



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

January 2007

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year (despite the weather) and are sticking to their resolutions so far.

Membership Renewals

The time has come to renew your SCDA membership and a membership form is enclosed with this newsletter. As a result of the recent SCDA survey, we are confident that members find the association good value for money. There is no change to the subscription rate for 2007 and as usual, anyone who is a paid up member of the association prior to the A.G.M., will be able to collect their Omnibus on the day.

Please note that if you have not paid your subscription by the A.G.M. or do not attend the A.G.M., your Omnibus will be sent out with the next newsletter before the end of March. It is necessary to distribute the newsletter after as many memberships as possible have been received in order to minimise the number of reminders sent and to maximise the efficiency of the mail shot.

SCDA AGM

An entertaining programme takes place on Saturday 10th February in the Blair Drummond Hall. Complimentary tea and coffee will be available from 11am.

At 11.30am, members will have an opportunity to hear Lord Onslow, the BHDTA Chairman, speak. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Everyone will then be treated to a rather splendid buffet lunch with the compliments of the SCDA and prepared by one of our members Brian McShane. This is an opportunity to thank all the helpers who make our sport so enjoyable.

Could event organisers please extend this invitation to any of their helpers who will not receive this newsletter. Please contact the Secretary to indicate your intention to attend the lunch to enable us to cater accurately. There is a tear-off slip at the end of the newsletter or e-mail, text or phone are all equally acceptable.

The formal business of the A.G.M. will take place after lunch at approximately 2pm. You will find an agenda and a copy of the 2006 A.G.M. minutes enclosed with this newsletter. We hope this new venture will be well supported.

We hope to have 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 which will be distributed to fully paid up members.

To find the venue, take junction 10 off the M9 and follow the A84 towards Callander for 5 miles. You will pass the Safari Park and the hall is on the left hand side, by the bus stop, near the junction of the A873 (if you pass the Church, you have gone too far).

Election of Directors

This year Ian Gilbert, George Jeffrey, John Nisbet and Audrey Barron have indicated that they are willing to be re-elected. One vacancy still exists so if anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Board of Directors please pass your name to the Secretary.

SCDA Conference

The conference reverted to its usual date of the Sunday following the BDS dance. This was an informative event and much enjoyed by those attending. Members were entertained by a talk from the gold medal winning "Team Bertram" which was accompanied by photographs and a DVD of the action. Ian was presented with two sheets of commemorative first class stamps showing photographs of Lonach on the marathon and the medal winning team and Catriona received flowers from the members in recognition of their achievements.

Ian Gilbert briefed members on the BHDTA conference and the new class structure was the main topic for discussion regarding implications for competitors. These are published on the BHDTA web-site and Ian answered members' questions. There were no significant rule changes this year.

The Chairman reported from the event organisers' meeting and paid tribute to the organisers and their teams for their huge amount of time effort it takes to put on their events. Hew Blair-Imrie informed the members of the provisional dates for 2007. He notified the conference of the Omnibus deadline of 20th January for any training dates.

The Chairman informed the Conference of points arising from the event organisers' meeting.

- A more structured approach to dressage times, with classes running in blocks, will

be adopted next year. Competitors, unable to come on Saturday, will continue to be accommodated on Sunday.

- As we run under BHDTA rules with local amendments, these will be highlighted in the Omnibus and on the web-site, and remain at the organisers' discretion.
- The cost of paramedic cover comes to around £10-£12 per competitor. It was noted that the organisers cannot afford to do without this cover. Any grass roots events wishing to avail themselves of the same level of cover can be easily accommodated in the block booking the SCDA makes with the Paramedic provider.

The Chairman reported on the results of the SCDA questionnaire, issued earlier this year. It has informed the directors as regards the members' views. 197 questionnaires were sent out and 99 returned which was an excellent result and demonstrated that the SCDA attracts a wide variety of drivers and helpers. The following points were noted.

