

We're getting back on track



It may be late in the season, but competitions are planned for Ashfields and Osberton. We say a sad farewell to a popular venue and look forward to heading to Valkenswaard in October.

OFFICIAL NEWS Council meeting

For the foreseeable future, Council will be conducting business through on-line meetings and email conversations. 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.

BC gain Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status

After some correspondence with HMRC, it has been agreed that British Carriagedriving fulfils the necessary criteria to be accepted as a CASC. This is expected to have some tax benefits and hopefully encourage more people to stand for Council as some companies allow their staff time off for volunteering activities.

New email address for directors

For many years, the Chairman and Treasurer have had BC email addresses. This has now been extended to all the directors who can be contacted as follows:

- angela.flanagan@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- dick.lane@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- james.broome@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- jamie.march@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- james.rooney@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- jane.isaac@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk
- patti.atkinson@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk

Harness fitting workshops

Another victim of Corona virus is the planned harness fitting sessions which were scheduled to take place with funding from the Worshipful Company of Saddlers and the Society of Master Saddlers. British Carriagedriving is grateful to both for their support in finding a way forward for this initiative. Over the winter months, it is planned to hold two webinars: one to focus on fitting the harness to the horse and one to focus on fitting the harnessed horse to the carriage. More details will be announced in due course.

Virtual events and Riding and Harness Stuff quizzes

Virtual Events and the Riding and Harness Stuff Quizzes, have proved very popular with members having the chance to ask questions and get updates of how sport can resume. So far Ashfields, Hopetoun, Cricklands and Sandringham have hosted these and two more are planned to take place on Saturday 1st August and Saturday 29th August to coincide with the cancelled events for YDs Championships at Onley and Bywell. Emails with links will be sent out by email in advance as usual.

EVENTS

The season is back on

With the gradual easing of Government restrictions, Ashfields has taken the decision to run in August and September and Osberton runs in October. It is hoped that the enthusiasm to get out competing, demonstrated in the recent members' survey, translates into entries for all three events. The organisers are working hard to comply with all necessary measures to keep everyone safe, including a very sophisticated foot operated tap demonstrated

by Wilf. Ashfields have been running training weekends and will run a one-day club event in the run up to the National to ensure all possible measures have been implemented.

The name for Ashfields in September is under consideration by the organisers but it will not be run as a National Championship. The National Championship trophies will not be awarded in 2020. There will be no qualification criteria for the September event other than the usual requirement for drivers to be eligible for the class they wish to enter. Please watch the website for an announcement of when the entries will be opened.

In order to encourage entries, BC and the organisers of Ashfields have agreed that if the event has to be cancelled because of the new lockdown measures a full refund of all entry fees will be given, thus allowing members to enter without the risk of losing their money if the event cannot run.

Worshipful Company of Saddlers prizes for Para and Young Drivers

The plans for awarding the training grants, kindly sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, have had to be altered to take into



Sara Howe at the Ashfields training day

account the limited number of events this season. Training vouchers will be awarded to young drivers and para drivers on a scale depending on the number of national events attended this season, so that anyone attending all three of the available events will receive a sum three times greater than a driver attending one event. Applications for a training grant should be sent to the BC office by email stating the events(s) at which you competed in 2020. You must complete the event without retiral or elimination for your result to be counted.

Pony dressage

To mirror the FEI decision to reduce the size of the dressage arena to 80m x 40m for all pony classes, British Carriagedriving will follow suit, starting with the event at Ashfields in August. This will have a very small effect on some of the BC tests which were written to work in both arenas. Other tests may have more significant changes so have a look on the BC website for updated diagrams.

Vaccinations

The new rule, which was due to be implemented with the 2020 Rule Book, requiring horses to be vaccinated within six months of an event, has been deferred until 1st January 2021. Horses must still have a valid annual vaccination. In the event of an annual vaccination being missed, the course must be restarted from the beginning.

Grooms / Backsteppers

Unfortunately BC is not insured to give specific advice as to how drivers can get grooms and backsteppers back into action in the light of ongoing Government restrictions. We can however draw attention to a number

of innovative ideas adopted by members such as a Perspex screen on the back of the driver's seat or a facemask attached to the front of a helmet. If you employ a groom, there is specific Government guidance on how employees can return to work safely in situations where maintaining the 2m social distancing recommendation is not practicable. An appropriate risk assessment, social distancing when possible, remaining outdoors and an acceptance of potential risks should be considered when returning to driving activity.

Bye bye Bywell

British Carriagedriving is extremely sorry to have received the news that, due to a change of policy from the estate, it is no longer viable to hold an event at Bywell. Patti and Keith Atkinson, the organisers of the Regional event in 2018 and the National Championships in 2019, are devastated after the work put in to get the event up and running in such an ideal location. They said, "We have loved our two years but could not have done it without so many wonderful people."

INTERNATIONAL Selection events

The 2020 Single Horse World Championships are planned for October and both events at Ashfields being used as selection events. This will enable three events to count for selection and enable drivers to discard one score. The Selection and Ratification panel is aware of regional restrictions placed on some of the drivers who have their names forward for selection and this will be taken into account.

The first selection event for the Horse Pairs World Championships, due to be held in 2021, takes place at Ashfields in September.



Wilf Bowman-Ripley hosting training events at Ashfields

After some uncertainty, the FEI has now confirmed that the FEI Driving World Championships for Horse Fours will take place in Valkenswaard in October. We do not yet know how many individual drivers will be invited to compete from each national federation. Anyone wishing to enter this event will be required to pay a selection fee and compete at one of the events run at Ashfields. It is probable that drivers will need to be selected for both the team and individual places and the Selection and Ratification panel will take performances in 2020 into account when reaching a decision.

In the event that either Ashfields event does not run for any reason, the decision regarding an alternative selection procedure for all of the classes above will revert to Council.

International Class Funds

Council have created a policy, which the Chefs d'Equipe have endorsed, to formally document the process of administering the international class funds and increase accountability and transparency for the squad (the drivers who have put their names down for the selection procedure). All squad drivers will receive a copy of the final accounts after any championship cycle.

GENERAL

New rule for fire extinguishers

Council have approved the Safety Committee recommendation that 3kg fire extinguishers should now be carried per camp. On arrival at an event, they should be placed on the near side of the main vehicle to be in close proximity to the entrance to the living area. This is in addition to any fire extinguishers required by law in any lorry or caravan. This rule will be implemented from 1st January 2021. It is recognised that lorries are now much larger than when the rule was originally written.

Safety Officer training

All new Safety Officers, appointed to act at National and Regional Driving Trials, must now be approved by the British Carriagedriving Council. Before appointing them Council will want to see that they have sufficient experience to complete the job satisfactorily. They will be expected to demonstrate some experience of driving trials and basic knowledge of the rules and have acted as an assistant Safety Officer under the guidance of an approved Safety Officer at two national events.

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