

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on **8th June**.

EVENTS

Ashfields National

Closing date: Wednesday 20th April

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

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

St Fort Regional

Closing date: Monday 2nd May

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

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

Free 6th Start Fee

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

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

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

Special Offer for 2011

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

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

New National's Secretary

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

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

Rule Amendments 2011

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

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



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

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

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

INTERNATIONAL

New FEI rules

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

GENERAL

Supporters

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



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

Photo: Dicky Jim

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

Sports Psychology Talk

Tony Gregory reports from the recent talk by Jenny Killilea:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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