

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

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

Sport England Satisfaction Survey

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

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

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

Clinic Reports

CD and TD Seminars

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

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

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

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

Judges Seminar

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

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

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

Club TDs and Safety (north)

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

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

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

EVENTS

Hopetoun 27th – 29th May

Entries close Friday 30th April

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

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

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

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

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

Windsor Park Regional 4th-5th June

Entries close Saturday 21st May

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

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

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

Newnham Park Regional 18th-19th June Entries close Saturday 4th June

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

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

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

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

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

For a club schedule www.gwhc.co.uk or a National Schedule www.bhdta.co.uk. Address any queries to the entry secretary – Mary Jane Campbell 01752 830221.

2011 BHDTA Conference

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Celebration of the Horse Raceday

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

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

SUPPORTERS

200 Club

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

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

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



British Horse Driving Trials Association, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
Tel: 0845 643 2116 Email: bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon

