



**BHDTA  
GUIDELINES  
FOR DRIVING EVENT  
ORGANISERS & OFFICIALS**

**Updated: Jan 2009**

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## INTRODUCTION

These Guidelines are **not** rules: but are issued with the aim of assisting Organising Committees, Technical Delegates, all Officials and Competitors in BHDТА Driving Events with operational details concerning the organisation and the running of these events together with practical logistical guidance.

It should be read in conjunction with the Current Statutes, General Regulations of the FEI, the BHDТА Rules for Driving Events and the Veterinary Regulations of the FEI, and these should be followed in every detail, unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

Not all cases can be foreseen in the Rules and Regulations: hence, in case of doubt or exceptional circumstances, it is the responsibility of the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Technical Delegate, to make its decisions with fairness to the Competitors and Horses (ponies) always in mind, while respecting the spirit of the Rules and Regulations of the BHDТА.

The organisation of a Combined Driving Event is complex and requires that an expert Organising Committee has considered all details to ensure the smooth running of such an Event.

The Organising Committee and the Event Officials which include the Ground Jury, Appeal Committee, Technical Delegate, Course Designer etc., all have a precise part to play in the organisation and management of an event. However for any event to be a success it is imperative that the Organising Committee and all Officials act as a member of a team.

*To ensure there is a continuing improvement and development of the Organisation, Officials are invited to submit suggestions for inclusion or deletion in this publication to the BHDТА Council.*

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# CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

## A: ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICIALS

### 1. *The Organising Committee*

- a) The Organising Committee should include members who are each responsible for specific sections of the Event. An Event Secretary and an Entries Secretary (as an assistant to the Event Secretary) should be appointed as early as possible and named in the Schedule, with contact details.
- b) The Organising Committee must agree dates, prepare budgets, arrange sponsors and prepare a Draft Schedule for submission to the BHDTA and inclusion in the BHDTA Yearbook. The Technical Delegate and Course Designer should be confirmed as soon as possible.
- c) The appointment of the President of the Jury, the Technical Delegate, the Course Designer, the Ground Jury, the Safety Officer and the Appeal Committee are laid down in the BHDTA Rulebook.

### 2. *Administration Accommodation*

- a) **The Event Office should** be centrally situated and easily accessible. It is recommended that the reception area should be kept separate from the working office areas. The processing and distribution of all documentation, including scores, must take place through the Event Office and be posted on the Official Notice Board. A copy of every piece of paperwork must be approved by the Technical Delegate before being issued to competitors and officials.
- b) **The Scorer's Office**, which should be separate from the Event Office, should be located to allow easy access for the Score Collectors, but situated in a quiet area with access restricted to scoring staff, the Ground Jury and Technical Delegate.

### 3. *The Event Secretary's duties*

- a) **Before the Event** the Event Secretary and the Entries Secretary should take entries, prepare programmes, invite Judges, other Officials and Stewards including Veterinarians and medical staff and arrange for their accommodation as required. Entry tickets, car passes, provisional timetables, need to be posted to Competitors, Officials and voluntary helpers, well ahead of the start of the Event.
- b) **Starting lists** should be circulated to all Officials involved including Judges (and Writers for Driven Dressage), Stewards, Scorers, Competitors, Press,

Veterinary, Farriers, Commentator and Medical Officials. For Competition B, the lists should also go to the Obstacle Observers and Timekeepers. Sufficient copies should be prepared for distribution to the public.

**c) In preparation for the Driven Dressage**

- I. It is recommended that Judges' Writers are well experienced Driven Dressage Writers. A spare Writer should always be available. The Judges' Writers should be provided with timetables, copies of the Driven Dressage test, writing materials, and the President of the Jury's car with a stopwatch and bell or whistle and radio communication to the Technical Delegate, the collecting ring and the Veterinarian.
- II. Refreshments and meals should be arranged for Judges, Writers and Stewards
- III. Score Sheet Collectors must be made available and should be briefed by the Chief Scorer.

