and tickets, costing £10, should be booked with entries.

### National Championships

If you have qualified so far for the National Championships, you will have received a letter, schedule and entry form in the post.

Please contact the BHDTA office if your copy was not delivered or you have any queries about your qualification.

It is also possible this year to enter on-line, but please note that the original on-line schedule and entry form had an error in the closing date. The correct date is Wednesday, August 15.

A number of members have expressed concerns over the reduced number of opportunities available to qualify for the National Championships.



Photo: Andy Palfrey

This will be reviewed by the competitions committee and the situation monitored closely.

With more than 100 entries, Erddig should produce a high number of new qualifications and the reinstatement of St Fort to the National calendar will also boost the number qualified.

## International Horse Fours World Championship

A decision has now been taken regarding the final British team selection for the Horse Fours World Championships, following the cancellation of Catton National Driving Trials.

On the recommendation of the World Class Performance Driving Committee, the Horse Fours Chef d'Equipe and the Training Committee, the BHDTA Council agreed to retrospectively allocate points to all competitors who took part in the National driving trials event at Holker in 2011 and use this in conjunction with the other three selection events held at Ashfields, Hopetoun and Sandringham to finalise the Horse Fours team as:

- Georgina Hunt
- Wilf Bowman-Ripley
- Pippa Bassett

Daniel Naprous will be the individual driver.

The Horse Fours World Championships take place in Riesenbeck (GER) on August 15-19.

## British success abroad Young Drivers

The ICKD event and the inaugural FEI Young Driver competition saw great success for the British team. There were 12 entries in Class 1, single pony (9 to 11 yrs), and Isobel Wesbroom-Warr did well to finish in 3rd place with Cerys Gilbert 5th and Megan Wheeldon 7th. Class 2, Single Pony (12/13 yrs) only had six entries, but the top three had only a few points separating them and they were well clear of the others. Grace Smith was just pipped into 3rd spot. Class 3 (single pony (14/15 yrs) saw a British victory for Tara Lee Wilkinson, less than a penalty ahead of the 2nd placed driver from Belgium. Nadia Hughes was not far behind in 4th and Jay Snow finished 7th in a strong class with 11 drivers. The final class for the 16 to 18 yrs age group was well supported with 12 entries and another victory was celebrated for Britain with Fleur Snow taking the honours on this occasion by the narrowest possible margin of 0.02 penalties from fellow Brit Ann Broadhurst. These two were well clear of the other drivers. Stephanie Milner finished in 5th place in the top half of the class.

The British Team won gold for the ICKD team performance. In the FEI division, Rosanna Walters-Symons finished with the bronze medal with James Gambis in 7th, Amber O'Neill 14th and Emily Ham retired.

Huge thanks are due to the immense support team which helped make this trip a



Photo: Ray Bragg.

success. Their hard work and dedication were rewarded with the British results. Thanks also to those sending daily blogs to the website which quickly became compulsory reading on a daily basis.

## Le Pin au Haras

With the cancellation of Catton, Dan Naprous secured a late entry and joined horse pair driver Jo Attenborough on a trip to France to Le Pin au Haras. This was excellent preparation for Dan's forthcoming World Championship event as he secured a splendid victory in the Horse Fours class. Dan and Jo battled with heavy ground conditions and rain (it is not only Britain that is suffering this year), but both coped well. Dan was one of only four competitors to manage to achieve the tight time set for the twisty cone course, which was driven in a rather uneven arena.

Jo also drove an excellent cones round and finished 2nd in the Horse Pairs class, which raises her to second in the FEI driver rankings.

## General

### BEF Volunteer Steering Group

The BHDTA wishes to thank Tony Gregory for the time and effort he has spent representing the association on the volunteer steering group at the British Equestrian Federation. Volunteers in our sport are absolutely vital for running events so it is important that we have a voice at this level. Tony has decided to retire from this

role and has been ably succeeded by Angela Flanagan. She has attended her first meeting and can be contacted on amflan@hotmail.com if anyone has issues they wish raised.

Julia Crockford continues to maintain a central database of volunteer stewards so if anyone wishes their name added or knows of anyone else who would be interested in becoming involved, please contact Julia via e-mail: jjcrockford@aol.com or by telephone at home: 01264-364054 or mobile 07850-249107.

