

# British Carriagedriving

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council will be decided at the meeting on 26 January.

### Clinic Dates

Clinic dates and a booking form were sent to all members in December. These are also published on the BC web-site.

### New Council Members

**Dick Lane** comes from an agricultural background and grew up on a dairy farm where his father was manager. He left school at 16 years-old and started work in the construction industry. Several years later Dick started his own construction groundworks company. After travelling to building sites throughout the UK for more than 30 years he had the opportunity to purchase a local construction materials supplies and recycling company which, with the help of wife Jan and son Toby, has become a successful business based in Cranleigh Surrey where Dick lives.

A horse drawn carriage ride while on holiday in Eire in 1994 sparked Dick's initial interest in carriage driving, he returned wanting to buy a horse and carriage to drive to the local pub at weekends. A mutual friend put him in touch with Pippa Bassett who gave him carriage driving lessons and found him a suitable horse and carriage. Despite having no interest or intention of competing, she persuaded him to enter a one day event with Brockham Harness Club. This was the start of his carriage driving career. Dick then went on to compete at club, national and international level with a single horse and horse pair at both outdoor and indoor horse driving trials with much success.

Due to an unexpected turn of events in 2000 Dick was offered the chance to buy Pippa Bassett's four in hand team of Lipizzaner horses. He jumped at the opportunity, while taking on board the huge financial and logistical commitment that it would take to run a horse team and the fact that he had never driven a horse team before. However, his experience with driving farm equipment and large earthmoving machinery helped in understanding how to manoeuvre a team of four horses and a carriage. Once again, Pippa was on hand to teach him the craft of four in hand driving.

The next two years were spent gaining experience and to Dick's great surprise he qualified to represent Great Britain at the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez Spain. He then went on to represent his country with the help of trainer Boyd Exell at World Championships in 2004 Kecskemet Hungary, 2006 Aachen



*Above: Joining BC council this year, four-in-hand driver Dick Lane*

Germany, 2008 Beesd Holland, 2014 Normandy France, 2016 Breda Holland and at European Championships held in Aachen 2015.

Having been elected on to BC Council Dick is keen to pay back the sport which gives him so much pleasure and enjoyment. He is also a member of Brockham Harness Club and Windsor Park Equestrian Club committees, organises very successful winter indoor driving events and, with the help of others, helps to organise the South of England Carriage Driving Fair.

**Ben Freer** is perhaps relatively unknown among most, yet, while he has only been involved in driving for five years or so, in that time he has had the privilege of experiencing all levels and aspects of our sport; from indoor, young drivers, club and national to international level. Some of you may know him as backstepper to single pony driver Rosanna Walters-Symons, whom he has supported to three FEI World and European Championship medals, and he has also aided others on occasions.

Outside of driving he is a chartered accountant and tax professional currently working in practice at a 'Big Four' firm. His skillset will, with any luck, therefore hold him



*Above: Ben Freer joins the council as Treasurer*

in good stead in carrying out the duties of Treasurer of BC, which he has been asked to assume by council. He has previously acted as treasurer and vice-chairman of a similar sized sporting organisation, in terms of both members and turnover, and now hopes to bring this successful experience to the table with BC.

He strongly believes that his relative new coming to the sport will lend a fresh pair of eyes and perspective to the council. Another key asset he brings to BC is in the publicity space, particularly with regards to branding, social media, sponsorship and, importantly, how this interacts with our overall vision and strategy. Ben feels that fundamental to this in the current age is BC's online presence – the website, Facebook page and Twitter feed. He sees this as the 'front door' of our sport that shapes how we are portrayed by investors, competitors, supporters and other interested stakeholders.

Ben says: "Riding on the back of Valegro and



*Above: New council member Frank Campbell*



Above: Angela Flanagan brings her UKCC expertise to BC Council

Big Star, equestrian sport in the UK has another golden opportunity to kick on in the next 12 months. In these constantly changing times we must not try to do things as they have always been done; we must be responsive and adapt in order to allow our sport to flourish once again."

