

British Carriagedriving

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council will be Wednesday 20 June. Please remember to submit any items you wish Council to consider no later than Tuesday 12 June.

Yearbook and Membership Cards

These should arrive around the same time as *Carriage Driving* but please contact the BC office if you have not received it by Friday 4 May. Apologies for the delay in compiling the yearbook for 2018. The lack of an office assistant, some missing information and personal circumstances preventing evening overtime, normally worked due to the heavy office workload in the early months of each year, have combined to create the delay in publication this year.

Club Judges Clinic North

Jane MacInnes reports from the Club Judges Clinic North:

Due to the inclement weather this early spring, many judges were unable to attend the clinic at the Unicorn Trust Equestrian Centre, Stow-on-the-Wold on the 3/4 March. However, those judges were invited to join the North Club Judges Clinic later on the 24 March at the Rheged Centre, Penrith which is very accessible, just off the M6 motorway.

The clinic was organised and taken by Philippa Thompson, an international judge and Chair of the Judges Committee and

proved to be interesting and informative. Twenty judges attended, of which nearly half were National judges. Of course, there were no live demonstrations as we are used to at the Unicorn, but Philippa had gone to a lot of trouble to prepare a really good presentation with a wide variety of stills and video clips, and she impressed us all with her knowledge and ability to chair and control the meeting.

Much of the day was taken up discussing the stages of training of the horse and what we, as judges, should look for when judging the different levels of dressage tests and breeds of horses and ponies. There was plenty of open discussion and a chance for everyone to have their say and share any incidents or problems they had encountered at events.

A group meeting such as this meant everyone felt they could participate in the discussion which was most beneficial to both Club and National judges.

Club Course Designers Clinic North

Gordon Watson reports from the Club Course Designers Clinic North:

Colin Smith was the course presenter, new to presenting this course but not new to course building and designing. The attendees were all experienced course designers and builders, but only represented two of the Northern clubs.

Once the formalities of the basics of course designing and the updates and changes to the rules and regulations were outlined by Colin, discussions on some of the changes and how the relevant clubs incorporated them into their club events ensued. One item that caused

some concern was the 30m sign outside the obstacle; should it be a compulsory gate? If not, where should it be positioned? This proved to be a tricky question that needs clarification. As the discussions developed the time caught up with us and the course concluded at 16.30. It was a pity that there were not more delegates and other clubs represented to give the discussions more depth and substance.

Club Course Designers Clinic South

Darren Wall reports from the Club Course Designers Clinic South:

The course designer's clinic held in Reading began with Tony Petitpierre asking for introductions from all attending to break the ice and get an idea of each other's experience in club level carriage driving. Tony started by explaining the role and key responsibilities of a course designer and stipulated that, if in any doubt, always refer to the British Carriage Driving rule book. Tony then went onto setting out a dressage arena and what to look out for with regards to ground levels, overhanging trees and not forgetting to allow for the judge's car. Next measuring out the arena and how to make it parallel and square and what tools and measuring aids are required.

Following a coffee break to take all the information in we moved on to cone course design and the rules that apply for the size of arena and active competition areas. We discussed ways and ideas of how to create a cones course to test all the key requirements that you are trying to get both horse and driver to do - testing suppleness, obedience, fitness and pace. Being shown how to use less cones and create more bends was extremely interesting. I was glad I had made notes as there was so much to take in.

Marathon and obstacles followed lunch and we worked through the rules from a course builder's view including the distance of run out, transfer distance and total distance over all three sections. We then discussed designing obstacles in some depth. The ideal principle of obstacles is to give as many options per letter as possible. This is to make it competitive but still flowing and allowing for all size competitors from a single Shetland to a draught four in hand - which is a very tricky task. I found this course very informative and interesting, Tony was easy to get on with and explained everything clearly and answered any questions. I would recommend anyone who wants an insight into course building to do the course. I now feel confident to assist my local club Wolverley and District Driving Club to set out events, plus it's a great insight for myself from a competitor's perspective.



Deborah Daniel at Exloo in the Netherlands



Photos: Amy Mundell

Mark Carruthers at Exloo

EVENTS

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 British Carriagedriving 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. Driver registration is completed by the BC Office for all International Members as part of their membership package but 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 owners 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, e.g. 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.

Hopetoun FEI, National and Club Event 25-27 May

Closing Date for entries: 10 May

Hopetoun is offering temporary stabling for horses and electric hook up for competitors, so all should be very comfortable. There is a Hungarian Course Designer this year, as Hopetoun runs as an FEI 2* event, with an Australian President of the Jury to complete a really international feel to this early season event. If competitor numbers merit the additional expense, further flat ground is available to rent for practice arenas, so please enter early to let the organisers know if this will be required. There will be live music on Friday and Saturday nights so plenty of opportunity to relax as well as compete. Full catering with a bar is available on site from Thursday with the drinks reception on Friday evening after the ever-popular Terrier Racing.

Windsor Park Regional Event 2-3 June

Closing Date for entries: 18 May

Windsor Park offers on site catering on Saturday and Sunday with a meal and some entertainment for Saturday evening. Windsor Park's marathon route has a combination of tarmac roads, stone and grass tracks with small undulating hills and a combination of open meadow and woodland.

Cricklands National Event 15-17 June

Closing Date for entries: 25 May

Cricklands boasts Broomies Cafe and a fully licensed bar, with a full range of bar meals available from Thursday evening with a Happy Hour each evening. There will be a Gourmet

Burger Bar, open from 7am each day from Thursday to Sunday. The marathon route will use European style loops to be driven several times and walking Section B is advised.

Royal Windsor Horse Show

For this year the system of issuing invitations was changed as detailed in Annex 19 of the BC Rule Book. The system of using the Fenix Driver of the year Points league has been discontinued and the decision is now made by the Chefs d'Equipe.

The CAIO 4* - H4 WCupQ for Horse Four in Hands, and the CAI 3* for Horse pairs and Pony Fours takes place from 9-13 May. The team for the CAIO 4* has yet to be confirmed.

Representing Britain at this year's event in the Horse Fours will be Dick Lane, Wilf Bowman-Ripley, Daniel Naprous, Pippa Bassett and Karen Bassett. In Horse Pairs the invitations have been issued to David Matthews and BC Chairman, Chris Smith, while the Pony Fours invitations have been accepted by Sara Howe, Joanna Broadbent and Roger Campbell.



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