

Saying thank you to Ian



The latest news from British Carriagedriving - including Team GB international success, honouring a lifetime achievement and details of competition closing dates and a re-scheduled date for Plas Newydd

OFFICIAL NEWS

Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council is not yet confirmed. 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 e-mail to the British Carriagedriving office.

Ian Gilbert awarded Honorary Life Vice-President of British Carriagedriving

There are few people who have been involved with driving trials for as long as Ian Gilbert or made such an immense contribution to the sport. Ian's input can be overlooked as

he prefers to work quietly in the background although, at a sprightly 75 years old, he probably works harder than ever now that he has retired.

Ian and his wife Anne started out in showing and then progressed to driving trials entering their first National event at Scone Palace in 1982 (back in the day of bogey times when a clear round was possible on the marathon and most of the rules had still to be invented). From 1984 both drove Single Ponies with their two sons taking turns grooming for them. As the boys got older, Ian and Anne moved into the Pony Tandem class and currently compete in Pony Pairs.

The presentation at Hopetoun (an event founded by Ian) was made by Chris Smith, BC Chairman, who had the audience puzzled initially as to the connection between the

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and driving. Chris explained that Ian had kindly offered a secure location for storing the BC archive data and presented Ian with a beautiful book on Saddlery and Harness making.

Chris then noted that Council had felt that this was insufficient to recognise Ian's 12 years served as a Council member, his role as Chair of the Competitions Committee (one of the most important committees) and his input into event organisation through Hopetoun since its inception 20 years ago, more recently at Raehills and the transformation of a greenfield site at Cirencester into a venue suitable for the National Championships in 2014. Chris also referred to Ian's contribution to the sport through his involvement with the Scottish Carriage Driving Association, which he helped to set up when a number of Scottish clubs pooled their resources, and the many years Ian organised club events at a variety of venues in the West of Scotland.

Chris said, "So a book was not enough but Article 25.3 of the BC Memorandum and Articles came to the rescue and it gives me great pleasure to say that Council have elected Ian as an Honorary Vice-President of British Carriagedriving for life, with immediate effect". Ian is only the second person on whom this honour has been conferred; the first was George Bowman.

The sustained applause Ian received recognised the respect in which he is held by the driving community and there were a number of damp eyes when the significance of this award was realised. Having had hip replacement surgery just before the Hopetoun event, it required considerable ingenuity to ensure Anne was able to attend the event on Saturday night for the presentation. Anne said, "I was delighted with the recognition of Ian's hard work and desire to promote and improve the sport. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of carriage driving for so many years and thoroughly deserves this distinction."



Ian Gilbert Vice Chairman presentation

Photo: Mary Kusin

Could you take on the role of BC Treasurer?

We are repeating the appeal for a volunteer to take on the role of British Carriagedriving Treasurer. If you have a financial background and the ability to budget the company's finances, the Council would love to hear from you. It is a requirement that the Treasurer is a member of Council so this would be a co-opted position to start with. Please send initial expressions of interest or any queries to the BC office.

EVENTS

Calling Young and Para Drivers

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers were concerned about the number of headcollars won by the same person. They are still very happy to support Young Drivers and Para Drivers but this support will now take the form of a training voucher. Training vouchers will be awarded 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 e-mail detailing the events at which you competed in previous years.

Shanes Castle 13/14 July

Closing date for entries: Thursday 4 July

A new Regional Event, not listed in the BC Yearbook, has been organised at Shanes Castle on 13/14 July. There will be a wide range of classes and the schedule has now been added to the events pages on the BC web-site. Entertainment is planned so competitors will be able to enjoy a cheese and wine reception on Friday night and a hog roast with live music on Saturday night. The event runs in conjunction with the Whip and Collar Driving Club's "Driving at the Castle" show.

Plas Newydd Novice Qualifier rescheduled to 13/14 July

Due to the recent spate of wet weather, Chester Horse Driving Trials Ltd. have been forced to postpone their Novice Qualifier event at Plas Newydd until 13/14 July. The dressage and cones field were under water in June with hay still to be cut. Anyone who has entered the event will be able to transfer their entry to the new date.

Allerton Park

Closing date for entries: Friday 5 July

Allerton takes place on 20-21 July. The marathon

route runs on parkland and tracks. There are seven obstacles with an amazing water obstacle where you cross over onto an island. You can also enjoy the party in the marquee on Saturday night where catering is provided.

Goodwood

Closing date for entries: Tuesday 23 July

Goodwood takes place on 27-28 July with everyone invited to the welcome drinks reception on Friday evening and a barbecue on Saturday. On-site catering is also available during the event.

Raehills

Closing date for entries: Friday 19 July

Raehills also takes place on 27-28 July with the marathon route running over fields and forestry tracks with well-built obstacles. There's a catering van on site all weekend and don't forget the Interclub Challenge with teams consisting of a Single Pony, a Single Horse and a Multiple from any affiliated clubs.

Onley and the Young Drivers Championships

Closing date for entries: Saturday 20 July

Onley takes place on 3-4 August and incorporates the Young Drivers Championships. The venue offers on site catering with a farm shop, café and bar. Tickets can be booked on arrival for the hot meal planned for Saturday evening. There will be six obstacles, which includes a water obstacle, after a relatively flat marathon around tracks and headlands.

Lowther

Closing date for entries: Monday 22 July

Lowther takes place on 9-11 August and runs

in conjunction with the Game Fair so there's lots to see and do. The cones course follows a different format to other events and will incorporate a bridge and 2 obstacles amongst the cones. The marathon is split over two days with the ponies driving their marathon on Sunday. Everyone is invited to the welcome reception on Friday evening and the barbecue / carvery event on Saturday.

INTERNATIONAL British Success at Driving Valkenswaard International

With seven teams contesting the CAIO4*-H4 Nations Cup competition at DVI (Driving Valkenswaard International), which took place at the home of World Champion Boyd Exell, the British drivers, Wilf Bowman-Ripley, Daniel Naprous and James Broome were thrilled to finish in Bronze Medal position. With 6th place after dressage, the team moved up to 4th after excellent marathon rounds from Wilf and Dan. The cones course was tricky with no double-clears in the Horse Fours class, but consistent rounds from the British drivers moved them up the leader board into the Bronze Medal position behind Germany (2nd) and the Netherlands (1st) which is a positive start ahead of the European Championships for Horse Fours Donaueschingen, Germany in August.

Team Bowman-Ripley were delighted when their Head Groom, Louise Lilley, received the International Groom's award as it's great to see her hard work recognised.

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On the podium at Driving
Valkenswaard International 2019

Photo: Krisztina Horvathy/Hoefnet.com