

# 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.

### 24/7 Personal Accident Insurance

In addition to the Personal Accident insurance, available via the link on the BC website, which offers an excellent level of cover for training events and competitions, BC members and members of affiliated clubs are able to access an exclusive discount off their 24-hour PA equestrian policies. KBIS are offering a 5% discount for all members on provision of a membership number (or other proof of membership). This policy gives different options and you can pick and choose the levels you require. This is a worldwide policy for equestrian activities. The benefits provided by these policies are greatly enhanced from the levels of cover previously included with BC membership and we would encourage drivers to consider the advantages of having this cover. For further details, and to discuss your requirements, contact KBIS directly on 0345 2302323 and select the option for personal accident. Tell the contact that you are a member of British Carriagedriving and this will entitle you to the 5% discount.

### BC Council Survey

The Council of British Carriagedriving wish to be as inclusive as possible. For this reason, they seek members' views on their willingness to stand for a position on Council and hope to identify any barriers members feel may prevent them from doing so.

It would be appreciated if you were able to respond with your views via the following link which was sent to all members by e-mail at the end of March and is also available on the website. The results will be seen by members of Council and used to formulate policy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2STRRS>

### Training Opportunities

British Carriagedriving is delighted to announce that a significant sum has been agreed for training through the BEF and Sport England. It is hoped to support Try Driving Days through our affiliated clubs and a list of criteria has been sent to clubs with an invitation to participate. Due to the source of the funding, only clubs in England are eligible to apply.

## EVENTS

### BC Affiliated Club Championship

Midlands Carriagedriving won the inaugural BC Affiliated Club Championship in 2016 but were just pipped at the very end into second in 2017 by East Anglian Carriage Driving Group. The results were very close with EACDG finishing on 401, Midlands Carriagedriving on 387 and North East Driving Trials Ltd on 376. The medals are presented at the National Championships and British Carriagedriving hopes 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 2018 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 British Carriagedriving.

### 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 that you only need to be an Associate member of British Carriagedriving.

Before you enter your first event, you must have sent a completed and signed Competence Card, with a copy of the results from the three events at which you were signed off, to the BC Office.

### YD start fees

A start fee is applicable to all Young Driver classes. This is 50% of the Novice rate, which comes to £14.50. This applied at Ashfields and will also apply at Cricklands and Sandringham.

*Left to right: MC Chairman Dave West, Robin Neilson, MC President George Spencer*



### Event Survey

With the summer events getting under way, please don't forget to send your views via Survey Monkey after each event. 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 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/785LW3Y>. There is a link on the BC website. The results of the survey can be submitted anonymously if you prefer and will be viewed by members of Council and the organiser for the respective events.

### Sandringham National and FEI Event 29 June – 1 July

#### Closing Date for entries: 9 June

If you are entering Sandringham's international classes, please refer to the process detailed in the May news pages of *Carriage Driving*.

Sandringham hosts the Young Driver Championships, which are generously sponsored by Baileys Horse Feeds. Baileys has been a long-time supporter of our young drivers and their generosity is greatly appreciated. Sandringham is the final selection event for the FEI Youth Championships, which take place in Aszár Kisber in Hungary from 8-12 August.

### 2018 Rule Book

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 that enables you to spot any changes more easily.

## Farewell Catton, and thank you

**M**idlands Carriagedriving's visit to Catton Park (21-22 April) was tinged with sadness; after more than 20 years of competition this was the final farewell to a venue that has hosted up to three driving trials events a year, the FEI Combined Pony World Championships (in 2005) and the 2007 National Championships. Owners Robin and Katie Neilson have been staunch supporters of both club and national competitions, always making competitors, officials and stewards feel welcome and overcoming any problems thrown at them – usually due to soggy ground conditions in the lorry park.

With such a wet Spring this year, ground conditions caused concern in the run-up to the event, but some warmer days and a drying wind meant that, for the most part, the lorry park was usable. Of course, there is always one person who finds the soggiest spot when driving in and the 'lucky' competitor just happened to be Barry Capstick. With Robin quickly coming to the rescue, Barry found himself being towed along by two tractors, leading to

the comment that perhaps he had given up pairs driving for a tractor tandem.

The sun shone on Saturday morning although some of the 50 competitors had to endure a downpour in the afternoon; only Barry (this time in his more conventional mode of Horse Pairs) and Robert Buck (with two in the Open Pony class) scored sub-50 penalties in the dressage and it became apparent that many were a bit rusty in the cones as balls fell and a couple of errors led to eliminations.

At the dinner that evening, Robin was guest of honour – Katie sadly having to miss out – where a vote of thanks to the Neilsons was proposed by Mike Fallowell, resoundly seconded by those present.

Marathon day was, thankfully, a little cooler for the horses; an additional hazard in the water obstacle came in the shape of a pair of ducks who insisted on swimming around and only just getting out of the way despite a stern talking to by Robin and attempts by the stewards to move them on. Eventually they decided to cross to the adjacent water as a safer option.

Junior driver, Megan Wheeldon, put in the fastest obstacles times, closely followed by another Junior, Isobel Wesbroom-Warr, and Barry. Isobel and Barry won their respective classes and Megan came second in the Open Pony to Granville Styler. Rachel Reilly gained an early ticket to this year's National Championships when heading the Novice Qualifier. Full results can be found on the BC website.

All that remained was for Robin to present the rosettes and for competitors to take a last lingering look back at Catton House.

By Wendy Nix

1. *Megan Wheeldon Open Pony*
2. *Granville Styler Open Pony winner*
3. *Barry Capstick Horse Pairs winner*
4. *Clare Marley Horse Pairs, third in a very competitive class, and brilliant considering she is still suffering from the after effects of a broken neck*
5. *Tandem Horse Jane Lamb*
6. *Rachel Reilly, Novice Horse winner*
7. *Mark Carruthers, Horse team*
8. *Isobel Westbroom Warr Junior, Intermediate Pony*



Photos: Sarah Jane Hayes



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