



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

Spring 2007

Daffodils, sunny weather and driving events.

The 2007 season is getting under way !

BHDTA Election

There is an opportunity for all BHDTA members to vote for their new council representatives. Both Ian Gilbert and Amanda Saville are due for re-election and would appreciate your support. Please make sure that you use your vote to select candidates that will have your interests at heart. Use your vote; don't waste it.

Hopetoun Work Party

The annual work party to prepare the obstacles at Hopetoun is organised for Saturday 14th April. Hopefully lots of people will be able to attend. Bring brushes and buckets for painting the obstacles if you have them. Ian Gilbert will be delighted to see everyone from 10.30 am onwards.

SCDA AGM

An entertaining event took place on Saturday 10th February in the Blair Drummond Hall. Lord Onslow, the BHDTA Chairman, addressed the members in the morning before the business of the A.G.M. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed a truly splendid lunch, brilliantly catered by Brian McShane. There has been a tremendously positive response for this new initiative from stewards, supporters, organisers and competitors.

Andrew Smith retired as Chairman of the SCDA and was presented with an engraved glass memento to recognise his contribution to the SCDA. He passed over to his successor, Audrey Barron, who conducted the main business of the A.G.M. where insurance provision was the main talking point. With this still causing much confusion, Ewan MacInnes has written an explanatory article which is printed later in this newsletter.

The winning entries in the photographic competition were announced. Mary Kusin's photograph was selected by Martin Johnson of Bellcrown Carriages as the winning entry with Catriona Love in second place and Philip Brown in third. All entries were displayed and admired by everyone present as well as appearing on the front cover of the Omnibus.

Election of SCDA Directors

This year Ian Gilbert, George Jeffrey, John Nisbet and Audrey Barron have indicated that they are willing to be re-elected and this was agreed by the meeting. Mary Kusin has been co-opted to fill one vacancy.

Insurance

As many of you will know, Ewan MacInnes works with NFU Insurance. In this following article, he has tried to reduce some of the confusion regarding insurance for our members.

Broadly speaking, personal insurances can be divided into two categories.

1. Insurance of your own property against damage
2. Insurance for damage to other peoples property. This can also be referred to as personal liability, third party liability, or public liability.

It is this aspect of insurance that concerns us most. In the case of motor insurance, we are all aware of the consequences of our actions, as they affect others. Thus we all need third party insurance cover which is the minimum legal requirement. (You, the policy holder are the first party, the insurer is the second party, and the third party is the other member of the public who has become involved). Similarly, in the case of Carriage Driving we have to take responsibility for our actions, although it is not a legal requirement to have liability insurance. However, Event Organisers demand that competitors have their own liability cover, so is essential for them, and highly recommended for all drivers.

Liability cover for Carriage Driving may be sourced in a variety of ways.

1. Ask your personal insurance provider. Eg if your horse is insured, liability cover can normally be added to the policy. This usually covers anyone handling your horses and yourself handling horses not belonging to you. This is the widest possible cover, probably the best, but also the most expensive. A few insurers may provide this without insuring the horse.
2. If you have home contents cover, or are resident in a house with such cover, this includes personal liability. However if you are relying on this, cover will apply only to those resident in the household. You must check with your individual insurer, as not all insurers regard a horse as a family pet. In the case of NFU Mutual for example you are covered for `leisure pursuits` which includes Carriage Driving. No business use for the turnout is included in any home contents cover.

3. Through membership of an organisation such as BHDTA. In real terms this is probably the most cost effective option. In addition to the insurance cover you have other membership benefits. For example, BHDTA associate membership at £54 including personal liability cover is very good value. (P.L. cover, arranged separately, can often cost in excess of £50 per horse). This is clearly illustrated on the BHDTA website.

Points to note:

a) Liability included with the (1) and (2) does not normally carry an excess (the insurer pays it all) In the event of a claim it would be processed without any reference to the insurance cover provided through membership of an organisation.

b) BHDTA (3) carries a £500 policy excess ie you pay the first £500 of the claim. There is also a contribution clause in this cover. This means that all of your insurers will share the cost of the claim. ie BHDTA insurer will always ask if you have (1) or (2) types of insurance. Also note the personal accident cover is for capital benefits. i.e. Death, Loss of Limbs etc There is no weekly payment if you are off work.

c) BHDTA provides-

- o Liability cover for the Events organisers, which includes all helpers, course builders, judges and stewards
- o Liability cover for SCDA members at SCDA events, one hour before the start of the event up to one hour after the finish. This cover is in place even if competitors are not BHDTA members. They should note that they are not covered for early arrival and exercising outwith these hours. Also SCDA members who are not BHDTA members are not covered by SCDA to compete at other club events
- o Liability cover for its members for any club event and for exercising at home.

