



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

November 2004

What a huge amount of work went into running the event at Hopetoun this year. It was a truly World Championship standard event and we have received a large number of accolades from the visiting teams. SCDA members and friends put in an enormous amount of time and effort as work parties (sorry about the stones at Hopetoun - I had been assured that there would be none this year!), selling raffle tickets, with the organisation of the event and stewarding on marathon day. Many thanks to one and all.

SCDA Dinner Dance

Next year, in conjunction with the A.G.M., the SCDA is holding its first ever Dinner Dance at the Stirling Highland Hotel on Saturday 19th February 2005.

THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE PROMISED ON THE NIGHT!

Don't hear about it from someone else – make sure you are there to enjoy the fun and dance the night away to an excellent ceilidh band who will provide instruction in some of the more unusual dances so everyone can join in.



Rooms have been reserved for members attending the function. The hotel boasts a leisure centre so make a weekend of it. The **A.G.M.** will take place on the Saturday afternoon

as usual, from 2pm to 4pm, with a guest speaker. This leaves plenty of time to get prepared for the evening's festivities. Make this first dance one to remember by being there. Bookings should be sent to the secretary, Mary Kusun, and accompanied by the booking form at the end of this newsletter with payment. Tickets cost a very modest £27 per person, excellent value as I am sure you will agree.



SCDA Conference

This takes place in the Huntingtower Hotel, Perth on Sunday 28th November. Complimentary coffee will be served at 10.30 and the conference will begin at 11am. Rosettes and trophies from the Scottish Points League will be presented.

As usual there will be a number of items to be discussed so don't miss out, make sure you're there! If anyone has any points they wish raised at the Conference, advance notice can be given by contacting the secretary Mary Kusun or by using the response facility on the web-site.

To find the Huntingtower Hotel exit the A9 onto the A85, signposted "Crieff and Crianlarich" (between the Broxden roundabout and the Caithness Glass factory). Heading for Crieff, go straight through the traffic lights and through the small village of West Huntingtower. As you reach the end of the village turn right, signposted "Huntingtower Hotel" – it is half a mile down this road.

SCDA AGM

This takes place on the usual weekend in the middle of February and falls next year on Saturday 19th Feb 2005. There will be a talk on an interesting and carriage driving related topic in the morning (more details in the next newsletter) and the official business will be conducted after lunch. Remember that this will take place in a new venue this year, the Stirling Highland Hotel, as it precedes the SCDA dinner dance. Lunch will be available in the hotel.

Think you could be a judge?

The SCDA is organising a number of clinics aimed at encouraging interested parties and experienced competitors to take one step further and consider judging or officiating as a technical advisor. Separate clinics will be available. It is proposed to have a list of competent people that can be called on by event organisers if required. This will create a more varied pool of judges and enable more people to experience life on the other side of the fence. The clinics will be organised for the spring.

Can you help newcomers?

A need has been identified for a wider variety of opportunities to enable newcomers to be assessed for basic competence, a necessary step before they are eligible to compete at a grass roots or Scottish points event. It is intended that there should be a list in the Omnibus of experienced drivers who could assess newcomers. You do not need any formal qualifications for this and attendance at a training day or a BDS level 1 certificate will still be acceptable methods of proving competence. Please register interest with Mary Kusun as soon as possible for inclusion in the 2005 Omnibus.

BHDTA Conference

This year Scotland has two representatives on the BHDTA council in Ian Gilbert and Amanda Saville. The annual conference took place in the Hilton hotel, Coventry (off junction 2 of the M6, at the end of the toll for those that use it) and, the bizarre service apart, had good facilities and a good location.

The Scottish representation was the largest for some years and a good time was had by all. The Saturday saw a plethora of meetings including that of the affiliated clubs. In common with all the clubs we reported on our activities, membership, web-site and social gatherings. The meeting covered child welfare issues, club benefit schemes and Limited liability insurance questions as well as the club qualifiers for the Junior Championships.