- Time, cost and transport considerations influenced competitors' ability to compete at both club and National events. All respondents considered that there should be at least one National event in Scotland and the Chairman recognised the huge commitment from Anneke, Ian G. and their team at Hopetoun and Jane McDowall and her team from Castle Kennedy.
- The membership felt that the SCDA represented value for money but only half felt the same about BHDTA membership. 70% of respondents were also BDS members and some duplication was identified in the roles of the respective societies. The members felt that some rationalisation of the sport should be achieved but there was no clear indication of how this idea could be taken forward. This will be discussed by the directors to take carriage driving forward in Scotland.
- Insurance remains a concern as one third of the members were unsure what cover was in place as a result of their membership. This matter will be further highlighted through the newsletter and web-site.

The Chairman thanked everyone for taking part in the survey and the draw for the SCDA T-shirt was made with the winner being Anna McGill.

The Scottish Points Awards were presented by Ian Bertram.

The "Fun and Friendship" Trophy, presented by the Rome family in memory of Viv, was awarded to Anne Gilbert.

The directors chose to present the Buddy Trophy to Campbell Bosanquet in recognition of his contribution encouraging newcomers through the grass roots event at Cothal and the indoor events at Fountain Equestrian Centre..

The Bellcrown Shield was presented to Susan Don as the best placed Scottish Novice from the two National events in the horse or pony classes.

The Archie Donald memorial trophy was awarded to Colin Smith in recognition of his contribution to carriage driving and Hopetoun in particular.

The Graham Murray trophy, awarded this year to the best single pony from the two combined Scottish National events, was presented to Audrey Barron.

The presentation concluded with the rosettes for the Scottish Points League.

Anneke then reported on the current progress regarding Hopetoun 2007. She appealed to the members to encourage new helpers. There will be no club event run this year and the schedule will follow the new class format. She commented on the article she had written to accompany the published accounts in the *Carriage Horse* newsletter. She stressed the fantastic support Hopetoun receives from the membership and appealed to anyone who might wish to sponsor a class at a cost of £100, or identify a potential sponsor for an obstacle, to get in touch.

The Chairman opened the floor to the members who raised a wide range of issues.

Regarding press coverage, Mike Brown noted that some publications already had contracts with other journalists. He noted that carriage driving was not a priority sport but he has had success approaching other titles. He would welcome any articles from members who attended events at which he was unable to be present.

The Chairman summed up the meeting by identifying the success in 2006, both internationally and at club level with the SCDA victory in the Inter Club Championships. He stressed the need for continued support to organisers from volunteers and competitors.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary and Vic Kusin, our web-master, stressing the role of the web-site to our association.

Insurance

Following the survey it was noted that a number of people remained unclear regarding the level of insurance cover provided to affiliated clubs. This is in three parts:

- 1) Public and Products Liability for the Club Committee and judges, stewards, instructors, office holders, other officials or volunteers acting for them, including travelling from home to the event and back.
- 2) Employers' Liability for the club.
- 3) Personal Liability for members of affiliated clubs.

The third point is the one which causes the greatest confusion. This means that if, arising out of the participation by the member in activities (including social and fund-raising activities) organised and/or run by our own club, an incident occurs which involves bodily injury to another person (called the third party) or loss of or damage to their property, the aggrieved person may decide to make a claim against you for damages. **If they can prove you are legally liable**, which generally involves you having been negligent, they are entitled to claim damages from you. The policy pays these damages which may be awarded by a Court of Law but in the majority of cases are settled "out of court".

If the person having been found to be negligent has other insurance cover, such as household or livestock policies, then the other insurer will be asked to settle or contribute towards the claim, which helps to keep down the cost of the BHDТА policy.

In the event of a member having an accident, the cover is, as it says above, for the member's legal liability to others and does not cover damage to them or their own property.

It is important to remember that this cover not only gives protection to Club Members at Club Events but it also gives the organisers peace of mind that, in the event of an accident, any club members involved are adequately protected.