The point to remember with any liability insurance is that for compensation to be paid to a third party, negligence has to be proved. Most motorists for example, firmly believe that if an animal damages their vehicle, the owner of the animal is automatically at fault. This is certainly not always the case. Further you must never at the scene of an incident admit liability. This is for your insurer or the courts to decide.

The day may come when we are all required to hold a certificate of Carriage Driving Competence. It is wise for both horses and drivers to be sufficiently trained and vigilant, keeping incidents to a minimum.

There is great merit by being insured by the same insurer who is providing the event cover i.e. BHDTA. I would also venture to suggest that much of the duplication of payment of insurance could be stopped for members wishing to compete at club events other than those run by SCDA if they were associate BHDTA members. This would mean that for insurance purposes only you need be a member of one Club. If all club members were at least associate members of BHDTA, club affiliation could become cheaper, as the present contribution towards all competitors event insurance would be unnecessary, and only cover needed for the event organiser.

Reading the discussion pages of our own website, I believe there is support for a more streamlined system. In fairness to BHDTA, their suggestion that every club member had to be a BHDTA member was probably not such a bad one and might have had wider acceptance if it had been packaged better.

Ewan MacInnes

Intermediate Dressage Test

There has been some confusion regarding the new Intermediate 2007 dressage test. It only has a five loop serpentine if driven in a 100mx40m arena. For the majority of club events, where the arena is 80x40m, a three loop serpentine will be driven. The BHDTA have published an amended dressage sheet (taking into account the two possible sizes of arenas) which is available to download and print out from the reference section on both the SCDA and BHDTA websites.

Cones Clinic

The SCDA ran a very successful cones clinic where competitors, stewards and judges were able to benefit from the wealth of experience amassed over the years by Diana Brownlie. A number of related topics were discussed and, following the most recent directors' meeting, a number of these have been implemented for the 2007 season. There are further details below.

Diana has also produced a laminated guide to cone driving which can be obtained from the Chairman for the staggering sum of £1. She has promised a similar guide to marathon driving. This is a useful reference guide for everyone, especially those new to the sport of driving trials.

New Guidance for Measuring Axles

Due to the need to consider safety at all times, it has been agreed that stewards measuring the wheel width of vehicles after the cones competition should do so in the approved BHDTA manner. Blocks of wood or cones should be placed on either side of the carriage's rear axle when the vehicle is stationary. The competitor then moves forward and the gap is measured.

Assistance for Pre-novices

Many people can feel intimidated when entering their first competitions. For this reason it has been agreed that competitors entering the Pre-novice class (formerly Newcomers) can have assistance from their grooms. This opportunity only extends to Pre-novice competitors where grooms may verbally assist the driver at any stage of the competition, if requested, without penalty and stand on the back step in the cones to facilitate directing the driver. Grooms availing themselves of this facility to assist the driver must ensure that they stand in the middle and do not influence the balance of the carriage.

Remember that a basic Competence Form has to be completed before entering your first Scottish Points event. This can be downloaded from the web-site or obtained from the Secretary.

You will progress from the Pre-novice class to the Open class after ten events. It is possible to progress after a minimum of three events if you so wish but this has to be at the club's discretion.

BHDTA Rule Book

Please note that all SCP events are run under BHDTA rules except where local variations have been introduced to encourage new drivers or improve safety. Local amendments to the BHDTA Rule Book are published in the Omnibus and on the SCDA web-site under the Reference menu. Any new variations will be notified through the newsletter.

The full BHDTA Rule Book can now be accessed from the BHDTA web-site under the Reference menu. There is a link to this from the SCDA web-site or go to www.bhdta.co.uk.

Also, under this Reference section, there is a quick guide to the rule book as an introduction to the complexities of the rules.

Changes Regarding Use of Tachographs

It has been noted that there are changes to Private Use HGV Tachograph rules from 11/4/2007. Colin Smith has kindly prepared the following to help those affected become familiar with the new rules and regulations and identify what they need to do in order to comply with the law.

From 11/4/07 there are some changes taking place to the current tachograph legislation. Many vehicles that were previously exempt are now coming into scope and additionally some will now be exempt. This is to bring the UK into line with Europe. Since finding out a few weeks ago about this impending legislation I have made several enquiries via my colleagues at work who deal with vehicle legislation issues and VOSA. Both have confirmed that private use of vehicles or vehicle combinations over 7500kg Maximum permissible mass (gross weight on vehicle plate) will come into scope of tachograph rules from 11/4/07. At this time there are no known exemptions for vehicles or vehicle combinations over 7500kg.

