

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDТА Council takes place on Wednesday 7th September.

At their recent meeting the members of Council adopted the following three aims which are intended to improve governance of the association and the relationship between Council and the members. Council are elected by the members to represent their interests, however there can be a feeling that decisions are taken without sufficient consultation with the members on major changes. They plan to be more open about the decision making process:

1. Aims

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

This does not replace the aims in the articles of association which are quite general to create an outline of what the association does. This is to remind us what we are trying to do.

2. Values

The BHDТА council agrees that in carrying out its business it will consult members and be as open as possible, while providing leadership. Involve, inform, inspire.

This is a statement of values, not specifics. It can mean, for example, that if we propose major changes we put out a discussion paper first and ask for comments.

3. Planning

The BHDТА council will come up with a three year plan for development of the sport, update the plan regularly and monitor progress.

The council must give a lead, whether our strategy is how to survive the recession or plans for growth. This will take some time to formulate but will give the Association a clear focus and measure of its performance. With this intention being put into practice immediately, please see the next item below.

2011 BHDТА Conference

Over recent years the Annual Conference has been reasonably well attended but Council would like to hear your views on the format and content of your conference in order to produce a programme which is stimulating while giving an opportunity for more dialogue between members and Council.

Suggestions

- Sessions for all from 10am so that people are not coming for just a two- to three-hour session in the afternoon.
- Special interest groups to be added to the current ones: clubs, international and stewards.
- Networking and interest fair. Allocation of areas to groups and members circulating.
- Should awards be made at the conference and not in the evening?
- Domestic arrangements to give everybody the opportunity for coffee and lunch. Perhaps included in an overall package.

Possible agenda

10.00	Specialist meetings/workshops
11.30	Networking and ideas fair
12.30	Lunch
1.30	Keynote speaker
2.00	AGM
2.15	BHDТА Reports
3.15	Plenary discussion-structured around reports and members issues
4.30	Summary session

We would like your responses and suggestions to this paper either through the forum or direct

email Barry Hilditch: barryhilditch@janton.demon.co.uk
or Mike Watts: m@mikewatts.com.

EVENTS

Allerton

Entries close Monday 4th July

North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd. is pleased once again to be hosting a BHDТА Regional event in the grounds of the beautiful Allerton Park in North Yorkshire on the weekend of July 16th -17th

Held entirely within the estate grounds, with no road work whatsoever, the competition boasts probably the finest water obstacle in Britain. With gates situated on an island in the lake and accessed by causeways, newcomers to the Allerton Park event cannot fail to be impressed.

The adjacent Allerton Castle is simply magnificent as are the Capability Brown designed parklands. Volunteer stewards and helpers along with competitors gain access to areas not normally open to the general public. The cones course and dressage arenas are situated beneath the hill top observatory which creates a spectacular backdrop to the driving.

The nearby towns of Knaresborough and Harrogate provide some excellent amenities while the ancient city of York is within easy driving range.



Carol Boswell and Balgoed Explorer Eric have set themselves a challenge to compete in the Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials (driving tandem with Scole Balnasuim) and Hopetoun International British Eventing in aid of Cancer Research and Parkinson's UK.

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS



Robert Bowman competing at Allerton last year.

Erddig

Entries close Saturday 9th July

2011 sees the fourth Welsh National Horse Driving Trials hosted at Erddig, Wrexham. The grounds and surrounding parkland are a real treat for competitors and spectators alike. The event field, located close to the lorry park, will be expanded this year to include a small country fair with events and entertainment for spectators to enjoy at their leisure and for competitors to take a stroll through in that elusive thing called free time!

The marathon course winds its way through the beautiful Erddig estate, taking in woodland, open parkland and a number of river crossings. The eight obstacles present a range of challenges that will test even the most experienced drivers. The event itself provides a wealth of opportunities to get up close and personal in viewing the competitors at their best but if you need more then you can visit Erddig House and gardens, an evocative 17th and 18th century upstairs downstairs house with stunning formal gardens.

Located just two miles south of Wrexham, Erddig is easy to travel to and provides easy access to all town centre facilities / shops/restaurants providing the perfect mix for an ideal carriage driving weekend away.

Holker

Entries close Thursday 7th July

Lord and Lady Cavendish again extend a warm welcome to competitors, who will be able to enjoy the stunning scenery, ranging from the high fells to Morecambe Bay, on the marathon course.

The Harbinger Main Arena is being used on the Friday for Dressage and Sunday for Obstacle Driving (Cones.) The Harbinger 2 Dressage Arena will also be very near to the lorry park, while the practice arena will remain where it was last year.

This year's course builder is David Brown, with Colin Smith assisting. There are eight obstacles, including water. The public will be able to see at least six of the obstacles. Pauline Scott is in charge of obstacle decorating, so look out for the witches again! Carol Meredith, our cones course designer, will have her work cut out to incorporate the Kankku Challenge course into the main obstacle driving (cones) course.

We are again grateful to John Gaynor for sponsoring the Friday evening reception where invited guests, sponsors, competitors,

stewards, and officials can mingle and chat over a glass of wine.

Our marquee will also be the venue for the Saturday evening prize giving and dancing.

We are indebted to the following sponsors, without whom there would be no event:-

Aloe Vera, Baileys Feeds, Hugh Scott-Barrett, Bennington, Brookes Pet Care, Cancer Care, KKanku, Lanquestrian, Northwest Stables, Orton Market, Zoe Ross, Todds the Saddlers, and Xtreme Valeting. Holker Hall is again having a Trade Stand area with many of our sponsors having a pitch. Please support them if you are able.

Please get your entries in as soon as possible – it saves the organiser the overuse of worry beads and her dogs and cat can have a more peaceful home life!

GENERAL

Royal Windsor 2012

Council are canvassing views from the representatives of the classes invited to take part at Royal Windsor Horse Show over a new proposal.

The system of the first two drivers in the National Championships and the first two from the Fenix Points League will remain with the invitation passing down the Points League should there be duplication of names. The proposal is to introduce a dressage standard which requires a driver to achieve a score of 65 or less at a National event in the preceding season (this will be 70 for horse four-in-hands). Please speak to your class representative to ensure your views are heard.

Hopetoun Challenge

Carol Boswell is well known to many driving trials enthusiasts as both an experienced competitor and judge. She and Balgoed Explorer Eric have set themselves a challenge to compete in the Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials (driving tandem with Scole Balnasuim) and Hopetoun International British Eventing.

Carol is raising money for Cancer Research and Parkinson's UK. She believes this may be the first time such a challenge has been attempted unless, using Esther Rantzen's well known catch phrase from "That's Life", you know differently.

Donations can be given at www.virginmoneygiving.com/carolboswell

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