

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS

COMPETITORS NEWS

Young Drivers clinic

Following the interest expressed at last year's Easter Clinic by some of the older junior members, this year's clinic has been extended to three days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5th-7th April at the Unicorn Equestrian Trust. Karen Bassett, Pippa Bassett, Georgina Frith and Di Hayes have kindly agreed to come and instruct. Each instructor can however only get in eight candidates in a day, which means we can only take 32 applicants.

The closing date for applications is Monday 26th March. In an effort to accommodate as many members as possible, we are accepting entries for either Thursday and Friday only, Friday and Saturday only, or all three days.

Candidates completing the course will be eligible to qualify for the Ashfield's Scholarship Event to be held in the summer. The fees for the clinic are as follows:

With a pony	two-day clinic	£ 110.00
Without a pony	two-day clinic	£ 80.00
With a pony	three-day clinic	£ 141.50
Without a pony	three-day clinic	£ 105.00

Please apply to Miss Sydney Smith for full details and an application form by email sydneys@netcomuk.co.uk or by post: Granary Cottage, Netherswell, Stow on the Wold, Glos. GL54 1JZ. Tel: 01451 831052 Fax 01451 832126.

Intermediate (Level 3) Dressage Test

Movement No 8 (serpentine) – if this test is driven in a 100 x 40m arena it will consist of FIVE loops, if driven in a 80 x 40m the test will consist of THREE loops. At every national event this test will be driven in an arena of 100 x 40m.

Council meeting

The meeting of council on the 31st January was held at the Best Western Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth, Nottinghamshire, the hotel which will host the Annual Dinner Dance and the Competitors' Conference in October.

Barry Hilditch was co-opted to council until the AGM in May in his capacity as the chairman of the Club Liaison Working Group.

The final details of the new class structure were accepted by council and these are now on the BHDTA website for all to see and inwardly digest.

Ian Douglas put forward the rule changes for 2007, which were accepted with a few minor modifications.

One interesting addition to the rules was that all Technical Delegates and Course Designers must now be at least associate BHDTA members; up till now this was not a requirement! These changes will now be sent to the printers and members will be able to obtain the updates by the end of March.

Ian Douglas made an interesting observation: over 300 sets of the 2006 rule changes are still in the office having not been asked for by members, indicating that there must be an awful lot of members walking around with out of date rule books. The new 2007 changes will mean little without the previous the 2006 amendments having been inserted.

Council also agreed that the rule book would be posted on the website in the near future, along with all other information about rule changes.

2007 Year Book

The first copies of the 2007 Year Book in its new format were produced at the council meeting. It was agreed that it was an excellent publication, with all the schedules for this season's events along with many interesting articles. Members should now be in receipt of their own copies.

The chairman had to make a grovelling apology that he had failed

in his introduction to the 2007 Year Book, to make any reference to the huge success of our horse single drivers in winning four gold medals at the FEI World Championships in Pratoni last September. Therefore he sends his apologies to all those concerned with this great British success. He also apologises that no article appeared anywhere in the year book recording their great success..

New staff member

BHDTA has a new part time membership secretary: Anne Eaves started this position at the beginning of January on a part time, self employed basis and is fitting in well with the rest of the office.

Meeting dates

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday 7th March at Stoneleigh. Should members have any questions for council please send them so they are received in the office by Friday 2nd March.

The AGM takes place in the marquee at the Brighton HDT event on Thursday 3rd May 6.00pm, where all members are welcome.

CLUB NEWS

Novice Qualifier (Level 2)

In order to compete in the novice qualifier competitions, run at club level, all competitors are required to be a full member of the BHDTA. For those of you that have not previously been a full member there is an introductory full membership fee of £70 (normally £135.00). Please note that this is a change to the rules that were in place for 2006

OFFICIALS NEWS

Technical Delegates Clinic

The annual Technical Delegates Seminar was convened on Sunday 4th February, at the Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold. The day incorporated a wide spectrum of technical delegates in all shapes and sizes from FEI official international TDs to club representatives; in all 15 eager participants attended, including two from the Emerald Isle and six from affiliated clubs.

The brief for all levels was the same, from FEI World Championships to the latest National Novice for Singles Level 2: prepare early for the event and be positive in your attitude was the message. Ian Douglas opened the clinic with a presentation on the 2007 rule changes, which had been allocated 15 minutes, but with comments and discussions from all quarters drifted into 40 minutes. This was followed by more lively discussion with Philip Bateman taking the chair going through the classification and levels of TDs, plus the duties and responsibilities and training for the role of a



The BHDTA Technical Delegates take a break from their clinic for a photograph on the steps of the Unicorn Trust.