After lunch the members conference got under way. Anneke Wallace received the Chairman's Award, and Anneke, who only realised she was the recipient half way through Tom Pettifer's introduction, was sitting at the back of the audience and had to walk the full length of the room to collect it. A fully deserved recognition of all the hard work Anneke does for driving in the UK. There was a well received explanation of the ongoing increases in the BHDTA insurance premiums from the treasurer, Derrick Mayes. The BHDTA membership rates are to increase dramatically to cope (£125 for a full membership) but it was clear that the insurance offered to individual members is really good value and impossible to replicate for anything like the costs the BHDTA has negotiated. There was an announcement of a modest increase in the clubs affiliation fee.

There was a detailed explanation of the more important of over 200 rule changes being brought in by the FEI and adopted by BHDTA; perhaps the most significant is the reduction to 3 from 5 for the penalty for knocking down a cone. SCDA will follow this at its events in 2005. A thorough look at the other rule changes will take place at our own conference.

There will be a new rule book available in February in a new smaller, pocket sized format.

Tom Pettifer announced that he is to stand down as Chairman at the AGM.

The evening saw an excellent meal, preceded by the Selkirk Grace, delivered by SCDA Chairman Andrew Smith (with a little help from Ian Gilbert) followed by the presentation of National League prizes and much dancing.

On Sunday the Hopetoun team attended the National event organisers clinic, heading home after lunch.

A worthwhile trip and a good advert for driving in Scotland with such a good number of our members attending.

SCDA Chairman, Andrew Smith

Buddy Trophy

The "buddy" trophy format was changed with effect from the start of this season. It was decided that the SCDA Board of Directors would use their discretion and award the trophy to the person that they felt has done the most during the season to help newcomers. The award this year goes to Ruth Skinner for the help and encouragement she has given so many newcomers to the sport of carriage driving through her event at Lourin Fair.

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, presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors, will be awarded to Jacky and George Jeffrey in recognition of their immense contribution to the Hopetoun Event this year.

The Graham Murray trophy is awarded to the best single pony from the combined Scottish National events. It has been won this year by Janet Pilling who achieved a 3rd place in the novice class at Hopetoun and won her class at Castle Kennedy.

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 and goes this year to Sue Hendry for winning the horse division.

Hopetoun 2004

THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP

If there was ever an event where volunteers made the day it must have been Hopetoun 2004. Where do you find a World Championship where a whole community of carriage drivers and enthusiasts is mobilised to make it happen? In Scotland of course.

I carry the title of Organiser but of course everyone knows that this job was divided up between a committee of many people who each took part of this organisation on themselves. I have been humbled by the amount of time, help, donations and sponsorship which have been received. In addition there was the loan of equipment, cars, horses, carriages, flowers, specialist expertise and marquees, while many expenses were waived by officials. The general support all round, which was given to the Hopetoun event in the course of running the IPEC World Carriage Driving Championships alongside the National event, will remain unsurpassed for many years to come.

It took a full 12 months to get it together from sowing the idea, through putting in the bid, to the final hectic week of the event itself. And what an event it was!

The presentation was fantastic, the arena looked superb and was heard to be called "one of the best in Britain". The course looked great and drove very well and the ceremonies made it a real World Championship. All this is due to the hard work of my

large team, an army of volunteers and the generosity of many people and companies.

Countless people, both from the overseas guests and the National side, commented on the friendly atmosphere on the field and I hope we can maintain that at future Hopetoun events. There have been full reports covering the event itself in the equestrian magazines and I just want to add that I hope our National competitors enjoyed their competition and being part of this rather special event. I also hope that we have helped show that competitions for disabled drivers can be successfully integrated at National events.

I vowed I would not put names in this piece as I would not know where to stop without leaving someone out. We wrote a huge number of thank you letters but I am aware that we may well inadvertently have missed people out. Therefore, as organiser, I would like to thank everyone who helped us put on Hopetoun 2004 from the bottom of my heart once again.

Anneke Wallace

Lunan Event

Even steady rain and freezing wind could not dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors at Lunan Novice Event on Sunday, April 18th. Everyone was so glad to be out and about once more as the season began.

The dressage, judged by Jane MacInnes, had a most surprising result, with the overall Dressage Champion coming from the Newcomers class. Driving Hew's Welsh Sec. C pony, Kinver Puffin, Haylie Lawson notched up the best score of 41 over Liz Melville on 43.