How will this affect you? Currently you are exempt from tachograph legislation for private use with all horseboxes, however from the 11/4/07 if your vehicle, or vehicle combination, is over 7500kg you will need to use a tachograph chart each time you use the vehicle. Unlike the driver licence situation where you can reduce the vehicle weight to tow a heavier caravan or trailer, with this legislation, if the vehicle has a gross weight of 7500kg and you put a trailer or caravan on the back you are in scope, as the combination will exceed the threshold weight of 7500kg.

The rules, as you can imagine, are quite complex and as most of you will only be driving on 2 days a week for a few hours at a time, I have set out the basics that will be likely to affect most people. For those who wish further details or are using the vehicle for commercial activities where different rules apply, details can be found at www.vosa.gov.uk an follow the "what's new" link to goods vehicles driver's hours. Please ensure you look at goods vehicles as the passenger vehicle rules differ slightly.

Rules from 11th April 2007

Daily Driving

9 hours. Can be extended to 10 hours twice a week but not on 2 consecutive days

It is unlikely this will affect you unless you drive professionally

Weekly Driving

A maximum of 56 hours in one week

It is unlikely this will affect you unless you drive professionally

Fortnightly Driving

A maximum of 90 hours in any two consecutive weeks

It is unlikely this will affect you unless you drive professionally

Breaks From Driving

(mandatory rest periods during the driving period of 9 or 10 hours)

After driving for 4 and half hours you must stop for 45 minutes the 4.5 hours should not be exceeded before stopping. During this time you must not perform any other work. You may split this into two breaks during the first 4.5 hours driving one must be at least 30 minutes in duration.

This may affect some people travelling to nationals or some club events i.e. from north to south or visa versa in Scotland.

Daily Rest: the period when you are at the event and not driving must be continuous.

Minimum of 9 hours

It is unlikely this will affect you unless you drive professionally

Emergency

There is provision for an emergency which means that daily driving may be extended or breaks may be delayed if there is a danger to life or health of people or animals

It is strongly recommended that you ensure that you plan your journey properly to ensure that daily driving limits or breaks are not exceeded.

Mode switches

Depending on the type of tachograph fitted to your vehicle these will be in different locations but the symbols are generally the same.

Bed: use this position to show a rest period when you stop for a driving time break, arrive at home or prior to removing the card when you arrive at the event. Failure to use this mode position could lead to you exceeding your driving time and lead to prosecution.

Steering wheel: this is the position when driving

Two hammers: other work strictly speaking should be used when arriving at an event if you unload the horse before removing the chart.

Tachograph records are required to be kept for a period of 18 months before being disposed of. You should have with you in the vehicle the charts for the current fixed week and the previous 15 calendar days, as most of you will only drive 2 days in the week it will be the charts for the current weekend and the previous 2 that will be required. This will change from 1 January 2008 to the previous 28 days charts.

How to complete a chart

- All writing must be within the centre circle.
- Insert your name: surname, forename and any initials.
- The name of the town you are starting from.
- Leave the next line blank this is your destination it is filled in when you remove the chart (it is an offence to complete it before you have finished with the vehicle for the day).
- On the next line the date you put the chart in.
- The next line is the date you removed the chart.
- Your vehicle registration number.
- Miss the next line and fill your starting mileage in.

When you have completed the journey

- Fill in your destination where you are removing the chart.
- The date you are removing it.
- You're finishing mileage and total mileage.

You should use a new chart for each day on which you drive and ensure that the clock is set to the correct 12 hour period. This is normally changed by a little thumb wheel on the side of the head when it is opened. Or on the drawer type by removing all charts and blanking discs close the drawer and it will automatically reset.

Insert the document into the tachograph head with the face you just filled in towards the stylus, on a head that hinges out of the dash this is generally face away from you on the more modern drawer type this is face up. Close the tachograph.

Tachograph calibration

If you fall within the scope of the regulations you will need to ensure that your tachograph is properly calibrated and sealed by an authorised sealer. The garage that does your repairs should be able to advise of someone locally.

Full calibration takes place every 6 years with a check every 2 years for analogue and full calibration every 2 years on digital. Most of you will have analogue equipment as digital equipment has only been fitted since May 2006. Older vehicles will only have this if you have had your tachograph replaced and specifically asked for digital equipment. If you have a new box with a digital tachograph and fall within the scope you will need a card from DVLA in order to drive the vehicle.