Alternatively, if you wish more information on volunteering within the exciting sport of horse driving trials, e-mail volunteers@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk

Attention clubs and National Event organisers: Angela Flanagan would like you all to let her know as soon as possible how you show your appreciation to your stewards and helpers. A brief note just now will enable her to take this information back to the next BEF meeting. Please e-mail her (see above).

*Above: Stephanie Milner, winner of the 16 to 18-year-old class in the 'Derby' at ICKD Junior World Trophy*

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Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon



# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Friday October 12.

### Council nominations

Nominations for council are invited from members of the association and the necessary forms are available to download from the website. The closing date for nominations is Friday October 5. Please ensure these are complete when submitted with the required signatures, membership numbers, personal statement and photograph.

Please give consideration to who you would like to see represent your interests on council (while remembering that meetings are mid-week and at the council member's own expense). Please ensure you have asked their permission before nominating them.

### BHDТА AGM and Conference

The BHDТА AGM and Conference takes place on Saturday November 17 at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire.

The BHDТА has been offered exclusive use of the restaurant area at Addington for its AGM and conference, which will take place during a premier show jumping event.

Following the day's proceedings, members will have opportunity to witness one of the most exciting events in the driving trials calendar – a



Photo: Mike Watts

horse fours indoor competition. There will be a charge of £10 for the evening.

More details of the format for the day will be published once they are finalised.

### Safety meeting

A discussion on the subject of back protectors/body protectors (which are compulsory at FEI events, but not at British national events) is planned for the evening of October 12 to tie in with the next council meeting and the event organisers meeting the following day. The intention is to have a speaker with considerable experience of their use to inform council and

BHDТА members. The meeting starts at 7pm and will be chaired by Peter Bridson, Chairman of the Safety Committee. The venue is the Best Western Lancashire Manor Hotel, Skelmersdale, Near Wigan, Lancashire WN8 9QD.

If you have any views you wish to put forward or questions you want raised, and are unable to attend the meeting in person, please send these in writing (email or snail mail) to the BHDТА office by **Wednesday October 10**.

## Events

### Fenix Carriages and Windsor Insurance Driver of the Year Awards

The Windsor Novice and Fenix Intermediate and Open Driver of the Year awards will be presented at the National Championships in a move away from the traditional format of the Points League presentations at the conference. As these pages go to press, the Raehills event results could have a significant effect on the outcome of a number of these presentations.

The format is being finalised so please watch out for an October Newsletter and keep an eye on the website for the results and exact details of when and where the presentations will be made.

### National Championships

The National Championship qualifying criteria for 2012 were reviewed after the event at Erddig as cancelled events and the clash of dates with the Single Horse World Championships have reduced the numbers available to compete. The review took place over the five full National

Above: Ben Grose Left: Ian Bertram



Photo: James Campbell

events and additional qualification letters were sent out to those who were added to the list. Please contact the BHDТА office if you feel you have been missed or you have any queries about your qualification.

Wendy Peckham has more information on the National Championships. See page 50.

## International

### Drivers selected for FEI Horse Singles World Championship in Portugal

Drivers selected to represent Great Britain at the FEI Single Horse Driving Trials World Championships in Portugal from September 12 to 16 will be Emily Bennett, Ian Bertram, Ben Grose, Jock McFarlane and Pam Neill. The team of three will be announced nearer the time, with the other two drivers competing as individuals.

Emily Bennett, a mother of two, comes from a carriage driving family and started by grooming for her father Michael Brookes who was a successful tandem driver. Emily has competed in show driving since she was seven and, since taking up driving trials, has been National Champion in singles, pairs, tandem and fours. Emily's horse is a 13-year-old Dutch KWPN, Salbrino, which she has had for a year. She was a member of the British team with a pony four at the first FEI Combined Pony World Championships at Karlstetten in 2003.

Ian Bertram took up carriage driving following a car accident, which left him unable to ride, when he was 15. He has competed nationally for over 20 years. His current horse, Hamewith Lonach, is a 16-year-old Hackney and the two have competed at World Championships on three previous occasions.

They were a member of the 1996 gold medal winning single horse team.

