



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

March 2004

With the clocks going forward, the nights are getting lighter it is suddenly much easier to find time to get out driving. Thoughts are turning towards the new season and if you did not collect a copy of the Scottish Omnibus Schedule at the A.G.M., it will be enclosed with this newsletter. As part of our fund raising effort for Hopetoun, we ask everyone to sell as many raffle tickets as possible - more details follow.

BHDTA Council Elections

This year Scotland has an excellent opportunity to have two representatives on the BHDTA council. Ian Gilbert and Amanda Saville have both agreed to stand for election. If you are a member of the BHDTA, please make sure you vote for Ian and Amanda, and get Scotland's voice strengthened at national level.

Hopetoun 2004

Hopetoun Horse Driving Trials and

World Championships for Drivers with Disabilities
27-30th May 2004

Hopetoun website at www.hopetoundriving.co.uk

We are delighted to announce that **Conifox Nurseries** has joined with SCDA as major sponsors of the World Championships for Drivers with Disabilities. With **Owen Pilling Graphics** increased support as our major sponsors of the Hopetoun National Driving Trials, the challenge now facing us is to put on a first class spectacle.

Fundraising efforts must continue up to the event itself (the Hopetoun Raffle Tickets are now on sale) but it would be wrong not to acknowledge the ingenious fundraising ideas (listed below, or check the SCDA website for the latest news), generosity and sheer hard work done by all of our members in getting us to this point. Thank you all.

Our thanks also go to all of our sponsors; without you there would be no event.

Volunteer help for obstacle and course maintenance and offers of practical and material support are now needed and can be offered by contacting Ian Gilbert (01294 832461) and/or Anneke Wallace (019755 81266).

The message we want to spread far and wide is that this is **ONE EVENT** with all our socials, parties and entertainments open to all, whether National or International competitors, stewards, helpers or officials. We have a fabulous venue, excellent course and a warm welcome waiting for everyone. Come and join us.

Andrew Smith, SCDA Chairman

Hopetoun work party

On Sunday 25th April there will be a work party at Hopetoun. Once again, Ian Gilbert has requested assistance to repaint the obstacles (and he assures me that there will be NO need to lift any stones this year, so it's perfectly safe to come!). If you are willing to lend a hand please phone him in advance so that he has some idea of the numbers that will be coming - 01294 832461

If you can bring buckets, rollers, large brushes and protective gloves, this would be even better. If not Ian has some for loan so you cannot get out of it that way! The work will start at 10.30am, so bring a picnic and enjoy the day out.

Help will also be needed to paint arena boards and posts etc nearer the time of the event, once everything has been set up. If you are free either Saturday 22nd May or Sunday 23rd May and are willing to spare a few hours, please contact Ian.

SCDA Omnibus Schedule 2004

Please find a copy of the 2004 Omnibus Schedule enclosed which gives details of events for the season and we would like to thank Hew and Karen Blair-Imrie for their hard work putting this publication together and to Owen Pilling of Owen Pilling Graphics for providing the covers.

Please also note that this year the Scotia Cup will NOT be attracting prize money. There will be a very attractive trophy but sadly no cash. Make an effort to enter both events though as there is a great deal of prestige at stake.

Team "buddy" Trophy

The "buddy" trophy format has changed with effect from the start of this season. As there have not been a huge number of newcomers rushing to avail themselves of the help of the more experienced drivers, the SCDA Board of Directors will use their discretion and award the trophy to the person that they feel has done the most during the season to help and encourage newcomers to carriage driving.

National Event Awards

There are two trophies awarded annually by the SCDA at the Scottish National events in memory of well respected members of Scottish carriage driving.

For 2004, the Archie Donald memorial trophy will be presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

The Graham Murray trophy will be awarded to the best single pony from the combined events.

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

Hopetoun Fundraising Activities

RAFFLE

The SCDA is holding a raffle to help raise funds for Hopetoun. The prizes are many and varied but some of the "biggies" are a week's cruise for two people with P&O, £250 cash, 2 nine hole rounds of golf at Wentworth, tickets for Guards polo at Smith's Lawn and various others.

