

BRITISH HORSE DRIVING TRIALS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWS

AGM

The 11th AGM of the British Horse Driving Trials Association took place at Brighton on 1st May. The usual business of electing directors confirmed that Sarah Garnett and Adrian Puddy will serve a further three-year term on council and Barry Hilditch was appointed to council. There had not been an election this year as there were only three nominations for the three vacancies.

The special business was then transacted. It is many years since the Articles of Association were last changed. The intention of this initiative is to create a stronger link with the affiliated clubs and give them a more powerful voice within the BHDТА. The special resolutions were passed unanimously. This allows the person elected by the club liaison committee to be a full member of council for two years. Next year, one further member of this committee will be added to serve a two year term.

Presentations were made to the Earl of Onslow to recognise his contribution as BHDТА chairman and to Derrick Mayes who has served the association as treasurer for the last six years.

New appointments

Tony Bache has been appointed as the new BHDТА chairman. (See page 40 for Tony's profile). Before he retired he was senior partner of a chartered surveying practice in the West Midlands. He competed in horse driving trials with a single Connemara pony and with a tandem of Connemara ponies in the '80s and '90s. He was twice national pony tandem champion and points league champion three times. He has helped to organise ridden horse trials at club and area level and horse driving trials at club, national and international level, recently acting as safety officer at Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Jan Szczuka has been co-opted to council as treasurer. Prior to his recent retirement he was a patent attorney, becoming a full equity partner in the Marks & Clerk Group (now one of the world's foremost firms of patent attorneys). He has been fully involved in supporting his wife, Faith's driving activities since around 1980, in the single pony, tandem, pair and pony four-in-hand classes. He competed with a single pony during one season and was placed second in national novice qualifiers at St Fort and Drumlanrig.

Barry Hilditch takes on the role of BHDТА vice chairman. Barry will be well known to many as a keen back-stepper for his wife Judy as well as a key figure in the promotion of stronger links between the affiliated clubs and the BHDТА. He chairs the regional representatives' committee at present. He organises two club events at Escrick Park for the North Eastern Driving Trials Club.

Audrey Barron, chairman of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association and Regional Representative for Scotland, was the person elected to take up the first council appointment.

Audrey Barron, chairman of the Scottish Carriage Driving Association and regional representative for Scotland, newly appointed to BHDТА Council.

Audrey is a keen competitor in the advanced single pony class and an enthusiastic breeder of Highland Ponies with which she has had much success in driving trials.

ATV passes

It has been decided by council that ATV passes will no longer be issued to competitors wishing to take their quad bikes or scooters to events. The previous system was virtually impossible to police and the office, not being a trained insurance agent, found it difficult to establish if someone's household insurance or policy for a tractor covered the vehicle adequately.

Unless an event organiser specifically states otherwise, these vehicles can still be used freely at events. The main difference is that the burden of responsibility for insurance now falls onto the competitor. The owner or driver of the vehicle will be fully responsible in the event of an accident.

Please make sure you have adequate cover for these machines and ride them sensibly; phone the office if you have any queries. It is recommended that hard hats are worn at all times and passengers are only carried if the bike is designed to carry one.

Passes for competitors with disabilities will still be issued. These passes do not confer any insurance cover on the owner/driver of the vehicle and competitors remain responsible for obtaining their own cover. These passes will entitle the competitor to use their machine in the obstacles and on the cones course.

BHDТА Affiliated Clubs - Regional Representatives

The creation of BHDТА Regional Representatives is intended to strengthen the links between the clubs and the BHDТА Council. A full listing of the affiliated clubs is given in the BHDТА Yearbook and on the website www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk. The website details should be the most up to date.

The following regional representatives can be contacted if you have any issues you wish raised. Through the BHDТА council meetings and meetings among themselves, it is hoped that information can be more effectively filtered to the clubs by the regional representatives.

Following the AGM, an additional region was created and we are delighted to welcome Julian Burleton as regional representative for the south and Mike Watts for the east.