Hew's cones course, which looked deceptively simple, proved to be a real challenge for almost everyone. There were only two double clears, with the overall Cones Championship going to Susan Gardner. Her very fast time (indeed, this was the fastest time of the day!) of 1 min 12 seconds beat Katie Doig's time by an amazing 12 seconds.

As the format had proved popular last year, we ran the marathon in 2 phases. Four obstacles were driven twice, with about an hour in between each attempt, so that drivers could revise their first plan, or try for a faster speed. Only the best score from each obstacle then counted for the overall score.

Even given the forgiving nature of this plan, some people still decided to eliminate themselves. Last year's winner, David Brown, managed to drive E backwards twice in Obstacle 1, thereby dashing any hopes of repeating his success. Alistair Ballantyne had a similar disaster in Obstacle 4. Ruth Skinner, Susan Gardner, Alistair Ballantyne, Suzanne Beattie, and Michael Walsh all drove 'creative' routes through Obstacle 1, but luckily got it right on another attempt.

Liz Melville, who had entered a pair but then drove only one pony due to the other's last-minute slight injury, went home after the first round of hazards, and must have been very surprised when she later heard that she was our Overall Champion, pipping Audrey Barron for the title by just 2.4 points. A very worthy result, given that Liz had only one pop at the hazards!

Karen Blair-Imrie

Lunan Training Day

We held our training day here at Lunan on Saturday, April 17th. Five people came for instruction in "How to Begin Eventing". Two people came all the way from Glasgow to pass their certificates of competence tests, using Hew's Welsh Sec. C pony, Kinver Puffin.

The weather held, and £50 was raised for Hopetoun! Well done to all who took part - Heather Reid, Katie Doig, and Andy Stewart, as well as the two men from Glasgow, whose certificates will be mailed to us for posting on this website. I'll give you an update when they send their names.

Karen Blair-Imrie

Interclub Championship

For the second time in recently, a team representing SCDA has emerged victorious. At the Northern Area inter-clubs' championship, held at George Bowman IV's Edensbrow base, members of SCDA returned not only with the team championships but also many of the individual spoils. With the best score from each club counting per class and then an average score worked out SCDA were clear winners from North east and North west in the minor placings.

Heavy overnight rain on Friday, continuing through Saturday morning, meant that the dressage arenas got heavier throughout the day, while obstacle 2 and some distance were removed from the marathon.

Representing SCDA in the beginners' class Susan Don finished a respectable fourth, despite a slip in the Gambia trust obstacle which caused the groom to fall off the backstep. This class was won by Judith Hunt representing the amalgamated team of Dumfries and Galloway and South west Scotland.

The novice pony class resulted in a 1-2-3 for competitors from this side of the border. The irrepressible Sandy Couper, driving his own Duchess, came from third after dressage to win following an excellent marathon. He overtook Elinor Steven and Murdoch of Craighdu, winners of the dressage and one of only three double clear rounds in this class's cones. In an excellent third place was Aileen Neilson, from Strathaven, who represented Great Britain at this year's world championship for drivers with disabilities. Aileen drove consistently all weekend with her new pony Evan. In the novice horse class Lynsey Brown continues to improve with her Dutch crossbred horse Otto and a steady marathon meant an improvement from 5th to overall 3rd place.

The open pony class was to herald another success for SCDA with Audrey Barron driving her homebred highland gelding Kincardine Diarmid to an excellent win, with Joyce Simpson and Carol Smith in 4th and 5th respectively. Catriona Murray led after dressage but was eliminated in obstacle 4 to finish 7th, whilst Zan Kirk retired after dressage due to the heavy ground.

The open horse class was one of the most exciting of the weekend. With the advantage of an early start time, Cherry Gaynor took an 8.5 point lead which was to prove too great for the chasing Scots to overcome. Ian Bertram and Andrew Smith both drove outstanding

marathons with Lonach and Basil respectively, but had to settle for the minor placings here. Karen Blair Imrie finished 5th and Rachel Nelson for D&G 6th.

The combined team from the South West and D&G had another superb victory in the pony pairs as Barbara Patterson showed superb consistency in all 3 phases. Runner up in this class was Ian Gilbert. In the heavy ground on Sunday Ian's pair were quite outstanding, showing incredible speed and power on the long uphill drags at each obstacle exit, always appearing forward going whilst many others appeared to be cantering on the spot.

