

# British Carriagedriving



Photo: Jane Wilson

## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council is Wednesday 22 March. Please remember that any issues for consideration by Council should be sent to the BC office at least seven days before the meeting.

### 2017 British Carriagedriving Rule Book

The 2017 Rule Book is now available to purchase. There has been no price increase for a further year with the option to have a personalised front cover costing £6.50 and a plain cover costing £6. Full details of how to order are on the BC web-site under Information/Rules. Please take care when ordering that your payment and order match.

### Membership Review

BC Council is currently working on a membership review which will be implemented in 2018. This action links with the rule change for the intermediate class presentation mentioned below as options to encourage drivers into the sport and retain existing competitors are considered.

In order to assist drivers enter the sport or upgrade beyond novice, a system enabling day tickets to be purchased is being planned.

The intention is to finalise the details of the new membership structure and circulate these to the members for comment during summer 2017. This will enable members to see how the new structure will affect them and identify any potential issues before the new format is implemented for the 2018 season.

### 2017 Training Clinics

For 2017, club clinics have been organised in the north and south for Technical Delegates. It is recognised that many people in clubs do more than one job so courses are run in alternate years. In 2018 clinics will be organised for Judges and Course Designers.

Please note the change to the South Club TD clinic where Tony Bache will now be facilitating. As both Tony Bache and Dave West are very experienced Safety Officers, there will be an opportunity to discuss safety in relation to events and the role of the Safety Officer as this often interacts with the TD, at these clinics.

Booking forms are available to download from the web-site or you can submit this on-line.

### North Club Technical Delegates

**Date:** Saturday 11 March  
**Trainer:** Dave West  
**Venue:** The Rheged Centre, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0DQ  
**Times:** 10.30 for 11am – approx. finish 4pm  
**Cost:** £25 to include tea/coffee and biscuits and a light lunch

### South Club Technical Delegates

**Date:** Saturday 18 March  
**Trainer:** Tony Bache  
**Venue:** Holiday Inn, Reading-South M4, Jct.11, Basingstoke Road 500, Reading, RG2 0SL  
**Times:** 10.30 for 11am – approx. finish 4pm  
**Cost:** £25 to include unlimited tea/coffee and a light lunch

### Club Judges

**Date:** Saturday 11 March  
**Trainer:** James Rooney  
**Venue:** Cricklands, Monmouthshire, NP26 5XP  
**Times:** 10am for 10.30  
**Cost:** £25 to include unlimited tea/coffee and a light lunch

## EVENTS

### Survey for 2016 and 2017 events

During their annual meeting in October last year, the event organisers suggested implementing a feedback form for events. Council were pleased to approve this idea and the following link will enable you to send your views on events via Survey Monkey [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/785LW3Y](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/785LW3Y).

It's designed to be quick and easy to complete and you are invited to respond after every event. The form is applicable to drivers, grooms, volunteers or spectators.

The event organisers would also welcome your feedback on the 2016 events to enable them to make improvements for this year.

The survey is straightforward to complete so please, send your views, whether they are positive or negative, and help improve the driving experience for everyone.

This link is also available on the BC web-site for easy access and reference.

### Intermediate Presentation Rule Change

In addition to the rule changes noted in your 2017 Yearbook, Rule 955.6 has been now been amended to read:

Dress of athlete and grooms, cleanliness, fitness, matching and condition of horses, carriage, and fitting and correctness of harness. For novice or intermediate classes the judge should not expect the standard achievable by more experienced athletes and should accept marathon harness and three phase vehicles without further penalty.

Council is committed to finding ways of retaining a higher number of novice drivers and encouraging them to progress to intermediate. The current statistics show a sharp drop off of novice drivers and this is something Council wishes to address.

### Dressage Tests for 2017

The open single horses and ponies will be driving a new test this year, written specifically for them to aid progression

from intermediate to advanced while offering movements appropriate for the level of competition. The test was trialled with very positive feedback and is now published on the BC web-site with the accompanying diagrams.

The Young Horse and Evolution test has been modified to enable it to be accommodated in either an 80m x 40m or a 100m x 40m arena. Organisers often already have the larger arena laid out. Some of the movements have been altered as the test was too long in the larger arena. Following feedback from drivers and organisers after the first year running these classes, a co-efficient has been introduced to the dressage test and the option of four obstacles is now available.

## 2017 Events Calendar

A list of 2017 events is now published on the BC web-site. Schedules are printed in the yearbook and available on-line. The young horse and evolution classes are included under the main diary of national and regional events. More dates have been added since the yearbook was published so keep watching this space for new events.

## Start fees

Council has agreed that there will be no increase to start fee rates in 2017. Please remember that, at our two 2\* international events, any BC members, who are eligible to qualify for the National Championships, are required to pay a start fee. This applies irrespective of the nationality of the driver.

## FEI 2\* events

Hopetoun and Sandringham will again run FEI 2\* classes in 2017. This gives British drivers an opportunity to gain a qualifying score as part of their world championship selection process and allows others to gain valuable experience of international competition. The Hopetoun event will also run national classes for advanced competitors which removes the need to pay for FEI horse and driver registration, however



Photo: Mary Kusin

anyone in any of the selection classes must enter the FEI 2\* class. The advanced national class and FEI 2\* class will be amalgamated for the purposes of National Championship qualification and Driver of the Year points.

## Prohibited Substances List

Remember that the anti-doping strategy BEFAR is administered by the British Equestrian Federation and competitors to be tested are drawn at random. You are as likely to get tested in the novice class as the advanced!

The FEI Clean Sport Website ([www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org)) lists all the prohibited substances for ease of reference as does the BC web-site under the Information heading.

# INTERNATIONAL

## International Entries, Registrations and Passports

If you are planning to travel abroad, you will need an FEI passport for your horse (valid for four years) and both your horse need to be registered with the FEI (valid until 31 Dec of that year and renewed annually). All the forms for this are under the "Information" heading on the BC web-site. You also need to ensure your vaccinations comply with the FEI rules before sending your national passport for upgrading to an FEI one.

You only need to be registered with the FEI to enter Hopetoun and Sandringham which are 2\* events in Britain, however, to register a horse with the FEI, all the details on the passport application form are still required which includes a microchip. Please submit this form with a note to say only registration is required.

There are links under the 'International' heading on the BC web-site to enable you to check your registration status for drivers and horses.

Please wait until the schedule for the event you wish to enter is published on the FEI web-site. Once it is available this means that the FEI entry system is open and your entry can be submitted. This is done by the BC office. Please send your entry details on the international entry form which is available electronically on the BC web-site.

If international events are oversubscribed, the chef dequipe for that class will allocate places. They will balance the need to give people experience with the need of long listed drivers to compete internationally and achieve qualifying scores.

*Above: Owen Pilling at Hopetoun*

*Far Left Top: Sara Bower at Sandringham*

*Left: David Wagstaff-Myers*



Photo: Jane Wilson

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