



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

November 2006

Congratulations to Ian Bertram, ably supported by Catriona, on his gold medal success with the British team at the Single Horse World Championships in Italy. The "Flying Scot" lived up to his name on the marathon and was the only team member whose score counted in all three phases. He finished in 6th place overall. You can read Mike Brown's full report of this splendid achievement later in the newsletter.



Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the end of the outdoor season and the start of the indoor events. As usual it is important to thank all the organisers, scorers, stewards, judges, course builders and land owners without whom we would not be able to enjoy such amazing events throughout the year.

Many thanks to everyone who returned the questionnaire which was distributed with the last newsletter. This has been very helpful in informing the directors of the views of the SCDA membership as the BHDTA implement some fairly major changes in our sport. We are represented on the clubs' liaison committee by our Chairman, Andrew Smith, who represents all the driving clubs in Scotland and some in the north of England.

SCDA Conference

The conference reverts to its usual date of the Sunday following the BDS dance and takes place this year on Sunday 26th November at 11.15 a.m. Complimentary tea and coffee will be served at 11 a.m. The Scottish Points League trophies and rosettes will be presented and it will be an opportunity for you to raise any points you may have with the way the SCDA is run.

To find the Huntingtower Hotel exit the A9 onto the A85, signposted "Crieff and Crianlarich" (between the Broxden roundabout and the Caithness Glass factory). Heading for Crieff, go straight through the traffic lights and through the small village of West Huntingtower. As you reach the end of the village turn right, signposted "Huntingtower Hotel" – it is half a mile down this road.

Fun and Friendship Trophy

This trophy is presented by the Rome family in memory of Vivienne. Once again the directors are looking for members to nominate anyone they feel has made a light-hearted contribution to the sport through an amusing incident or by lending a hand where it was needed.

Do you know of anyone? If so, please send their name, with details of why you feel they should be awarded the trophy, to the Secretary by Monday 20th November.

Trophies for 2006

Two further trophies are awarded annually by the SCDA in memory of well respected members of Scottish carriage driving.

The winner of the **Archie Donald 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 2006 it goes to the best single pony from the combined Scottish National events. It has been won this year by Audrey Barron who achieved 4th place in the open single pony class at Hopetoun and 3rd at Castle Kennedy.

The **Buddy Trophy** is awarded by SCDA board of directors to the person that has done most during the season to help and will be presented this year to Campbell Bosanquet who runs both indoor and grass roots events.

The **Bellcrown Shield** is awarded to the best Scottish Novice from the combined Scottish National Events. This has been won by Susan Don who achieved 2nd place at Hopetoun and 1st place at Castle Kennedy in the Novice Driver Pony class.



SCDA AGM

Sadly, it has been necessary to cancel this year's SCDA dinner dance. Instead, the directors are planning a rather splendid lunch with a speaker in the morning and the A.G.M. afterwards. The date remains flexible until a speaker is confirmed so keep an eye on the web-site for advance notification. Otherwise your January newsletter will have this information. There will be a slide show with all the entries to the photographic competition displayed and the winner will see their winning entry adorning the front cover of the 2007 Omnibus.

Photo Competition

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 - as long as it shows what carriage driving in Scotland is all about.

Details of how to submit your entries electronically are given on the website. Alternatively entries can be posted to the Secretary.

- All pictures submitted must be photographs taken during 2006.
- The closing date for entries is 31st December 2006.
- 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.
- You should include your name with each picture.
- 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

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 2007 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.

So get those cameras out now and get snapping. We're all looking forward to the results at the end of the season.

Event Photographs

Philip Brown has taken a wide selection of photographs from this season's events and from the recent world championships in Prato del Vivaro, Italy. For details see www.pb-photos.net.

Cones Clinic

The directors feel that it would be helpful to have more trained cone judges and course builders to assist organisers. Obviously the event judge is scoring the dressage and cannot be in two places at once. If you would like to become more involved with the cones side of the competition, please contact the Secretary and register your interest. A clinic will be held in the Spring as cones course construction is considerably more involved than you might initially think.

Risk Assessment Clinic

A Risk Assessment clinic will run in Spring 2007. Event organisers, TDs, stewards or any other interested parties are asked to give their names to Andrew Smith who is co-ordinating this event. Further details will be available in due course.

BHDTA Annual Conference

The Annual BHDTA Conference took place on the weekend of 21st/22nd October. There have been no major rule changes this year but the class structure at events has been changed and will be implemented from the start of the season next year.

All National Novice Qualifiers will now be held at club events. On moving up to National level, there will be intermediate, open and advanced classes. For one year only, competitors that have qualified at Novice level for the National Championships, or have finished in the first three with four or more in the class, will be eligible for the intermediate class. If a competitor drives a new turnout, they will be able to drop down a level where a win will immediately put them back up. They will be ineligible for the National Championships.

Horse registrations have been disbanded and DEFRA numbers and horse passports will be used instead. The levy which was charged by the BHDTA for each entry has been replaced by a start fee which will also apply to novice qualifiers. Everyone will complete a declaration form as they collect their paperwork stating which horse(s) are competing.

For competitors who are new to National competitions there is a half price BHDTA membership in their first year.

100 Club

Ticket sales have been disappointing in 2006. For this reason there will be a reduced number of draws this year. One will be made at the Conference on 26th November and the other at the AGM. If you would like to participate and have not yet purchased a ticket, it is not too late to contact Anne or Ian Gilbert.

Competence Cards

Before competing at a Novice Qualifier, competitors must have a completed Competence Card. This stipulation also applies if you wish to compete for the first time with a multiple.

The BHDTA rules state that competitors must have these signed immediately after the Club competition (they should not be signed retrospectively) and they should be accompanied by a full set of results from each competition. If you need a Competence Form, copies can be obtained from the SCDA Secretary, the BHDTA office or downloaded from the BHDTA website reference section on the website www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

BDS Dinner Dance

This year the dinner dance is to be held on Saturday the 25th November at the Huntingtower Hotel near Perth with guest speaker Mr. Jim Corbett. Tickets, costing £30 per person, or special price accommodation, can be booked by contacting Alex Lanni on 01315 564606 or e-mailing her at alexandra.lanni@uk.pwc.com.



World Single Horse Championship

The whole of British carriage driving were in very high spirits as they learned that team GB had become world single horse driving champions by winning the team gold medal. In addition to the team win, Paul Sidwell took the individual gold.

The World Single Horse Championships took place in Pratoni del Vivaro which is a high plateau of slightly hilly grassland dotted with mature trees. It is a permanent site dedicated to all forms of equestrian sport. There were 76 competitors from 22 countries which included entries from Canada and the U.S.A. The majority of the competing teams came from all over Europe: from Hungary and the Czech Republic in the East, to Portugal and Spain in the West and as far North as Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The British team was Di Hayes, David Mathews and Ian Bertram with an individual entry going to Paul Sidwell. Boyd Exell, the British team trainer, normally arrived early for his morning briefing. He looked uncomfortable due to his recent leg injury but was determined this was not going to interfere with his job. Chef d'Equipe, Georgina Frith, marshaled the team and ensured that the latest information and any help needed was delivered in an efficient manner. Georgina put the wind up all the opposition by talking about her secret weapon; little did they know it was Ian Bertram.

Ian was the last British competitor to drive the dressage and he produced an outstanding test which put him in 17th place. Team GB were placed 4th overnight with the best two scores counting for the team total.

A very bright Saturday morning greeted the 8a.m. start when competitors faced a 3 section marathon. As this phase of the competition drew to a close, tensions rose. Could GB do this? Could we actually be outright winners? Overnight team GB moved to silver medal position after David Mathews finished in second place with Ian 0.35 penalties behind in third.

On Sunday in the cones Di and Mel made the whole thing look easy and she drove the only double clear round of the competition. Lying in 5th place, Ian Bertram for team GB achieved a penalty score of 9.81 and he finished in 6th place overall. Frantic calculations were carried out. A disappointing round by the overnight leader confirmed that team GB had won the gold and Paul Sidwell had taken the individual world singles championship by 0.22 penalties. Britain had won 2 gold medals!

Adapted from an article by Mike Brown

Event Reports

Blair

Blair enjoyed a mild, dry day with generally good ground conditions. John Nisbet had changed the route from 2005 and Section E provided the drivers with some challenging elements which made for an unusual and interesting drive. A number of the obstacles contained uncommon features too and some time had to be spent working out the most effective routes. Sadly, like many events this year, entry numbers were down, so all three phases took place on Sunday. Those who did compete enjoyed open, flowing obstacles and plenty of chocolate for the prize-winners.

National Championships

The Scots were well represented at Windsor as usual with some notable successes.

In the Novice Driver Pony class David Hewat moved up dramatically from 5th place in the dressage to take the lead after a storming round on the marathon. The icing on the cake was a double clear in the cones to win the Championship. In the Novice Driver Horse class, Helen Hunter started well by winning the dressage. Sadly, she and Nelson did not see eye to eye about the line to take in the cones, and she finished 5th overall.

In the Open Pony class Audrey Barron came 6th and Mary Kusin finished 8th. The Open Horse class had their championship at Lowther, where Ian Bertram finished 3rd, due to the timing of the World Championships.

In pony pairs Philippa Gammell finished 4th and Anne Gilbert 9th although there was less than a penalty between 7th and 9th. Faith Szczuka was delighted to win the dressage but sadly finished on an eliminated score after the cones.

Carol Boswell achieved a fabulous result in the Horse Tandems class. Having been disappointed with her horses in 2005, she was ecstatic to sweep the board clean and convincingly win all three phases to secure the championship this year.

Thornton

The last event in the Scottish Points calendar took place at Thornton. Again entries were down but I feel this had more to do with the vast flow of carriage driving enthusiasts who made the trip out to Italy to support Ian Bertram and the British team at the Single Horse World Championships.

The weather was kind on the Saturday but somewhat damp on the Sunday. Spirits remained high though, especially when regular

updates via text and mobile phone were received about the progress of the British team.

