

Time to talk about elections



The latest news, including details of British Carriagedriving Council elections, advice on getting your views across on combined classes and who will be representing GB in Germany this month.

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council is on Monday 7th October. Council always welcomes, and takes into account, feedback received from members, so if there are any matters or issues which you would like Council to consider, please send an email to the British Carriagedriving office no later than Monday 30th September to allow time for the papers for Council to be prepared and circulated.

A.G.M. and Conference

The AGM and Conference take place on 16th November in the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth. There has been a recent thread on Facebook with many comments and views aired. While Council is aware of these discussions, it is not possible to respond on social media. If you have an idea which you feel has merit, and you wish discussed by Council in more detail, please send this to the BC office. If you wish it to be aired to a larger audience, please send it to the BC office as an item for discussion at the Conference. Even if you are unable to attend, this is an excellent forum for members' views to be heard and discussed by the membership.

Council Elections

The time is approaching when we need to elect new Council members so please give some thought to anyone you may wish to propose (with their permission of course) to this office. There are 4 vacancies and Council in particular are interested in applications from members with a suitable background to become Treasurer but are keen to hear from anyone willing to put their name forward to take an active part in running British Carriagedriving. The dates and venues for meetings will be organised to suit the new Council. The existing Council members are happy to chat about what is involved so please approach them for further information or contact the BC office.

The relevant forms which require to be completed by each candidate are on the web-site www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk. If you are

unable to download or print these, please contact the BC office to have a copy sent by post.

Nominations close on Monday 14th October 2019 to enable an election to take place before the AGM if required.

EVENTS

Deadline set for Training Vouchers for Young and Para Drivers

Training vouchers are being awarded by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers to any Young or Para driver who completes three National or Regional events in one calendar year (the National Championships at Bywell counts as one event). The value of the vouchers will be determined by the number of winners at the end of the season but is likely to be a significant sum so please let the BC office know if you are eligible by sending an email detailing the events at which you competed. All applications must be received by the BC office by 30th September 2019.

2020 Start Fees

Remember that there will be a flat rate of £40, irrespective of the turnout, introduced for 2020.

To offset the additional cost of this to Novice drivers, anyone submitting a Competence Card will be issued with 3 vouchers for free start fees. This can be for Novice or multiples classes and will not have an expiry date. If you submitted a Competence Card in 2019, you can still apply for the free vouchers even if you have already entered a National or Regional event.

BC Council Need Feedback on Combined Classes

If you wish to send any feedback on the combined Pairs class this year, please do so by email to the BC office by the end of September. Please speak up and let BC know if you liked the combined classes this year or not. The recent Facebook thread once again had many suggestions regarding combining classes but this was part of the event structure review and questionnaire sent to all members 12 months ago. The outcome confirmed everyone wanted change but not to their own class. Council agreed to trial combined classes for one year with the Pairs and will consider extending it to the Single classes in 2020. If no feedback is received, Council will be left to make a decision without the members' views being known.



Lynda Christian at Lowther



Mark Carruthers at Lowther

Lowther

Due to the exceptional circumstances at Lowther, where excessive rain stopped the event part way through, Council has unanimously decided that the results at the end of Saturday should be taken as the results for the purposes of the RHS Points League and National Championship qualification. This does not affect the Advanced Single Horses who managed to complete all 3 phases as this was their first selection event for the 2021 World Championships. Congratulations to Lynda Christian on her win and to all the drivers for surviving the worst that the British weather could throw at them.

INTERNATIONAL FEI Championships in 2019

At the FEI World Pairs Championships in Drebkau, Germany, from 11th-15th September 2019, Britain will be represented by Libby Priest, Chris Smith and David Matthews. Individuals will now be Graham Heath, Lindsay Falloon and Joanna Charlesworth.