Ben Grose, the youngest of the single horse drivers travelling to Portugal, is 25 years-old and makes a living from horse-drawn funerals and weddings in London. He also trains horses and teaches people to drive. He started driving at the age of eight and has competed successfully as a Young Driver at club and national level. In 2002 he was voted Most Promising Young Driver and drives his own Dutch KWPN called Wanroi.

Jock McFarlane has retired as an arable farmer. He competed up to FEI 2\* level in ridden eventing. Jock gave up eventing and took up driving seven years ago. He started by breaking his event horse to harness, but now drives Wodka, a nine-year-old Dutch KWPN. Jock won three of the selection trials; at Ashfields, Sandringham and Erddig.

Pam Neill owns the Dutch KWPN, Pablo Diablo, which she has had for eight years. Pam has competed in ridden dressage and show jumping both at home and abroad and has represented GB in singles driving trials at a previous world championships.

Officials will be chef d'equipe Jill Holah, assistant chef d'equipe Patti Atkinson, team vet Rosie Mould, team equine physiotherapist Hazel Potter and team trainer Boyd Exell.

### Para Equestrian World Championship

Four British drivers will contest the forthcoming FEI Para Equestrian World Championship in Breda from August 30 to September 2. The team members are Deborah Daniel, Mick Ward and Lucy Barclay and Lindsay Paice will compete as an individual. Rachel Belliere-Wilson acts as team chef d'equipe.

*Below: Deborah Daniel*

Deborah drives Valeside Galaxy, aka Sparky, a grey Welsh Section C gelding. Introduced to carriage driving through the RDA in 2005, Deborah went to her first driving trials club competition at the end of 2007 and started competing at club level in 2008. Her most notable success to date has been selection to the para-equestrian team for the 2010 FEI World Championships where she finished as the highest placed British driver. She also won the para-equestrian championship at Sandringham earlier this year.

Deborah served as a police sergeant before her accident, which was the result of an explosion on a scuba diving boat while on holiday. One of her hobbies is breeding show jumpers with her partner Paul.

Mick Ward drives Angela Flanagan's horse Double Cream. He has only been competing in driving trials since 2011, but showed immediate promise by winning the British Para Equestrian novice class in his first season. Following an accident in 2005, Mick saw sport as a way of coping. He had previously been an active rugby player and scuba diver. Having attended a para-equestrian training session and had a carriage driving lesson, he was hooked.

Lucy Barclay has been competing in driving trials for three years. Her pony Barntown, aka Golly, is a 15hh Connemara x TB dun mare. Following a serious accident in 2001 when a car collided with the horse she was riding, Lucy was left paralysed from the waist down. She was determined to ride again and using only voice commands and neck reining (Golly was unhappy with Lucy using the more conventional schooling stick), competed in the 2007 FEI Para Dressage World Championships.

After a fall which left her unable to ride, Lucy introduced Golly to harness where she proved to be a natural. She was second in the Para-Equestrian Driving Championships at Henbury last year. Golly will be contesting her second world championship in two different sports.

Lindsay Paice (Tyas) is the driver with the most international experience, having competed internationally since 1994. Most recently, she was a member of the bronze medal winning British team at the FEI Para-Equestrian World Championships in 2010.

Her horse, London Flash Jack, is almost as experienced and has been competing internationally since 2004. A car accident at the age of four left Lindsay paralysed down her right hand side but, despite this, she rode until the age of 14 when she took up carriage driving.



Photo: Kingswood Associates

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Thank you

Now that the outdoor season has drawn to a close with the National Championships, a huge vote of thanks must go to all the stewards, officials, scorers, time keepers and especially the event organisers and their committees for the effort they put in at both club and national level to ensure we have a varied programme of excellent events at which to compete around the country. The majority of these volunteers receive no expenses and without them the sport could not thrive. Thank you to you all.

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Friday 12 October.

### Council Nominations

Nominations for council are invited from members of the Association and the necessary forms are available to download from the website. The closing date for nominations is Friday 5 October. Please ensure these are complete when submitted with the required

signatures, membership numbers, personal statement and photograph.

Please give consideration to who you would like to see represent your interests on council (while remembering that meetings are mid week and at the council member's own expense). Please ensure you have asked their permission before nominating them.