A sad lack of entries meant that the pony tandems were amalgamated with the pony teams but once again those present exuded quality. Andrew Mylius from St Fort won from Audrey Budge, with Faith Szczuka in third. Considering Andrew was rumoured to be retiring from the sport at the beginning of the season it is typical of him that he seems to be driving better than ever. Faith also drove well and it will be interesting to see her improved performances on next season's nationals.

The amalgamated horse equivalent was won by National champion Pat Cooper and her coloured trotters, from Appleby's Alan Todd making a welcome return to competition this season.

This was an excellent event, marred somewhat by the weather, and organised by a team of people from the North West club in aid of the Gambia trust. At the time of writing it is hoped that the charity will benefit by approx £5k.

Wilson Weir

2004 Scottish Points Events

A round-up of the action! Many thanks to all the organisers for such a wonderful selection of events throughout the summer and for the huge amount of time effort they spend for the competitors' benefit. Thanks also to the army of volunteers without whom there would be no events.

Eglinton

As usual a great first of the season event organised by Ian Gilbert and Co. Dressage and cones day were on the whole rain free and the competitors smoothly progressed from one to the other. Saturday night after the slog around the obstacles was a welcome rest and a good social gathering took place in the main hall. The buffet was up to its usual high standard and is always one less thing to plan for after the scrabble to repack the lorries after a long winter off. New combinations of horse and driver, driver and groom, lorry and driver etc. etc. were all getting to know each other and thankfully not too many fell off the back ramp and executed a perfect backwards roll in the pitch black at 1am !!!

The marathon took a slightly different route this year bringing you across the field to the first obstacle which was open and flowing and just what we needed to kickstart the season. There were, however, a couple of moments of excitement with Sandy Cooper's carriage, something to do with a weight

problem.....and Elinor Bosanquet gave a new steward in obstacle no.2 a minor heart attack. Luckily the new steward enjoyed himself so much that he and his wife are set to be frequent competitors next season with their new horse. Watch out Ian, Andrew, Lindsay and the rest of the horse class!

Mary Bryson and John Nisbet were both well deserved winners of their classes after fantastic dressage scores of 38 and 43 and David Hewat and Barbara Patterson in newcomers and pairs started the season the way they meant to continue (this as you may guess is being written with hindsight).

All agreed that it was a great start to the season and roll on the next one even if it did mean catering for ourselves on Saturday night.

Carole Smith

Dalmeny

The second weekend in May saw our second event, and also an important one, for those planning to compete at Hopetoun at the end of the month.

Ian Bertram's dressage arena was interesting and the cones down by the shore fantastic as usual. This was also a first outing for Faith and her new team who had great support from all the event competitors who were willing her on from the sidelines.

Marathon day was dry if not sunny and a certain amount of dew on the ground at the first few obstacles led to it being slippery underfoot or rather underhoof!! A few obstacles proved to be more tricky than expected and led to a number of competitors taking a wrong route and gaining 20 penalty points which affected the scoreboard quite a lot. Sandy Cooper had solved his little problem and romped home to win single pony 7 points ahead of Audrey Barron. Elinor Bosanquet must have used her contacts to redirect her opposition to another event and also won her class. Oops, hope I don't get a parking ticket for that!!! The burger van did its usual roaring trade – maybe we weren't quite on the ball yet with our own catering. Karen Blair Imrie was overall champion for the first time and thanked Ian Bertram and his team for another great event.

Carole Smith

Racks

Yes, I remember this one well. Probably because I won single pony but this was the last event before that Mary Kusun joined the fray. With 26 competitors the dressage and cones went well and left us lots of time to walk the obstacles. The course was well marked with no "hidden" flags to catch the unwary out. I was hiding from Drew Douglas this time as he was the designated bearer of bad tidings last year. No.1 obstacle was our favourite train and no.2 had a very tight route in the centre which actually drove very well indeed. There were a few comments about the smell in obstacle no. 6 but no-one would own up to that! We had a great reception for Brenda Hodgson after her great win at Hopetoun and Wilson Weir presented Brenda with a fantastic photo taken during her lap of honour. Pat Gillan and her team put on a fantastic event and produced a great variety of prizes of the liquid sort. I know because I got a huge bottle of vodka – did I mention I won open pony?