**d) In preparation for the Marathon**

- I. There should be one very experienced 'team leader' per Obstacle with a minimum of four people per Obstacle. An experienced Time Keeper with an assistant should be appointed for each Start and Finish.
- II. Course maps, starting lists, Instruction sheets and Obstacle Observers sheets should be prepared for Time Keepers, Obstacle Observers, Ground Observers, plus timing equipment etc. in conjunction with the Technical Delegate, and the distribution of Judges' and Stewards' refreshments should be arranged as appropriate.
- III. Maps and transport (if required) should be available for the medical and veterinary officers.
- IV. Score collectors must be available and briefed by the Technical Delegate and Chief Scorer on the route to use. The most efficient system for score collection is to have two collectors on ATVs or motorbikes, picking up score sheets after every fifth Horse on the Course and delivering the sheets to the Scorer's Office.

**e) In preparation for the Obstacle Cones Driving Competition**

- I. The Judge's Box should be equipped with Obstacle Course plans, details of speeds, times and distances, judging cards, lists of Competitors (showing any withdrawals), stop watches, starting bell, radio and electronic timing equipment, plus information for the commentary.
- II. The Course Designer, Arena Party, and Stewards must also have an up to date starting list.
- III. A plan of the Course must be available to the Competitors two hours before the commencement of the class and a copy posted in the collecting ring, not less than one hour before the start of the Competition.
- IV. Refreshments should be available in the Judge's Box.

f) **At the completion of all Competitions**

- I. The Secretary should ensure that all prizes, special awards and commemorative gifts are available for the Prize Giving.
- II. Details of the sponsor's representatives or officials presenting awards should be available for the commentary and Press.

#### **4. *The Technical Delegate's duties***

- a) As soon as appointed, the Technical Delegate should contact the Organisers and request a copy of the Schedule and details of any arrangements made to date.
- b) The Duties and Responsibilities of the Technical Delegate are laid down in the BHDТА Driving Rules (Article 907.3).
- c) Eventualities may make it essential that the Technical Delegate makes more than one visit to the Event site before the Competition starts. Circumstances will dictate how many visits are necessary. Old established Events will probably only require one visit, or an early arrival at the Event.

#### **5. *Horsebox and Caravan areas***

- a) Adequate water supply, lavatories and refuse collection should be arranged. There will need to be places for manure to be deposited and arrangements made for its collection and removal from the site.
- b) The availability of tractors for towing out horse boxes in wet weather should be checked and any contingency plans put into place.

## **CHAPTER 2: PRE-EVENT PREPARATIONS**

### **A: TECHNICAL DELEGATE'S FIRST VISIT TO A NEW EVENT**

*The following should take place **approx six months** before a new event.*

- 1. Meeting with Organising Committee** and key personnel to establish budgets, a logistical programme of the Event, Police, Landowners, etc may have that will affect the running of the Event. Schedule content and availability.
- 2. General layout of the site:** Facilities, accommodation (Officials and Competitors,) catering facilities, toilets, water, lighting, spectators and sponsor facilities, layout design including parking and traffic flows.
- 3. Safety:** Consult with the Safety Officer and liaise with Police, fire protection, traffic control, parking etc. Request information about any relevant local regulations.

4. **Medical and veterinary arrangements:** Proposals for medical and veterinary staff. Hospital and veterinary hospital accessibility.
5. **Administrative arrangements and personnel:** Office space, photocopying facility, radio and telephone service, personnel requirements.
6. **Sites:** Driven Dressage arena and Obstacle Cones Driving arena, warm-up areas and practice arena, seating, crowd control and public address, catering and trade stand areas.
7. **Marathon:** including proposed Start and Finish for each Section, Compulsory Rest Area/s, sites for obstacles and proposed design ideas and accessibility. The route of the Marathon must also be established.

