



# Scottish Carriage Driving Association

## Newsletter

April 2005

Hopefully everyone has managed to make a start with their fitness programmes for the new season. Don't forget that this kicks off earlier than usual this year with the first Scottish Points event taking place at Eglinton on 23-24<sup>th</sup> April. For anyone wanting an earlier run, there is the excellent grassroots event at Lunan the previous weekend.

Please find a questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter. It will be of great help if you could take the time to complete and return this to the Secretary. It can also be completed on-line if you prefer. Further details about the purpose of this are given under "rule changes".

If you have not already collected an Omnibus Schedule, you should have one enclosed with this newsletter. As someone found the "secret stash" behind the curtains at the A.G.M., I am unsure who all has an Omnibus. I have therefore assumed that everyone present at the A.G.M. took one, but if this is not the case and you have been missed out please let me know as soon as possible and I will forward one to you.

### Hopetoun 2005 – club class returns !

The organisers are planning another superb event for this venue in 2005 and are delighted to announce the continued support from Owen Pilling Graphics as the main sponsor. Owen intends to compete in the club class rather than relaxing in the sponsors' marquee this year !

In addition to the usual schedule for national events (which includes a qualifier for the World Horse Pairs Championships) there will be a club class and a class for drivers with disabilities, to build on the success of 2004.

The club class will be over the novice course which consists of a 3 section marathon. This is a wonderful opportunity to drive a full national event course. The dressage will be on the Friday evening or even the Saturday. The organising committee are prepared to be flexible to suit competitors, so contact Ian Gilbert if you have any particular requests.

Don't forget that you are also allowed one entry into a national event "on a ticket" from the BHDTA, so if you want to enter the novice driver classes, contact them for the appropriate entry form.

### SCP Events Scoring

A slight change has been introduced to the scoring system for the Scottish Points events. The number of scores that count towards your annual points total will now be **3 less than total number of events**. This is not expected to affect too many people but will hopefully allow keen competitors a little more freedom to try their hand at judging, course building or acting as an technical delegate.

### 100 Club

The 100 club was successfully launched at the AGM. The first draw will be at Hopetoun and there will be 4 draws each year. On the basis of a full subscription, there will be a prize pot of £125 per draw which will be split to enable more people to benefit. If you have not already obtained your winning ticket, contact Anne or Ian Gilbert to join in.

### Rule changes



There have been a large number of rule changes in our sport this year. and the BHDTA have published a new rule book for National competitors.

Those of you who were fortunate to be able to attend the A.G.M. will have benefited from Diana Brownlie's knowledge and experience as she highlighted the main changes and how they apply to Club events.

◆ Following the recent director's meeting it has been decided that the new requirement twice annual 'flu injection **will not** be compulsory this year at Scottish Points events. The enclosed questionnaire, which can also be completed on-line for those of you with the necessary technology, will be used to decide on the future implementation of this rule at Scottish Points Events.

◆ While the SCDA appreciates the need to avoid an obvious conflict of interest with judges etc., in line with the new rule book classification, this rule will not be enforced at club events, although event organisers will be asked to bear this in mind, as there are fewer available and suitably qualified personnel in Scotland.

◆ The SCDA does not intend to implement the rule where marathon times are only given for the start of Section A as it was felt that this would needlessly confuse. The method for allocating times will remain the same as usual for club events.

It is obviously in your own interests to be familiar with the new rules, and there is no substitute for actually reading the new publication, but I will list the more obvious ones that will affect club competitors this season.

- If a horse is deemed to be lame or unfit by the President of the Jury in Driven Dressage, the horse shall be disqualified and may not compete in any other competition.
- In the interests of safety, no person may be tied to the vehicle in any way during the competition. A Driver may be secured by rope, webbing or belt, provided one end is held by a Groom and is not wrapped or fastened to the vehicle in any way to prevent an immediate release if required.