All members have been sent five books of raffle tickets to sell and money and ticket stubs should be returned by 14th May to: Ann Gilbert, Kersland Farm, Dalry, Ayrshire, KA24 4JA, (tel 01294 832461). Any remaining tickets to be returned by Monday 24th May to: Andrew Smith, 105 Cadzow Street, Hamilton, ML3 6HJ.

Please make an effort to sell the tickets and contact Ann if you require further supplies - she will be delighted to hear from you.

Other Events

A number of members have been organising events and activities to raise money for Hopetoun which is fabulous and very much appreciated by our treasurer George Jeffrey who has turned grey with worry over the financial situation! We can publicise events for you on the website and there are more events planned. Coming up soon are:

POST-EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA!!

Car Treasure Hunt and Barn BBQ at Low Walton Farm, Newton Mearns, Glasgow. Sunday 18th April - start time from 3pm. Entries £5 per head including supper. Come one and all, and all your friends, lovers, parents, cousins, grannies, grandpas, aunts & uncles as well! Prizes galore! Would prefer if you can let me know in advance, but last-minute participants definitely welcome! Phone Sheila 0141 639 7510 or email sheila@low-walton.fsnet.co.uk

HEAVY HORSE OPEN DAY

at Strathorn Farm Stables
Pitcaple, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

Sunday 25 April 2004 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Attractions include:

- Clydesdale demonstrations
- Preparing for showing
- Driving and riding
- Strathorn drill team
- RDA riding & driving

Admission £5 per family/car and refreshments will be available.

In aid of IPEC World Championships For Drivers With Disabilities and Children's Hospice Association, Scotland.

For further details contact George and Ruth Skinner, Strathorn Farm Stables, Pitcaple, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 5EJ or Tel 01464 851204 or visit www.strathornfarm.co.uk

WATCH AUCTION

For the full range of photos log on to www.scdaco.uk. Vivien says "Now then all you good people, I have a bit of a "Del Boy" special here for you!! I am prepared to donate all the money from the sale of these watches towards the funds needed for Hopetoun 2004 but to do this, I need your help and generosity. So come on you lot, I am making you an offer you can't refuse!!

You will end up with a very nice watch and know that all the money you have paid, plus the cost to me, is going to a really good cause. Please help to make Hopetoun 2004 one to remember.

Just ring or email me with your offer for the watch you would like to own (Your offer has to be over £25 - yes I know £25.25 is over the required amount but come on, lets think generous eh!) Good luck and hope you get the one you want. Don't delay BID TODAY !" Tel: 017684 84144

'THE 3 TRAINERS'

SCOTTISH EQUI CENTRE - LANARK

Date to be confirmed - Start time 7 pm

By kind permission of Mrs. Maureen Taylor

Mary Bryson - an overview of the equine athlete

Andrew May LHHI - lunging and longreining - schooling from the ground

Amanda Saville - how to use the arena - setting up for cones - obstacle driving - beating the clock.

ADMISSION: £ 5 Min ticket, children under 14 yrs £2.50

Refreshments Available .

Lucky Raffle on Admission Ticket.

Please check the SCDA website for confirmation of date. or contact Mary Bryson on 01555 662817.

BDS FIELD EVENT AT ROBIESLAND, LANARK

10th April – A Practice Day for dressage, cones and obstacles, 11th April – a One Day Field Event consisting of a dressage test of your choice and 4 obstacles. Only the obstacles will be timed with the field distance approx. 4k. Cones on time allowed, with window.

This is a non -competitive event with exercise carts permitted. There will be overnight parking available with some paddocks or stabling and some sleeping bag space. The Saturday evening supper is being kindly provided by Ronnie and Janette Thorpe. A 2 day entry costs £20.00 and 1 day £15.

For further details contact Mary Bryson on 01555 662817.

National Events in 2004

The BHDTA has a system in place to enable non-members to attempt one National event without being a BHDTA member. Special entry forms can be obtained from the BHDTA office.

There will again be two Scottish National Events this year. The first, as mentioned earlier, is at Hopetoun House on 27th-30th May, then Castle Kennedy on 27th-29th August.

For those competing at Hopetoun and Castle Kennedy there is the added incentive of the Scotia Cup which will be awarded to the highest placed competitor at both events.