## **B: TECHNICAL DELEGATE'S SECOND VISIT**

*The following should be actioned **at least two months before** the Event.*

1. **Review** progress after first visit.
2. **Equipment and signs:** Confirm availability of timing equipment, communications equipment, course markers, cones, balls and numbers, awards, competitor numbers, notice boards, score boards, signs for parking competitors and spectators, fencing for crowd control, weighbridge. Availability of competition paperwork, usually from the BHDТА Office.
3. **Marathon route:** Agree route, rest areas taking into account possible changes in the going, local traffic, local regulations and other possible local activities scheduled at the same time.
4. **Marathon Obstacle building:** Assess progress and ensure materials for completion available on site. The Technical Delegate should confirm that the designs are horse friendly and conform to BHDТА rules.
5. **Personnel:** Confirm availability and provisions for assembling and instructing Stewards, Ground Observers, Timekeepers, Obstacle Observers, Veterinary Surgeons, Doctors, Farriers, traffic control, communication personnel etc.
6. **Warm up and collecting ring:** The warm up area should be reasonably close to the arena, and if possible not be less than 100m x 100m. A practice Driven Dressage arena may be provided and three or four sets of cones for practising Obstacle Cone Driving should be available. The collecting ring needs to be big enough to allow up to three Competitors (Four-in-Hands of Horses) to move around freely; it should be adjacent to the main arenas.

7. **Exercise Areas.** Some Competitors prefer to exercise by practising Dressage movements, while others prefer to go out for a drive. It is therefore desirable to provide a large flat area for the former and a signed route for the latter.
8. **Driven Dressage Arena and Obstacle Cones Driving Course.** Confirm that the arena, collecting and warming up areas are in accordance with the Rules and are well prepared. Establish if any other activities will be taking place in the main arena that could affect the going. The area should, if possible be 70m x 120m so that the Obstacle Cones Driving can be accommodated and the Driven Dressage Arena measuring 100m x 40m can be fitted into the area, with sufficient space to park the judges' cars while allowing competitors to enter the arena without difficulty. If the arena is smaller than 70m x 120m for the Obstacle Cones Driving, the number of cones must be reduced.

## **C: TECHNICAL DELEGATE'S THIRD AND FINAL INSPECTION**

*The following should be actioned before the arrival of any competitors at the event*

1. **Review** the progress from the previous visits.
2. **Approve Marathon Course**, clarity of marking, measurement of the Sections, placement of kilometre markers, and dimensions and construction of Obstacles. If alterations are required, instigate these immediately.
3. **Finalise course inspection** with Course Designer.
4. **Confirm personnel** to ensure sufficient are available to run the Event.
5. **Check transport arrangements** for Ground Jury if appropriate.
6. **Check Driven Dressage arena marking**, dimensions and placement of Judges' cars and mark X, D and G as per President of Jury's instructions.
7. **Check that the weighbridge** will be available for test weighing.
8. **Make contact with the Veterinary team** and confirm veterinary matters.
9. **Make contact with the Medical Team** and confirm emergency procedures.
10. **Approve obstacle diagrams and maps** for distribution to competitors, including exercise routes, plus any other paperwork.
11. **Check back-up routes** to rest area/s and availability of water at the Rest/s.
12. **Check Scoring Office** accommodation.

13. **Check event materials:** paperwork, stopwatches, etc. are available.
14. **Check Timetables and briefing arrangements** for Obstacle Observers, Ground Observers, Score Collectors, Timekeepers.
15. **Approve the plan of the Obstacle Cones Driving Course** (Competition C) and availability of all materials for construction of multiples (if included). Check the course plan is available.

## **D: PRESIDENT OF THE JURY'S INSPECTION**

*The Technical Delegate and the Course Designer accompany the President on his inspection of the Marathon course as soon as is convenient after he arrives at the event.*

1. Once the President has accepted the Marathon Course and Obstacles, it may be opened for inspection as per the timetable. The Competitors must be able to inspect Section E at least 42 hours prior to the start of the Marathon.
2. Once the Technical Delegate and the President of the Jury have passed the Course it may not be altered except in exceptional circumstances with both the Technical Delegate and the President of the Jury's agreement, when all Competitors **must** be notified.
3. The Technical Delegate and the Course Designer must be available to provide a briefing before the start of the Marathon, usually on Friday evening.

## **E: TECHNICAL DELEGATE'S COMPETITION DUTIES**

*The following should be checked by the Technical Delegate before indicating to the President of the Jury that everything is in order. Checklists are available.*

1. **Pre-Competition A - Driven Dressage and Presentation if applicable**
  - a) That the exercise and Driven Dressage arenas are roped/fenced off safely from the public.
  - b) That the area for the judging of Presentation (if appropriate) is clearly marked adjacent to the collecting ring for the Driven Dressage arena.
  - c) That the Driven Dressage arena is laid out and lettered correctly:
    - I. Letters set one metre from the boards
    - II. That X, D and G, be suitably marked with spare marking material available to the Steward later in the day to reinforce the marks; a similar marking should be made in the practice arena.
    - III. The Judges' cars set back 5m from the boards and the President has a radio and bell.

