

# BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

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

### AGM and Conference 2011

The AGM and Conference take place on **October 15**. Please give consideration to who you would like to represent you on Council as there will be vacancies this year. The closing date falls after the National Championships, which is a good opportunity to get the paperwork signed. Notices will be sent with a copy of the Office News which will contain further details of additional meetings.

Dame Kelly Holmes will be addressing the conference and the plan is to have meetings to interest members throughout the day with lunch available in the hotel for everyone.

### New Club Affiliates

Epynt Carriage Club has recently joined the ranks of driving clubs affiliated to the BHDТА. They are a newly formed group of enthusiasts from Brecon and borders of Mid Wales. They have a wide range of ages and experience within the club and offer support to drivers with disabilities.

The club aims to promote carriage driving and horse welfare and give encouragement to all who wish to enjoy the sport of carriage driving. They plan to run three-phase outdoor and indoor events throughout the year.

For further information contact the secretary, *Chloe Lloyd*, on 01591 620492 or email [chloevl@hotmail.com](mailto:chloevl@hotmail.com).

*James Broome in obstacle 6 at Holker.*

## EVENTS

### Dope testing

We are delighted to announce that all dope tests carried out this year have been returned with no prohibited substances found.

### The National Carriage Driving Championships

Schedules and entry forms have been sent to all qualified competitors. If you're not driving, don't forget to put the date in your diary from **September 9 to 11** on the Queen Victoria's Review Ground, Windsor Great Park. The venue is clearly signposted by the AA from a considerable distance out.

Attractions include a country fair, a grandstand to watch all phases of the driving trials, BDS private driving, dog agility and vintage cars. Catering will be available and they will also supply a licensed bar.

Why not enjoy the Victoria Enclosure for that social day with your friends? The cost is just £36 per day, which includes admission, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a programme with the added advantage of somewhere to sit (in the dry should it happen to be wet.)

If you wish to take a caravan, passes can be purchased from the BHDТА office. These include the cost of admission and are excellent value at £20 for members and £40 for non-members.

FREE ADMISSION on Friday, £10 each on the other days.

FREE ADMISSION to ALL BHDТА members for all three days ONLY on PRODUCTION OF a VALID MEMBERSHIP CARD at the entrance gate.

All details are available from *Rita Bundock*, the National Championships organiser, at: [championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](mailto:championships@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk) or 01227 768769.



Photo: Mary Kusin

# ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL

### Combined Pony Team

The FEI Combined Pony World Championships in Lipica in Slovenia takes place from **September 21-25**. Jill Holah will act as chef d'equipe and be supported by assistant chef Sue Mart, team vet Holly Applewhite, team trainer, Boyd Exell and assistant vet/equine physio Nicola Baguley. The team are:

#### *Sue Denney*

Sue will be contesting her third world championship with Rolls Silver Spirit. Sue and Roly, who is now 18 years-old, have not had the best luck at this level until now. She is hoping that will change this year and feels Britain has the strongest team yet and a serious chance of a team medal.

Sue says, "Roly always does well in the cones but his real strength is the marathon phase. He's been competing for 10 years and still does a brilliant marathon, giving 100% every time." He knows his job inside out now so Sue is just keeping him ticking over until the championships. She says, "Roly has nothing to prove and everything he achieves is now a bonus. His dressage has improved as he no longer rushes his test while his transitions and paces have improved greatly."

#### *Tracey Fletcher*

Tracey drives Donnerstern who she bought in Germany as a stallion five years ago. Now gelded, she has trained him herself. Tracey is making her debut at this level but is not fazed by the demands of international competition as she makes every effort to ensure everything is right. She feels that she can cope well with the pressure as she knows that if something does go wrong, it's not due to lack of effort.

She says, "Donnerstern can take the pressure too. He will always give that bit more when you ask and can absorb this, keeping a smile on his face." He finds dressage hard and this is the phase he likes least, although training with double world champion Boyd Exell has improved his impulsion. Tracey said, "I am delighted with our last two events when I really felt the pony had clicked and was finding the test easier. This has also improved our cone driving although the marathon remains his favourite phase."

#### *Anna Grayston*

Anna is contesting the pony pairs section. She unfortunately experienced a massive setback when her best pony was injured, but Alan Clarke has kindly loaned her a pony. "The dressage is the ponies' best phase," said Anna, "and much of this is down to training with Barry Marshall who has extensive experience riding and judging at FEI level." She has contested numerous European Pony Team Championships and Combined Pony Championships with considerable success and predicts that the team has a very good chance this year.

She feels that the team spirit is good and all the drivers get on well. "I was delighted to win all the selection events and one of the most satisfying aspects of this campaign was consistently achieving the time for the cones, which we have found difficult to do while maintaining the ponies' balance." Anna hopes her ability to pay attention to detail will stand her in good stead in the forthcoming

ing championships. "I'm also good at getting my ponies to work well together," she said.

#### *James Broome*

James is the other pony pair driver. He has a few international competitions under his belt and loves to compete on the big occasions. James said, "I was particularly pleased with my results in Saumur earlier this year and delighted to be selected. Much of this is down to my superb back-up team. Ian Tyson, my backstepper, and I have a good partnership while my dad (international showjumper David Broome) helps with my training." James has also had some help from Boyd Exell.

While he sees the marathon as his ponies' strongest phase, he was delighted with his recent dressage mark at Holker; let's hope the lucky dressage socks continue to work in Lipica.

#### *Sara Howe*

Sara makes her debut in pony fours although she has previously driven successfully at world championship level with different single turnouts. She has a huge amount of support from Sandy and John Punyer and Trish Jones who formed a syndicate and each own a pony. Sara says, "My ponies are strong on the marathon as they are very nippy. They also match very well and have the 'cute' factor in their favour."

Sara likes a challenge and can be very determined when she has set her sights on something, although she gets frustrated not being able to cope with driving the four on her own which makes it more difficult to practice. Sara is supported by Sarcen Horse Feed and Horse First supplements. "I receive invaluable help from my mother, Leonie Marshall, and Wilf Bowman-Ripley," she said. "Eight years spent working for Peter Munt before setting up my own business was also invaluable."

#### *Wilf Bowman-Ripley*

Wilf drives Faith Szczuka's pony four and usually only gets a chance to drive them at events. He sees their age and experience as a significant advantage while their size (they are bigger than most) can give them an edge in the dressage phase as they look more elegant. "I plan to fit in a couple of international competitions before the championships," said Wilf. "This will help me work out the best routine for preparing them as some need more work than the others before the dressage."

Wilf's record of success with horse pairs and fours at world championships will be an advantage as he knows he can handle the pressure of competition at this level. Part of his training regime is to watch videos as you can pick up numerous tips from other drivers, both good and bad. Wilf cites lack of sponsorship as the biggest problem he has to overcome.

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Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon

