



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

November 2005

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the truly splendid variety of events that we had the opportunity to compete at in 2005. I was amazed to discover that the newcomers, single pony and single horse all had 17 competitors listed in the points league. No wonder the events have been so well supported this year.

We are looking for nominations for the "Fun and Friendship" trophy from members and don't forget the photo competition. There are more details later in the newsletter.

***** STOP PRESS *****

SCDA Conference

Due to a combination of unforeseen circumstances, it will not be possible to combine the SCDA conference with the BDS Dinner Dance this year.

Instead, we are holding a lunch in conjunction with the conference the following week on Sunday 11th December. The event organisers' meeting will be at 10am. This will be followed at 11 a.m. by complimentary tea and coffee, served with pastries. At 11.30 a.m. we will hear an entertaining speaker (watch the web-site for details) and lunch will follow around 12.45 p.m. At 2 p.m. we will have the annual conference and presentation of trophies.

The venue is the Royal Hotel, 55 Henderson Street, Bridge of Allan. Their telephone number is 01786 832284. We need to know numbers for catering so please complete and return the booking slip at the end of this newsletter or respond through the web-site.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

To find the hotel **by car**:

From **The South** M1, M6, A74, follow the signs for Stirling, M73, M80, M9 to junction 11. At junction 11 there is a large roundabout; take the fourth turning on the left which is sign posted Bridge of Allan. Follow this road (A9) into the village centre, where you will find the Royal Hotel on the left-hand side.

From **The North**, join the A9 and follow the signs for Stirling/Glasgow. At the junction of the A9 there is a large roundabout. Take the second turning on the left, which is sign posted Bridge of Allan. Follow this road (A9) into the village centre, where you will find the Royal Hotel on the left hand side.

By Rail, take the train to Bridge of Allan train station.



When leaving the station turn right onto the main road (Henderson Street). Continue through the village, seeing the Royal Hotel on the left-hand side.

SCDA AGM

This will take place on Saturday 18th February 2006 in the Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan (directions to the venue are given in the SCDA Conference article).

There will be a speaker in the morning preceded by a slide show with pictures from the 2005 season (this proved very popular last year). As usual, anyone with a fully paid up subscription will be able to collect their Omnibus for 2006. After lunch, we will conduct the business of the A.G.M. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend.

SCDA Dinner Dance

This year's fun and frolics will take place in The Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan, on the evening of Saturday 18th February, after the A.G.M.

Overnight accommodation is available at a rate of £60 per room for a twin or double. Tickets are priced at £27 per person which means that we have been able to hold prices at the same rate as last year.

We are hoping that there will be an excellent turnout this year to get this function well and truly "on the map". Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves last year and we hope to see even more of you present this year. Please use the booking form at the end of this newsletter to reserve tickets.



Job Opportunity

The new computer scoring system has worked well in its inaugural year. Zoe Ross has attended every event this year and we are all extremely grateful to her for this degree of commitment. However, we really do need some "new blood" to help out with this area of event organisation.

Prospective candidates should have a working knowledge of the rules for driving trials and be able to switch on the computer. The intention is that opportunities would be made to shadow Zoe and become familiar with the system before attempting an event on your own. To begin with there would be back-up help available too if required.

If there is sufficient interest there will be a demonstration and training day early in 2006. Please do not be backward in coming forward. To register interest, please contact the secretary, Mary Kusin, in the first instance.

100 Club

The next draw has been made in the 100 club. There are still a few tickets remaining so if you would like to join in please contact Anne or Ian Gilbert.

The lucky winners as follows:

1 st	£50	Vic Kusun
2 nd	£30	Bob Binnie
3 rd	£20	Jim Brewster

You have to be in it to win it, so go on, take the plunge and get your name in the draw for the next time.

Photo Competition

Don't forget that there is an opportunity for you to showcase your photographs. The SCDA Photo Competition winner will have their photograph used on the front cover of the 2006 Omnibus.

We are looking for a photograph that encapsulates the spirit of carriage driving in Scotland. It can be of any aspect of driving; a competitor, groom, steward or judge. It can be of one person or a group of people; competing, setting up, celebrating, relaxing or anything else. The intention is that it should show what carriage driving in Scotland is all about.



The closing date for entries is Saturday, December 11th 2005, which will enable photographs to be handed over in

person at the SCDA Conference and lunch at Bridge of Allan.

The emphasis here is not on technical quality (although good clear pictures are preferred) but on the subject representing Scottish carriage driving in some interesting way.

