



Scottish Carriage Driving Association Newsletter - January 2011

Welcome

Happy New Year to you all.

We have a new year, a new editor, and a new style.

A word from your Editor

The Association has an efficient and comprehensive website which gives us fast up to date information. Personally I feel that the newsletter should complement this rather than reiterating all the information. There will be a round up at the end of the season with complete results, possibly updates during the season. I feel that the newsletter should include more items of social interest that I hope you will enjoy. Please send me any news or items you feel are of interest. I cannot do this by myself. I hope the newsletter will grow as I find my feet but for now on to the business of the day.

The Conference 2010

As we know the conference didn't happen. Simon's early morning text to tell us of the cancellation saved many of us from getting stuck in the snow.

I'm told that the small group who had gathered for the Saturday evening's entertainment made the most of the meal and the dancing. Some horror stories of return trips have emerged and no doubt we will hear of others during event socials.

The cancellation of the conference will mean that the prize giving and items for discussion will be covered at the extended AGM. Meanwhile, the dates for next year's events have been agreed and you will have received them directly from Simon.

The AGM

Saturday March 5th 2011

**Blair Drummond Community Hall,
Doune. FK9 4UX.**

Please put the date in your diary, details will follow.

Hopetoun Painting Day

The annual paint brush outing will be Saturday April 9th 2011. The help received is invaluable to the organisers, and the participants are enthusiastic. The old saying that many hands make light work surely applies to this day and your presence is much appreciated.

Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials 27th — 29th May 2011

It is just 5 months to our National Event and only 120 days after Hogmanay to the closing date for entries!

This year the event will host selection classes for Advanced Horse Pairs, Pony Four-in-Hands, Advanced Pony Pairs and Advanced Pony Singles. Hopetoun will also be a qualifying event for the forthcoming FEI World Championships for 2011 and 2012.

We will be running a National Novice Class this year for both horses and ponies so there are classes for everyone.

National event organisers are fortunate this year to have input from Chris Hillman. The BHDTA Marketing Director; his expertise, coupled with our own efforts at attracting sponsors, are crucial to maintaining our reputation as a hugely popular competition, voted the Best Event at the BHDTA Conference Alternative Awards.

We have brought in some additional attractions this year to make us one of the premier events in the BHDTA calendar. As usual we will have the services of the excellent caterers Highland Cuisine. Prior to the drinks reception on the Friday evening, kindly sponsored by Ewan MacInnes of the NFU, there will be a demonstration of Vaulting in the Main Arena.

During Saturday further Main Arena attractions will include the BDS Show, a Dog Show and an Irish Dancing Competition with our usual very popular Ceilidh that evening after the prize giving. On Sunday there will be a Classic Car Drive-Out and Show alongside the Main Arena.

Please consider assisting our National Event with pledges of sponsorship and offers to steward by contacting

janeemisaac@btinternet.com

Annual Awards 2010

Fun and Friendship

Given by the Rome family in memory of Vivienne, “to someone who has made a light hearted contribution or who has lent a helping hand”.

This year the winner is John Endeacott.

Buddy Trophy

A tankard awarded by the directors to the person who has done most during the season to help newcomers.

This year the winner is Hew Blair-Imrie

Archie Donald Memorial Trophy

A quaich awarded by the directors to the person, generally a competitor, who has made an influential contribution to the sport in Scotland.

This year Mandy and Drew Elder take the honours.

Graham Murray Memorial Trophy

Awarded by the directors to the best Scottish competitor from the Scottish National Event in a class nominated by the directors

2010 sees Ian Bertram taking this trophy.

Bellcrown Shield — Intermediate

Awarded to the best Scottish Intermediate from the Scottish National Event.

Lyndsey Brown retains this award.

Bellcrown Shield — Novice

Awarded to the best Scottish Club Novice.

This year Kevin Morton wins this award.

The Liz Melville Trophy

Presented by the Melville family in Memory of Liz, to be presented to the most improved driver during the season. Kevin Morton also wins this trophy.

Congratulations to all the winners and whilst these awards could not be presented at the conference they will be presented at the AGM—remember this is on March 5th 2011

ANDREW MAY LHHI

Light Harness Horse Instructor

TUITION—BREAKING—SCHOOLING
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20 Questions

This is a new item which we hope we can include each edition. 20 light hearted questions are put to a well known figure in our sport.

