

British Carriagedriving

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council will take place on the week commencing 18 June.

BC Office Phone Number

Please note that the 0845 number has been discontinued for the BC office. Please use the landline number 01560 480247.

Social Media: Think before you post

Please stop and think if social media is the most appropriate source of accurate information for queries pertaining to British Carriagedriving. In addition, considerable damage can be done on many levels by posting incorrect information which cannot be repaired by just deleting a post. Please think carefully about the effect on others of what you are writing, especially if you are using the British Carriagedriving Facebook Group to share your views. If you have a query, please contact the BC office to obtain an accurate reply. Queries that cannot be answered will be referred to the person who will be able to respond from a position of authority. This will avoid inaccurate information causing unnecessary alarm or gaining credibility through social media channels.

2018 AGM, Conference and End of Season Party

The date has now been confirmed as 10 November 2018 at the new venue of the Best

Western four-star Manor Hotel in Meriden which is centrally located in the Midlands and easy to find. The address is 127 Main Road, Meriden, Solihull, CV7 7NH and the hotel has confirmed that this post code works for Sat Navs.

It is less than a ten-minute drive from Birmingham Airport, Birmingham International Railway Station and major motorway links at the M42 and M6. There is plenty of car parking space at the hotel and at least two pubs in walking distance, in addition to the hotel restaurant, for conference attendees to have lunch if they so wish.

There is a discounted rate available for bed and breakfast of £85.00 per night for BC delegates and evening event attendees. Their phone number is 01676 522735 should you wish to book a room; please say that you are attending the function to access the discounted rate for accommodation.

Being near the airport, there are also plenty of other hotel options within a five-minute drive to cater for all budgets. The hotel's website address is www.manorhotelderiden.co.uk.

Meriden is home to fellow equestrian governing bodies British Dressage and British Showjumping, and the chosen hotel has regularly hosted events for both organisations.

Membership Cards and BC Yearbook

A few issues have held up production of the Yearbook this year however, these are almost resolved and the publication will be sent to all members with membership cards as soon as possible. Schedules for the 2018 events are published on the website.

National and FEI Clinic

Philip Bateman reports from the National and FEI Clinic:

It was considered by the organisers that 2018 had been a unique experience. The Annual Joint Seminar at the Unicorn Trust looked, on Thursday, to be in jeopardy because of the weather. Snow and blizzards closed Scottish and Irish airports and made driving conditions hazardous in many parts of Britain. Ironically, every single foreign delegate managed to get through from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Holland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland while almost 40 of the original 66 Judges, Course designers and Technical Delegates were present for a slightly smaller than usual gathering.

Joaquin Medina (ESP), Christian Iseli (AUT), Jan Devaere (BEL) 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. This was followed by the "Passing In" Test for all participants.

Saturday began with a short welcome and update of British Carriagedriving Rules, followed by dispersal to respective parts of the Clinic. Barry Capstick, provided a pair of horses for Joaquin Medina to impress the judges with his approach, looking for good basic training of the horse. Judging on the continent often places greater emphasis on the horse's way of going and correctness of paces than it does in Great Britain. Numerous videos helped the course along to a good conclusion. But as a small extra Rosanna Walters-Symons braved the weather and gave a 30-minute talk before the working dinner.

Christian Iseli assisted by Barry Hunter took the Course Designers through a vigorous course of presentations and representations, demonstrating how it should be done.

Jan Devaere had 6 FEI Stewards to train to his high level of efficiency and all met up to his demanding standards, with those seeking promotion, obtaining their levels.

Philip Bateman took the few remaining technical delegates through some intensive training with power point presentations and written tests to achieve their desired levels.

Sunday started as early as possible to get everyone on the road straight after lunch.

On the lighter side, Unicorn host Sydney Smith was pleased to welcome the conference participants back again and Fran More, with her team of helpers, produced an elegant three-course dinner which was enjoyed by all 38 diners 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.



2018 National & FEI Clinic at the Unicorn Trust



John Ripley at Ashfields 2017

Photo: Amy Mundell

EVENTS

Ashfields National Event 4-6 May

Closing Date for entries: Monday 16 April

Ashfields returns to its early May slot with a marathon course running over fields and farm tracks with a small section on roads. On-line entries are available via the BC website. Entertainment is planned as usual and the organisers look forward to welcoming you to the first National event of the year.

2018 Rule Book

Following discussion at the last meeting, Council have now approved the Rule Book for publication in 2018. Some changes follow the FEI and others are instigated by British Carriagedriving.

- Following the FEI, the penalty for not having a whip in hand at the beginning of dressage and cones (or for dropping the whip) is reduced from 10 to 5 penalties.
- In order to try and encourage more athletes to progress from Novice to Intermediate, rule 955.6 has been amended to ensure that athletes will not be penalised for using marathon harness and three phase vehicles in the Intermediate class. Article 939 has also been amended to permit the use of pneumatic tyres in all classes.



- The rules relating to lap belts have been amended to allow para equestrian drivers to be secured to their vehicles provided suitable quick releases are incorporated. For all other athletes the position remains that being tied or secured to the vehicle will incur elimination.
- The penalty for contravention of article 940.11.2 has been relaxed. If an ear hood is attached to the nose band this will incur a yellow warning card unless the contravention has affected the welfare of the horse or horses involved, in which case contravention will incur elimination.
- On the question of progression annex 16.4 has been amended such that Novice and Intermediate drivers who have won three national or regional events are only obliged to progress if 3 or more athletes started those three events. The rules relating to progression to international competition have also been simplified so as to remove the need to obtain approval from Council. The applicable criteria which must now be met are set out in annex 16 as is the new procedure for selecting athletes to receive invitations to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.
- The rules for the Evolution class have been amended to confirm that pairs are permitted to enter. Separate classes for pairs may be run if entries justify this.
- Annex 8 is amended to as to allow the oxer to be crossed.

- We have also adopted the FEI rule change that will allow event organisers to provide a designated warm up area (with a practice obstacle) in place of section A.
- Finally, we have also adopted the FEI rule change which will allow grooms to speak and indicate the course during cones.

The Rule Book can be ordered through the British Carriagedriving website or by sending a note of your requirements with the appropriate payment to the BC Office. The cost remains the same at £6 for a plain version or £6.50 if you prefer a personalised one to reduce the possibility of it being misplaced. The Rule Book is also available to view or print from the BC website where there is a mark-up version which enables you to spot any changes more easily.



British Carriagedriving,
East Overhill, Stewarton,
Kilmarnock,
Ayrshire KA3 5JT
t: 01560 480247
e: email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
w: www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri 8am to 12 noon