



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter - August 2009

The outdoor summer season is well under way with only two Club events, one Regional and the Nationals still to take place. West Newton's entries are almost equally divided between the Club classes and the Regional classes. The Regional classes give drivers the opportunity to qualify for the Nationals if they haven't done so already, while the Club class gives drivers the experience of driving National standard obstacles.

Blair Event 2009

This year Blair is being run by Eileen Cornish and Sheila McNeill, as John Nisbet was unfortunately double-booked for that weekend. We thank John for having run Blair for many years. Mr and Mrs Borwick, the owners of Blair, and their farmers, make us very welcome so please support this event. We have the 'A' team from Hopetoun to thank for stepping in to do all the physical work involved in running the event. They are an excellent team of strong and very experienced course-building guys, led by Ian Gilbert, who have offered to do all the heavy work involved with laying out the dressage arena, cones course, marathon course and obstacles. If you think you have what it takes to join them, please come along on Saturday morning at 8.30 a.m. to help. Helpers are also needed on Sunday to remove the course and arenas. Sheila is also recruiting stewards now, so please offer if you can – the Sunday needs lots of people in order that the marathon can run. Please let Eileen know as soon as you are able on 07833 712133 if you are planning to compete at Blair this year so that we will not be left biting our nails at the last moment and will not need to cancel through lack of numbers. This year Blair is sandwiched between West Newton and the Nationals and so very few of our National competitors who are also Club members will be competing at Blair, though several have already offered to help in other ways.

Late entries may be accepted – please phone or e-mail Eileen.

Fancy a shot at a part-event?

Then 'Try an Event' at Blair is the place to be!

This year the organisers of Blair are offering novice drivers, or those who have an unfit equine who is not able to complete a full marathon or who have not competed at a full Club Event before, the opportunity to drive either the dressage and cones or the obstacle section at half the published entry fee (ie £30). Why not come along to drive the parts of the competition that suit your turnout? You **must** be a member of either SCDA or BHDTA for insurance purposes.

Club Points and GrassRoots Event Dates 2009

August 29-30	West Newton	SPL / Regional
Sept 5-6	Blair	SPL
Sept 11-13	Windsor	Nat. Champs.

Reminder - Scottish Club Points Scoring 2009

A new system of scoring was introduced for the 2009 season. It is based on the BHDTA model and is an incentive for all drivers to feel that they are able to earn points in the league. Drivers will be awarded ten points for first place, down to one point for tenth place, with the best four results being taken into account (there being seven SPL events in 2009). In addition it was agreed that for the West Newton Regional event, SCDA members competing in the club classes will qualify for Scottish points, while those SCDA members who choose to compete in the Regional classes will receive a flat rate bonus of ten Scottish points.

More Trainee Scorers Needed

SCDA are still needing more volunteer trainee scorers, so if you are computer literate, and numerate and would like to spend one or more of the events training as a scorer please contact the SCDA secretary to add your name to the list.

The 2009 Season so far!

I would like to thank Mike Brown for allowing me to plagiarise the reports he has written for the various publications. Unfortunately, due to family ill health and then my hip replacement I have not yet been at any events this year. Please excuse any inaccuracies – they will be mine, not Mike's!

Lunan. - As for the previous twenty plus years Lunan Bay Grassroots Event began the season with the usual format of dressage, cones and a very short marathon with four obstacles. They had twelve entries ranging from Novices to Advanced turnouts. The good weather was very welcome, and the competition was fierce.

Dalmeny.

The first Scottish Club Points Event of the season was Dalmeny, having swapped weekends with Eglinton because of organiser Ian Bertram competing at Brighton on the first weekend in May. Thirty four turnouts competed – a more manageable number than the forty plus that were usual a few years ago. Both the Single Horse class and the Single Pony classes were very hotly contested, with Jock McFarlane beating Joan Martin by 3.54 points in the former, and Audrey Barron just pipping Janet Pilling by 3.32 points in the latter.

Eglinton.

This was Mary Kusun's first year as the new organiser at Eglinton and her first problem was the amount of rain that had fallen prior to the event. Fortunately the rain held off and the dressage and cones were completed in the dry. Competitors were warned about the soft going on the marathon, though presumably that did not account for seven of the twenty five competitors missing a compulsory gate and eliminating themselves. Ian Bertram was overall champion, in spite of making an error of course in the dressage. He can be forgiven, however, as he had not driven that test before! Janet Pilling was Reserve Champion.