PHOTO: DICKY JIM

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

technical delegate, both before, during and after an event.

The course designers, whose clinic was going on in the same building, made a request for some input in measuring a cones course that they had constructed in the outdoor arena: so all obliged and finished with very similar distances to the designers. Then with the course Designers, everyone returned into the warm for a Health and Safety talk by Peter Bridson; BDHTA company secretary who had done his homework and provided lots of information and a wad of papers to take home.

The customary group photograph on the steps of the trust was taken by Richard James for posterity and Sydney Smith's Rogues Gallery, just before lunch. After a good lunch, the work continued with a run through of the coming season. As club events are now holding all the novice qualifiers, for a TD to qualify to officiate at one of these events it is mandatory that he or she attends this annual seminar, or the one to be held at Penrith on the 1st April.

Finally, an open forum for discussion cleared up a number of questions, before the TDs rejoined the course designers, for a few final words of wisdom.

Course Designers' Clinic

This was one of the best-attended course designers' clinics ever, with a total of 45 attendees including an Irish contingent. The course was taken by Mark Ingham, with Philip Bateman and Ian Douglas



The course designers and builders had a full two days of discussion and instructions at their clinic, headed up by Mark Ingham.

helping out here and there. Mark gave two days of interesting insight for both national course designers and the large numbers of affiliated club designers, both in the classroom and on the practical side, Mark proved a master. Barry Capstick and Sarah Meredith provided the horses for the delegates to test the obstacles they had designed and built.

Everyone agreed at the end of two days that this was the ideal format for their clinic and asked for the same again next year.

Council elections

The closing date for the nomination of candidates for the forthcoming council elections is February 23rd delayed from January 12th, due to the post office failing to make certain deliveries of post during the Christmas period. So far, there are five candidates for three places on the council. The three existing council members, Ian Gilbert, Amanda Saville and Sydney Smith are all standing for re-election: Chris Doughty and Mark Ingham have also put their names forward. Both Chris and Mark are affiliated club chairmen. All members are urged to voice their opinions and vote in this forthcoming election. The result will be announced at the end of April and the new council announced at the AGM.

British Horse Driving Trials Association,
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth,
Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Tel: 02476 419078 Fax: 02476 419079
Email: bhdta@horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Website: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk



Insurance Benefits from BHDTA membership

In the February issue the Table of Insurance Benefits for BHDTA Members was incorrectly printed – below is the correct version. Carriage Driving Magazine sincerely apologises for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

	BHDTA members	Club members
Insurance for all members exc Supporter Members	✓	✗
Public Liability and Product Liability for Club Officials, Stewards and volunteers at an affiliated event	✓	✓
Public Liability up to £30,000,000 for Club Members competing at an event organized by their Club	✓	✓
Public Liability up to £30,000,000 with unlimited claims for any horse related accident occurring at affiliated events	✓	✗
24-hour Public Liability insurance up to £30,000,000 per claim with unlimited claims for any horse related accident	✓	✗
Personal Accident insurance up to £10,000 at affiliated events organized by BHDTA, BSJA, PC, BHS, BE, BD, EGB, BEV, FEI	✓	✗
Personal Accident insurance up to £5,000 relating to any other horse related accident	✓	✗
Able to compete at National Driving Trials	✓	✗
15% discount from THB on Horsebox and Breakdown cover	✓	✗
Access to Horse and Pony Insurance policy excluding Public Liability cover for BHDTA HQ members	✓	✗
Preferential rates from THB for Personal Lines services including Property, Possessions and Vehicle cover	✓	✗



BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

COMPETITOR NEWS

GB's Pony Team announced

The announcement of the GBR team for the FEI World Combined Pony Championships in Dorthealyst 19th-22nd July) was made following the last selection event held at Farleigh HDT:

Singles: Sara Howe and Julie Camm
Pairs: Rachel Stevens and Julie Hoskyns
Four-in-hand Sarah Jane Cook and Colin Allen
Chef d'Equipe - Jill Holah, Assistant - Ursula Hirschberg,
Team Vet - Claire Haley and Team Physio - Nicola Bagley.

