

British Carriagedriving

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council meeting

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

Merchandise

BC is delighted to have joined forces with 'JSteamwear' who specialise in producing bespoke official event merchandise. Currently offered are polo shirts, sweatshirts, gilets, waterproof jackets and soft-shell jackets sporting the BC Logo for children and adults, in various colours and sizes. These can all be personalised and can be viewed on their website www.jsteamwear.co.uk – there's a link on the front page of the BC web-site. Jane and Sarah are currently looking for stockists among the carriage driving outlets and will be updating soon on where you can purchase their current merchandise other than directly from their website.

EVENTS

Event survey

After each event, don't forget to send your views via Survey Monkey. The survey is designed to be quick and easy to complete and is applicable to drivers, grooms, volunteers or spectators.

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/t/785LW3Y.

Late entries and withdrawals

There would appear to be an increasing number of late entries which are causing major headaches for event organisers. Finding people willing to commit the time and effort to running events is difficult enough without adding to their workload by sending your entry at the last minute. Please show these fabulous people the courtesy they deserve and send your entry in on time. This makes everyone's life much easier.

Please also remember that it is essential to inform an organiser if you are unable to attend for any reason and need to withdraw. Please refer to the BC Rule Book, Chapter IV, Article 916.2 for the penalty for failure to comply. The schedules all contain information about how to withdraw from the event. Please use the method specified by the organiser.

Goodwood Regional 29-30 July

Closing date for entries – Saturday 22 July

This popular event offers the full range of classes including Evolution and Young Horse and Pony. Competitors will be well catered for as they are invited to the welcome drinks reception on Friday night and a barbecue on Saturday evening. There will also be on-site catering all day on Saturday and Sunday.

Raehills Regional 29-30 July

Closing date for entries – Friday 21 July

Once again, Raehills offers the full range of classes including Evolution and Young Horse and Pony. The organisers note that the marathon course, which consists mainly of forestry tracks and fields, has been significantly upgraded since the event's inception. Further works have been carried out this year to improve the course again, taking account of competitors' feedback.

The Raehills Challenge (on foot) returns on Saturday night, with teams of four people (at least one of which must be a driver or a steward). It costs £10/team to enter. Teams may enter a maximum of two times. And there will be a £100 prize for the fastest team.

An inter-club challenge also takes place where affiliated clubs may enter a team, to include one single pony; one single horse and one multiple (pair, tandem, or four). Points will be allocated upon final placing of each team member within their respective class. Team members must be nominated by 0900 Saturday 29 July.

There will be a catering van on site from Friday afternoon. Everyone is invited to get together on Saturday night for a party. There will be BBQs available to cook on and some nibbles available to allow for a social get-together. Please bring your own food to BBQ and your own drink.

George's disco can be arranged if there is sufficient demand. Please let the organisers know on your entry forms.



Sue Botley competing in the advanced horse pairs class at the new national event at Cricklands

Photo: Sara Jane Hayes

Lowther National 11-13 August

Closing date for entries – Monday 10 July

The format at Lowther follows the same pattern as 2016 with the marathon for horses on Saturday and ponies on Sunday. The Prize Fund (to be announced) will be divided between the classes for the cones competition, which runs as the Lowther Derby and takes the format of a World Cup style competition using marathon vehicles. Ten sets of cones set at a wider distance than normal and two knock down obstacles will need to be negotiated. Scoring will be as per BC Rule Book Annex 17 item 16 for a Derby Competition run as a Time Competition.

Catering will be available on the show ground and stabling area. Everyone is invited to the welcome reception on Friday evening and there will be catering/bar and a band on Saturday evening on the showground.

Section A will take place on estate land around Lowther Castle. Competitors can expect stunning lakeland countryside with vast landscapes. Section B takes place within Lowther Home Park and adjacent to the Country Fair. There will be eight obstacles.



Anne and Ian Gilbert's presentation at Hopetoun

Photo: Mary Kusin

INTERNATIONAL

FEI Web-site: Clean Sport section

In order to make all information about FEI Clean Sport more easily accessible, the FEI has aggregated everything about Clean Sport for Humans and Clean Sport for Horses under one roof.

The Clean Sport button at the top of the home page on www.inside.fei.org now gives you direct access to all the FEI Clean Sport information, plus details about testing, test results (both positive and negative), FEI Tribunal cases and decisions.

The FEI say: "Make it Personal"

The FEI has recently announced the launch of a new feature and are advising athletes, "Your personal page has arrived!" They have introduced a new addition to the www.fei.org website which is free.

"My FEI" is your very own, personalised space on www.fei.org where you can follow your favourite events, athletes, horses and disciplines, as well as access start lists for upcoming events.

Look out for at-a-glance information on:

Athletes: Get to know the athletes better. Photos, wins, starts, rankings, horses, influences, quotes, social media links and much more.

Horses: See full pedigree, rankings and standings, as well as major victories and medals won.

Events: Full start lists and results, access to FEI TV, links to ticket sales and great stories from the events.

GENERAL

Hopetoun presentation

Following the death of Gladys Dale, an eminent figure in the driving scene for many years, her grandchildren all felt some memorial of her dedication to the sport would be fitting. They decided that this would be awarded annually at the Hopetoun driving trials and be presented to someone who had been of immense service to the event.

This was the first year when the entire room came to its feet and gave Anne and Ian Gilbert a standing ovation as they received their award. They have worked tirelessly on behalf of the event and the whole of the sport for as long as anyone can remember. The reception they received was testament to the respect in which they are held by the driving community.

Ian prefers to work quietly in the background and confesses to disliking being the centre of attention or public speaking. Shortly after Hopetoun, Anne and Ian celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at their home in Dalry; they were certainly the centre of attention on that evening.

Longines FEI European Championships, Gothenburg, August 21-27

Gothenburg will host the Longines FEI European Championships from August 21-27.

During an exciting and eventful week, the city will be transformed into an arena for dressage, jumping, driving and para-equestrian dressage.

Six hundred horses and 300 of Europe's best riders and drivers will gather in Gothenburg to compete for the medals. Approximately 30 nations will be represented and championship

titles will be awarded both to individual competitors and national teams in all disciplines.

The organisers are pulling out all the stops to ensure the Longines FEI European Championships will be an event of impressive scale and size. In addition to the world-class stadium Ullevi and the Heden Arena, the championships will use the vast city park Slottsskogen and some of the city's most central roads for the driving championships. You are invited to be there for seven days of exciting championships in one of the most beautiful Scandinavian cities.

Tickets can be obtained from the web-site www.gothenburg2017.com

In addition, there will be a Royal Opening Ceremony with free access. Experience a spectacular opening with a cavalcade of Swedish traditions such as the cultural history of Sweden, fantastic fairy-tale characters and more. Join the festivities at Ullevi Stadium, August 21, 18:30-19:45, and be part of a large event in equestrian sport history. Information on how to get your free ticket will be published on www.gothenburg2017.com.



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