Scotland: Audrey Barron 01241 872 579

Dumfries & Galloway
Scottish Carriage Driving Association
South West of Scotland Horse Driving

Northern Ireland: Berry McCrae 028 92 651 506

Castlebay Pony Driving Club
Castleberg & District Pony Driving
Crossgar & District Horse & Pony Driving
Loughshore Driving Co.
Markethill Horse & Pony Driving
Mourne Horse & Pony Driving
Northern Ireland Carriage Driving Assoc.
Tullylagan Driving Club Ltd
Tullylagan Driving Association

England:

The North: Barry Hilditch 01924 848951
Carriage Driving Sports Group DD

East Durham Ride & Drive
Manx Harness
North Eastern Driving Trials
Northumberland & Durham H & P Driving
North West Driving
Red Rose Carriage
Ribble Valley Driving

The Midlands: Tony Gregory 01902 763 209

Chester Horse Driving Trials Group
Lincolnshire Carriage Driving Group
Midland Driving Trial Group
Poacher Harness
South Forest Harness
Wolverley & District Driving

The South West & Wales: Martyn Willis 07973 623980

British Heavy Horse Driving Trials
Forest of Dean Driving Trials
Great Western Harness
South Downs Harness
White Horse Harness

The South East: Dick Carey 01424 892 051

Oaks Driving
Shepway Harness
Stour Valley Harness
Weald Harness
Indoor HDT UK

The South: Julian Burleton 07986 856 598

Bradbourne Carriage Driving
Brockham Harness
Windsor Park E C

The East: Mike Watts 07710 467 774

East Anglian Carriage Driving

EVENTS

Saddlers' Company Awards

The Saddlers' Company generously present awards to drivers every year. These take the form of vouchers which can be exchanged for saddlery and horse clothing from a member of the Society of Master Saddlers. The vouchers are worth £60 and can be used as part payment for a more expensive item.

Following the re-structuring of the national classes, these will be awarded to the winners of the intermediate classes for ponies and horses. The highest placed young driver (under 25 on 31/12/07) at a national event will also receive an award. The intermediate classes run at club events will receive awards this year too. At the national championships, vouchers will be presented to the winners of the novice classes as the intermediate classes will receive leather reins. The driver with the lowest overall score at the young drivers' championships will be awarded a voucher in 2008.

Catton 11th-13th July

Catton has been in the hands of the same family since 1405, and the present Hall, built in 1745, is the home of Robin and Katie Neilson. Catton has acres of flat parkland which allow for stress

free parking and make ideal dressage arenas. The marathon course runs over tracks, parkland and undulating farmland. The course demands fit horses and ponies. You can find out more information about Catton Hall by logging on to their website at www.catton-hall.com. **Entries for this year's event close on Friday 27th June.**

Erddig 25th-27th July

With July fast approaching, staff and volunteers are busy making preparations for the first Welsh National Driving Championships that are set to take place at Erddig in Wrexham.

The National Trust estate has seen a number of changes recently with the completion of five of the eight obstacles. Each uniquely designed obstacle will have its own theme and will test even the most competent of drivers. The long path to the entrance of the lorry park has also been widened and resurfaced to aid competitors gaining entry.

Two international judges have now been confirmed for the championships. The organisers are very pleased that Martha Hanks-Nicol (USA) will join The Honorable Sarah Mullins (IRL) to judge the event. Gratitude also goes to the seven judges already involved.

Arrangements have been made for a special competition to take place during the event - The Erddig Challenge. This will be a competition for pony and horse, four in hands and a monetary prize will be available to the top three competitors in each class. However, most significantly the first entries have been received.

Closing date for entries: Saturday 12th July.
Please note that entries should be sent to: Mrs Heather Hulme, 7 Old Pale Cottage Stoney Lane, Kelsall, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0SX.

INTERNATIONAL

FEI promotion

Congratulations to Mark Ingham who has been promoted to full international status as an FEI course designer. Members attending the national and club course designers' seminars, run by the BHDТА earlier in the year, were able to benefit from his experience.

SUPPORTERS

Sheila Hawking reports that there are still a few spaces available if anyone would like to join the 200 Club. The first three draws have been made this year.

May - Royal Windsor Horse Show
Rosemary Milne Holm £100 - Stephanie Byrne £50
- Derek Holah £30 - Gary Power £20.

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