TOP SIX RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Top Gear – Tanya Porter
2. Laptop – Sue Reed
3. Land Rover Experience – Liz Matthews
4. Helicopter Ride – Brockham HC
5. Chicago Rock – Stuart Deignan
6. Mixed case of wine – Faith Szuzka

Thank you to all those who kindly supported the combined pony team by purchasing or selling tickets. A little over £4,000 has been raised.

Declaration & Start Fee Form

To compete at a BHDTA affiliated event, be it a national event or a novice qualifier class at a club event, every competitor must complete a declaration and start fee form. May we please ask that competitors take care to complete every question asked and tick all relevant boxes on these forms. After two events we are finding that some competitors are missing the tick boxes indicating which phase each horse/pony is to be driven in.

Due to last minute changes because of lameness etc, it may be easier to complete the form on arrival at the event rather than prior to it, we do however appreciate that completing paperwork is the last job you want to do on arrival at an event! To the competitors at the events held to date, thank you - the vast majority of the forms are completed correctly, which makes the job of inputting all the data easier.

Drug Testing

We are pleased to report that the random drug test carried out at Brighton HDT has been confirmed as negative.

Health & Safety

A boring subject we know but can we remind competitors:

- When driving in the box park WALK.
- Respect other competitors in the collecting ring and warm up areas.
- After the Lap of Honour, leave the arena at TROT.
- The rules say, "...everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring..."

Closing dates reminders

Henbury Hall HDT - Monday 18th June (*but may take late entries*)
Lowther HDT – Monday 2nd July
Castle Kennedy HDT – Monday 23rd July
URGENT Message from event organisers – please get your entries in as early as possible.

FENIX National Event Points League & THB British Equestrian Novice Points League
The current placings for both these league tables can be found 'In the Ribbons' on page 62.

Lowther HDT & Country Fair

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill, one of the main sponsors of Lowther Driving Trials and Country Fair, have announced additional sponsorship for the 2007 event on August 3rd-5th, in the form of prize money to the overall winner of each class. The winner of each of the 10 classes will receive a cheque to the same value as their entry fee and start fee combined. The total prize fund will be £2,040.

The Lowther committee will provide crystal prizes and rosettes as usual and we are all extremely grateful to The Edinburgh Woollen Mill and their chief executive Philip Day for their enhanced support. The organising committee are also delighted to confirm that Lorenzo makes his return as their main ring attraction.

Henbury Hall HDT

Rosey Owen, on behalf of the organising committee, hoped that competitors had entered before the 18th June to get the benefit of the cheaper entry fee.

This year Henbury Hall is doing 'cones with a difference'. Competitors will do their normal 1 to 15 cones course and if they have gone double clear will continue on to do their last 5 or 6 cones against the clock, fastest through wins - we are hoping this will add a bit of excitement!

Henbury are also low on experienced marathon stewards and if you are available please contact Rosey Owen, on (07810) 558988, as she would be grateful for the support. The Saturday night spectacle is the famous Bucking Bronco competition...

British Grooms Association

Lucy Katan of The British Grooms Association has contacted us - the BGA is reaching its first month's birthday and they are delighted with the response so far - both from grooms, employers and industry. However, Lucy has already noticed one interesting statistic – they have well over 200 members, from all areas of the industry inc. SJ, dressage, eventing, riding school, hunting, polo, welfare etc but no driving grooms. All grooms might like to take a look at their website - www.britishgrooms.org.uk.

The 'Long Walk Party'

You are invited to The Long Walk Party at The National Championships on Saturday 15th September. After a gruelling day on the marathon, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Victoria Enclosure with your friends and family. Escape the hassle of cooking or driving into Windsor and indulge yourselves with a fine three-course dinner and pre-dinner drinks for £35.

The party will start at 7.30 pm with dinner served from 8.15 pm. Smart casual dress – Full bar facilities – Music – Free parking.

Tickets are limited, so make your reservation with Jill Holah now! Email: j.holah@virgin.net for bookings and more information. All tickets must be paid by 1st September (post dated cheques acceptable).

SUPPORTER NEWS



Prince Philip and BHDTA members at St James's Palace.

Reception for Prince Philip

A champagne reception was held on Wednesday 16th May at St James's Palace, London for His Royal Highness Prince Philip to celebrate his 33 years of competition in horse driving trials.

In attendance were 240 guests, many of them from the early years when the sport was very new in this country, drivers, friends and families from past to the present. Photographs were displayed showing Prince Philip driving horse and pony four-in-hands throughout the 33 years of his driving career.