- The Technical Delegate (TD) may stop a Competitor, if, in his or her opinion, the horse is unfit to continue the Competition. Associated penalties will be at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- All scores to be to two decimal places.
- Eliminated scores will not be increased by 25% - not necessary as Eliminated no longer included in the overall classification.
- Definition of cruelty now includes "damaged vehicle, which might cause injury to the horse" .
- Minimum vehicle track widths are now required for Driven Dressage as well as Obstacle Cones Driving.
- Brushing boots or bandages in Driven Dressage will now incur ten penalty points not elimination, but they must be removed on leaving the arena for the horse to be inspected.
- Driven Dressage Movements. All description of paces have been updated and include descriptions of working canter and shoulder in.
- Driven Dressage Errors of Course – Now elimination on the third error, not fourth.
- The vehicle must be carrying the correct number of people when passing through Compulsory Turning Flags. (ten penalties)
- Substitution of a Groom between the start and finish of Section E is not permitted under any circumstances and will incur elimination.
- The compulsory ten minute rest at the end of Section D is timed from entering the designated veterinary inspection area to leaving it.
- The location and number of compulsory turning flags (CTFs) must be marked on a map of the course to clearly indicate the correct order of driving the CTFs before and after each obstacle.
- Measured route through obstacles is now the "shortest, legal, driveable route". (That is the 2.5 metre route).
- Crossing the finish of E with missing or disconnected trace or pole straps now 10 penalties not elimination.
- You cannot stop for any reason in the last 500 metres of Section E. If repair is necessary after the last obstacle you can only stop "immediately outside the last obstacle" – Stopping anywhere else in the last 500 metres for whatever reason, will incur penalties.
- Grooms may handle reins without penalty provided the vehicle remains stationary.
- Competitor dismounting and putting both feet on the ground in an obstacle is now 20 penalties not 30.
- A competitor must stop immediately whenever a horse has its leg over a pole or lead bar, when the horse is down and remains down and when instructed to make necessary repairs by a member of the Ground Jury or the Obstacle Observer. Failure to stop and correct the situation before leaving the obstacle will incur elimination. The time shall continue to run.
- Electronic communication equipment may not be used while competitors on course. (old rule – you could not carry it on the vehicle).
- The total time taken by the Competitor in the Obstacles and any time over the Time Allowed in each of the Sections, to 1/100 second, will be added together and multiplied by 0.2. Any time under the Minimum Time in Sections A and E will be added together and multiplied by 0.1. There shall be no rounding of times. Penalties are calculated to two decimal places. The penalties for under Minimum Time, plus penalties for over Time Allowed and the total Obstacle times shall be added to any other driving penalties received to determine the final score for each Competitor in Competition B.
- Obstacle Cones Driving. Penalty three points per ball.

- Cones in a zig-zag can be on a line through the front of cones, the balls or the backs of cones. (Removal of BHDTA rule).
- Obstacle Cones Driving. Competitors starting and passing through an obstacle before the starting signal will be penalised ten penalty points and must restart.
- Obstacle Cones Driving. If the bell is sounded whilst the Competitor is on course he/she must stop immediately. If he/she does not stop, the bell will sound again and if he/she still does not stop, the competitor will be eliminated.
- In Obstacle Cones Driving the Groom may talk to the Competitor to tell him/her that the bell has been rung during their round.
- Obstacle Cones Driving. After three disobediences or dismounts a Competitor is eliminated instead of after four.
- Obstacle Cones Driving. A Groom may dismount to assist horses through an obstacle (e.g. water). The penalty shall be for dismounting and any other penalty incurred in the summary of penalties. The Groom must remount before the next obstacle.
- Obstacle Cones Driving. Revised speeds – BHDTA and SCDA have been using these in 2004 (at some events).

### Hopetoun work party

Don't forget to put Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April in your diaries - all the fun starts at 9.30 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch. Come in old clothes and bring buckets, brushes, protective clothing and gloves if you have them. If possible, phone Ian Gilbert on 01294 832461 and let him know in advance if you plan to come.

### Hopetoun – floral decor

Jacky Jeffrey has asked if people that grew plants last year would be willing to repeat this service. The floral displays around the arenas and sponsors' tents were fabulous and she would like to repeat this riot of colour. If anyone has pots or tubs of plants she will be delighted to hear from you (although not until Eglinton due to holiday commitments). Phone Jacky on 01505 850218.

### Clinic Dates

A number of dates have been arranged for Boyd Exell to return to Scotland. He is increasingly busy and we are fortunate that he is willing to come north of the border on three occasions this year. In between clinics in America, he is the official team trainer for the British Team at the World Combined Pony Championships which take place later this year at Catton, near Birmingham.

Do not let this deter you from booking a lesson! He is very approachable for all levels of competitor. Spectators are always welcome and you may well be invited onto a backstep if someone is short of a groom (an excellent way to benefit from Boyd's experience).

Contact Liz Melville on 01337 857124 for the Falkland dates and Carole Smith on 01555 892227 for the Lanark and West Newton dates.

Falkland	Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	May
Lanark	Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	May
West Newton	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	July
West Newton	Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	July
Lanark	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	August
Falkland	Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	August

## Venue required

At the recent directors' meeting it was unanimously agreed that an SCDA dance would run again next year (full report below). As 2005 was the inaugural event, we were experimenting with venues but alternative venues are being sought for 2006. I know it seems a long way off but we are appealing to members to come forward with suggestions for suitable premises as function suites are frequently booked years in advance.

Do you know of anywhere, ideally in the Stirling or Dunblane areas, which would be suitable? Glasgow and Edinburgh would also be potential venues as access via public transport is much easier (after all the A.G.M. was well supported at Oatridge!) If you can help please contact the Secretary, Mary Kusin.