The obstacles drove well and as usual everyone enjoyed their drive down the river, a famous feature of this event. A splendid barbeque was served on Saturday evening and this was an excellent end to a very enjoyable Scottish outdoor season.

Nothern Inter-club Championships

The large SCDA contingent at the interclub competition held at Holker Hall came home with piles of rosettes and a resounding win for its members during the weekend of 7th/8th October. Scotland played host this year and was responsible for the organisation of the course, obstacle design and construction plus all the other facilities. Holker Hall is a beautiful venue set in rich parkland overlooking Morecambe Bay about an hour South of Penrith by road.

This year the competing clubs were North East Driving, North West Driving, Midlands Driving Group, Chester Horse Driving Trials, Dumfries & Galloway, South West Scotland and SCDA. There was a full range of classes including Pre-Novice and SCDA were the only group to compete in every class.

The work party arrived on Thursday in the pouring rain and they beavered away right through until late Friday.

Saturday saw a dry day and proceedings started with two arenas going at the same time. The Judges were Margaret Brockie, Pauline Scott, Philippa Thomson and George Bowman with Tommy Fawcett as T.D.

Sunday again proved dry and the competitors set off on a picturesque, but very bumpy in places, marathon course. Our thanks must go to local Mark Winder for his help in setting out some of the marathon route. The flowing but tricky obstacles were designed by Pauline Scott and gave as far as possible some variation and good competition. The cones course proved difficult with only 3 double clears from 48 competitors. Thankfully all competitors were safely packed up and on their way home before the rain started late on Sunday.

All competitors thoroughly enjoyed this popular competition as the venue is reasonably central for all and SCDA members were particularly pleased at winning again.

This was a wonderful finish to many peoples' outdoor driving season especially after a long and sometimes difficult driving year. Roll on next season with the new rules and regulations.

Mike Brown

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. In the event of an equality for first place, the marathon scores at the events where both competitors participated are taken into account.

The Scottish Points results for 2006 are as follows:

Single Pony	1 st	Mary Kusin	34
	2 nd	Audrey Barron	31
	3 rd	Jacky Jeffrey	22
	4 th	Susan Don	21
	5 th	Liz Melville	19
	6 th	Sue Hendry	13
Single Horse	1 st	Joan Martin	27
	2 nd	Hew Blair-Imrie	26
	3 rd	Ian Bertram	24
	4 th	Helen Hunter	20
	5 th	Mary Bryson	10
	6 th	Louise McCutcheon	9
Pairs	1 st	Anne Gilbert	14
	2 nd	Diana Ferguson	14
	3 rd	Catriona Cruikshank	10
	4 th =	Diana Lindsay	8
	4 th =	Paul Gregory	8
Multiples	1 st	Faith Szczuka	10
	2 nd	Elinor Bosanquet	8
	3 rd =	Carol Boswell	7
	3 rd =	Andrew Mylius	7
Small Pony	1 st	Shirley Macgregor	12
	2 nd	Pat White	12
	3 rd	Campbell Bosanquet	9
	4 th	Jean Wren	5
	5 th	Jean Galbraith	2
Newcomers	1 st	Mike Walsh	25
	2 nd	Ally Nisbet	18
	3 rd	Alan Steven	16
	4 th	Kaera Jarvie	15
	5 th	Carolyn Love	10
	6 th	Jock McFarlane	6
	1 st	Andrew Moodycliff	8
	2 nd	Emily Burley	6
	3 rd	Daniel Wilson	4
	4 th =	Jennifer Rae	1
4 th =	Alice Spence	1	



Indoor Events

Many thanks to Campbell Bosanquet and John Nisbet for running indoor events at the Fountain Equestrian Centre in Aberdeen and at Muirmill EC in Ayrshire. Fountain will host another on 11th March and John is currently negotiating for dates which will include the Scottish Indoor Championships.

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. 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.

SCDA Merchandise

A new range of SCDA branded merchandise is now available through the web-site, by using the order form in the Omnibus or from Mike Brown directly. This includes top quality sweatshirts, fleeces, polo shirts and rugby shirts in a wide choice of colours and all embroidered with the SCDA logo. SCDA stickers are also available for your car or lorry.

All items are very reasonably priced and an illustrated catalogue is available at the back of your Omnibus or on the web-site. We hope the range will have something to suit everyone and soon be widely seen.

Handsome, very good natured, blue, KC registered Border Terrier currently seeks attractive, sexy lady friends for friendship, but more importantly for fulfilling but short-term relationship.

Jura has just discovered that his airfare to Australia is going to be in the region of £2,000 so he needs to go out & earn his seat/little freight box or he may need to be fostered.

He is a cracking little dog with a huge personality and loving nature. From great bloodlines on both sides - his mum is a working terrier & his Dad has been shown at Crufts several times. For those into breeding his Mum is Howpark Purdey and his Dad is Lairhope Ground Control. He has already sired 2 litters - one of 6 and one of 5 puppies.

Please contact Jura via Ally Nisbet on 07711 810670

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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.



SCDA Contacts

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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

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 on the SCDA website

www.scda.co.uk