- d) That sufficient Stewards are available to call up the Competitors, supervise the warm-up area, measure track widths.
- e) That running orders/time sheets are available.
- f) That Judge's Writers are ready with their paper work.
- g) That the Scoring Office is operational.
- h) That Score Sheet Collectors are ready.
- i) That the public scoreboard can be kept up to date.
- j) That a Doctor and Veterinarian are available and in radio contact.
- k) That commentary arrangements and back ground music are appropriate.
- l) That the public address system and all communications are working correctly.
- m) That refreshments are available for the Ground Jury.

## **2. Pre-Competition B - Marathon**

- a) If any changes have had to be made to the Course, check that it is marked and measured correctly. Ensure that all Competitors and Time Keepers have been informed and that the details are posted at the Start and on the Official Notice Board.
- b) That time clocks have been synchronised.
- c) That timetables for the Marathon are ready and indicate any Competitors withdrawn.
- d) That crowd barriers are in position and closed up.
- e) That Timekeepers, Ground Observers, and Obstacle Observers are in place with adequate paperwork, and are instructed to remain after the Marathon until released by the President of the Jury.
- f) That Stewards are at the rest area/s and road crossings.
- g) That weighing facilities are provided at the end of the Marathon if required by the President of the Jury, with a Steward briefed.
- h) That four-wheel-drive transport is available, if appropriate, for Judges, Officials, Medical and Veterinary staff.

- i) That Veterinary Surgeons, Doctors and Farriers are in position and their location and radio call sign known by all officials.
- j) That water and buckets are available at the Rest Area/s.
- k) That the back-up route for vehicles to the Rest Area/s are signed or a map available.
- l) That the Scoring Office and the Score Collectors are ready and briefed on the correct route to use to and from the Scorer's Office.

### **3. During and Post-Competition B - Marathon**

*The Technical Delegate continues to supervise the technical conduct of the Competition during the Marathon on behalf of the President of the Jury including:*

- a) If circumstances require because of an accident or course repair, the Technical Delegate should instruct the appropriate Timekeeper to hold Competitors at the Start of Section E. If a long delay is likely (more than 10 minutes) then it may be best to hold the Competitors at the Start of A as well as the Start of E.
- b) Regular checks should be made in the Scoring Office to make certain scores are being collected quickly and any queries are dealt with; this will ensure the speedy issue of results. Class results should be completed within 30 minutes of the last Competitor finishing.
- c) Continue to supervise the course repair team, weighing of vehicles etc.
- d) Keep in close radio contact with the President of the Jury to report controversial scoring queries etc.
- e) After the last Competitor has finished assist the Ground Jury to deal with any unresolved scoring queries to ensure that results are posted on the Official Notice Board within 30 minutes of the finish of the Marathon.
- f) Ensure that the President signs the scores sheet immediately they are posted.
- g) Assist the Jury of Appeal, if this is required.
- h) Ensure the completion of any incident or accident report forms, in conjunction with the Safety Officer, that may be required to comply with BHDTA requirements.
- i) As soon as the President is satisfied that all queries have been dealt with, release the Timekeepers, Obstacle Observers and Ground Observers, thanking them for their assistance.