### BHDТА AGM and Conference

The BHDТА AGM and Conference take place on Saturday 17 November at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. The BHDТА has been offered exclusive use of the restaurant area at Addington for its AGM and Conference, which will take place during a premier show jumping event. The format for the day is as follows:

- 10:00 Tea and coffee (RESTAURANT)
- 10.30–11.30 **Workgroups around tables, inc the following:**
  - International
  - Clubs
  - Rules

- 11.40–12.20 **Stewards and Officials (RESTAURANT)**  
**The Olympic Legacy (Anne Clarke)**  
This talk will explain all the various funding opportunities that are available to clubs, groups and individuals as a result of the Olympic Legacy. The talk will stimulate people to speak to Anne about their various projects. (OLD BAR)
- 12.30–2.00 Lunch (RESTAURANT £15 per head, cold buffet inc smoked salmon etc. Pre bookings only, please contact Addington directly using booking form)
- 2.20 **Annual General Meeting, with the following Resolutions**
  - Rule Changes
  - Updating the BHDТА brand (OLD BAR)
- 3.00 **Discussion regarding the use of body protectors**  
**Discussion on new rule changes**
- 5.00 Finish of Conference



Photo: www.peterbphotography.co.uk

### It's fast, it's furious – and it's free!

Just as spectators at the Olympics and Paralympics have been supporting our equestrian teams, now it's our turn to do some stamping of feet and cheering loudly as our top Horse Fours drivers go head-to-head in the British Masters at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre on Saturday 17 November.

Following on from the BHDТА AGM and Conference, which takes place at the venue from 10.00am until 5.00pm, members and their spouses, partners and friends are invited to stay on for what will be a thrilling, exciting and hard fought battle to qualify for the FEI World Cup Indoor Driving at Olympia, the London International Horse Show. And what's more – it's free to watch!

At 7.00pm there will be opportunity to have an optional meal\* in the Addington Manor Restaurant. All spectators can watch the drivers walk the course before the competition begins at 8.30pm. There will be six or seven drivers competing over two rounds; the fastest over the two rounds will go forward to the World Cup Driving class at Olympia in December – so let's give it some welly and cheer them on!

If you don't fancy a late night drive home afterwards you'll be pleased to know that caravans and horseboxes will be welcome to stay overnight; electrical hook-up is available at £20 per caravan/vehicle.

*Joseph Adams, Open Pony Pairs Champion*

\*The optional meal costs £25 per head with tables of 8 – 10 people and must be pre-booked directly with Addington Manor Equestrian Centre. Likewise, caravan and horsebox space (plus hook-up if required) must be pre-booked with Addington Manor. Booking forms are available for download from the BHDTA website or call the office on 0845 643 2116.

Addington Manor Equestrian Centre is in Addington, Buckinghamshire, postcode MK18 2JR ([www.addingtonmanor.co.uk](http://www.addingtonmanor.co.uk)).

## Event Organisers Meetings and Safety Meeting

A club event organisers meeting and the National Event Organisers Meeting take place on 13 October. Invitations have been sent and delegates are reminded to send any dinner or lunch booking forms back to the BHDTA in good time before the meetings if they plan to attend.

An information evening on the subject of back protectors/body protectors (which are compulsory at FEI events but not at British national events) is taking place on the evening of 12 October to tie in with the next council meeting and the Event Organisers Meeting the following day. The intention is to have a speaker with considerable experience of their use to inform council and BHDTA members. The meeting starts at 7.30pm.

A further meeting where the members will have an opportunity to express their views is scheduled for the BHDTA Conference in November.

The venue is the Best Western Lancashire Manor Hotel, Skelmersdale, Near Wigan, Lancashire WN8 9QD.

A reduced rate of £50 for a single room for bed and breakfast is being offered for anyone wishing to stay on the Friday evening.

## EVENTS

### National Championships

The 2012 National Championships were blessed with excellent weather, despite one of the wettest summers on record. Competitor numbers were down on previous years with Advanced Single Horse Championships having already been decided at Erddig due to the clash with the FEI World Championships in Portugal. A number of new National Champions emerged after three days of closely contested classes. See pages 30-31 for the full report.