Barbara Patterson had found her way back after being re-routed on her way to Dalmeny and won her class. Oops not another parking ticket. (Andrew was looking confused when he read this, so to explain to anyone else, Elinor, Barbara's competition, is a policewoman though probably not in traffic!!!) Also Ian Bertram started his run of success with his win here closely chased by Andrew Smith which was a forerunner for the rest of the season.

Carole Smith

Falkland

A superb event as usual with interesting obstacles and two water crossings, although one is not part of the designated route. It is so easy to turn up and park – no need to hunt for a flat spot. The dressage is beautifully laid out and classes were split between 2 judges as there were over 50 entries! The undulating nature of the cones course leaves you thankful that your teeth are your own but the course drove well. John and Pat White hosted a cheese and wine (with the emphasis on the wine) on the Saturday evening and this was enjoyed by all.

The obstacles were attempted by those survivors of the previous evening's revelry with enthusiasm. Despite a longish marathon route, which offers excellent views of the surrounding country from the top of the hill, the horses and ponies looked fresh as they attempted the obstacles. Ian Bertram was so fresh he drove a gate backwards which pleased Andrew Smith who went on to clinch his first (but hopefully not last) championship trophy. I was relieved to discover that a replacement post had been found, after a minor mishap with the tip of a shaft in obstacle 6 at the 2003 event, and was moved to tears on reading the inscription "Mary Kusin killed my Dad"!

Barskimming

Barskimming was the venue for Sandy Couper's first outing as a judge at a points league event - and didn't he love it! Duly attired in shirt, tie and jacket, we had to check it was him. A plan to beep the chairman, just to create the impression of an error, was shelved at the last minute and the judging proceeded without incident. There were no complaints (at least none in Sandy's hearing) and not a few compliments. Well done Mr Couper for taking on this daunting job.

The Marathon route is always one of the season's highlights and the drop down into the obstacle field one of its challenges. The water obstacle was back this year and provided much fun. It really is a pleasure to be on the estate grounds each year and Miss Jean keeps surprising us with the enormous amount of work the estate does to enhance our event there; this year saw the surfacing of a beautiful track which enabled us to spend more time within estate grounds. Our thanks to Wilson Weir and his hard working team for another excellent event.

Andrew Smith

Dalswinton

Again we enjoyed an excellent weekend. Our club events must have some of the best venues in the country and yet again competitors were provided with

a flat parking field and level dressage and cones arenas. (A dickie bird tells us that Dalmeny is going to resemble a snooker table too next year).

The supper and evening entertainment in the hall is always much appreciated by the competitors and this year was no exception. On the marathon, generous times on section E caught a few people out but allowed horses and ponies to come into the obstacles with plenty of energy. We appreciate the amount of effort the organisers put into finding a date which avoided the clash with the BDS Scottish show, which had occurred since the move to Thirlestane, and still managed to fit into the competition calendar. The estate owners had made a considerable effort to ensure that crops were harvested around the needs of the event. How impressive is that?

St. Fort

Although the years of National status have become a memory, the event at St. Fort still evokes a flavour of bygone days. This year there was a National Novice qualifier, running alongside the club event. Dressage was hit by a few showers and it was the luck of the draw where you were in the running order. National standard obstacles produced a competitive event which was an excellent warm-up for Lowther, especially the water obstacle which is always fun to drive. The marathon route was challenging from the driver's point of view as it was all off road and included some wonderful tracks and tricky turns. Another memorable event!

Blair

Quantities of rain prior to this event did not damp competitors' enthusiasm. The new parking field which has downhill access and egress has helped this event become a much more reliable fixture in the calendar. John restricted himself to organising the event this year after the stress of competing too in 2003.

The time on section A seemed overly generous and competitors reported stopping to graze on the juicy brambles which proliferated in the hedgerows. This caused a few hairy moments later in the section when there were two gates which were found to be distinctly reluctant to open. After a brisk confrontation the groom generally came out of the encounter as the victor, but a cracking pace was then required to make the time. The obstacles were open and flowing although the step in number 1 caught one wheel causing a nasty tip-up. No-one could accuse the cone course at Blair of being boring but at least this year there was not a pair of cones out of sight over the brow of the hill.

