

GB teams announced



Drivers set to represent Britain at World and European Championships have been selected and two *British Carriagedriving* members are invited to the prestigious World Equestrian Festival in Aachen.

OFFICIAL NEWS Council Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council takes place 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 e-mail to the British Carriagedriving office.

National Clinic

Please make a note of the date of the National Clinic for TDs, CDs and Judges which takes place at the Unicorn Trust at Stow on the Wold on 23rd and 24th February 2020. This will be run in conjunction with an international clinic.

EVENTS Equine Flu

On 25th June all BC members were sent an e-mail reminding them of the need to be vigilant regarding the continuing 'flu outbreak. This is most commonly seen in unvaccinated horses so it is important to avoid mixing those who are vaccinated with those who are not. One area where vaccinated horses could increase biosecurity is at the halt. It has been suggested that running water is used where possible rather than a trough and that drivers consider taking their own collapsible bucket to offer their horses water.

British Carriagedriving do not intend to change the existing rule at present regarding vaccinations but continue to monitor the situation and take veterinary advice. BC also stress that, while the outbreak is still seeing an increased number of cases, a 6 month booster vaccination would be a sensible precaution and could save large vet bills in the long run.

It is very much hoped that clubs will also enforce the BC rule at their events to minimise any risk to vaccinated animals or further spread of this highly infectious disease.

Code of Conduct After Regrettable Incident

Drivers are reminded of the code of conduct which requires them to behave in line with the Rule Book and the parameters governing acceptable social behaviour and to ensure such standards are also adhered to by anyone else in their party. This reminder is unfortunately necessary after someone left the shower at Hopetoun in a totally unusable condition. It was left to the poor organisers and helpers to clean the shower; altogether a most unpleasant task. If the person responsible would care to apologise, the organisers would be most grateful, even if it is well after the event.

Substantial Training Vouchers for Young and Para Drivers

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers were concerned about the number of headcollars won by the same person in previous years. 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.

Radical New Start Fees for 2020

Council were delighted to receive nearly 30 responses to the consultation about start fees. The majority of those who responded favoured a flat rate start fee but several raised concerns about the increasing the cost for single drivers and, in particular, novices. Council therefore decided that for 2020 there would be a flat rate start fee but pegged at £40 (the rate paid by singles) rather than increased. To offset the cost

of this to Novice drivers, anyone submitting a Competence Card will be issued with 3 free vouchers for their 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. This initiative has been possible due to the fairly healthy state of the BC finances at this point. There have been grumblings for many years about the different levels of start fee so hopefully this new arrangement will suit everyone.

Sandringham Pairs Classes

After considerable discussion Council agreed that the fairest way to solve the problem created by the split pairs classes at Sandringham is to award National Championship qualification and RHS points League points to both the FEI and National classes. At Hopetoun the classes ran concurrently to ensure a level playing field so that the classes could be combined in line with the decision made by Council for the trial in 2019. With the Pony Pairs in different dressage arenas and the Horse Pairs running on different days for their marathons, it was agreed that they would be split again for this one event. The pairs will still contest one combined class at the National Championships.

Feedback for Combined Pairs Classes

With any new initiative, there will inevitably be some who like it and others who do not. At their next meeting in October, Council will decide whether or not to continue with the combined classes for pairs and whether or not this should be extended to Singles. If you wish to send any feedback on the trial this year, please do so by e-mail to the BC office by the end of September.

RHS Senior Points League

If you wish to have your scores counted towards the RHS Riding and Harness Stuff Senior Points League, please ensure your name is appearing

on the list. Please contact either the BC office or Louise McCutcheon if you wish your name added in.

Identification and Microchipping: a message for BEF Member Bodies

All horses will need to be microchipped by law according to the timeline below, which varies slightly according to where the passport issuing organisation (PIO) a horse is registered with is located: England has a deadline of 1 October 2020, Scotland is 28 March 2021 and Wales is 12 February 2021.

Civil sanctions are now able to be applied (as well as criminal sanctions) for failing to comply with these deadlines. Civil sanctions mean that anyone not complying on time may be liable for a compliance notice which may lead to a fixed penalty notice and a fine. This is similar to a fixed penalty notice for a parking infringement. The fact that fines can be applied may well mean that local authorities are more willing to enforce equine identification regulation than they have been in the past.

It is important that owners check that their horse has a microchip AND that this microchip is recorded on the Central Equine Database. You can check your horse's microchip at <https://www.equineregister.co.uk/home>. If it doesn't appear and your horse already has a microchip you will need to notify your PIO of the microchip number.

If your horse has not been microchipped, you will need to contact your vet to arrange for this to be done.

If your horse has a passport issued in another European Union country, you will need

to make sure that it is also recorded on the Central Equine Database, with its microchip number, within 30 days of it having arrived. If your horse has an EU passport and has been in the UK for a while, or is a foal that was born in the UK which has a passport from another EU country, please contact info@bef.co.uk or telephone 02476 698871 to ask about how to make sure that these details are fully recorded on the Central Equine Database. The BEF advice is to do this in plenty of time before 1 October 2020 to avoid possible penalties.

National Championships 2020

Following interest from a number of events, Council have agreed to award the National Championships in 2020 to Ashfields with their May event still taking place before Royal Windsor. This is in line with the policy of moving the event around the country until a more central permanent venue can be identified. It is the intention to run Bywell as a National Event in 2020 with dates still to be finalised.

INTERNATIONAL FEI Championships in 2019

Following the final selection event at Sandringham, the teams for the forthcoming championships were announced.

The drivers representing Great Britain in the FEI World Pony Championships in Ászár Kisbér, Hungary, on 25-29 September 2019 are:

Team Members: Singles - Rosanna Walters-Symons and Robert Buck, Pairs - Averina Snow and Joseph Adams and Fours - Sara Howe and Roger Campbell.

Individuals: Phillipa Howe (single), Chris Ainscough (single) and Rowena Moyle (four)

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 be Graham Heath, Frank Campbell and Joanna Charlesworth.

The British drivers contesting the European Four-in-Hand Championships in Donaueschingen, Germany, from 15th-18th August 2019 are Dan Naprous, Wilf Bowman-Ripley and James Broome with Pippa Bassett entering as an individual.

Good luck to everyone.

Aachen 2019

British Carriagedriving were delighted to receive invitations for Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Dan Naprous to compete in the prestigious event at Aachen. Having two drivers constituted a team although the event has not taken place at the time of going to press.

2021 Championships Dates Announced

The FEI have announced that the European Horse Fours Championships will take place in 2021 in Budapest (with the date still to be confirmed) and the Pony World Championships will be held in Haras du Pin from 16 to 19th September 2021.

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Dan Naprous at Sandringham



Wilf Bowman-Ripley at Sandringham

Photos: Vic Kusun