

# British Carriagedriving



## OFFICIAL NEWS

### Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council will be confirmed at the meeting on 22 March.

### National Clinic

Almost 40 Judges, Course Designers and Technical Delegates from seven countries, including the USA, attended the Unicorn Trust at Stow on the Wold for the annual National and FEI Clinic at the end of February. by Sydney Smith, this was a well organised affair.

Joaquin Medina (ESP) Richard Nicoll (USA) and Philip Bateman (GBR) were the Course Directors. Friday afternoon started with the official FEI introduction and a joint session for all FEI participants to prepare for the start of the main clinic. The first session had an introduction, followed by a discussion on the 2017 Rule Amendments and some debate on the addition of the oxer to the obstacle cones driving: Joaquin Medina is consulting the Rules Committee for some clarifications, before the season gets into full swing.

Saturday began with a short welcome and reminders about event officials' respective responsibilities and duties, which was followed by a discussion on the BC rule amendments for 2017. After this, the FEI and national groups split up to begin their respective clinics.

Joaquin Medina impressed the judges with his approach, looking for good basic training of the horse. It was noted judging on the continent places greater emphasis on the horse's way of

going and correctness of paces than it does in Great Britain. Naturally, a better understanding of what is required and a closer match of judges' marking will help British drivers at every level. After lunch the new BC Test for singles was demonstrated by Lucy McGill in the outdoor arena and this gave the judges plenty to talk about. For some of the FEI judges, the introduction of an individual oral test, lasting 15 minutes for each participant, was a completely new slant on things.

Richard Nicoll emphasised the importance of teamwork among all officials at an event and re-visited the basics of cones course design. He discussed obstacles, materials and ideas and kept lively discussion flowing through his various presentations. On Sunday, the course designers built an obstacle cones course indoors, with more discussion on oxers, and

*Above: Photo call for the National Clinic Delegates on the steps outside the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold  
Below: James Broome puts his four in hand through their paces in front of the delegates at the Club Judges Clinic at Cricklands*

Lucy demonstrated various different ways to drive between obstacles. Stopwatches were out and all saw the differences by seconds of the different options Lucy was asked to drive.

Philip Bateman took the technical delegates through some intensive training, with both a passing in test and when they had finished a passing out test. On Sunday morning, after a discussion on cones, everyone put on warm clothing to measure the newly built cones course and came up with some interesting comments and measurements. The course designers put in some deliberate mistakes, to





Frank Campbell, overall winner at the Cricklands pre-season training event

fool the technical delegates, but to no avail as all were discovered.

On the social side, Unicorn Trust host Sydney Smith was pleased to welcome the conference participants once again and Fran More produced an elegant three-course dinner which was enjoyed by all on Saturday evening. The social and networking aspect of the weekend is a key point, when new friends are made and working relationships are forged. Everyone present could make a contribution and join in discussions based on their own experiences.

## Club Judges Clinic

The Club Judges Clinic was held by kind permission of James Broome at the David Broome Event Centre on Saturday 11 March. The first part of the morning, trainers James Rooney and Sarah Louise Oxborrow went through the principles of dressage judging and what the judges are looking for in driven dressage. Following a short break the participants then judged and commented on the live tests that were happening at Cricklands Pre Season Training Event in the arena beside the clinic. The club judges soon realised the importance of dressage writers, as they marked and watched the tests. Following a debrief and a superb lunch provided by Cricklands, the judges went back to doing some more live judging, before being brought back together for a discussion on the scoring and comments on the tests. After another short break, cones and marathon judging were discussed, the day finished at around 5pm with a look at what has changed in the 2017 BC Rulebook.

## Club TD Clinic North

Dave West reported that everything went well at this venue with the expected dozen delegates who seemed to find it a worthwhile experience. He ran the session as a conversation rather than a lecture, and spent the time going through the role of a TD at a club event using a prepared sheet. The role of TD at a club event is very demanding as many tasks must be covered.

The delegates discussed what needs to be done in advance of the event and in the few days before the event, moved on to how to get things started on both dressage and marathon days and the duties of a TD while the competition is running up to the prize giving. Dave reported lively participation from the delegates with many illustrating points with examples from their experience. The day finished with a quiz to get people used to finding their way around the rule book and to enable discussion of the sort of incidents that occasionally occur. The facilities at the Rheged Centre were ideal and Dave notes this is definitely worth a visit if you are in the area.

## Club TD Clinic South

Twelve members attended the Club TDs South Clinic on Saturday 18 March. Tony Bache explained the duties and responsibilities of technical delegates at all levels, but with particular reference to the additional jobs that come their way at club events where there is not a ground jury and possibly no dedicated safety officer either. He stressed that the organisation of any event is a team effort and the TD acts as the team leader. It is a very responsible job which must be done with independence, integrity and diplomacy.

## 2017 AGM and Conference

An advance date for your diary is 28 October when the BC Annual Conference and AGM will be held in the Kegworth Hotel.

The format is being revised this year in response to members' feedback. It will now be possible to attend both the affiliated clubs' meeting and the international meeting.

- International meeting, starting 10am
- Coffee served at 11am
- Affiliated club meeting, starting at 11.30.
- Lunch at 12.30 –bar menu available.
- AGM and conference, starting at 2pm until approximately 4.30pm.

This date avoids Paard & Koets and the BDS AGM and is published in the yearbook on page 49 for reference.

## EVENTS

### Catton National 5-7 May

Closing date for entries is Friday 21 April  
Catton is the first selection event for the FEI European Championships 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden from 22-27 August, the second selection event for the FEI World Pony Championships which take place in Minden, Germany from 15-20 August and the FEI World Horse Pairs Championships in Lipica, Slovenia from 20-24 September. We look forward to seeing you at the first national event of 2017.

### BC Affiliated Club Championship

Midlands Carriagedriving won the inaugural BC Affiliated Club Championship and their medals were presented at the National Championships last year. British Carriagedriving hope even more of you will take part this year and get your scores counting on behalf of your club. There is a note on the 2017 declaration form for you to nominate the club you wish to represent.

Medals will be awarded to the drivers of the winning club whose scores contributed to the club's success. Points allocated in the points leagues will be transferred across and this will include all novice qualifiers. Evolution classes and young horse classes will not count.

This championship aims to place greater recognition on the role the clubs play in the sport and enhance links with BC.

### Moving up to National Novice?

If you are a club level driver at present, and wish to make the move up to compete in Novice classes at a club's novice qualifying event, regional events or national events, remember you only need to be an Associate member of BC. Your groom needs to be a marathon groom or associate member though.

If you've never been a member of BC, or if your membership has lapsed for over five years, there is a discounted rate of £50 for associate membership. Tell your friends!



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