Very amusing introduction speeches were made by Sir Brian McGrath and BHDTA Chairman, the Earl of Onslow who then presented His Royal Highness with a book of cartoons drawn by Jeff Lilies. His Royal Highness thanked everyone for enjoying the sport as much as he had over the years and was given a hearty 'three cheers' as a thank you for his help in the development of our sport.

The wonderful venue of St James's Palace gave the party the atmosphere it deserved, Prince Philip managed to speak to many of the guests, reminiscing with many fellow drivers. Definitely an evening to remember.

Photographs taken during the evening can be viewed and purchased via a link on the BHDTA web site www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

National Championships

We are very privileged to have HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as our patron for our championships on Queen Victoria's Review Ground in Windsor Great Park in September (14th to 16th). Over three days 150 drivers and in excess of 250 horses will compete. As well as the demanding driving trials there are a wide range of trade stands, dog agility and show driving for visitors to enjoy on Saturday, then on Sunday the event hosts The Windsor Classic Car Show & Autojumble with over 300 entries expected.

For those visitors who would like to try their hand at carriage driving for free, a 'have a go' feature will take place on Saturday at 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm – your chance to hold the reins under the supervision of the experts.

FREE admission on Friday (dressage day) for everyone, with tickets available on the gate for Saturday and Sunday at £8 per adult (free entry for children) Unlimited FREE parking on all days.

Tickets are now on sale for the 'Victoria Enclosure' membership from £32 a day that include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea in the exclusive marquee giving the best view of all the action throughout the weekend.

For more info www.windsordriving.co.uk or call 02476 419078.

CLUB NEWS

Borde Hill 2-day event

One of the country's truly great gardens provides the venue for Brockham Harness Club's 2-day event on the 18th and 19th August. Set in over 200 acres of spectacular parkland, Borde Hill near Haywards Heath provides a wonderful location for horse driving trials. The dressage and cones competition will take place on Saturday with the marathon running on Sunday. This event is also a national novice qualifier and a qualifier for the Southern Area Club Championship. Saturday night is party night with a Pimms reception, hog roast and live band and full bar facilities.

Running in conjunction with the driving trials is the Borde Hill Country Fair with a vast range of trade and craft stands, exciting arena activities and catering outlets to suit all tastes; it all makes for a great weekend for everybody, competitor and visitor alike. For those visitors wanting to have a go at driving – the weekend will also feature an area to handle the reins under supervision and at no charge – come and have 'a go' in a relaxed, safe environment.

For more information and a schedule log on at www.brockhamharnessclub.co.uk or call competition secretary - Sara Simmons on 01903 812885.



Golden Hippo Award

The annual award of the Golden Hippo was made by Sir Brian McGrath to Karen Bassett during Brighton HDT. This award is given to a member who has shown good sportsmanship in the face of adversity. After the hassle she experienced at 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games when she nearly missed her dressage time Karen was well qualified to receive this award.

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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

COMPETITOR NEWS

Statement from the Chairman

The council can confirm that both Amanda Hill and Gaynor Mayer have given notice to leave the BHDTA. The Finance and General Purpose Committee and the council are giving consideration as to the association's requirements for the office and will inform members shortly about the way forward when decisions have been made.

The Earl of Onslow - Chairman, BHDTA

GB's team for Poland

Henbury was to be the last of four selection events for the team to represent Britain at the FEI World Pairs Championships in Warka, Poland (31st August - 2nd September). As the Henbury event had to be cancelled because of the weather conditions, council consulted with the class drivers for the best way forward. The conclusion was that Lowther, the next available driving trials, was too close to the championships to be a selection event. Therefore, the points from the three completed selection events at Hopetoun, Farleigh and Sandringham were the best solution to decide the team. The team is therefore: John Attenborough, Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Barnaby Bowman, and the chef d'equipe, Terry Selway.

Annual Members' Conference

Make a note of the date in your diaries of our Annual Conference which is Saturday 20th October, at The Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth, Derby DE74 2DF.

The club and stewards' meeting will be in the morning, the members conference in the afternoon and there will be a dinner dance in the evening organised by Rachel Stevens and her team.

National Championships plus

The BHDTA National Championships in Windsor Park are being organised by Jill Holah this year including taking all entries. (address below).

Why not enjoy this year's championships in style and become a Victoria Enclosure Member? Details are on the website and applications close on 8th September.