As well as the winning entry becoming the 2006 Omnibus cover picture, all submitted entries will be shown at a presentation during the SCDA AGM in February and will also be featured on our website.

- In order to enter, you must be an SCDA member.
- You can send your entries at any time to the Secretary.
- Each person can enter up to 5 pictures.
- With each picture you should include your name and you may also add a suitable title.
- You can send your pictures by email (if they were taken with a digital camera) or in the post if they are prints. Pictures do not have to be mounted or framed.

Note: if sending by email, please make sure you send the full resolution picture, as it came out of the camera - we will need it for printing on the Omnibus cover.

Hopetoun 2006

Hopetoun National Horse Driving Trials is scheduled to take place on 26th-28th May 2006.

It is anticipated that Hopetoun will be one of the three remaining selection events for the World Horse Singles Championship to be held near Rome in 2006.

Ian Gilbert is planning some changes to at least 2 obstacles next year - the oil rig may make a comeback. Help will be needed before the event in the form of wood staining, but the good news is that (according to Ian Gilbert) there will be no stone picking! Over the last few years floral displays have brightened up the event and we would encourage any one with even the palest of green-fingers to get growing! As usual the event cannot run without helpers - volunteers will be needed so pencil this date into your diary - and if you're not there helping we expect to see you competing!

Basil

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Andrew Smith's horse, Basil, after a freak accident in the field at the beginning of October. He will be familiar to everyone as the star on the front cover of the 2005 Omnibus.

Basil and Andrew were well matched. Although the partnership of a novice driver with a 3 y.o. Gelderlander raised a few eyebrows in August 2000, the faith they had in each other was unshakeable. They progressed rapidly together and took second place in a decisive manner at the National Novice Championships in 2003. The open National competitors took note when Andrew and Basil, with Owen on the backstep, stormed round the marathon in spectacular style in their first open class at Catton in 2004.

As Basil improved, the legendary rivalry between Ian Bertram and Andrew intensified. Basil clinched top honours in the Single Horse class at Thornton, just over a week before the accident, in the 2005 Scottish Points Championship.

Despite a few ups and downs their trust in each other remained absolute. Basil's presence and personality made him easy to identify and Andrew's unique vocal encouragement, with shouts of "come on son", were widely recognised (if embarrassing for Owen).

Andrew intends to continue in the sport, despite the loss of such a unique and irreplaceable partnership, with a youngster he already had at home. We will all miss Basil and our sympathy goes to Andrew and his family.

www.scda.co.uk

The full event results are posted on the web-site as soon as Vic receives them. This means that you can pore over your obstacle times, in comfort, at your leisure. If you are not familiar with the web-site, log on to www.scda.co.uk for the up-to-date news and chat on the discussion page. Don't forget that the web-site operates an advertising service, free of charge for members, where you can post "wanted" or "for sale" items and reach a wide audience quickly.

BHDTA Conference Report

The members conference was attended by some 200 members, many of whom had points they wished to raise. The major topic was the cones course and speeds. After a lively discussion it was agreed that the spring training courses for T.D., Course Builders and Presidents of Jury should concentrate on cones to ensure fairer measures and more flowing courses in future.

The other topic which generated much discussion was whether national events should run 3 or 5 section marathons. A long debate ensued and finally after a show of hands was called, only 4 members supported the trend towards 3 section marathons.

Our chairman, Lord Onslow informed members that Prince Philip would probably be retiring from competitive carriage driving at the end of the 2006 season. He suggested, to show our appreciation of all Prince Philip has contributed to our sport, that we should invite him to a gala dinner to be held in the Midlands sometime in October 2006. Lord Onslow stressed that he wished this to be open to all members and that the fayre would need to be somewhat better than a PORK PIE!

Our Treasurer, Derek Mayes, advised members that the increase in subscriptions was being held in line with inflation and will be approximately £5.00.

The rules committee advised that they do not intend to change anything which will affect us in 2006.

The national competitions for 2006 were confirmed as follows:

Event	Date
5-7 May	Brighton (Sussex)
11-14 May	Royal Windsor
25-28 May	Hopetoun (Edinburgh)
2-4 Jun	Farleigh House (Hampshire)
16-18 Jun	Newnham Park (Plymouth)
30 Jun - 2 Jul	Sandringham (Norfolk)
14-16 Jul	Henbury Hall (Cheshire)
21-23 July	Catton Hall (Staffordshire)
4-6 Aug	Lowther (Cumbria)
11-13 Aug	Alnwick Castle (Northumberland)
25-27 Aug	Castle Kennedy (Dumfries & Galloway)
26-27 Aug	Normanhurst (East Sussex)
15-17 Sep	National Championships, Windsor