This is only a brief summary of the cover which is subject to the terms, exclusions and conditions of the Policies.

Your SCDA membership does not confer legal liability insurance cover at events run by other clubs, whether affiliated to the BHDТА or not. If you are a BHDТА member then you have third party legal liability insurance cover at all times and for all the animals you own throughout the year.

BHDТА Course Builders' Clinic

This is a training course for National and Club course designers and technical delegates. It takes place on 3/4th February at Stow-on-the-Wold.

The clinic will include course design and construction at National and Club level and on the Sunday there will be separate sessions for Club technical delegates and a presentation on Event Safety.

Organisers of National Novice Qualifiers are reminded that it is unlikely that the BHDТА will approve your nominated TD or course designer (neither of whom may compete at the event) unless they are on the BHDТА National list or qualified by attendance at this event.

The cost is £20 / day which includes coffee, lunch and afternoon tea on each day. If you plan to attend, please send a cheque, made payable to the BHDТА, to the Secretary as soon as possible. The official deadline is Monday 15th January so time is tight. Accommodation lists are available and horseboxes or caravans can be parked if required. Please phone the Secretary for further details.

BHDТА Judges' Clinic

In addition to all existing judges, the Judges' Committee would like to invite all affiliated clubs to send two of their most experienced club judges to attend the National Judges' Conference in 2007. This will deal with the proposed changes to the levels of competition. There will be discussion regarding an acceptable standard of test for each level.

Jennie Loriston-Clarke will be present on the Saturday morning to use her valuable expertise on what to look for in the various levels and on tactful and useful comments to add to the sheets.

"Guinea pigs" will demonstrate various tests in order to discuss the different movements and evaluate the degrees of difficulty. Some of these will pertain to the more advanced tests, but this is helpful to give pointers regarding correct and progressive training even although these tests would not be appropriate at club level.

Time will also be spent debriefing on judging problems that have arisen in 2006 in all three phases of the competition. If anyone has any problems they wish discussed please e-mail caroline.musker@tesco.net before the conference.

The conference takes place on 24/25th February at Stow on the Wold and costs £45 for the two days which includes lunch and coffee on both days.

If you plan to attend, please send a cheque, made payable to BHDТА, to the Secretary by 24th January. For an additional £21, there is an option to join the Saturday evening meal at the Fosse Manor Hotel.

Club TD Clinic

Plans for the SCDA to run a Risk Assessment clinic have been shelved following the announcement by the BHDTA that they are holding a one day course, on 1st April in Penrith, specifically aimed at Club TDs with sessions on Health and Safety and Risk Assessment. This is open to anyone who wishes to attend and it was the feeling of the SCDA Conference that every event should send a representative if possible. More details will be made available in due course.

Cones Clinic

The directors feel that it would be helpful to have more trained cone judges and course builders to assist organisers. If you would like to become more involved with the cones side of the competition, please contact the Secretary and register your interest.

We are delighted to have the experience of international judge Diana Brownlie for this clinic which takes place in the Blackford Hotel on Saturday 10th March. Coffee will be available from 10am. The course will start at 10.30am and finish around 3.30pm. Bar lunches will be available in the hotel.

100 Club

The penultimate 100 Club Draw was made by Ian Gilbert at the Conference and the following prizes were allocated.

Andrew Smith	£50.00
Sandy Couper	£30.00
Philip Brown	£20.00

The final draw will take place at the AGM.

Novice Qualifiers in Scotland

Due to the BHDTA re-structuring of classes, Intermediate Classes will now be held at National Events and Novice Classes will take place at selected Club Events. There will be two Novice Qualifiers in Scotland in 2007. These take place at Dalmeny on 28/29th April and 16/17th June at St. Fort.

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.

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.

Dates have still to be confirmed so keep an eye out for further information on the web-site, 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.

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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

Latest information, news and results
on the SCDA website

www.scda.co.uk