Also come along to The Long Walk Party on Saturday 15th September and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Victoria Enclosure with your friends and family. Escape the hassle of cooking or driving into Windsor and indulge yourselves with a fine three course dinner and pre-dinner drinks for £35.

The party will start at 7.30 pm with dinner served from 8.15 pm. Smart casual dress - full bar facilities, music and free parking. Tickets are limited, so make your reservation now certainly by 1st September (post dated cheques acceptable).

Jill Holah, Dykelands Farm, Whenby, Yorkshire. YO61 4SF, Tel: 01347 878 655, Email: j.holah@virgin.net.

Oh this weather!

The rain and mud have turned the driving season into somewhat of a mess! First with Catton Park cancelled; Robin Nielson had both his ridden event and the driving trials cancelled within a week of each other. Then followed the Midlands Driving Trials Group's Offchurch

Bury event, being waterlogged and soon afterwards the Knowle Hill event ending up under water. Then the loss of Henbury Hall as well.

Sandringham, however, managed to struggle on with a shortened course and slower speeds; the main arena stood up to everything that could be thrown at it but the estate said, only three days later, that you would hardly know that it had been used.

The same could not be said for the office area and the obstacles, but no doubt everything will return to normal within a week or two.



In Germany Boyd Excell won the Aachen CHIO Competition C with a double clear in the first round and a breathtaking fastest clear in the drive off from a field of the top 23 four-in-hand drivers in the world. Boyd was fifth overall, Ijsbrand Chandon taking the individual top slot and Netherlands the team competitor.

Ashfield to the Rescue

Within 24 hours of Catton Park being cancelled, Zoe Morgan and Wilf Bowman-Ripley were putting together a fantastic event at their carriage centre. Rabbits were pulled out of hats!

The jury, including the FEI foreign judge, Gé König, were transferred from Derbyshire to Essex. A new course designer was produced and the Austrian scorer was diverted on his way across the Channel. All the competitors were contacted, with 44 out of 71 original Catton entries turning up for the competition. A remarkable feat in only 48 hours.

The event itself had a large amount of rain, but survived to give three days of memorable sport. Our most sincere thanks go to Wilf and Zoe and their team for all their efforts.

Lowther's generosity

We are delighted to be able to report that Lowther HDT and Country Fair have again given a most generous donation of £3,500 from their 2005 and 2006

events to be added to the Lowther Travel Fund. The donations are used to assist our teams with travel costs to FEI World Championships.

This is of course made possible by the event's ability to attract super sponsors such as The Edinburgh Woollen Mill. This year's event sees the introduction of prize money to the overall winner of each class in the driving trials. The winner of each of the 10 classes will receive a cheque to the same value as their entry fee and start fee combined. The Lowther committee are also providing crystal prizes and rosettes as usual.

Horse & Country TV

Note - Channel change from 295 to 281 as from 16th July.

Lost your Keys?

A set of caravan keys were found in the steward's caravan park at Sandringham. The key fob is from the 'White Arches' Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. Contact Sally Moreton 01526 388643.

CLUB NEWS

5 sections for Southern Championships

The White Horse Harness Club are delighted to be returning to the wonderful Tenantry Farm, Rockbourne Nr Fordingbridge on 28th and 29th September for their two day show.

This event, while open to all competitors, will incorporate, not only the WHHC Championships, but the Southern Area Championships, for which members of the WHHC: Brockham; South Downs; Windsor Park; Forest of Dean; Great Western and Three Counties have held qualifying events.

There will be a five-section marathon of approximately 18km over fairly flat farmland and woodland tracks, with obstacles set in among the UK Chasers jumping course, which will include a water obstacle.

Rosettes 1st - 6th in all classes and 1st-3rd in dressage/marathon and best cones round in each class will be awarded. Southern Area Championship rosettes from 1st - 6th in all classes and silver plaques to all class winners in both categories. WHHC championship trophies going to the highest placed club member in each class.

There will be the usual BBQ party and music on the Saturday evening included in the entry price.

The organisers hope that two horse teams will be joining in, so this event should have plenty of action and excitement. If you are not able to enter but would like to steward, Brenda May would be delighted to hear from you.

Schedules available by sending SAE to Brenda May, Coulsdon, Wootton Road, Tiptoe, Nr Lymington, Hants. Tel: 01264-730261.

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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

The Chairman congratulates all who took part in the FEI World Pony Championships in Denmark. They achieved the highest result of which they were capable.