Brideswell

Sadly, following some very heavy rain, the road to Brideswell event suffered a landslide making access to the event impossible. Anneke then took the tough decision to cancel. Sadly this event will no longer be in the list of Scottish Points events, but we can give you advance notice of the replacement, which will take place on the same weekend at Thornton estate.

West Newton

What a way to finish the season! Audrey was understandably apprehensive, as this was her first

event, but there was no need. The whole event was efficiently organised with excellent obstacles, some of national standard. Kind weather and a marathon route with sea views were appreciated by competitors.

Having an indoor school on-site certainly solves the problem of where to have the party – and what a party!! Some people were still imbibing freely at 3am and consequently unable to participate in the marathon. Identities had best remain undisclosed as I value my life!

The cone course proved particularly challenging with only four double clears all weekend. It seemed quite straightforward when on foot but proved harder than anticipated to drive with a carriage. Sunday was rather windy but stayed dry – the most serious casualty of the day was an awning which developed a life of its own in the gale. Prizes and trophies abounded and everyone was unanimous in their praise of this new event which is already considered a permanent fixture in the calendar.

Ann Percival

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Ann Percival a few months ago. She was one of the most cheerful people I have ever met, despite not enjoying the best of health in recent years. Her generosity knew no bounds and her doors were always open to people and animals. Many ponies enjoyed a peaceful retirement at Oldhall Murray. Her suppers after the evening drives were legendary and she was a popular competitor, when her health permitted, in the West Area. She will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with her family at this time.

2004/2005 Indoor Season

The autumn round of qualifying events kicked off at Dabbs in Fife on the 17th of October. John and Pat White always put on a good event with their helpers. Competition was exciting right to the end with some superb dressage marks setting the trail. Audrey Baron had a sensational 12 with David Hewat on 17.2 and Pat White on 18. Meg Hewat in the Novice pony did very well to get a 20.2 at her first indoor. Junior Drivers held their own in the cones with Christine James on only 1 point tying with Eileen Cornish in the open pony. David Hewat with a new drive scored just 2 penalties. Elise Pilling, another junior, scored just 3 penalties along with John Nisbet. The well designed obstacles drove smoothly with some very fast times. John Nisbet in the open horse class was able to shave 9 seconds overall off his nearest rival, which gave him the horse class and the Reserve Championship. David Hewat overtook Audrey winning the Open Pony and the Championship. His mother Meg took the novice pony class from Susan Don with a fantastic 27 point margin. Christine James won the Juniors while Elinor Bosanquet put in good obstacle times to take the Pairs class.

The second event the following week at Muirmill was unfortunate to have damp and miserable weather but

that did not deter the spirits of the drivers! The dressage scores were much tighter with Ollie Dernie being the only one to score under 30 with 29.8. Audrey Barron and Alice Spence tied for second place, an achievement considering Alices' pony is 26! The cone faults were evenly distributed through the classes with Amanda Saville and her pair taking just 1 penalty forward on her dressage score. Elinor Bosanquet drove a superb round to score just 2 penalties, while three others scored just 3 penalties. The obstacles offered plenty of variety in choosing routes and several drivers matched times adding to the over all excitement of the event. Amandas' stunt pair proved quick on the turns and won the obstacles by 4 points from John Nisbet in the Open Horse and Audrey Barron in 3rd. Each of these winning their classes with Susan Don a convincing winner in the Novice Pony while Alice Spence took the Junior Class. This left Amanda Saville with the Championship for the day and Audrey Barron with the Reserve Championship by just 1 point!

A fortnight later we returned to Muirmill for the final indoor this side of Christmas. The single Pony class dominated the dressage with Audrey on 26.8, Ollie Dernie on 27.8 and David Hewat on 32. The cones course drove very well with only three drivers getting penalties for knockdowns. Murray Graham had just 1 penalty with his Shetland and Amanda Saville scored her first ever double clear, putting her just 0.2 points ahead of Diana Ferguson on her fast improving pair. The obstacles drove well but it was decided to use the first two to make the final result as there was an incident towards the end of the event with one of the competitors which meant that the event was stopped. Alice Spence scored another win in the Juniors, consistently the largest class at all the events. Susan Don had a superb competition to win the Novice Pony while Audrey Barron won the Open Pony and Reserve Champion. John Nisbet had a storming round to win the Open Horse from Hamish Reid, and Jane Isaac in her first season won the Novice Horse for the third week running! The pairs went to Amanda Saville along with the Championship again with the tightest of margins being 0.6 penalties.