SCDA A.G.M. 2004

Guest speakers: George Bowman & Tommy Fawcett

This, as expected, was a most entertaining event and well attended by members. George and Tommy have a vast store of amusing and hair-raising tales which kept the audience thoroughly amused and we are very grateful to both of them for taking the time to come up to Scotland (Tommy considers himself to be virtually Scottish anyway).

The Chairman was delighted to welcome Tommy Fawcett and Gladys Dale as Honorary members of SCDA. They join a small but esteemed band including Jim Corbett, George Bowman, Sydney Smith and Martin Johnston.

AGM

The main business of the day took place after lunch. The office bearers will continue to work on behalf of the members and George Jeffrey, Ian Gilbert and John Nisbet were all re-elected and Audrey Barron has been co-opted to the Board of Directors.

Presentations

A number of presentations were made. The Graham Murray trophy was awarded to Barbara Patterson as the best Scottish competitor at Hopetoun and Castle Kennedy in the pony pairs class, the Archie Donald trophy was presented to Gladys Dale in recognition of her immense contribution to carriage driving and a plaque was presented to Juliet Oswald as she was retiring as a director to thank her for all the work she has done on behalf of the members.

New ideas

The idea of the SCDA having a dance in conjunction with the AGM was suggested and this found favour with the members present. It is hoped to try and organise this for 2005 around the Stirling area.

Financial report

The treasurer George Jeffrey reported a healthier financial situation. This had been helped by good weather at Hopetoun last year and by various cost cutting measures implemented when the entry numbers were not as high as expected.

Rule changes

Anneke Wallace kept members up to date with rule changes. The most important ones are as follows:

- the introduction of a 3 minute window to finish section E (which the members agreed should be put into practice at club events)
- if a team has an incident which requires grooms to get down, they will only be penalised once per incident, not per person
- retaining straps used to hold the driver in the vehicle must not be wrapped more than once, as it must be able to come loose easily if required
- if a competitor exceeds the time limit in an obstacle they are eliminated and must leave the course
- from 2005, scoring will be done according to the FEI rules with the total time for the obstacles added together and then converted into penalties

Hopetoun

The Hopetoun committee gave a report of the progress so far. More advertisers are required for the programme as a matter of urgency but everyone had been pulling together and the response from sponsors so far has been very encouraging.

Teams from Holland, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Ireland, Austria and America were confirmed with entries from France and Germany still expected.

It was noted that often the National press will pick up on stories in local papers. If anyone can find an interesting snippet of information, for example a Scottish competitor aiming for selection to the team, this can be passed on to the press department which is an outside agency based in Edinburgh. They will then feed it on to an appropriate publication to generate maximum exposure.

Insurance

The Chairman mentioned that he has been in touch with the BHDTA office and grooms need to be members if they are to benefit from the insurance. The SCDA now offer a general grooms' membership to assist competitors who have itinerant helpers. The name of the groom would have to be notified to the organiser prior to the event and work is in progress to establish that this can be done.

Scottish Points Event Planner

At the event organisers' meeting in November the trend for very late entries to events was highlighted. This causes organisers a great deal of worry about whether or not to cancel their event or gamble that enough people will enter at the last minute.

In an effort to resolve this problem it was suggested that competitors could fill in a planner which would indicate levels of interest to organisers. This is **not** a commitment, just a guide regarding likely numbers of competitors.

The form is available on-line on the SCDA website www.scda.co.uk and a number of people have already completed it in this way. If you do not have internet access there is a form at the end of this newsletter which should be returned to the secretary. Thanks for helping with this new venture.

International Competition for Young Drivers

We have been invited to send a team of young drivers to an international driving competition in France this summer. Sadly this venture has not been able to go ahead on this occasion, but will be reconsidered in 2005. There will be a National competition for young drivers in 2004 and details will follow in due course.



Course Builders' Conference

A Prince among men (and Audrey and Catriona)

International course builder, George Prince came to Oatridge College, Broxburn on Saturday 20th March to share his expertise with an enthusiastic audience of club course builders. This is the second time George has been in Scotland at the invitation of SCDA and his practical approach based on his long years of experience rooted at club events and now employed nationally and internationally renders his advice invaluable.