### Fenix Carriages and Windsor Insurance Driver of the Year Awards

There was a new look to the BHDTA Points League Awards this year. Mark Broadbent of Fenix Carriages, who has sponsored driving trials and the league awards for several years, decided the format needed a fresh look and wanted to generate more competition within the league by only presenting awards to the first



Photo by Mike Watts.

two, champion and reserve. The trophies for the intermediate and open leagues – in the guise of a silver phoenix on a black stand – were made by Mark himself in his famous Fenix Carriages workshop while artist and sculptor, Elizabeth Henderson, created beautiful driving horse heads in bronze resin mounted on a wooden plinth for the novice winners.

The trophies and sashes were presented during the BHDTA National Championships at Windsor last month. Congratulations to the 2012 Windsor Novice Champion Drivers: Gordon Watson (Pony) and Carole Redgrave (Horse) and the Fenix Champion Drivers: (Pony) Tony Mould (Intermediate), Tracey Fletcher (Open), Gary Brown (Advanced), Joseph Adams (Open Pair), Faith Szczuka (Advanced Pair), Sue Mayes (Tandem), Sara Howe (Team) and (Horse) Terry Bailey (Intermediate), Sonny Hillier (Open), Jock McFarlane (Advanced), Derrick Mayes (Open Pair), Barnaby Bowman (Advanced Pair), Pat Cooper (Tandem), George Bowman IV (Team).

## INTERNATIONAL

### FEI Horse Singles World Championship in Portugal

If you were following the blog from Jill Holah and Patti Atkinson on the BHDTA website, you will realise that the temperature was slightly higher than in Britain. Dealing with this seems to have been one of the main problems of competing in Portugal. The team of Jock McFarlane, Ian Bertram and Emily Bennett finished in fifth place from a total of 19 countries while the individual placings (out of 73 competitors) saw Jock finish 11th, Pam Neill competing as an individual in 13th, Ian in 14th, Emily in 17th and Ben Grose, also competing as an individual, in 30th.

### Bronze Medal at Para Equestrian World Championships

Four intrepid travellers made their way to Breda and their hopes of returning with a medal were

### The 2012 Drivers of the Year

fully justified. Competing against nations who have a far larger squad of para drivers, GBR produced consistent results in all the phases with Mick Ward, competing at this level for the first time, finishing best of the British drivers in individual seventh.

Wendy Peckham has a full report on both these championships on page 20.

## SUPPORTERS

### 200 Club

Heather Clark is nearing the end of her first year at the helm of the 200 Club and we are very grateful to her for taking on this role. She has asked Council to consider how best to spend the money raised by the supporters to help the sport. The next draw takes place at the BHDTA Conference in November. The most recent winners are:

#### Sandringham

Jane Lamb - £120  
Heather Nestel - £60  
The Lady Brabourne - £40  
Paddy Marris - £20  
Andrew Counsell - £10

#### Windsor National Championships

Edwina Hart - £120  
Eric Moss - £60  
Richard Lawrence - £40  
Andrea Rutledge - £20  
Geoff Glaister - £10

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council will be decided after the new Council members are appointed at the AGM.

### Council Nominations

A newsletter has been sent with a voting paper for the Council election which must be returned to the scrutineer by noon on Tuesday 13th November at the latest. Please use your vote as this is your chance to elect those that will represent your interests on Council. Each candidate has submitted a short statement with some personal details to help you decide who should receive your vote.

### BHDTA AGM and a New Resolution

A revised Notice of Meeting has been sent to all members, printed on yellow paper, to incorporate an additional resolution Council wished to add following their meeting on 12th October. A revised proxy form, also on yellow paper, has been sent to show the additional resolution regarding the proposed name change for the Association and to allow members to vote should they be unable to attend the meeting.

The reasoning behind the proposed name change is to give the Association a more dynamic image and bring us into line with other member bodies of the British Equestrian Federation. Other BEF member bodies are BD (British Dressage), BE (British Eventing) and BS (British Showjumping). Council felt that if we amalgamated two words in the same way Showjumping did, it would fit well if we were BC which stands for British Carriage Driving. James Broome will speak to the Conference before the AGM to expand on Council's reasoning for introducing the idea. If the idea is approved, a new logo will be introduced to fit with the new image of driving as a modern sport.