Selection events were confirmed as follows:

Event	Selection Events	Dressage Test
World Horse Four-in-Hand Championships (Aachen 2006)	Brighton, Farleigh, Sandringham & Catton	FEI Test 8
World Combined Pony Championships (Denmark 18-22 July 2007)	Alnwick + 3 other events	FEI Test 6&7
World Single Horse Championships (Italy 2006)	Hopetoun, Newnham & Lowther (provisional)	FEI Test 7

Event Reports

Dalswinton

Conditions were ideal at Dalswinton with dry ground and temperatures suited to driving a marathon. Although the organisers apologised for some ruts in the obstacle field, these did not prove to be a problem and some very fast times were set during the day.

The social event in the village hall was well supported and the meal was excellent as usual. A wide variety of members were gently persuaded to entertain the assembled company and Andrew Smith has clearly found a new vocation as Master of Ceremonies.

Castle Kennedy

Winter woollies were required but the weather was dry and often sunny in an effort to combat the chill in the wind. There was a varied programme of events for spectators which included a demonstration of duck herding. Most classes were well filled and the club class proved popular.

As always, there were a few competitors eliminated for a variety of reasons. Susan Don, competing in her first National Novice was upset when told she had missed gate A in obstacle 6. Due to an amazing co-incidence she was reinstated later in the day when a sharp eyed friend spotted a photograph on the photographer's stand showing Susan and Henry clearly passing through the gate in question!

Spectators enjoyed the marathon obstacles and there was a group which could be viewed relatively easily. On Sunday, the cones provided a nail biting climax with a number of placings being altered. Winners were presented with a furry Belted Galloway cow as well as their rosettes and trophy which were the envy of many spectators.

Blair

Numbers at Blair were slightly down on other events and this may have been due to the dressage test. Early plans to have everyone drive the new advanced number 8 test horrified many people, especially as it has only been driven by the horse classes so far. Plans were changed and the grey matter had to be activated when competitors discovered they were going back in time to drive no 7 along with the newcomers. It was so simple compared to the usual tests we drive that it was actually quite a challenge to drive it well.

Conditions were very hot and some competitors struggled to make the times on all three sections even though we drove a short section A. The obstacles were open and flowed well, allowing competitors to post some fast times. The estate was in good condition and it is always a pleasure and privilege to be allowed access to splendid venues such as Blair estate.

National Championships

Scotland was well represented this year by a number of drivers who made long journeys to both the qualifying events and to the Championships at Windsor.

Jacky Jeffrey was the only Scottish driver in the Novice Pony class. With an excellent score of 55.03 she took

the lead in the dressage phase, but unfortunately dropped in the marathon and cones to finish 8th overall.

Mary Kusin had an excellent competition, finishing 3rd overall in a hotly-contested Single Pony class of 17 competitors and only one penalty point behind the second-placed driver. Amanda Saville finished 11th and Carole Smith was 12th.

In the 19-strong Single Horse class, Ian Bertram finished well in 3rd place and Andrew Smith, who had accrued penalties from having to put a groom down to fix harness in an obstacle, was 13th.

Philippa Gammell came 6th and Ian Gilbert was 12th in the Pony Pairs class while Carol Boswell was placed 5th in the Horse Tandems class.

Congratulations to all the competitors who represented Scotland at Windsor.

Thornton Castle



What a fitting end to the 2005 season! Over the years there had been many recollections and stories told about the events at Thornton. For those of us who had never been before it was an event to remember.

Held the week after the National Championships, there was a particularly relaxed atmosphere. Ian Thornton-Kemsley went to great lengths to ensure the competitors were happy, even removing additional sections of fence to enable Ian Bertram to exit the field forwards.

The nail biting climax to the single horse class failed to materialise as there were only four competitors which meant Andrew had the Scottish Points Championship sewn up. This was just as well because his attempt to take a short cut in the cones was spotted by the judge.

The obstacles were more technical than usual at club events but drove much more smoothly than expected. The river was fun as there was about 200m of water to negotiate before diving up the bank into obstacle 5. You exited back into the water and continued in the river for some time before emerging back onto dry land. Most grooms required a change of underwear. It was a real drivers' course with a wide variety of terrain. Ian was heard to say that the hazards were in between the obstacles! He was right in this respect but it was great fun.

On Saturday evening we were treated to a barbecue in the tennis pavilion and you felt as though you were steeped in history. It is hoped that this event will become a permanent fixture once again in the Scottish driving calendar.