With Christmas and festive thoughts in mind it is a good thing that we have till March before having to remember the dressage tests again! The first event is scheduled for Muirmill on the 13th March with the Championship being held at Dabbs on the 27 March, a week later those who have qualified will travel down to Keysoe for the National Championships. The indoor scheduled for March 20th at Muirmill has had to be cancelled and we are trying to reschedule for the end of February. Please check the website for an update. Look forward to seeing everyone in the spring and may you all winter well.

Amanda Saville

**See the back page for
a Dinner Dance
booking form**



Scottish Points League Results

As ever, the Scottish Points league has been hotly contested and Ian Bertram had the unenviable task of chasing Andrew Smith all the way to the end. Competitors who are not members of the SCDA are discounted when the points totals are calculated. Remember, if you are not in it, you can't win it! Amanda Saville continues to provide the competitors for the junior class. Well done to everyone who took part in the events this summer.

Single Pony	1 st	Mary Kusin	29
	2 nd	Audrey Barron	25
	3 rd	Sandy Couper	21
	4 th =	Carole Smith	18
	4 th =	Joyce Simpson	18
	6 th	Janet Pilling	17
Single Horse	1 st	Ian Bertram	38
	2 nd	Andrew Smith	31
	3 rd	Mary Bryson	19
	4 th	Karen Blair-Imrie	17
	5 th	Lyndsey Brown	14
	6 th =	Joan Martin	12
6 th =	Steven Sloan	12	
Pairs	1 st	Barbara Patterson	17
	2 nd	Elinor Bosanquet	11
	3 rd	Ian Gilbert	8
	4 th	Tommy Thomlinson	5
	5 th	Ewan MacInnes	4
	6 th =	Millar Patterson	3
6 th =	Diana Ferguson	3	
6 th =	Anne Gilbert	3	
Multiples	1 st	Andrew Mylius	11
	2 nd =	Pat White	9
	2 nd =	Catriona Murray	9
	4 th =	Faith Szczuka	6
	4 th =	Joyce Simpson	6
	6 th	Shirley Macgregor	2
Small Pony	1 st	Campbell Bosanquet	8
	2 nd =	Katie Doig	6
	2 nd =	Shirley Macgregor	6
	4 th	Zoe Sanders	5
	5 th	Brenda Hodgson	4
	6 th	Hon. Jean Galbraith	2
Newcomers	1 st	David Hewat	32
	2 nd	Susan Don	24
	3 rd	Mike Rawlinson	22
	4 th	Diana Ferguson	21
	5 th	Donna Ryder	11
	6 th	Mike Walsh	8
Juniors	1 st	Alice Spence	25
	2 nd	Christine James	19
	3 rd =	Hazel Carruthers	12
	3 rd =	Megan Carruthers	12
	5 th =	Elise Pilling	10
	5 th =	Murray Graham	10

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.

Townfoot Farm, Dolphinton, Peeblesshire.

Tel. mobile 07904 557838
 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, South Woodend North, Annanbank, Johnstonebridge, DG11 2RT. Telephone: 07818 618118 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. 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

SCDA Contacts

Secretary Mary Kusin
 0845 226 9498 secretary@scda.co.uk

Chairman Andrew Smith
 01555 892227 chairman@scda.co.uk

Vice Chairman Ian Thornton-Kemsley
 01561 377301 istk@thornton-estates.co.uk

Treasurer George Jeffrey
 01505 850218 treasurer@scda.co.uk

Directors

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

Dinner Dance at the Stirling Highland Hotel
Saturday 19th February 2005



Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

I wish to book _____ places for the SCDA Dinner Dance.

I am booking for (please give names): _____

If possible, I would like to sit with: _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ (£27 per person) payable to "Scottish Carriage Driving Association".

Please return this form to:

The SCDA Secretary, Mrs. Mary Kusin, East Overhill Farm, Stewarton, Ayrshire, KA3 5JT

IF YOU REQUIRE CONFIRMATION OF YOUR BOOKING, PLEASE ENCLOSE AN S.A.E.