Having established what materials we had readily available for our club event obstacles, George covered in some detail the ways in which they could best be employed to create safe but challenging examinations of horse and driver. The importance of at least sketching out the ideas you might have before arriving on site to build, with the resultant benefits of saving of time, ensuring a balanced end product and a good mix of open and technical obstacles was stressed.

George shared with the group his preferred methods of using post and rail, barrels, large round and large square bales and potato boxes as well as different techniques for dressing and even lettering club obstacles.

After lunch there was an opportunity for attendees to design and build table top obstacles using George's "modelling kit" and to view his use of a simple and readily available computer programme in obstacle design. There was just time for a discussion on cones course design and an insight into some new developments re speeds which will filter down from the National Events scene, before the end of the day.

Our thanks to George and to Ian Gilbert for organising the clinic.

Andrew Smith

SCDA Training Clinics

An Easter clinic has been organised to start the season. These are good fun as well as being educational and everyone is welcome to attend. Please feel free to come and spectate even if you do not wish to drive. This can be very helpful and informative too. Boyd Exell has been booked for the following dates:

Lanarkshire 6th & 7th April

To book, contact Carole Smith on 01555 892227

Fife 8th April

To book, contact Liz Melville on 01337 857124

A Day Out at Blair Horse Trials?

Volunteers are required to man the SEA (Scottish Equestrian Association) stand at Blair from 26th - 29th August. If you would be willing to help on any of these days please contact:

Muriel Colquhoun MBE

Grange Cottage, Station Road, Langbank,
Renfrewshire, PA14 6YB. Email: patsypup@aol.com
Tel 01475 540687 Mobile 07836740557

Training and Assessment Days

A number of venues have been organised to be accessible from every area in Scotland. Please note the **change of date** for the Craighead day (congratulations to Eileen on qualifying for the indoor finals) !

The idea of these days is to provide an opportunity for newcomers and anyone else who is interested to learn a bit more about carriage driving. This will also give an opportunity to fulfil the basic criteria specified by the SCDA in the Omnibus, for entry into a grass roots or Scottish Points event. In addition, there will be experienced help on hand to explain the competition format and some of the more confusing rules.

You will be welcome to attend even if you do not have a turnout. If you feel that this opportunity would suit you or your horse/pony or if you know of anyone else who might be interested even if they are not an SCDA member, please contact the relevant organiser.

Saturday 10th April, Kersland Farm, Dalry. Phone Ian Gilbert 01294 832461.

Sunday 11th April, Chariots of Fire Driving Centre, Lockerbie. Phone Amanda Saville 01576 610248.

Saturday 17th April, Lunan Farm, Arbroath. Phone Hew Blair-Imrie 01241 830374.

Saturday 17th April, Craighead Farm, Fauldhouse. Phone Eileen Cornish 01501 771679.

Young Drivers' Clinics

The BHDTA will be holding two "Young Drivers' Training Clinics" this year. The clinics are open to all Young Drivers/Junior Whips, whether or not they are members of the BHDTA, BDS or Affiliated Clubs. Students do not even have to have their own turnouts because the 'Buddy' system has proved very successful with turnouts being shared.

These training sessions are affordable to all due to the very generous sponsorship of the BHDTA, 'Baileys Horse Feeds' and 'The Worshipful Company of Saddlers'.

The clinics suit all standards of drivers - from beginners through to seasoned competitors, with ages from 8-18 yrs. Georgina Frith, Karen Bassett and Anna Grayston are instructing and other top trainers have offered assistance if numbers require them.

The dates and venues are:

Spring Clinic: 'Unicorn Trust', Stow-On-The-Wold, Gloucs - arrive on Wednesday 7th April in the afternoon and depart on the afternoon of Friday 9th April.

Summer Clinic: 'Forest Farm', Milford-On-Sea, Hants. The arrival and departure dates and times are flexible: Tuesday 17th August (Training), Wednesday 18th August (Training), Thursday 19th August (Competition).

