

# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

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

### Southern Clinics

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

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

## EVENTS

### Your first National or Regional event?

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

### Saddlers' Company Awards

The Saddlers' Company generously present awards to drivers every year. These take the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for saddlery and horse clothing from a member of the Society of Master Saddlers. The vouchers are worth £60 and can be used as part payment for a more expensive item.

These are awarded to the winners of the Intermediate classes for ponies and horses at National and Regional events. At the National Championships, winners of the Intermediate classes will receive leather reins. This is a substantial incentive for newly qualified drivers from the Novice classes to move up to Intermediate level in 2011.

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

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

### Novice Dressage Test

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



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

Photo: Dicky Jim

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

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

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

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

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

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

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



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

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

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

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

## Sandringham

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

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

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

The organisers have asked for more help as they need more stewards on marathon day which is Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. If anyone can volunteer their help on the day, please contact Sally Moreton on 07739 479241 or 01526 388643. The stewards' caravan park is probably in one of the best parks in England and you are very welcome to come and spend a few days seeing the Norfolk countryside and beaches. All that is asked in return is your time on marathon day. If you are not an experienced steward please do not worry; you will be allocated to an experienced crew who will 'show you the ropes'.

## Catton

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

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

## INTERNATIONAL

### European Championships

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

## GENERAL

### BHS Hi-Viz Survey

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

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

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

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