## SCDA Dinner Dance

The first ever SCDA Annual Dinner Dance took place at the Stirling Highland Hotel and it proved both a memorable and a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Guests were seated at large round tables which proved excellent for good banter over dinner. The banter was so good that we were all very late in arriving at the ballroom. The dance band, although small in number, more than made up for it in fun and getting everyone to mix. One of the band members played the role of compère and led the dancing - you have never seen so many double left footed people in a room at one time. This explains why grooms have so much trouble with their drivers as they don't know their left from their right. It was just as well it was all taken in good spirits, and laughter, rather than alcohol, oiled the entertainment.

The event was not over subscribed and the little bit of extra room on the dance floor was appreciated by the dancers. Unfortunately the people who were unable to attend missed a wonderful time and one that will stay with us for some time. Roll on next year's dance.

*Mike Brown*

## SCDA AGM

Business started mid morning on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2005 with coffee & biscuits while a continuous slide show of the previous year's activities kept everyone entertained as members gathered.

Diana Brownlie then led a large audience through the intricacies of the new No. 8 dressage test, which the horse classes will be using at National events from the start of the 2005 season. Despite Vic Kusin having to leave the technology in inexperienced hands, the videos played on command and the PowerPoint presentation of the dressage arena appeared when required. Even if you are not planning to drive this test yourself, much of Diana's advice could be applied elsewhere.

At 2pm we conducted the formal business of the A.G.M. Andrew Smith, Anneke Wallace, Ewan MacInnes and Hew Blair-Imrie were re-elected and Audrey Barron's appointment to the Board of Directors was confirmed by the meeting. The Chairman, Andrew Smith, thanked the members and directors for their vote of confidence in asking him to continue in his present role and confirmed that he was happy to do this.

After much research, a decision has been taken to purchase the Lienart scoring programme for SCDA events to use. Vic Kusin and Zoe Ross are very willing to initiate volunteers into the advantages and techniques of computerised scoring.

Diana then highlighted the major rule changes for members and these have been listed earlier in this newsletter.

There will be a new fun event at Seacliff this year on 25/26<sup>th</sup> June. It is wonderful to be able to return to this fabulous venue. Details are in the Omnibus.

There was a good turnout of members at the A.G.M. and those present, or with friends there, were able to obtain the SCDA Omnibus Schedule of events ahead of the rush, always a good reason to attend the A.G.M.

## SCDA TDs and Event Organisers' Clinic

Ian Bertram was the organiser of an excellent clinic, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at the start of the driving season, aimed at Event Organisers and Technical Delegates. With Diana Brownlie as the invited speaker, the clinic was attended by 22 people, including the SCDA Chairman and several members of the Board of Directors. Virtually every Scottish Points event was represented. The setting was the Blackford Hotel, which provided first-class facilities as well as an excellent lunch menu.

With her vast experience as International judge, Diana went through every aspect of running of an event, with particular emphasis on the needs and requirements of Club Events. "Informal discussion" was the theme of the day and everyone present was encouraged to make comments or ask questions as and when they felt necessary, which resulted in a very lively and productive exchange of ideas.

After outlining the roles of the Technical Delegate, President of Ground Jury and Judge, Diana discussed the new Rule Book and how the resulting rule changes should be applied to Club Events. Everyone present became involved in the discussion and many ambiguities or uncertainties were cleared up as well as new ideas put forward.

All in all, this was an extremely successful and productive day and the SCDA would like to thank Diana, Ian Bertram and all who attended. There is no doubt that we will reap the benefits of this clinic throughout the forthcoming driving season.

*Vic Kusin*

## Trophies for 2005

The "**Buddy Trophy**" is awarded at the discretion of the SCDA Board of Directors to the person that they feel has done the most during the season to help newcomers.

The "**Fun and Friendship Trophy**", produced by the Rome family in Viv's memory, has been named to reflect Viv's contribution to the sport over the years. This trophy will be awarded annually and preferably to a different person each year. Members will be asked for nominations and the final decision will be made by the SCDA office bearers. It is intended to present this trophy for the first time at the conference in 2005.

The "**Archie Donald Memorial Trophy**", presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors, is awarded to someone, generally not a competitor, who has made an influential contribution to the sport in Scotland.

The "**Graham Murray Memorial Trophy**", is awarded to the best Scottish competitor from the combined Scottish National events in a class nominated by the Directors. This year the class chosen is the Single Horse.

The "**Mr. Blobby Trophy**", in memory of Jack and Maureen Clyne's much loved pony, is awarded to the highest placed Scottish National Novice horse or pony at Hopetoun.

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## SCDA information

### How to benefit the SCDA

The SCDA still benefits from a substantial rebate from the BHDTA if any new BHDTA members join on a special form through our club. Please contact Mary Kusin for a form if you intend joining the BHDTA for the first time, or if you know of anyone who may be going to join.

### Publicity

Any material or photographs you would like to see in print should be sent to the publicity officer, Wilson Weir, South Woodend North, Annanbank, Johnstonebridge, DG11 2RT. Telephone: 07818 618118 or e-mail [publicity@scda.co.uk](mailto:publicity@scda.co.uk)

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.scda.co.uk)

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