COMPETITOR NEWS

BHDTA office arrangements

Until a new full-time secretary is appointed, the BHDTA office is being manned on a part-time basis, mornings only by Ann Eaves, our membership secretary. The office answer phone will be on at other times. If a member has an urgent issue they need to discuss please contact a member of council, whose telephone numbers will be found in the 2007 directory.

Thanks to the team sponsors

The British Combined Pony team would like to thank all those who so kindly gave sponsorship to support the trip to Denmark, the main sponsors were:

Toggi - OPG Fleet Vehicle Graphics - Dodson & Horrell - Wight Equine Driving Society - NAF Products - Carr Day Martin

In addition, Fenix Carriages has very generously donated a memento to each of the marathon back-steppers and these will be presented at the national championships at Windsor.



Our highest placed team member in Denmark: Sara Howe, Individual Bronze Medal winner in the Single Pony category.

So many other generous people who helped raised money in various ways or donated items for the fund-raising raffle and the 'Evening of Nations'. On one evening at the event it is the tradition that each team shares their national traditions and food with the other teams. The GB team is most grateful to you all.

The team is indebted and gives a big thank you to chef d'equipe Jill Holah; her assistant, Ursula Hirschberg; team trainers, Karen Bassett and Robert Buck and the tireless vet and physio, Claire Haley, and Nicola Baguley.

Finally, sincere thanks to family and friends and all who travelled to Denmark to support the British team.

Without all of you it would not have been possible.

Points League

At a recent meeting of the BHDTA council the problem of competitors being upgraded and taking their points with them was discussed at length. It was decided that nothing could be done in the middle of the season, but the issue will be reviewed at the end of the season and a report given at the member's conference.

FEI World Pony Champs Results:

Dressage Marathon Cones Overall

Team GBR - 6th

Sara Howe	Single pony	9 th	3 rd	16 th	Bronze
Julie Camm	Single pony	3 rd	16 th	6 th	4 th
Rachel Stevens	pony pair	8 th	14 th	16 th	14 th
Julie Hoskyns	pony pair	16 th	13 th	8 th	11 th
Colin Allen	four in hand	19 th	6 th	15 th	12 th
Sarah Jane Cook	four in hand	16 th	13 th	16 th	15 th

The BHDTA is seeking an administrator to manage the sport of horse driving trials.



Salary in the region of £20,000 - £25,000

Application in writing please to:

British Horse Driving Trials Association
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth,
Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

SUPPORTERS NEWS

What a disappointing summer we have all had but many thanks to the stalwarts for their continuing support. A few of us went to the FEI Pony Championships and were delighted to find that the caravan hired by Pete and Julie Pethybridge was in a 'prime position' and their generous hospitality was greatly appreciated.

An added bonus was the company of Ray and Rosa Brown, Ray being in good form after his triple bypass. The weather was good for us 'spotters' on marathon day but the English rain arrived on the Sunday!

Lowther was lucky to run between the rain, and was well supported by competitors and spectators alike. The supporter's tent was busy all three days. We look forward to seeing everyone at the national championships in September.



Colin Allen's plan was to really go for it in the marathon at the FEI Pony Champs; he finished 6th in the marathon and 12th overall in the pony four-in-hands.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Organisers Conference - Friday 19th October

We have two locations for our conferences, firstly the organisers at:

The Whitehouse Hotel,
Packington Hill,
Kegworth, Leics. DE74 2DF
2pm - 5pm
Telephone 01509 672427

Stewards, Club & Members - Saturday 20th October

Across the road from the Whitehouse Hotel at:

The Yew Lodge Hotel,
Packington Hill, Kegworth DE74 2DF
Stewards Conference 10am - 11am
Club Conference 11am
Members Conference 2pm - 5pm

If you wish to book a room at the Yew Lodge Hotel for the 20th October, we have reserved a number of rooms for members at £50 per room (please quote BHDTA). To make a booking please telephone 01509 672518.

Member's questions: would members who would like to

put questions to the council at the conferences please let the office have them in writing by the 24th September 2007.

The Dinner Dance

Our dinner dance at The Yew Lodge Hotel is once again being organised by Rachel Stevens and Harry Luff and follows the conference; ticket application forms will be sent to all members.

The presentation of the Points League Awards will take place at the dinner dance, so don't miss out.

National Championships Member's Privileges

Don't forget that if you would like to bring a caravan to the national championships for the weekend, the cost for BHDTA members is £15 including admission for all occupants (£30 for non-members).