1. Name

Ian Bertram.

2. Where do you stay?

West Lothian.

3. What do you do in the real world ?

Build horseboxes.

4. How long have you been driving?

35+ years.

5. How did you start?

Due to being knocked down by a car in my teens I was no longer able to ride, I saw an advert for an introduction to carriage driving and the rest is history.

6. How long have you been associated with HDT?

Approx 30 years.

7. Is this a family sport for you?

Yes my wife backsteps for me.

8. What do you do in the sport?

Drive, groom, TD, course builder & event organiser.

9. Do you do anything behind the scenes?

Director of SCDA.

10. What Classes have you competed in?

Pony and horse singles.

11. What level have you competed at?

Club, National & International.

12. What sort of vehicle do you have now?

Bennington XL and Bennington presentation, also home engineered 4 wheel vehicle to practice with and a Charlie Wyllie vehicle.

13. What has been your vehicle progression?

1st carriage was home built with a Vauxhall Viva axle and a car seat. Then a two wheel Jacks carriage, followed by a 2 wheel Bennington. A 4 wheel David Dixon was followed by the first of seven homemade 4 wheelers; finally the carriages we use now.

14. What have been your highlights?

Winning Team Gold at the World Singles in Pratoni in 2006; representing GB on a further two occasions; being National Champion three times, National Points Champion twice and Being Scottish Points Champion on a number of occasions.

15. What has been your bloomer (s)?

Taking the wrong course in obstacle 5 in Poland 2008 incurring 20 penalties. Was first ever competitor in GB to do dressage test No 9. This was at Brighton HDT 2007—scoring 85! I ended the test by saluting the stewards at A rather than the judge at C! Tipping the carriage at Lowther’s Klondyke obstacle and catapulting myself over the fence (however managed to get back on and complete the course—albeit with a bent carriage).

16. What are your goals or have you achieved all you wished to?
I would like to master dressage test No 9 (the canter test) - to make life in the rest of the competition easier I'd like to continue to represent GB—aiming to win an individual medal.

17. Which has been your favourite horse/pony—why? Lonach (despite me threatening to sell him after most dressage tests) - he always makes up for it in the marathon—never giving up.

18. Who has been your hero?
I respected the quiet way Leslie McRonald drove his tandem; I admire the driving skills of Boyd Excell.

19. How do you feel the sport has progressed?
We feel that the formation of the SCDA has had a positive influence on the sport in Scotland. We feel that the modern class structure has helped ease the progression up through the classes and has improved the overall standard. People complain that the dressage test has too much influence on the overall competition—we don't entirely agree—we get frustrated when we know we can do better in the dressage test, but we find it a challenge to try and improve our dressage. We enjoyed doing five section marathons and feel it is a shame that others can't enjoy the thrill of the fast trot, but we understand the difficulties organisers have fitting in five sections.

20. How would you like to see it go in the future?
We would like to see more people enjoying doing what we do, but in the current financial climate that may not be possible.

Notes from the Secretary's Desk

The directors met most recently in September and November 2010.

The meeting in September started with congratulations to Ian Bertram and Jock McFarlane who had both triumphed in their respective classes at the National Championships in Windsor earlier in the month – what an honour and pleasure for us all it was to have them at the meeting. And congratulations also to the many SCDA members who travelled south to Windsor, with a total of ten competing at the event.

Scorers at events:

One of the key elements of a successful and enjoyable Club event is the early communication to competitors of clear and accurate scores as the event progresses, and subsequently on the SCDA website. We are so fortunate in having Zoe Ross whose enthusiasm and experience for the scorer's role is recognised by all. It has been felt for some time however that it would be a good thing to spread the scoring experience around the membership and even outside, and bring in some others who might be able to take the load off Zoe and who might enjoy

this way of participating in the sport. To that end Zoe ran an introductory clinic for four volunteers in April, one of whom was able to try out the system 'live' at Thornton in July. The next step is to produce a simple guide to the computerised scoring procedure for more training in advance of next season, and Mike McCutcheon and Vic Kusin with their respective communication and IT skills have very kindly agreed to work on this over the winter for us.