For detailed Information contact either:

Sydney Smith, Unicorn Trust, Netherwell, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucs, GL54 1JZ. Tel - 01451 832317, Fax - 01451 832126 or e-mail sydney.smith@dialin.net

or

Pippa Jarman, Forest Farm, Barnes Lane, Milford-on-Sea, Hants, SO41 ORR. Tel/Fax - 01590 644365 or e-mail driving@ffarm.fsnet.co.uk

Indoor Driving

The Indoor driving season is well underway ,with two highly successful events at Muirmill and Dabbs already held and only the Scottish finals still to come at Muirmill. Unfortunately Sessnie had to be cancelled due to date clashes.

Junior driver Ollie Dernie and her trainer Amanda Saville have shared the champion and reserve honours at both events and will again be fighting for top honours at Muirmill. They have headed a list of entries of 35 at each event , although at Dabbs some of our northern competitors had to cancel due to snow making their journey down impossible. This however did not dampen the enthusiasm of those present, and with a healthy mixture of new and well kent faces we have had good competition in all classes at both events.

With John and Pat White being whisked off for a surprise family holiday, David Brown and team stepped in and did a fantastic job deputising at Dabbs, with the usual efficiency we expect from the team, while John Nisbet and team produced an event to the usual high standards at Muirmill.

With the events being qualifiers for the national(UK) finals at Keysoe, we still have several close battles to head the qualifying lists. Only Amanda in the multiples and Ollie as top junior are currently assured of their places.

It is hoped next season to announce some possible new venues, bringing this fast growing and exciting version of the sport to a wider audience, and giving greater opportunities to drivers throughout Scotland the chance to take part with less travelling.

Wilson Weir

CURRENT STANDINGS

NOVICE PONY

- 1 Alice Spence 42
- 2 Hazel Carruthers 40

OPEN PONY

- 1 Audrey Barron 48
- 2 Ollie Dernie 46

MULTIPLES

- 1 Amanda Saville 50
- 2 Diana Ferguson 36

OPEN HORSE

- 1 Eileen Cornish 31
- 2 Ian Bertram 20

NOVICE HORSE

- 1 David Hewat 36
- 2 Peter Falconer 29

JUNIOR

- 1 Ollie Dernie 48
- 2 Hazel Carruthers 34

ANDREW MAY LHHI

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 or answerphone 01968 682366

By appointment please

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, 6 Gowanbank Gardens, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8SR, Tel: 01505 325129 or e-mail 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. 01560 482375, 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

SCDA Contacts

Secretary 01560 482375	Mary Kusin secretary@scda.co.uk
Chairman 01555 892227	Andrew Smith 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
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Audrey Barron	01241 872579
Ian Bertram	01506 811626
Ian Gilbert	01294 832461
Ewan MacInnes	01224 732310
Catriona Murray	01387 381217
John Nisbet	01294 832009
Hew Blair-Imrie	01241 830374
Amanda Saville	01576 610248
Anneke Wallace	01975 581266

Scottish Carriage Driving Association

SCOTTISH POINTS LEAGUE 2004 EVENT PLANNER

To give event organisers an indication of competitor numbers, please fill this form.

YOU CAN ALSO FILL IN THIS FORM ON-LINE
Go to www.scda.co.uk and click on Event Planner

Filling in this form **does not** commit you to competing,
but will be helpful for planning purposes.

The best method of being as helpful as possible is to
SEND YOUR EVENT ENTRY FORMS IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
Entry fee cheques post-dated with the date of the event will be accepted.

Competitor's name:

Please tick one box for each event:

DATE	EVENT	YES I intend to compete	? I have not decided	NO I do not intend to compete
1-2 MAY	Eglinton, Ayrshire			
8-9 MAY	Dalmeny, Lothian			
5-6 JUNE	Racks, Dumfries			
12-13 JUNE	Falkland, Fife			
19-20 JUNE	Dalswinton, Dumfries			
17-18 JULY	Barskimming, Ayrshire			
31 JULY-1 AUG	St Fort, Tayside			
4-5 SEP	Blair, Ayrshire			
18-19 SEP	Brideswell, Aberdeenshire			
25-26 SEP	West Newton, Arbroath			

Please return this form as soon as possible to:
SCDA secretary, East Overhill Farm, Stewarton, Ayrshire KA3 5JT