### **4. Pre-Competition C – Obstacle Cones Driving Competition**

- a) After the Marathon and before Competition C the Technical Delegate and Course Designer walk the Cones course and establish the distance of the track and the cones width (Article 953 Competition Summary), agree the Course and the paperwork. The position of each Cone is marked on the ground with paint.
- b) As soon as convenient the Technical Delegate should show the President of the Jury the Course for his acceptance.
- c) The Course may then be open for Competitors to walk as detailed in the timetable.
- d) Ensure that a plan of the Course indicating the length, speed and time allowed is available for all Competitors, Judges, Stewards etc. This plan should be posted on the notice board and in the collecting ring at least one hour before the start of the Competition.
- e) Check that the whole arena is fenced off for crowd control and any advertising material, national flags, bunting etc is secured against the wind (including decorations in the area).
- f) Check that all markers are in the right position and that the Start and Finish are marked with signs and red and white flags.
- g) Check the measurements of the Multiple Obstacles and ensure that the gates are correctly lettered.
- h) Check that the arena party and Stewards on the Course have been equipped with running orders and measuring sticks and correctly instructed in setting the distance between the cones and elements of the multiples according to the specifications for each class.
- i) Check that the time-keeping equipment is in place and functioning, and that the Judges' Box is equipped with a bell and a stopwatch, with backup/spare watches available.
- j) Check that all paperwork is in the Judges Box for Judges and Commentator, including running orders indicating the penalty points of each Competitor to date.
- k) Check that the Commentator is available and the microphone and loudspeakers are working, including the loudspeaker in the collecting ring.
- l) Check that the collecting ring Stewards have running orders and are briefed when to allow Competitors into the arena and if the Competitors should salute the Jury.

## **5. During and Post-Obstacle Cones Driving Competition**

- a) During Competition C the Technical Delegate continues to supervise the technical conduct of the Competition, monitoring the Course Designer and the arena party, the scoring, and the operation of the collecting ring to maintain the timetable and ensure correct measuring of the vehicles.
- b) The Technical Delegate should ensure that the full results are available for Competitors and spectators, and submitted to the BHDTA Office at the end of the Event.
- c) The Technical Delegate should check that the conditions of the schedule were fulfilled and complete and return any incident or accident reports etc. if required.

## **CHAPTER 3: THE COMPETITIONS**

### **A: COMPETITION A – DRIVEN DRESSAGE**

#### **1. *General***

- a) There should be one well dressed Steward responsible for the opening and closing of the arena and replacing the letter A once the competitors have entered the arena. There should be sufficient room (about 15 - 20 metres) at A to allow a Four-in-Hand a straight entry into the arena.
- b) The maximum number of competitors to be judged in a day is 45 unless the President of the Jury permits more. The starting times should allow 10 minutes for Test Nos 8a, 8b, 9 and 10. Intermediate Tests times differ.
- c) It is recommended that a 10/15 minute refreshment break for Judges be included in the timetable after approximately ten Competitors.
- d) Each Judge has a Writer. Ideally, Judges' sheets should be collected immediately after each test and passed to the Scorers so that the score can be announced after the next Competitor and posted on the scoreboard.
- e) Where possible continuous white boards (not chain or rope) should mark the sides and ends of the arena; where this is not possible, sufficient boards must be used to provide an obvious boundary to the arena, particularly on the corners and at the letters. Marker letters should be positioned one metre from the boards. A centre line is not required but points X, D and G should be marked with sawdust and renewed as needed. If the arena is to be decorated with shrubs or flowers, they should be placed at least one metre from the boards.
- f) When there are five Judges officiating in Test 8a, the President will be seated at C with two Judges on either side of C, 5 metres in from the long side of the Arena, and the remaining two Judges seated at B and E. When there are

three Judges officiating, the President must be seated at C, with the remaining two Judges at B and E. For all other Tests the Judges may be seated at CRSVP if there are five judges, and CBE if there are three.

- g) The President of the Jury should be provided with a bell or electronic sound and have radio contact with the Technical Delegate, Veterinarian, and Collecting Ring Steward.