### BHDTA Conference – revised programme

The BHDTA AGM and Conference take place on Saturday 17 November at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. The format for the day has been revised as follows:

10.30 – 11.30am

#### Workgroups around tables (Restaurant)

- Finance
- International
- Clubs



Jock McFarlane FEI Singles Horse Championships

- Competitions
- Training
- Judges
- Officials – TD and CD

11.40am – 12.20pm

#### The Olympic Legacy (Old Bar)

Anne Clarke: the BEF's South West and South East Regional Development Co-ordinator and Lead Co-ordinator for the Non Olympic Disciplines. This talk will explain all the various funding opportunities that are available to clubs, groups and individuals as a result of the Olympic legacy. The talk will stimulate people to speak to Anne about their various projects.

12.30pm – 2.00pm

**Lunch (Restaurant) - £15 per head: must have been pre-booked)**

2.20pm (Old Bar)

**Welcome: Chairman – Jock McFarlane**

**The Case For Re-branding: James Broome**

2.45pm

#### Annual General Meeting

3pm

#### Reports

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Report questions: other reports will have

been circulated during the day  
**Presentation of Chairman's Award**  
**Presentation of Young Driver Award**  
**Open Forum**

- The recommendation to wear a body protector: Peter Bridson
- Rule changes (if required)

5.00pm Finish of Conference

### Evening Horse Fours Indoor Competition

The Olympia Trial event follows in the evening where a number of horse fours drivers will do their best to shine in front of the Olympia selectors with the aim of being offered the wild card to compete in the Indoor World Cup just before Christmas. Members and their spouses, partners and friends are invited to stay on for what will be a thrilling, exciting and hard fought battle. And what's more – it's free to watch.

At 7.00 pm, there will be opportunity to have an optional meal\* in the Addington Manor Restaurant. All spectators can watch the drivers walk the course before the competition begins at 8.30 pm. The competition will follow the Indoor World Cup format where round one determines the order for the second

round. The fastest three drivers in round two go on to a final run-off to determine who will win the British Masters title!

If you don't fancy a late night drive home afterwards, you'll be pleased to know that caravans and horseboxes will be welcome to stay overnight at Addington; electrical hook-up is available at £20.00 per caravan/vehicle.

\*The optional meal costs £20 per head with tables of 8 - 10 people and must be pre-booked directly with Addington Manor Equestrian Centre. Likewise, caravan and horsebox space (plus hook-up if required) must be pre-booked with Addington Manor. Please download the Booking Form from the BHDTA web-site or call the BHDTA office on 0845 643 2116.

## Rule changes

As these pages go to print, the revised draft of the new FEI rules has only just been received. The Rules Committee have not yet had a chance to respond but, at their recent meeting, Council took the view that whatever was proposed by the FEI, the competition would not be dramatically altered in Britain in 2013. Further information will be made available in due course.

## Promotion of officials

Council have approved recommendations from the Competitions Committee's that Colin Smith is promoted to the list of course designers and from the Judges Committee's that Barry Capstick, Sanchia May and James Rooney (specialist dressage) are added to the judges list.

## Club Liaison Committee

Council have decided that the Club Liaison Committee is not functioning as originally planned. They have decided not to replace Martyn Willis when he retires at the AGM this year. Louise McCutcheon will continue until the end of her 2 year term. This decision was put to the clubs attending the Club Event Organisers meeting and can be discussed during the morning work groups at the Conference after which Council will review the decision.

## UKCC

After many years of commitment to the modern approach to coaching through the UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC), Ann Varley has decided to hand over the reins and step down. She has been instrumental in introducing the UKCC programme to carriage drivers and getting a core of qualified coaches listed which has now expanded to include numerous qualified coaches from Oban to Devon. She has moved the programme forward and driving now has coaches up to Level 3.

Previously Ann managed all this on her own but the job has grown more onerous as time has passed. For this reason Angela Flanagan has agreed to liaise with the Coaching Development Action Team (CDAT) and Minta Winn has agreed to take on administration of the coaching programme

and assessment days. If you have any queries regarding the UKCC programme, please contact the BHDTA Office in the first instance.

The Chairman has expressed his thanks to Ann for all her hard work in getting the programme started. This has taken her a huge amount of time and effort as was recognised by Tony Bache when Ann was awarded the Chairman's award in 2010.

## EVENTS

### 2013 Dates

As these pages go to print, a number of events have still to confirm their dates for 2013. Please watch the web-site where they will be published as soon as they have been confirmed.