David Matthews is a farrier based in Berkshire with a client base spanning from Tetbury in Gloucestershire to Newmarket in Suffolk. He works with top stud farms and competition yards as well as general riding horses. He is a veteran of World Championship events having represented Great Britain on 7 occasions. Driving a Single Horse, he competed in France in 2002, Sweden in 2004 and then won Team gold in Italy 2006. In horse pairs he has been on the team in Hungary 2009, France 2011, Slovakia 2013 and finished 12th at Lipica (Slovenia) in 2017. David drives combinations of his own and Wilf Bowman Ripley's horses,

all of which are currently competing at the Europeans. David says, "sharing is caring!"

Libby Priest is based in the Isle of Man and says, "competing is difficult as we have to ferry across for every event. This adds to the expense but living on the Isle of Man is worth it." Libby drives Acoord, Eenzaam Ann De Top and Fiktor which she has produced herself from 3-4 year olds. Her parents have been the major support from the beginning but more recently Libby has been training with a ridden dressage instructor, Ivan Kelly, who has been very helpful. Libby also has the experienced Horse pairs driver Fred Pendlebury on hand for advice although his first role is lorry driver! Libby is an Equine Dental Technician and tries to work her horses in the mornings but always around clients' appointments. She has represented Britain in 2013 and 2017 and is the current Horse Pairs National Champion.

Chris Smith is the third team member. Chris will be well known to many as the current BC Chairman and has to fit driving around his demanding day job as a barrister. He has been driving for 16 years after seeing scurry driving at a local show and been given some lessons for his birthday. Chris says, "I won the horse pairs class at the indoor national championships 3 times and have been reserve champion outdoors twice – but being selected for the team is easily my biggest achievement." His daughter Grace has been on the junior GBR team three times. They train together and Chris is using one of her horses as his spare. They backstep for each other so it will be a nice change for Chris to be driving rather than backstepping at a championship.

Graham Heath is driving as an individual and enjoys a perpetual summer, being based

near Louth in Lincolnshire in the summer and Western Australia in the [British] winter. He is lucky to be able to devote half the year to driving then for 6 months he runs a fruit and veg shop in Western Australia. He job shares with his business partner and is grateful to his wife who puts up with his very chaotic life. Graham has been a past national champion in the intermediate single class and open horse pairs. This is his first World Championship appearance although he is a regular competitor internationally having driven at Valkenswaard and Kronenberg this season and at Beekbergen and Valkenswaard in 2016 and 2017. Graham says, "All the horses I have are relatively inexperienced, having only done a handful of shows. I have had them since they were 4 years old. I am also very privileged to be helped this season by Ed Simonet from Belgium and he will be back stepping for me in the marathon."

Joanna Charlesworth currently lives in Zomergem in Belgium and works as a director of Orchard Investments Ltd and Technology 4 Therapy. She has already represented Britain on a number of occasions: 2009 Kecskemet World Pairs, 2013 Topolcianky World Pairs, 2017 Lipica World Pairs and in 2012 finished 10th in the World Rankings. Living on the continent, she mostly competes at international events and this year her best result was at the CHIO 4*H2 in Saumur where she finished 3rd in dressage 5th overall. As always, much help is needed to compete and Jo is fortunate to have a strong back up team which includes Jan Timmerman as her marathon groom and Shany Van Houtven as her dressage groom, with both able to offer training support.

Lindsay Falloon completes the lineup of British drivers making the trip to Germany. She drives a pair of 13-year-old Welsh Cobs Caederwen Taran and Killan Santana. Originally from Northumberland, Lindsay started carriage driving with her father and uncles as a child and continued until she moved to London to join the Metropolitan Police. After concentrating on her police career, she moved to Oxfordshire where she is still based, and started driving again in 2004 with a single at club level. A move to Horse Pairs saw Lindsay move rapidly up to international competitions and she took a civilian role with Thames Valley Police in 2017 to concentrate more on carriage driving. This will be her first World Championships with Mike Barr and Vicky Irwin as her support team.

07494 876814

email@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk

www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk



Libby Priest