Judges at events:

Equally important is the role of the judges at events. With a view to encouraging some friends of the sport to consider becoming part of what could be an invaluable resource of judges based in Scotland qualified to judge at Club events, Jane MacInnes ran a judging clinic also in April, attended by some ten volunteers. Jane had produced a programme for them to follow covering all aspects of a judge's work at driving trials, which they were to complete at different events as time permitted. Several of them undertook different parts of the judge's role during the rest of the season, and David Ivison succeeded in completing the programme entirely. The Directors wanted to congratulate him on this achievement and would have done so publicly at the conference. Jane's view is that it takes time for someone to train up to be a judge – a matter of a few years to gain the right experience, and while David has clearly succeeded in very quick time, she is confident that others will follow and hopes they will continue the programme next season.

BDS drivers at SCDA events:

It has been agreed to offer BDS drivers the opportunity to use the marathon course without the obstacles after the last SCDA Club competitor has gone through for what would in effect be a BDS drive-out round a marked course after the SCDA event has finished. This may attract some drivers into the sport, and will provide some extra revenue. It was agreed that, subject to agreement by the event organisers, the idea would be trialled in 2011 at Falkland and Thornton.

Leisure classes:

The chairman had encountered several SCDA members who were requesting a class for those drivers who, for one reason or another, are unable or reluctant to do the full marathon, but who would still like to participate in the other aspects of a club event – not by going round HC, but by having a modestly competitive class at which only a rosette (and no IB Horseboxes Scottish Points) would be at stake. It would mean a variety of different turnouts competing against each other in the one class – but it was felt that there is a demand for it amongst the membership, and that it might attract entries from others who do not normally compete at SCDA events. The idea was approved by the Directors and will be put to the event organisers at their meeting in January.

News of Winter Activities

Owen Pilling's horse Jed (his original single horse) has been doing some ridden dressage this Autumn.

Owen and Janet's event groom, Emma, rides him a lot at home and showed an interest in taking him to some local dressage competitions. Last spring she qualified him for the Scottish Farmer finals at Rowallan EC in Ayrshire where she was placed 6th—this encouraged her to try for the Scottish & Northern Equestrian series and she managed to qualify him at her first attempt with wins in both the Prelim and the Novice classes with exceptionally high percentages.

The Scottish & Northern Equestrian Championships were held at Oatridge (SNEC) in October and she was 2nd in the prelim with 68% and 9th in the Novice with 61% - a great achievement considering Jed is a marathon specialist all summer.

Emma plans to continue with the dressage training over the winter which will help the horse's balance and also improve his muscle development. They have all noticed quite a difference in his shape since he started working properly under saddle.

Jed appears to be enjoying his new pastime, he loves showing off and especially likes trotting down the centre line at the end—his face says it all.

Emma has also taken Zenno, Owen and Janet's new horse, to a local dressage competition and won a 3rd place in intro B. This was his first outing.

Janet also tells us that Mary McFarlane (Jock's wife) has been competing with Wonka in dressage to music gaining 81.11% at the Gordon Dressage Group on November 14th. Very impressive.

Others out on the dressage circuit are Susie Don with Henry and Michael Brown competing with his Haflingers. Morag Russell's Rosco has also been showing what he can do. Good luck to you all for the rest of the winter.

News of Other Members

Elinor Steven has a new Highland pony and will no doubt be eager to bring him out.

Andrew May's Friesians and omnibus saw rather a lot of Westminster Bridge recently during some promotional work.

Wee Gypsy, Janet Pilling's pony, has a rider now and a whole new world is opening up to him, more news on that next time, we hope

Lastly there is the good news that Zoë Sanders has a new pony Ted. He and Mars were put together at Andrew May's but on their return home training came to a halt because of December's bad weather. After the trauma of last year we look forward to seeing Zoë and Simon competing again.

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SCDA Information

Newsletters:- Adverts for the newsletters should be sent to the SCDA Secretary, Woodfield, Balmullo, St Andrews, Fife KY16 0AN

Private adverts cost £5 and business adverts cost £10.
Please make cheques payable to:
Scottish Carriage Driving.

All material for publication should be sent to:
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Helensburgh, G84 7TP, and will be used with discretion.