Working time directive

The working time directive may apply and is currently being looked at. More details will follow at a later date.

Colin Smith

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 at www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

Junior Training

There is an opportunity for some junior training to take place this summer at West Newton, by Arbroath. Audrey has excellent facilities with a number of permanent obstacles, a full size dressage arena and an indoor school should the weather be less than clement. If you are a junior driver and would like to register an interest, please contact Audrey (details at the end of this newsletter).

SCP Event Scoring

In case there are new competitors to the Scottish Points events this year, here is a brief rundown of how points are allocated.

- The maximum points that can be scored for a win is 6. Points go down to 1 point for 6th place. If there are less than six competitors in the class, then the points for winning is equivalent to the number of competitors.
- No points are scored if you are eliminated.
- Points can be scored at three less than the total number of events. If you compete at more events than this then your lowest scores will be discarded.
- In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the final result will be determined by the best marathon scores at the events where both competitors have competed.
- Points are scored by the competitor in each class, rather than by the turnout they are driving. For example, driving five different single pony turnouts will count towards the same total, whereas driving a pair would have the points count towards a different total.
- Competitors who are not SCDA members are discounted, irrespective of their placing, before Scottish Points are allocated.

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. 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.

Holiday in Vermont, USA



Martin Johnson of Bellcrown Carriages has sent us this information and the opportunity to save \$100, having arranged this rate reduction for British carriage drivers/horse enthusiasts wishing to holiday in breathtaking Vermont countryside.

Summer rates are reduced to only £325/week for up to 2-3 guests to stay in a peaceful, secluded rural retreat in a charmingly converted 1840 barn, on a 140-acre equestrian farm in historic, quintessential Vermont village of Strafford, less than 3 hours drive from Boston or Montreal. Enjoy beautiful unspoilt views from every window. Surrounded by fields, meadows and woodlands with 300 year old maples.

Included in the holiday is a horse drawn drive around the village of Strafford.

Visit www.oldmosesfarmvt.com

Or e-mail: oldmosesfarmvt@yahoo.com

Tel: 001 802 765 4534

"In Harness" – a new publication

Fiona Powell is starting a new quarterly magazine, "In Harness" which is aimed at horse driving trials drivers, friends and supporters and costs £3.00 per quarterly issue. You can also place a personal classified ad of 30 words or less free.

It will contain articles about driving, events, clubs, people and horses as well as letters (I hope!) and photos. She is inviting articles on any topic of interest to the competitive carriage driver - as well as personal stories, opinions, letters and photos. It would be good to promote Scottish carriage driving, so please contribute if you feel inspired to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboards.

For subscription details, contact Fiona Powell, tel: 01473 735732 or log onto www.inharness.co.uk to download a subscription form. There are further details of the publication on the web-site.

TRAINING and ASSESSEMENTS

with **Mary Bryson**

At Robiesland, Lanark

Assessments – Approx. 1hr 30mins - £30

with video playback.

This will assess the partnership between you and your horse/pony. Are you tense? Is your horse/pony tense? Are you too relaxed? Can you pick up a few more marks in your dressage?

Training sessions - approx. 45mins/1 hr. - £22

Shared Days - 2 drivers – 2 sessions each
£45 each - inc. mid day refreshments.

Good Quality 2nd hand harness, vehicles, etc. sometimes available.

Please call Bill or myself if we can be of any assistance to your driving.

Tel. 01555 662817

Email mary@robiesland.com

ANDREW MAY LHHI

Light Harness Horse instructor

TUITION ~ BREAKING ~ SCHOOLING ~ SALES

BENNINGTON - TEDMAN - ZILCO

Now available direct in Scotland

Some second-hand/trade-in vehicles

Also a range of whips, bits and accessories.

**Biggarshiels Farm, Biggarshiels Road, Biggar,
ML12 6RE.**

www.biggarshiels.co.uk

Tel. mobile 07904 557838

By appointment please

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.

SCDA Contacts

Secretary 0845 226 9498	Mary Kusin secretary@scda.co.uk
Chairman 01241 872579	Audrey Barron chairman@scda.co.uk
Vice Chairman 01561 377301	Ian Thornton-Kemsley istk@thornton-estates.co.uk
Treasurer 01505 850218	George Jeffrey treasurer@scda.co.uk
Directors	
Ian Bertram	01506 811626
Mike Brown	01337 857275
Ian Gilbert	01294 832461
Ewan MacInnes	01224 732310
John Nisbet	01576 610248
Hew Blair-Imrie	01241 830374
Anneke Wallace	01975 581266
Website 0845 226 9498	Vic Kusin website@scda.co.uk

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