## **B: COMPETITION B – MARATHON**

### **1. *General***

- a) The Course is considered closed to motor vehicles unless indicated otherwise in the Schedule. The use of ATVs and motorbikes between Obstacles in Section E is at the discretion of the Organiser, and no vehicles are allowed in the Obstacles except where it may be appropriate to grant a dispensation for disabled Competitors who need to use an ATV.
- b) The whole Course should be checked immediately before the start of the Marathon by the Course Designer reporting to the Technical Delegate.
- c) At the Finish of E, a weighbridge should be available to weigh the Carriages if required by the President of the Jury.
- d) The President of the Jury in conjunction with the Technical Delegate will determine whether all Competitors' vehicles are to be weighed or only a sample chosen at random. The Steward to be briefed by the Technical Delegate.
- e) The President of the Jury will allocate Members of the Jury to officiate at the Compulsory Rests and the Finish. The other Judges will be allocated duties elsewhere on the Course.
- f) The Judge at the end of Section E supervises the weighing of Vehicles but is also responsible for de-briefing the Competitors approving any penalties on the Green Time Card before passing the card on to the Scorers. The Judge at the end of Section E monitors the last 500m of the course. The Judge must sign the Green Time Card also to confirm whether or not there are any penalties to add.
- g) Score collecting needs to be organised by the Technical Delegate and the Chief Scorer. The most efficient system is to have at least two collectors on ATV quad motor bikes following every fifth competitor and picking up the Obstacle Reports from the Obstacles plus the Green Time Card from the End of Section E. If appropriate, Ground Observer's cards also need to either be collected immediately after each class, or their observations obtained by radio or mobile telephone.

## **2. *Layout of the Course***

- a) The Course should be varied in character including, where possible, roads, tracks, hills, water crossing, woods and open fields.
- b) The Rest Area/s need to be accessible by road without having to use any section of the Course. Toilet facilities, water, ice if appropriate, and a Farrier should be arranged. If possible the areas should provide some shade and be large enough to accommodate at least three Horse Four-in-Hands at once, plus the additional motor vehicles used by back up crews.
- c) The distance between the finish of one section and the start of the next should be at least 50m.
- d) Natural obstacles such as gates, sharp turns, water and steep hills may be included in all sections except the walk section. Hills should be avoided in walk sections.
- e) Section E should be so arranged that the Obstacles are accessible to spectators without too much interference with the Course. The distance between the last Obstacle and the end of E should be 500m. It is beneficial if this part of the track can be marked (with posts or rope?) and that it is possible for the Judge at the end of E to observe this section of the Course.
- f) In exceptional circumstances the Technical Delegate may reduce the distance from the last Obstacle to the end of E from 500m to not less than 300m. He may also authorise a greater length than 500m in which case a sign must be placed 500m from the end of E to indicate that Competitors must either walk or trot and not deviate from the track.

## **3. *Marking the Course***

- a) It is the responsibility of the Course Designer to mark the course with red and white Compulsory Turning Flags so that Competitors cannot cut any significant corners, whilst still allowing them, where appropriate, to have some choice of route.
- b) The Compulsory Turning Flags must be numbered consecutively for each Section. Yellow arrows placed on the right hand side of the Course must also be used to clarify the track.
- c) White kilometre markers should be placed in Sections A, (C if appropriate) and E. If the end of a kilometre is reached inside an Obstacle the distance marker should be placed on the right hand flag at the exit of the Obstacle.

## **4. *Measuring the course***

- a) The total length of the Course must not exceed 21km in all classes for a three-section Marathon, and 23km for a five-section Marathon.
- b) Each section of the Course must be accurately measured. When measuring Section E, the distances inside the Obstacle, taking the shortest legal 2.5m drivable route, should be included in the overall measurement. The minimum distance between Obstacles is 250m.
- c) The Walk Sections B and D must be measured particularly carefully. The Course Designer should walk the track with a measuring wheel.

## **5. *The Obstacles***

- a) The number of Obstacles should equate to approximately one per km of Section E, with a maximum of 8 and a minimum of 6. Pre-Novice Events should have four to six Obstacles, Club Novice six and National Novice six or seven Obstacles.
- b) Turns become difficult if the width of the opening is less than 2.5m. All 'gates' must be at least 2.5m wide and 1.30m high. There should be at least one route to all gates that is at least 2.5m wide, preferably 3m. No single posts may be less than 1.30m high.
- c) The 'gates' in an Obstacle must be lettered in sequence so that Competitors have to drive them in alphabetical order. The maximum number of gates is 6 (A-F) (five for Novice and below).
- d) The letters on the gates must be marked all the way round the post or tree so they are visible from all angles.
- e) Depending upon the undulations and hills in Section E and with the welfare of the Horses in mind, it is helpful to have a fairly flat first and last Obstacle with perhaps only five marked gates in each. Greater distance between Obstacles gives horses more time to recover.
- f) Dislodgeable Elements of any design approved by the Technical Delegate and the President of the Jury may be used, but they must not interfere with or be liable to cause injury to Horse or damage to Vehicles when dislodged. The maximum number allowed is up to the Course Designer.
- g) The entrance and exit of an Obstacle are marked with red and white flags and the number of the Obstacle is placed on, or by, the red flag at the entrance. Entrance and exit gates, ideally using the same gate for in and out, should be placed at least 20m from the nearest marked 'gate'. The Technical Delegate may grant an exception.
- h) The spectators should be kept at least 20m away from any 'gate' within the obstacle by barriers. The Technical Delegate may grant an exception.