### Lowther Horse Driving Trials 2013

One event that many will be pleased to see returning to the National calendar is Lowther. George Bowman IV has been instrumental in getting this event off the ground. He says:

"We have been given permission by Lowther Home Park and Estate for the Horse Driving Trials to take place once more. The estate has given us full use of the estate, free of charge. The stables will be above the road, in front of the castle on the left hand side of the avenue of trees. A new carriage driving arena is in place already in front of the castle.

"Four of the marathon obstacles will be in the vicinity of the stables and the arena. Public access will be from the public car park across the road into the avenue of trees, which will be fenced. The natural bank will form a public viewing gallery.

"Section A is planned to follow a route across the land behind the castle. It is planned

that Section E will start by coming through the garden area, which is being rebuilt as part of the castle development. It will then run through the wood beside the castle and across the scar, down the hill to the next four obstacles by the river. Lowther will be different in some ways but in others much the same as before."

### Erddig

Sadly, due to an increased cost of the estate, Erddig will not be able to remain financially viable and so will not run in 2013.

### BYD on foot training day

The Young Drivers have a training day planned on 11 November at the Unicorn Equestrian Trust, Stow on the Wold. The theme of the day is "Review and Planning". The presentations will be focussed on practical examples. In the morning the speakers are all older young drivers. This is a chance to tap into their specialist knowledge and pick up ideas to help you. The day costs £20/head to include lunch and refreshments. Please email Mary Jane Campbell [campbells@ramsland.plus.com](mailto:campbells@ramsland.plus.com) to book your place and pay on the day. Everyone, including the "not-so-young" are welcome to attend.

*Emily Bennet at the FEI Single Horse World Championships, Photos Catriona Bertram*

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# Monthly update

## Official news

### Council meeting

The date of the next meeting of the BHDТА Council will be decided after the new council meet on Thursday, 22 November.

### BHDТА Conference and AGM

These meetings took place on Saturday, 17 November for the first time in Addington Equestrian Centre in conjunction with a premier show jumping event. Delegates moved around different tables, each facilitated by a specialist in a particular area in an informal manner. For the more formal session in the afternoon they received their paperwork in a new style brochure, which was popular and the contents are published on the website for anyone who was unable to attend.

The afternoon session of the conference opened with reports from the chairman and treasurer. In addition to his printed report, the treasurer noted that the forecast profit for the association had been swallowed up by the loss of £11k on the national championships.

He listed a number of contributing factors: event cancellations had reduced the number of qualified competitors; entries were down as the FEI World Singles Championship had drawn some people to Portugal and £2k had been spent on advertising, yet only £1.3k was taken on the gate. He noted that measures will be taken to address this for 2013.

James Broome then spoke about the proposed change of name for the association and asked members to approach the name change from a sound business perspective. Why BC? James pointed out that although we know the sport as driving trials, and know



Photo: Cathy Willis

how this differs for example from scurry, showing etc, outsiders do not recognise the differences and the first stage is to get them interested before they specialise.

We need to send out a clear message and a clear brand - people recognise carriage driving.

James felt a new name and logo will challenge people to reconsider preconceptions.

Good marketing and promotion will still be needed and this will start with the evening horse fours competition on Horse and Country TV later this year. He finished by asking everyone to support the name change.

The AGM followed and the chairman called a poll to enable the proxy votes to be counted in addition to votes cast by the members who were able to attend the meeting. The first three ordinary resolutions were passed and the result of the ballot announced: David Titmuss, James Rooney and Mark Ingham were duly elected.

The business moved onto the special resolution regarding changing the name of the association. Of the 156 members who voted, 125 were in favour which gave a majority of fractionally over 80%. As only 75% was needed, the chairman declared the resolution passed.

Jock McFarlane then asked Peter Bridson to accept the chairman's award, which is presented by the chairman of the BHDТА to someone who has helped the association over and above the call of duty, over many years and in a voluntary capacity.

Jock said: "As a successful London solicitor, Peter took on the role of company secretary, to the recently formed BHDТА, in 1995. He was

*Daniel Naprous in the obstacle at Addington  
Below left: Rosanna Walter Symons with the BHDТА  
Young Driver's Achievement Award*

to deal with the statutory legal requirements of the company and also to act as legal advisor to the Association. This is he has done for 17 years without any charge to the association, thus saving us thousands of pounds.