Passes in advance only from Jill Holah, Dykelands Farm, Whenby, York, YO61 4SF (Cheques payable to BHDTA National Championships please).

For BHDTA members coming daily to the event, admission at the gate is FREE on production of membership card.

Why not take advantage of other opportunities at the championships:

- Victoria Enclosure - enjoy a day of luxury at the heart of the action!
- Long Walk Party - relax over dinner with friends at the end of marathon day!

Log on to website for further information www.windsordriving.co.uk or email organiser Jill Holah j.holah@virgin.net.

200 Club - Lowther Draw

£100 Anthea Shipley, £50 Peter Maris, £30 Tony Booth, £20 Brockham Harness Club.

If any members have any news or items on our sport that they would like to appear in these news pages please email to Sally Moreton at sally.moreton@btconnect.com or telephone 01526 388643, ideally before the 12th of each month.

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BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

FIRE, FLOOD and PESTILENCE

Fire!

Although fire threatened the tinder-dry box park at Henbury last year it doesn't seem to have figured highly on any risk assessment this year. The other two, however, have been all too obvious and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to those landowners, event organisers, stewards and officials who have struggled to mount events for us this summer and sympathy to those who were forced to cancel.

Flood!

Catton and Henbury both had horrendous weather in the run up to their events and were forced to give up. Castle Kennedy took Alnwick's date and got Alnwick's weather when it rained all day Saturday. Sandringham had to shorten their marathon due to the heavy going and then had rain on Sunday and Lowther, having had the river threaten the dressage arena two weeks before the event, also shortened their marathon. The river suddenly rose again during the marathon making it impassable and causing the water obstacle to be abandoned. Then a water main burst in the village on Saturday depriving the whole showground of water and threatening the final day of the show. Luckily the water company managed to effect repairs in time.

Although Normanhurst had a fine weekend for the event, two of the obstacles were under water on Tuesday, and it was a brave decision to carry on trusting the weather forecast to be right. Some people still had to be towed out! Ashfields, having stepped in to run an event when the Trent invaded the box park at Catton, had to abandon their water obstacle when the approach track collapsed into a badger set below.

Pestilence!

Borde Hill was lost to the first Foot and Mouth saga, and what a shame that was, but the Novice Qualifier was transferred to Normanhurst. Foot and Mouth also caused worries for Castle Kennedy and Normanhurst, but they were able to run.

And as for the National Championships at Windsor!! Jill Holah had been working for months on the organisation and she and her team had worked overtime getting everything prepared. The obstacles were built, painted and lettered, rings were laid out, marquees erected, loos and skips in place; the marathon route was marked out, and some competitors had arrived, when on Wednesday morning they were told that there was a Foot and Mouth outbreak close by and the event could not proceed. Indeed they were asked to vacate the park as soon as possible. Once anyone had left the park, they were not allowed to return.

And now perseverance

They picked themselves up from that blow and immediately started to plan a replacement event. By lucky chance Robin and Katy Nielson had a clear weekend on September 21st to 23rd at Catton Park and by Thursday lunchtime practically everything was in hand!! What a remarkable achievement!

Unfortunately we were unaware that the Midlands DTG had rescheduled their end of year event and party to that weekend. They very sportingly cancelled that event and told all their stewards and competitors to help with the championships. As you will have seen in last month's *Carriage Driving*, MDTG had already had many events cancelled and didn't need this additional lost event. We are indebted to them.

Many, many thanks to Jill and her team for a tremendous effort. Full report in next month's *Carriage Driving*.

To everyone who has helped to mount an event for us this summer – THANK YOU.

SUPPORTERS NEWS

Annual Conference 20th October 2007

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Conference this year. This is your opportunity to have your say.

Do you like not having to register your horse?

Is the Class Structure now working?

Do you like start fees, or should they be replaced with Horse Registrations?

Would you like more two day events? Should Intermediates drive with fewer cones?

Should pairs have more clearance in the cones?

Should there be only two dressage judges per arena to reduce cost?

These are a few suggestions. There must be many more. Please send your questions and ideas to the office in plenty of time so that they can be grouped sensibly for discussion.

Carriage Driving apologise most sincerely for the incorrect detail contained in the caption of the picture of Julie Hoskyns in the last issue. Julie came 11th overall with her pony pair.

Stewards & Supporters

In the recent BHDТА Newsletter it was stated that the Stewards/Supporters meeting at the conference was by invitation only, this is not correct. Everyone concerned will be most welcome to air their views and suggest new ideas. I would like to see as many people as possible at this meeting.

