



BHDTA Official News

Official News

Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on Wednesday November 9.

AGM report

The 15th AGM took place on October 15. We are delighted to announce that James Broome and Wilf Bowman-Ripley have been elected to council for a three-year term and Philip Bateman re-elected for a further three years. The chairman extended his thanks on behalf of the members for Jean Lane's contribution during her time on council.

Conference report

The conference started with meetings for International issues, Affiliated clubs and stewards and volunteers. Reports from these meetings will be published in next month's issue.

The next event was a new initiative with interest tables giving members an opportunity to speak to those with responsibility for the different aspects of the sport and discuss issues amongst themselves. This was followed by lunch in the restaurant which proved very popular.

Anti-doping:

Members then returned to the conference suite to hear Janice Shardlow's talk on the new anti-doping rules, which have implications for all competitors irrespective of the level at which they compete. Janice is a solicitor and the Head of Governance and Legal at the BEF. She is responsible for human and equine anti-doping within the federation. She noted that the title was slightly intimidating: the New National Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication System. Her intention was to slightly scare, but also inform members.

She explained that no discipline can compete as a national sport unless they have a system that mirrors the FEI. This has to apply to all that country's disciplines and will apply from 1 January 2012 for driving. Information will go on the BHDTA website over the next few weeks.

Janice highlighted the two systems – doping and controlled medication and the different impacts of each. She explained how to use the National Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption forms, the testing procedures and the implications of this for members.



Chairman's Report:

Following the AGM, the chairman gave his report. He noted that two of his main objectives on accepting this role had been achieved: the BHDTA had significantly cut their admin costs and now sent out accurate information which was in date when received by the members. He noted that our ability to have retained the same level of membership fees for five years during a period of recession and instability was excellent news. He still hoped a closer bond between the clubs and the BHDTA could be developed. He noted that the funding from SportEngland had significantly contributed to the development of the network of UKCC coaches now at our disposal and this was a very positive step forward.

He commented on the decision by council to appoint a Marketing Programme Director, which had been a brave one. The association had sufficient reserves to enable this project to be undertaken but unfortunately the level of sponsorship generated was insufficient to prevent a significant dip in the level of the reserves. With this in mind, the council had taken steps to terminate this arrangement and Chris Hillman left his role with the BHDTA at the end of September. He noted that there had been many positive initiatives to raise the profile of the sport with TV coverage on Horse and Country TV and the current match funding bid to bring newcomers into the sport; unfortunately others had been less successful.

He concluded by noting the lack of female representation on council. Louise McCutcheon, the newly appointed Regional Representative from Scotland, will be the only female member of council. He thanked Mary Kusin and Peter Bridson for their help and support during his time as chairman and in particular his wife Gill who had been of immense support.

Treasurer's Report:

Jan Szczuka then reported on the loss incurred from the marketing initiative and noted that cost savings in administration had been gradually eroded due to inflation. For this reason, a modest increase in subscriptions was inevitable but this was kept well below the rate of inflation. It would be possible to keep cutting back on costs, but council believe members' interests are best served by improving the service to the members.

He noted that the marketing expectations had not been met, but we needed to build on the work that had been done.

Competitions Committee:

Ian Gilbert reported that although Holker had been lost, Drumlanrig was returning to the 2012 event calendar. The National Trust no longer wished to run Erddig, but a new event team had been put in place and the event would continue. Allerton had decided not to run as a Regional. He noted that the



dressage tests for use in 2012 were still not finalised due to changes in the tests used at international events. Selection and qualifying classes would be confirmed in due course on the website and in the yearbook.

Some discussion of the class structure ensued and the members present felt it was important to continue progression so the existing classes would remain at present until the novices had time to bed in at national events.

He also noted that the committee were looking into the possibility of on-line entries.

Event Organiser's Meeting:

Jane Isaac noted that the rule regarding mats would be policed more vigorously in 2012, with organisers reserving the right to refuse a competitor the right to start the competition if they did not comply with the rule for mats to protect the ground. The need to use electric fencing with discretion and mat the full area penned off was highlighted.

The relaxation of the electric fencing rule had been abused by a number of competitors; it had been introduced to benefit novices who did not have side stabling and was not intended for use if a competitor had stabling for their horse.

It was pointed out that competitors needed to take greater responsibility for the safe use of quad bikes. Due to a number of hair-raising incidents at this year's National Championships, these would no longer be permitted and only drivers with disabilities would be able to use them.

Club Liaison:

Mike Watts then reported that the clubs seemed to be in a positive frame of mind with healthy finances. He mentioned the Training for Trials initiative and asked for members to spread the word and encourage newcomers to support it, although established competitors were also welcome.

Training:

Jean Lane noted the progress made with the UKCC training and that we now have around 30 coaches around the country. She noted the system had produced significantly improved results recently in eventing and dressage and hoped that this would have the same effect for driving in due course.

Tony Bache then presented the chairman's award to Derrick Mayes for his long service to the association as treasurer and chef d'equipe, and the young driver award to Roger Campbell who won the open pony class at this year's national championships.

The Windsor Novice Points League and Fenix Open, Intermediate and Advanced Points League rosettes were then presented by Mark Broadbent of Fenix carriages. We are indebted to Fenix for their ongoing and much appreciated support of the points league.

At this point, Tony Bache introduced the new chairman, Jock McFarlane, and retired to a very warm round of applause from the members. Jock will be profiled in the next issue, along with reports from the remaining topics for discussion and reports from the other meetings.

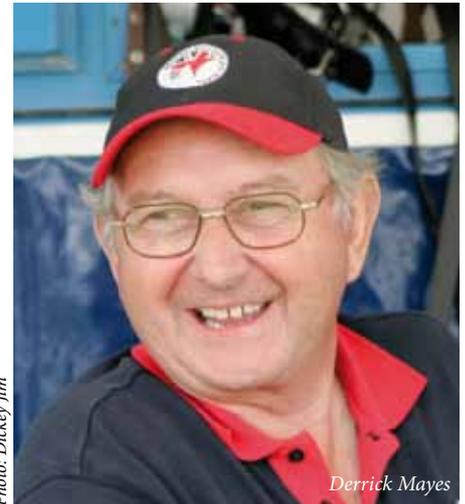


Photo: Dickey Jim

Derrick Mayes

Events

On foot for Young Drivers

Fourteen British Young Drivers went to the national championships and, to build on this success, an on foot clinic has been arranged at the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold on **November 19**. This clinic will include sports psychology exercises and an exploration of what can be learnt from other disciplines from their young rider development programs. We will then build on this in the afternoon to set a program for the future of BYD and, in particular, activities for 2012. The emphasis will be on young driver participation in managing the initiatives.

There will also be a chance to discuss how the buddy scheme can be progressed to encourage newcomers and assist more novice drivers.

An on foot will be run in January for all young drivers.

Supporters

200 Club

Young Drivers Championships

£50 Hugh Scott- Barrett £30 Joan Goodwin;
£20 Chris Smith

National Championships

£50 Trevor Challoner: £30 Pat White: £20
Mary Ford

Escrick Park, NEDTL

£50 Peter Collins: £30 David Brown:
£20 Stuart Roberts



Roger Campbell, this year's Open Pony Champion, was presented with the young driver award.

Photo: Dickey Jim

British Horse Driving
Trials Association,
East Overhill,
Stewarton,
Kilmarnock,
Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
t: 0845 6432116
e: bhdt@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
w: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri
8am to 12 noon

