

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

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

2011 memberships

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

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

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

EVENTS

Novice Qualifiers

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

New Novice Dressage Test

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

She explains the rationale behind its conception.

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations

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



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

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Photo: Vic Kusin

Barry Hunter.

controlled medication. The implications for BHDTA are:

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

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

GENERAL

Queen's Award for Equestrianism



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

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

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

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

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

RSPCA Dogs Summit

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

Promotion for Barry Hunter

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

Passports and Registrations

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

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