**Frank Campbell** has been driving since attending his first British Young Drivers clinic in 2001 competing in both indoor and outdoor competitions. He represented Great Britain in 2008 at the junior world trophy and continued to compete through his teenage years, twice becoming outdoor national champion. He took a break from driving to pursue his studies at university, achieving a master's degree in petroleum geoscience. During this time he served his first term on council and remained involved with the sport by grooming for his brother Roger with his pony single, pair and team. Currently, Frank lives in Aberdeen working in the oil industry and travelling home to Devon, or over to Germany (Roger's base), for his carriage driving fix.

This year he intends to begin competing again nationally and supporting his brother in the run up to the world pony championships. He put himself forward for council after attending the conference and realising that the sport was in a position to embrace change. His key focus is to improve customer value and experience for the members of BC and improve the efficiency and quality of service that the sport provides to members. There is a tremendous technical skills base within the membership and he looks forward to engaging with members to utilise their skills to drive the sport forward.

**Angela Flanagan** is a keen competitor, coach, judge and promoter of our sport. As a competitor, initially with a single horse and now in horse pairs, she represented GB at Single and Horse Pairs World Championships.

With the introduction of the UKCC Coaching Programme, she achieved her Level 2 and 3, and was then invited to be part of the Level 4 programme, successfully gaining a Postgraduate Diploma together with the Level 4 certificate.

Angela now manages BC UKCC and represents BC on BEF's CDAT (Coach Development Action Team). She is able to use her teaching experience and knowledge in her

role as Coach Educator and Assessor for BC UKCC. She is part of the BC Training Working Group, is Vice Chair of her local club, Midlands Carriagedriving, and judges for both MC and NEDTL.

Keen to develop interest and greater participation in our sport, Angela regularly provides 'driving experiences' at her home and other venues and within demonstrations. She organises one to one clinics as well as clinics for MC, to encourage drivers to reach their goals.

In order to encourage potential stewards, she designed a format that allows people to discover what is expected at both club and national level in a friendly atmosphere while meeting and speaking to experienced stewards. Her format to induct potential backsteppers into the importance of their role, providing an opportunity to talk to experienced backsteppers and learning better techniques, has also been tried and tested for the last two years.

## GENERAL

### BEF Medal of Honour

The BEF Medal of Honour is an award designed to recognise activities connected with international endeavour in relation to equestrian sport and is awarded for outstanding services to the BEF or one of its Member Bodies.

BC's Derrick Mayes, Chairman of the International Teams Committee and a former chef d'équipe for horse pairs and Treasurer for BC, was presented for his commitment to the sport of carriage driving for the past 30 years.

Founder of The Unicorn Trust, which she has administered for 20 years, Sydney Smith was recognised for her great commitment and dedication to the trust and with it to ensuring a world-class training facility for our equestrian athletes and the industry.

BC is delighted to have two recipients closely involved with driving. Derrick said: "I had no idea who the other recipients were to be until Friday evening so you can imagine my delight in finding that Sydney Smith was being honoured in the same way. It was both a pleasure and great fun to receive the medal alongside a friend like her."



Photo: Mary Kusin

Above: Derrick Mayes and Sydney Smith

The presentations were made on Friday 16 December at the London International Horse Show, Olympia.

### FEI World Cup™ Driving

Dan Naprous was the British Wild Card entry for the FEI World Cup™ Driving competition at the London International Horse Show, Olympia in December. This was his fourth time at the show and his most successful to date. His performance has improved with every visit and this year he finished fourth of the seven drivers in the World Cup first competition and sixth in the final round.



British Carriagedriving, East Overhill, Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 5JT

t: 0845 6432116  
e: email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk  
w: www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk  
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon



Photo: Mary Kusin

Above: Dan Naprous competing at the London International Horse Show Olympia