

British Carriagedriving

Photo: www.mikewatts.com



Oliver Bennett aged 11, the next generation of Bennetts, becomes Novice Junior Champion at the Indoor Finals:

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council will be Monday 19 June.

Membership and Insurance Proposal

Council has for some time been considering revising both the BC membership structure and our insurance arrangements with a view to (if possible) reducing the overall cost of competing and ensuring that the overall cost of running BC is met in the fairest possible manner by all those who benefit. A paper summarising the present position and the review process that has taken place was sent to all current members by e-mail on 12 April. It also sets out Council's proposal for change.

Council's plan is to implement any changes over the course of this summer so that the revised structure is up and running for next year. If any members have any comments on the proposal which they wish Council to take into account in their final decision please could

they forward these comments to Chris Smith at chairman@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk.

EVENTS

Event Survey

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 link below will enable you to send your views on events via Survey Monkey. The survey is designed to be quick and easy to complete and is applicable to drivers, grooms, volunteers or spectators.

For the 2017 season the plan is to carry out a survey after each event. Council and the event organisers wish to thank everyone who responded in respect of the 2016 events. This part of the survey is now closed and each event is considering the points raised from your feedback with the aim of making improvements for this year.

The survey is straightforward to complete so please, send your views whether they are positive or negative, to help improve the experience for everyone at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/785LW3Y.

Hopetoun National 25-28 May

Closing Date for Entries - Thursday 11 May
As always, the Hopetoun team are working hard to ensure an excellent venue for competitors. The usual bar & snack van will be on site from Thursday with a full catering service offering a choice of main meals and desserts. Don't forget you have access to a hot shower on site. The ever popular terrier racing takes place at 6.30pm on Friday and is followed by a drinks reception for all competitors, stewards and officials at 7.30pm. On Saturday evening there will be the prize giving with the ceilidh to follow at 8.30pm.

Hopetoun will also be running young horse and evolution classes. These classes have been designed to introduce and encourage competitors making the step from club to national and regional competition. Drivers already competing at national and regional competitions will be eligible to enter the evolution class qualifiers, but at the National Championship the evolution classes will only be open to club drivers not competing at national or regional level. The dressage test for this class is published on the BC web-site and the rules are in annex 18 of the BC Rule Book.



Jack Ralph, current National Novice Champion wins the Open Pony and Supreme Championships at the Indoor Finals:

Hopetoun and Sandringham FEI 2* Events

If you are planning to enter the FEI classes at Hopetoun and Sandringham, the respective entry secretaries of these events will forward your details to the BC office to enable the information to be uploaded into the FEI Entry System. Please enter on the normal national event entry form and clearly mark which class you wish to enter at Hopetoun as this event offers the option of advanced or international classes.

Please note that FEI registration is required for both driver and horses. The relevant forms can be downloaded from the BC web-site under Information/Forms. Horse registration is no longer a quick and easy process as clear scans of the passport are required to be uploaded onto the FEI database. The cost will remain the same as this can be done by the BC office (rather than the BEF), but you must complete an FEI Passport Application form and mark it for FEI Registration only. The following scans are then required:

1. The front of the national passport
2. The name page of the national passport
3. The breeding pages if they are available
4. The diagram page – which must be signed and stamped by the breed society/vet
5. The owner's page

Scans should be sent by e-mail to the BC office. There are some really good apps now that don't cost anything where you can point your phone at the page and it will scan as a pdf file, eg Scannable for iPhones. If you are unable to provide scans, please send the passport with your application for registration and add £10 to cover the cost of return postage by special delivery. Scans will get rejected if they are not clear or if information is missing.

Windsor Park Regional 3-4 June

Closing date for entries – Friday 19 May
Windsor Park regional event offers a varied marathon route and a selection of post and rail obstacles. On site catering is available on Saturday and Sunday and there will be an organised dinner with entertainment on Saturday night.

Windsor Park has a combination of tarmac roads, stone and grass tracks with small undulating hills and a combination of open meadow and woodland. There is a deer park and areas for game birds. All seven obstacles are made from post and rail with some within trees and others in the open. One may have a water feature.

Cricklands National 25-28 May

Closing Date for Entries - Friday 19 May
Cricklands is a new national event for 2017. All entries will be allocated permanent stabling as part of their entry fee. Facilities offered include permanent toilets and hot showers. Wi-Fi is available from near the show office, and 4G mobile is available across the showground on Vodafone and Three. Broomies Cafe and fully licensed bar, with full range of bar meals is available from Thursday evening with a happy hour each evening. There is also a gourmet burger bar, selling handmade Herefordshire beef burgers, locally sourced bacon rolls and luxury coffees which is open from 7 am each day on Thursday to Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

RWHS

The CAIO 4* - H4 World Cup Qualifier for Horse Four in Hands, and the CAI 3* for Horse pairs and Pony Fours takes place from 10-14 May. The team for the CAIO 4* has yet to be confirmed, but will comprise Wilf Bowman-Ripley as current National Champion, Dick Lane as current Fenix Driver of the Year; the third place will be finalised by the Selection and Ratification panel after Catton.

GENERAL

200 Club

BC is indebted to the supporters of the 200 Club who have raised money which has been used to finance the licence for the scoring programme for BC and new cones and number towers to enable the new elements of the oxers to be built. This is very much appreciated and drivers can look forward to a challenging course at the National Championships.

Official BC photographers

In an effort to improve safety for both photographers and competitors, any photographer, wishing to access a vantage

Photo: Ruth Auton



Dick Lane at Catton Club Event

point "behind the lines" (or in an arena during prize giving) will now need to register with BC, complete a Risk Assessment and wear a BC photographer's bib when photographing national or regional events. There is no restriction on photographers in the designated spectator areas.

Sponsorship Offer

Are you Neue Schule's next top jockey? The biting company is running a social media based competition to win a year's sponsorship contract.

This is open to riders or drivers in all disciplines, at all levels and of all ages, amateur or professional. The winner will receive Neue Schule products, expert biting advice and media exposure.

To enter the initial stage of the competition, equestrians should post a picture of themselves and their horse on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, and caption the image in less than 100 words.

For entries to be considered, @NSbits must be tagged and mentioned and the hashtag #NSNextTopJockey used.

"Neue Schule is proud to have a fantastic team of sponsored riders and ambassadors, from Olympic eventers, to grass-roots dressage riders, right through to movie star stunt riders," said company founder Heather Hyde. "The Next Top Jockey competition is a great opportunity for someone who shares our ethos to join our team and get some extra support to help achieve their goals, no matter how big or small those might be."

- For more information visit Neue Schule on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.



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