



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

January 2005

Happy New Year from the SCDA. We wish everyone a successful season for 2005.

This is the time of year to make sure your vaccinations and insurance are up to date and vehicle and harness maintenance and repairs are dealt with.

SCDA Dinner Dance

Come on folks - you, the members, were all keen at last year's A.G.M. to have a dinner dance this year in conjunction with the A.G.M. As a result of this interest and enthusiasm the SCDA is holding its first ever Dinner Dance at the Stirling Highland Hotel, Spittal Street, Stirling on Saturday 19th February 2005.



"Order your tickets now!" Initial response has been slow, probably due to post Christmas and New Year apathy. Come along and make this an event to remember all year. Dance the night away to an excellent ceilidh band who will provide instruction in some of the more unusual dances so everyone can join in.

DANCE WITH A DIFFERENCE - THERE ARE SOME SURPRISES PROMISED ON THE NIGHT!

Rooms have been reserved for members attending the function. There is plenty of other local accommodation available if you prefer.



The hotel boasts a leisure centre (membership is included with the room rate) so make a weekend of it.

The **A.G.M.** will take place on the Saturday afternoon as usual, starting at 2 p.m. leaving plenty of time to relax in the pool and still get prepared for the evening's festivities.

Bookings should be sent to the secretary, Mary Kusin, and accompanied by the booking form at the end of this newsletter with payment. Tickets cost a very modest £27 per person.

SCDA AGM

The AGM takes place on Saturday 19th Feb 2005 in the Stirling Highland Hotel, Spittal Street, Stirling, FK8 1DU and a formal notice and agenda is enclosed with this newsletter. You will be able to collect your 2005 Omnibus if you are a paid up SCDA member, or if you join on the day.

As usual we have a guest speaker in the morning. This year we are very fortunate to have Diana Brownlie coming to talk us through the new dressage test number 8. She will be bringing a video to demonstrate the test being driven which will be invaluable. Horses will be using this test at all events in 2005 and the ponies will use it after the World Combined Pony Championships at Catton have taken place in July, i.e. it will be used for Lowther, Alnwick and Castle Kennedy.

Even if you are not currently competing at National level this will be an interesting and informative session with plenty opportunity to ask questions. Coffee will be available from 10am with the morning session starting at 10.30am. This will conclude with time for lunch in the hotel.

At 2pm we will conduct the formal business of the A.G.M. Remember that this will take place in a new venue this year, the Stirling Highland Hotel, as it precedes the SCDA dinner dance.

SCDA Conference

The annual Conference took place in the Huntingtower Hotel, Perth on Sunday 28th November. A copy of the minutes from this meeting is enclosed with this newsletter.

The discussion was productive and highlighted one of the main concerns still facing organisers which is the late entries competitors still are still making. The BHDTA announced that instead of a late entry penalty, this cost would be added to the entry fee and offered as an early payment discount. It has been decided not to implement this at club level this year but the SCDA will review the situation and consider this as an option if the late entries continue to cause problems for event organisers.

As an experiment this system will be trialled at the event at Thornton in 2005 to see if it would be practicable for future use.

Officials' lists

The SCDA is organising a number of clinics aimed at encouraging interested people and experienced competitors to take one step further and consider becoming involved in the organisation of events. Clinics will be available in the near future. Watch out for details on the website or telephone the Secretary to put your name on the list and you will be contacted when details are finalised.

It is proposed to have a list of competent people that can be called on by event organisers if required. This will create a more varied pool of judges and enable more people to experience life on the other side of the fence.

There will also be a list for people willing to assess newcomers' levels of competence.

The lists will be held by the secretary so please put your name forward if you think you might be interested in becoming involved in a new capacity. Registering interest does not commit you to be on the list.

There are five possible categories for which we would encourage volunteers to come forward.

- Scorers
- Technical advisers
- Judges
- Course builders
- Competence and Safety Assessors

Hopetoun work party

There will be an amusing day out at Hopetoun on Saturday 30th April with fun and games starting at 9.30 a.m.

The highlight of the day will be watching the lynch mob chasing Ian Gilbert if he mentions that there are any stones to be picked up!! Once more he assures me that the ground has settled and we have seen the end of the dreaded stones.

Bring a picnic lunch. It is hard work but good fun too – honestly! Fortunately I am unfamiliar with the tale of Pinocchio. Come in old clothes and bring buckets, brushes, protective clothing and gloves if you have them. If possible, ring Ian and let him know in advance if you plan to come. See you there.

2005 Indoor Season

Following the winter break, everyone is at least thinking about getting their equine friend back into work. One way to get motivated is to head for an indoor competition.

Muirmill Equestrian Centre in Ayrshire is no longer in operation. John has been fortunate to find an alternative venue for the event on Sunday 13th March at **Jumps Equestrian Centre**, Yieldshield Road, Carluke, ML8 4QY. Telephone 01555 773206 or Fax 01555 772392. You can find a map of the location on www.jumpsec.co.uk

Entries to: John Nisbet, Templand Crescent, Dalry, Ayrshire KA24 5EZ. Tel: 07900 214171. Entry Fee £30. Cheques payable to: SCDA (West).

The indoor event planned for 20th March is cancelled unless an alternative date or venue can be found.

The **Scottish Indoor Driving Championships** take place on 27 March at Dabbs in Fife. Entries to: John White, Maryfield, By Freuchie, Fife KY15 7HX. Tel. 01337 858176. Entry fee: £30 Cheques payable to: Falkland Event.

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SCDA information

How to benefit the SCDA

The SCDA still benefits from a substantial rebate from the BHDTA if any new BHDTA members join on a special form through our club. Please contact Mary Kusin for a form if you intend joining the BHDTA for the first time, or if you know of anyone who may be going to join.

Publicity

Any material or photographs you would like to see in print should be sent to the publicity officer, Wilson Weir, South Woodend North, Annanbank, Johnstonebridge, DG11 2RT. Telephone: 07818 618118 or e-mail publicity@scda.co.uk

Newsletters

Material and adverts for the newsletter should be sent to: Mary Kusin, East Overhill Farm, Stewarton, Ayrshire, KA3 5JT. Tel. 0845 226 9498, e-mail newsletter@scda.co.uk

Adverts

Private adverts in the newsletter cost £5 and business adverts cost £10. Please make cheques payable to the Scottish Carriage Driving Association and send them, with details of your advert to: Mary Kusin, East Overhill Farm, Stewarton, Ayrshire, KA3 5JT.

Don't forget that you can also place an advert on the SCDA website. This service is free to members. Go to www.scda.co.uk

SCDA Contacts

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Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Dinner Dance at the Stirling Highland Hotel
Saturday 19th February 2005

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____



I wish to book _____ places for the SCDA Dinner Dance.

I am booking for (please give names): _____

If possible, I would like to sit with: _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (£27 per person) payable to "Scottish Carriage Driving Association".

Please return this form to:

The SCDA Secretary, Mrs. Mary Kusun, East Overhill Farm, Stewarton, Ayrshire, KA3 5JT

IF YOU REQUIRE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR BOOKING, PLEASE ENCLOSE AN S.A.E.