



BHDTA Official News

Jock McFarlane



Photo: www.pb-photos.net

Official News

Council Meeting

The next meeting of the BHDTA Council takes place on **Tuesday 17 January, 2012.**

New Council Members

In addition to James Broome and Wilf Bowman-Ripley, who were elected to Council at the AGM in October, at the meeting on 9 November Louise McCutcheon was formally co-opted to Council as one of the members of the Club Liaison Committee and David Titmuss was co-opted to Council and takes over from Jan Szczuka as Treasurer. There are profiles of all these new Council members on the web-site.

Council Meeting Report

Council agreed to publish a report on the web-site from each meeting to highlight the main topics of discussion.

Introducing Jock McFarlane

At the conference in October, Jock McFarlane was introduced to the members as the new BHDTA Chairman. He decided to give up ridden eventing on turning 50 and wanted to try something new. His mother was a very good friend of Gladys Dale so he had a connection with carriage driving and wondered if he could

perhaps drive his 16.3 thoroughbred event horse.

Carol Boswell (nee Dale) helped train his horse to harness and Jock quickly became involved in the SCDA club scene. He admits he had great fun learning to drive his ex-eventer, but decided a proper driving horse was needed (whatever that is!). He bought Wodka, his current advanced single horse, as a 4 year old from Holland in 2007 and agrees that sometimes you get lucky when you buy a horse!

Having acted as SCDA treasurer and been involved with the organisation of Hopetoun, in 2010 Ian Gilbert suggested he put his name forward for election to the BHDTA Council. Before this he admitted he was quite happy for others to do the council thing. However, wanting to help and thinking it would be quite interesting, he agreed.

Before his first council meeting Tony Bache phoned to ask if he would consider becoming Vice-Chairman with the possibility of taking on the Chairman's role the following year when Tony retired. This came as a bolt out of the blue! He can't actually remember saying "yes"!

Jock points out that the BHDTA have 11 excellent council members who live all over the country generously giving up their time on behalf of the sport and its members. He sees his role as aiming to gel the individuals into a team, to drive the sport forward and to develop and promote it into a sport where novice to international drivers can achieve their goals at our wonderful events.

Conference weekend: Additional reports Later session of conference

On taking over the role of Chairman, Jock McFarlane extended a vote of thanks to Tony Bache and presented him with a piece of engraved glassware as a mark of the members' appreciation.

He then invited Frank Campbell to lead a discussion on the proposals he had published on the web-site prior to the conference. A number of valid points were made and some interesting suggestions received which will be considered at the next council meeting. Fiona Powell then gave a presentation of how she felt the sport could grow and the success of Indoor Driving. This was followed by council responding to questions posed by members in advance of the Conference and from the floor. Douglas Strachan then shared his views on financial matters noting where he felt mistakes had been made and highlighting areas where he felt good work had been done and points that could be built on.

International Meeting

Philip Bateman chaired a lively meeting where competitors with international aspirations were able to share their views. Selection events for ponies were discussed at length. Ian Gilbert agreed to ask council to revisit this as the pony drivers preferred to have their selection classes at the same event. There was considerable



discussion surrounding FEI qualifying scores and the difficulty of achieving this with a horse which specialised in the marathon. Dates and venues of forthcoming world championships were noted and potential ways to improve international performance discussed.

Affiliated clubs meeting

Mike Watts chaired the affiliated clubs meeting and started by giving an overview of the membership levels. The number of events was similar to 2010 and clubs' finances remained sound. He focussed on the need to avoid date clashes and that recruitment of volunteers and stewards remained ongoing. Training opportunities, the club packs and scoring were discussed and questions answered. Tony Gregory gave a report as Midlands Regional Representative then break out groups discussed recruitment of new members and progression, indoor driving, the club driver challenge, scoring and technology and avoidance of date clashes. The Treasurer, Jan Szczuka, attended and noted the unfortunate but economically necessary increase in affiliation fees, although this was well below the rate of inflation. He reviewed the insurance provision for clubs. It had been a busy meeting which struggled to discuss the number of topics in the available time.

Stewards and volunteers meeting

Sheila Hawking was thanked for her time in the chair and her support of horse driving trials. She noted that she was delighted the supporters had helped fund the Young Drivers National Championships and hoped this would continue. Heather Clark agreed to take on administration of the 200 Club. Sheila noted the work done by

Vyrna Matthew and Chris Atkins on recruitment of new volunteers. Leaflets will be distributed to clubs before the start of next season to help bridge the gap between club and national events. It was noted that there had not yet been any volunteers to man the supporters tent at events.

Events

New dressage tests for 2012

Following the FEI model, pony fours will now drive the new FEI Test 8c (2012) which has been published on the BHDTA website with the diagrams. Advanced pony pairs and open single horse and pony classes will drive FEI Test 8b.

Advanced Single Horse National Championships

This class will be held at Erddig in 2012. If the venue or date for the FEI Single Horse World Championships changes (which is currently under consideration by the FEI) then this decision will be reviewed.

International

First-time international competitors

Council decided to formalise the process of endorsing requests for first time international competitors and this will mirror the FEI qualification for FEI World Championships. This will ensure that a high standard of drivers representing GBR is maintained. This means drivers wishing to compete abroad or be invited to compete at Royal Windsor Horse Show will

need to achieve the relevant dressage score at a qualifying event in the year of the planned competition or the previous year.

Selection events

Following requests from the pony drivers, council agreed to allocate the selection classes to the same event. The classes scheduled for Erddig in 2012 will now take place at Catton.

General

Extreme Driving comes to Olympia Horse Show

James Broome has been in contact with the organisers and identified an amazing opportunity to promote the sport of Horse Driving Trials during the new Extreme Driving at Olympia. The big screens will hopefully be used to show videos of the sport and the range of turnouts which can be used to compete at both club and national level. This will be done during the time the arena is being set up while the audience are taking their seats for the next performance. During the competition itself there will be a text number for people to contact to book their first lesson. Spectators will be reminded what an excellent Christmas present this would make for someone. This event has been hitting the headlines in the press. Boyd Exell, current indoor and outdoor World Champion and one of the driving forces behind this event, was featured in "OK" magazine with Jodie Kidd. Links to other press articles are on the BHDTA website.

Driving Back to Sport

Anne Clarke has been appointed as Project Manager to take the Sportsmatch Funding Project forward, deliver it to the successful applicants and demonstrate the final outcomes meet the Sport England targets. She will do this through her company Instinctive PR and asks that anyone interested should contact her colleague in the office, Lucy Cooper email: lucy@instinctivepr.co.uk, tel: 01403 712552 who will handle all future enquiries.

We have received over 160 responses from the article in "Horse and Hound", which is very encouraging and well on the way to finding the 200 participants required for the project. One driver responded to the article about the search for mature drivers to take up this opportunity and won the prize for "Horse and Hound's" letter of the week.



Photo: Dicky Jim

BHDTA is Karen Scott-Barrett who is the Open Horse Pair National BHDTA Champion, with her husband Hugh on the backstep who was a substantial sponsor at the nationals.

British Horse Driving
Trials Association,
East Overhill,
Stewarton,
Kilmarnock,
Ayrshire KA3 5JT.
t: 0845 6432116
e: bhdtahorsedrivingtrials.co.uk
w: www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk
Office open Mon-Fri
8am to 12 noon