St Fort.

A total of 29 competitors enjoyed the wonderful arenas, marathon course and obstacles created by Andrew Mylius over many years. This year a new Obstacle 6 was introduced to replace the previous one built around the bandstand. The new obstacle was just beside the main arena. It was sponsored by Stratstone of Cupar who were also kind enough to supply many vehicles to the officials throughout the weekend. The Pairs class was closely contested with Mary Kusun beating Ian Gilbert by less than a cone, while Patsy Muir Simpson triumphed over Margaret Lupton with an even tighter margin to win the National Novice Pony qualifier.

Cothal

This year Cothal was supported by 12 drivers including one Junior, Lauren Grant. Jock McFarlane brought out his pair – a grassroots event is ideal to introduce new combinations to competition conditions. Michael Brown took the Cothal trophy for 'Champion of the Day.'

Falkland

As has happened at Falkland before the heavens opened, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which obliterated the normally beautiful view over the Howe of Fife where on a good day one can see for miles! Three of the classes this year had very close finishes. In the Pairs class Mary Kusun and Diana Lindsay were just under a cone apart with Mary just winning. The Club Novice class was won by Michael Brown with his Haflinger; Ruth Martin with her Dartmoor x Shetland coming second by just over a cone. Again in the Small pony class Elinor Bosanquet just kept the lead by a cone and a half from Shirley MacGregor. As always Pat and John White provided wine and nibbles for competitors and stewards to enjoy while catching up with friends on the Saturday evening.

Thornton

Michael Brown repeated his success at Cothal with another 'Champion of the Day' award as well as winning the Club Novice class. It was good to see two juniors driving at this event, with Lauren Grant triumphing over Kira Fraser and taking the Junior honours again. Sixteen competitors contested the seven classes with Elinor Bosanquet, Pat White, and Jock McFarlane being 'in a class of their own.' Sanchia May took the first rosette in the Single Horse class with her new horse, while Mandy Law won the Single Pony class.

Barskimming

Fifteen competitors enjoyed driving at the Barskimming Estate in mid July. Unfortunately Blackie had decided he was unavailable so Miss Jean Galbraith was unable to compete in her own back garden and enjoy the stunning marathon. Ann Rushton-Green and Joan Harland had a tussle in the Open Horse class with Joan finally coming out on top by just over a cone. The overall Champion and winner of the Single Pony class was Anna Grace She wrote:- *"I am still reeling from the shock of hearing I not only won my class but also the marathon and overall champion. Gutted that I couldn't have been there to collect in person and bask in my own glory!! That said, I'd have*

probably been a quivering wreck. I don't think I'll stop smiling for a week. Thanks to Colin for being an all round good guy again, and helping me get a quick get away to work. Massive thanks also to Ann Gilbert for perching on my backstep for dressage and cones, I'll start saving for a proper dicky seat! Also like to add my vote of thanks to all who made the event possible, we really do appreciate the hard work put in."

Hopetoun 2009

This year Hopetoun was a selection event for the Advanced Horse Pairs, Pony Four-in-Hands, Advanced Pony Pairs, and Advanced Pony Singles classes. Sixty one competitors enjoyed the event, including seventeen Scottish-based drivers. Carol Boswell, Diana Lindsey, Jock McFarlane, Janet Pilling and Mike Walsh all won their classes with Lindsey Brown, Susan Don, Helen Hunter, Mary Kusin, Patsy Muir-Simpson, and Faith Szczuka taking second place in their classes.

Congratulations and thanks to Anneke Wallace, Ian Gilbert and their teams for, as always, organising an excellent event which is much enjoyed by all the participants and is a real showcase for SCDA/Hopetoun teamwork.

British Pony Team Member - Faith Szczuka

Congratulations to Faith Szczuka who was a British team member at the World Combined Pony Championships at St. Martin Greven-Bockholt, Germany from 13 – 16 August. Each team was composed of two singles, two pairs and a four in hand.

Faith, with her team of bay and chestnut Welsh Cobs, finished 10th in dressage, 21st in the marathon and 21st in cones to give her an overall place of 20th. Her completion of all three phases meant that Britain had a finishing score, unlike Sweden, whose only team driver was eliminated. Team GBR finished eighth overall, with Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium taking the top three places.

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This newsletter was compiled by Eileen Cornish from various sources.