Scottish Points League Results

Don't forget that the number of scores that count towards your annual points total is 3 less than total number of events. This means that a total of 6 events count this year. Competitors who are not members of the SCDA are discounted when the points totals are calculated.

The Scottish Points results for 2005 are as follows:

Single Pony	1 st	Mary Kusin	36
	2 nd	Carole Smith	27
	3 rd	Sandy Couper	17
	4 th	Sue Hendry	16
	5 th =	Jacky Jeffrey	13
	5 th =	Audrey Barron	13
Single Horse	1 st	Andrew Smith	30
	2 nd	Ian Bertram	29
	3 rd	Joan Martin	16
	4 th	Hew Blair-Imrie	15
	5 th	Amanda Saville	10
	6 th = 6 th =	Lyndsey Brown Chris Wyllie	8 8
Pairs	1 st	Anne Gilbert	19
	2 nd	Barbara Patterson	15
	3 rd	Diana Ferguson	10
	4 th	Jessica Meredith	8
	5 th	Paul Gregory	5
	6 th	Catriona Cruikshank	4
Multiples	1 st	Faith Szczuka	10
	2 nd = 2 nd =	Andrew Mylius Carol Boswell	7 7
	4 th	Elinor Bosanquet	6
	5 th	Jane MacInnes	1
	Small Pony	1 st	Pat White
2 nd		Campbell Bosanquet	12
3 rd		Shirley Macgregor	10
4 th		Brenda Hodgson	5
5 th = 5 th =		Zoe Sanders Jean Wren	3 3
Newcomers		1 st	Susan Don
	2 nd	James Simpson	30
	3 rd	Louise McCutcheon	21
	4 th	Alan Steven	19
	5 th	Margaret Lupton	15
	6 th	Meg Hewat	8
Juniors	1 st	Christine James	24
	2 nd	Alice Spence	19
	3 rd = 3 rd =	Jennifer Rae Emily Burley	11 11
	5 th	Murray Graham	8
	6 th = 6 th =	David Baillie Daniel Wilson	3 3



Trophies for 2005

A new trophy is being presented for the first time this year by the Rome family in memory of Vivienne, named the "**Fun and Friendship**" Trophy, to reflect Viv's contribution to the sport over the years. The presentation will be made at the conference. All members are invited to nominate the person they feel has contributed most to the sport in this respect. Was there a funny incident you remember? Did someone go out of their way to lend a hand? If so, please send their name with details of why you feel they should be awarded the trophy, to the Secretary by 3rd December.

There are two trophies awarded annually by the SCDA at the Scottish National events in memory of well respected members of Scottish carriage driving.

For 2005, the winner of the Archie Donald memorial trophy, presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors to someone who has been of immense help or service to the SCDA, will be announced at the Conference.

The Graham Murray trophy is awarded to a different class each year and in 2005 it goes to the best single horse from the combined Scottish National events. It has been won this year by Andrew Smith who achieved 4th place in the open single horse class at Hopetoun and 2nd at Castle Kennedy.

The Mr. Blobby trophy, in memory of Jack and Maureen Clyne's much loved pony, is awarded to the highest placed Scottish National Novice horse or pony at Hopetoun and goes this year to Jacky Jeffrey for winning the pony class.

Indoor Events

A number of events have taken place so far this year. Many thanks to Campbell Bosanquet for organising the ones at Fountain Equestrian Centre near Aberdeen, John Nisbet for the ones at Muirmill in Ayrshire and to Audrey Barron for pioneering a new venue at Blairgowrie in Perthshire and holding a fun event.

Two indoor events are scheduled to take place at the start of next year - 5th March at the Fountain Equestrian Centre in Aberdeen and 12 March at Muirmill EC in Ayrshire. Please visit the SCDA website, which has all the information including results, entry forms, dressage tests and the most up-to-date indoor driving rules. All the Scottish events are qualifiers for the National Indoor Championships, to be held at Keysoe, Bedfordshire on 25/26 March 2006. The winner of the Scottish Indoor Points League in each class will qualify to compete at the Championships. The points tables and current standings can be seen on the SCDA website.

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.

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SCDA Contacts

Secretary	Mary Kusin secretary@scda.co.uk
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SCDA information

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

Latest information, news and results
on the SCDA website

www.scda.co.uk

Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Dinner Dance at the Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan
Saturday 18th February 2006



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.



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Conference and Lunch at the Royal Hotel, Bridge of Allan
Sunday 11th December 2005

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

I wish to book _____ places for lunch at the SCDA Conference. This can be paid in advance or on the day.

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (£10 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

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