

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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