- i) It is important that the construction of the Obstacles is horse friendly. Posts should be rounded if possible, rather than rectangular. Rails should be let into the posts or fixed inside the posts. Fixings should not protrude; if appropriate, rope should be used. If concrete or hard material is used then a wooden running board should be fixed over the concrete to protect the horses' sides.
- j) Bridges should have a slatted floor for grip that will be safe for the horses in all weather conditions. The bridge's sides should be particularly strong and a wooden running board fixed at the base of the sides.

## **C: COMPETITION C - OBSTACLE CONES DRIVING**

### **1. *Factors affecting the design of the course***

- a) The Course should make full use of the whole arena so that all spectators get a reasonably close view of the Competitors.
- b) The track should be carefully planned to avoid any possible cut up ground as a result of Driven Dressage or other attractions held before the Obstacle Cones Driving competition. The siting of Commentary and Judges Box and timing gear needs careful consideration.
- c) A series of pairs of cones by themselves is not very attractive. Zig-zags, water, bridges and other Multiple Obstacles (maximum of 3 Multiples) and the introduction of tubs of flowers etc gives the whole course a better appearance, creates a variation of pace and is a better test of skill. A longer distance between one or two sets of cones, perhaps across the diagonal, gives Competitors an opportunity to make up time on the Course.
- d) Electronic timing is recommended but must be used at all National Events.
- e) The start should not be more than 40m and not less than 20m from the first Obstacle. The finish must not be less than 20m and not more than 40m from the last Obstacle.
- f) The position of the back of each cone must be marked on the ground with marker paint to ensure that, should it be displaced, it can be replaced exactly as before and at the same angle.
- g) A pair of markers (red on the right and white on the left) must be placed not more than 15cm outside the cones which form either Single, or Multiple Obstacles. Obstacle numbers should be placed, if possible, so that they can be seen as Competitors leave the previous Obstacle.
- h) Particular attention should be paid to objects, such as banners and decoration tied to the sides of the arena, that could flap in the wind and cause horses to spook.

- i) The Course should be designed, where possible, to permit the early entry of the next Competitor before the previous one has left the arena.

## **2. *Plan of the course***

The plan of the Course must be published at least one hour before the Competition in the collecting ring at the entrance to the arena. The plan should also be available to Competitors not less than 2 hours prior to the Competition and should be published on the main notice board.

## **3. *Multiple Obstacles***

- a) The Course may not contain more than three Multiple Obstacles which include zig-zags, double boxes, double 'U's, double L's, and single L's and U's. Bridges and water obstacles, which are not classified as Multiple Obstacles, may also be used provided they are noted in the schedule.
- b) Water obstacles must be at least 3m wide with a water depth of between 20cm and 40cm. A pair of cones should be placed at the entrance and exit 2.5m wide and lettered with the number of the Obstacle and also A and B.
- c) Bridge Obstacles must have a maximum height above the ground of 20cm with a maximum length of 10m, plus entrance and exit ramps of 2m. The width must be at least 3m. Open or closed railings are permitted and fan-shaped wings at the entrance are recommended. Care should be taken to ensure that the approach to the Bridge is as gradual as possible to avoid damage to poles or shafts. The design should be approved by the Technical Delegate before construction commences.
- d) A closed Multiple Obstacle may be constructed from show jumping elements, which must be between 40cm and 60cm in height. Each group of cones or elements must be clearly associated with one of the sections of the multiple. Marking each different section of the element with a different colour assists the Jury in the judging of these Obstacles.