He guides the trustees of the special development fund, acts as the scrutineer for the BHDТА council elections and has kept us right with the voting and proxy forms for the proposed name change.

Peter has had a considerable input into the health and safety side of the sport and has generally guided the approach taken by the BHDТА.

In addition to all the above, he has found the time to qualify as a TD and ran the national championships some 10 years ago.

I have only met Peter Bridson a few times, however as chairman, I have been in contact with him on numerous occasions, seeking his advice on a wide range of topics.

For many years Peter has given his advice freely and with little thanks. On your behalf I would like to thank him now by presenting him with the 2012 Chairman's award."

The BHDТА Young Drivers Achievement Award was then presented to Rosanna Walter Symons. Rosanna started driving aged eight in 2000 and has gone through the young drivers progressive training scheme, winning the National Novice Pony Championship in 2009 and the National Advanced Pony Championship in 2012.



This year marked the first ever FEI European Young Drivers Championship, at which she won a bronze medal, which is a new “benchmark of achievement” by our young drivers.

The chairman then pointed out that the BHDTA does not normally present an award to retiring council members, but on this occasion he had decided to make an exception.

He noted that Ian Gilbert had not missed a meeting in nine years and has spent an extraordinary amount of his time for the benefit of the sport.

As chairman of the competitions committee, he has always been determined to support our national events whenever possible and wherever they are located in the country.

He possesses a huge knowledge of the sport and many useful contacts all over the country, from who we all benefit. He will be greatly missed on council, the competitions committee and the F&GP committee.

The afternoon session concluded with a statement to say that the BHDTA Council will stand by their published statement that “whatever was proposed by the FEI, the competition would not be dramatically altered in Britain in 2013”, although a high number of the members present felt that a more relaxed walk would be of benefit. Peter Bridson then spoke to the members about body protectors.

A variety of opinions were heard from the floor, which will assist council when making decisions about implementing FEI rules.

Delegates then headed for dinner and an evening of fabulous entertainment.

### The British Masters

The inaugural British Masters competition gave the lively crowd at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre a night that they will never forget.

In the first round - used only to determine the running order of the second - Karen Bassett, driving a team that included three horses

only previously used for funerals, started the competition off steadily. Wilf Bowman-Ripley, driving as though his life depended on it, looked world class as his horses charged around the Andrew Simmons-built course.

However, it was Georgina Hunt who topped the leader board, ensuring that she would be the last to go in the following round.

The first to go in the second round was Karen, who gave the spectators the biggest surprise of the day. Not only did she knock some 25 seconds off her first round, but she also finished the round in third place, ahead of Dick Lane, Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Pippa Bassett.

Georgina Hunt continued to be the consummate professional, driving the fastest of all the drivers in the second round and Daniel Naprous also did particularly well to finish in second position. This meant that Karen, Daniel and Georgina would be in the final drive-off round to determine the winner.

Karen started the drive-off by moving up yet another gear and flew through the course.

Unfortunately, a slight steering hiccup caused a minor deviation off the racing line and cost Karen a few seconds. With the pressure then at virtually unbearable levels, Daniel drove his Lipizzaner horses very accurately and smoothly, beating Karen's time. However, with the current leader still to drive, everybody's focus moved to Georgina.

In a carbon copy of her first round, Georgina drove perfectly, executing an almost impossible line from the “B” to the “C” gate of the first obstacle. Just as everyone thought that Georgina had the competition won, her nearside leader got a leg over a trace. This meant that grooms had to be put down, and after the rhythm had been lost, Georgina was subsequently eliminated - leaving Daniel Naprous as the first ever British Master.

As this had been run as an Olympia trial event, the organising committee for the



Olympia International Horse Show then confirmed that they wished to offer Dan the wild card, which he accepted. The FEI Indoor World Cup Driving takes place on the evening of Wednesday, 19 and the afternoon of Thursday, 20 December. Dan joins an international line-up consisting of Koos de Ronde (NED), Theo Timmerman (NED), Christoph Sandmann (GER), Georg von Stein (GER), Fredrik Persson (SWE) with Boyd Exell (AUS) as the second wild card for this event.

Below left: BHDTA Chairman Jock McFarlane, presenting Peter Bridson with the 2012 Chairman's award. Below right: Ian Gilbert

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