Please send your ideas/complaints in writing by October 15th (so they can be considered) to: Sheila Hawking, Pollums Horse Farm, Lumby South Milford, Leeds LS25 5LD.



Julie Camm who came third in dressage and fourth overall in the single pony class at the FEI Combined World Pony Championships at Dorthelyst 2007.

2007 Points League Championships

WINDSOR INSURANCE NOVICE POINTS LEAGUE

Novice Pony		Novice Horse	
1 st	Ann Davey	1 st	Jan Blumire
2 nd	Sue Pridding	2 nd	Tracy Robson
3 rd	Lorraine Davies	3 rd	Jane Issac
4 th	Nichola Blandin	4 th	Tracy Bell

FENIX CARRIAGES POINTS LEAGUE

Intermediate Pony		Open Pony	
1 st	Cathy Willis	1 st	Julie Tomasik
2 nd	Tracy Fletcher	2 nd	Carolyn Hall
3 rd	Janet Pilling	3 rd	Sue Mayes
4 th	Sharon Redfern	4 th	Pippa Jarman
Advanced Pony		Pony Pairs	
1 st	Sue Denney	1 st	Jo Rennison
2 nd	Sue Mart	2 nd	Rachel Stevens
3 rd	Sara Howe	3 rd	Stephanie Byrne
4 th	Anna Grayson	4 th	Wendy Wadsworth
Pony Tandems		Pony Four in hand	
1 st	Danielle Twitchen	1 st	Sarah Jane Cook
2 nd	Sue Mayes	2 nd	Colin Allen
3 rd	Lady Brabourne	3 rd	Julia Liles
4 th	Audrey Budge	4 th	Susan Skeggs
Intermediate Horse		Open Horse	
1 st	Philip Reeves	1 st	John Keeler
2 nd	Chris Smith	2 nd	Di Hayes
3 rd	Vicki Irwin	3 rd	Sarah Garnett
4 th	Owen Pilling	4 th	Susan Henry
Advanced Horse		Horse Pairs	
1 st	Angela Flanagan	1 st	Barnaby Bowman
2 nd	Ian Bertram	2 nd	John Attenborough
3 rd	Di Hayes	3 rd	Wilf Bowman Ripley
4 th	Pam Neill	4 th	David Matthews



John Keeler in lighter mood with his course builder's assistant hat on at Farleigh Trials taking bets on the field, John then went on to win the 2007 Open Horse Fenix Carriages Points League.

	Horse Tandems	Horse Four in hands
1 st	Pat Cooper	1 st George Bowman IV
2 nd	Rene Schoop	2 nd Georgina Frith
3 rd	Carol Boswell	3 rd Pippa Basset
4 th	John Fowler	4 th Dick Lane

End of Season Party

The Points League awards will be presented at the End of Season Party on 20th October at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Leicestershire. Out of courtesy to the sponsors, will those concerned please make every effort to attend and collect their prize.

The party includes a champagne reception, four course meal, the alternative awards and disco. For tickets and alternative award nominations forms see: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

Success abroad

The horse pairs team of Barnaby Bowman, John Attenborough and Wilf Bowman Ripley competed in the FEI World Championships in Poland. Barnaby drove the dressage test of his life and finished 6th after dressage, see the full report on page 50. Many congratulations and commiserations to them all.

Four BHDТА members competed in France at Compiègne CAI-B with excellent results. Single Pony Class 1st Sue Denny, 2nd Anna Grayston, 4th Sue Corlett. Horse Team Class 5th Pippa Basset.

Robert Buck competed with Julie Camm's pony at the Belgium National Championships in the Single Pony Class and won. Many congratulations to him.

Vacancies on council

We have three retiring council members of whom at least one does not wish to stand again. To serve your sport on council is a most rewarding experience, but is not to be taken on lightly. You should be aware that no expenses are paid to council members but, if you feel that you could give the time and dedication to help, please complete an application form that can be obtained from the website or the office.

Liza takes over Caroline

Caroline Musker is retiring as Chairman of the Judges Committee. She has held this important position for many years and we are most grateful to her for her dedication. She will be succeeded by Liza Wood who has some exciting plans for next year.

If any members have any news that they would like to share please email to Sally Moreton at sally.moreton@btconnect.com or telephone 01526 388643, ideally before the 12th of each month.

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