



Scottish Carriage Driving Association

Newsletter

October 2007

What a pity that the early promise of good weather, and all the pundits' predictions of the hottest summer on record, failed to materialise. Despite the frequently damp conditions and the inevitable cancellations, members enjoyed a selection of excellent events this year.

Liz Melville

Most of you will be aware of the sad loss of Liz Melville recently. When she was first diagnosed with cancer the SCDA sent her flowers. I thought you would like to share her reply.

"Hi Everybody,

Many thanks for the lovely flowers which arrived today and for your kind thoughts.

How I wish I could turn the clock back and be trotting round the marathon circuits with you. I've had so much fun over the years and many happy memories. So good luck to the drivers, grooms and their gallant horses and I hope that Carriage Driving in Scotland will continue to go from strength to strength!

With love to all,
Liz"

A memorial service in celebration of her life, to which friends are invited, will be held at Freuchie Parish Church at 11am on 30th November and afterwards at the Lomond Hills Hotel, Freuchie.

Post of SCDA Secretary

The post of SCDA Secretary will be vacant after the conference in November. Some of you will already know that I have been appointed to the post of Executive Officer with the BHDTA and one of the stipulations of the job is that I should resign as SCDA Secretary.

If you feel you have the necessary qualities, skills, time and enthusiasm for this role, please indicate your interest to the Chairman, Audrey Barron, by 10th November.

SCDA Conference

The conference takes place this year in the Huntingtower Hotel on Sunday 25th November at 11.15 a.m. Complimentary tea and coffee will be served from 10.45 a.m. The Scottish Points League trophies and rosettes will be presented and it will be an opportunity for you to raise any points you may have with the way the SCDA is run. Issues that are likely to be discussed include subscription categories and rates for 2008, dressage tests, transport issues (including the new "Welfare of Animals in Transport Act"), courses that are available and the Clubs' liaison structure.

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.

Trophies for 2007

Two further trophies are awarded annually by the SCDA in memory of well respected members of Scottish carriage driving.

The winner of the **Archie Donald Trophy**, presented at the discretion of the Board of Directors to someone who has been of immense help or service to the SCDA, is awarded this year to Zoe Ross to recognise her commitment to scoring.

The **Graham Murray Trophy** is awarded to a different class each year and in 2007 it goes to the best pony pair from the combined Scottish National events. It has been won this year by Mary Kusin who achieved 2nd place at Hopetoun and 1st at Castle Kennedy.

The **Buddy Trophy** is awarded by the SCDA Board of Directors to the person that has done most during the season to help newcomers to carriage driving. This year it has been decided to present it to Carol Boswell who has introduced a number of people to carriage driving and enabled them to have a taste of competitive driving at the fabulous fun event at Seacliff.

The **Bellcrown Shield** is awarded to the best Scottish Intermediate from the combined Scottish National Events. This was previously awarded to the best Novice but has been transferred to the Intermediate class following the introduction of the new BHDTA class structure. It has been won by Owen Pilling who achieved 1st place at both Hopetoun and Castle Kennedy.

Fun and Friendship Trophy

This trophy is presented by the Rome family in memory of Vivienne. Once again the directors are looking for members to nominate anyone they feel has made a light-hearted contribution to the sport through an amusing incident or by lending a hand where it was needed.

Do you know of anyone? If so, please send their name, with details of why you feel they should be awarded the trophy, to the Secretary by Tuesday 20th November.

SCDA AGM

The directors are planning another splendid lunch with a speaker in the morning and the A.G.M. afterwards. The date remains flexible until a speaker is confirmed so keep an eye on the web-site for advance notification. Otherwise your January newsletter will have this information along with a membership renewal form which should be completed and returned to the Secretary prior to the A.G.M. if you wish to collect your Omnibus on the day.

Photo Competition

This year we are looking for a really good driving photograph for the Omnibus cover. As usual there is no specific cash prize however there is the glory of having your photograph on the front cover for 2008. There have been lots of people out and about with cameras this year so we would like to see the results of your efforts.

Details of how to submit your entries electronically are given on the website. Alternatively entries can be posted to the Secretary.

- All pictures submitted must be photographs taken during 2007.
- The closing date for entries is 31st December 2007.
- In order to enter, you must be an SCDA member.
- Each person can enter up to 5 pictures.
- You should include your name with each picture.
- You can send your pictures by email (if they were taken with a digital camera) or in the post if they are prints. Pictures do not have to be mounted or framed.

Note: If sending by email, please make sure you send the full resolution picture, as it came out of the camera - we will need it for printing on the Omnibus cover.

Event Reports

As usual we would like to thank all the stewards, organisers, course builders and especially Zoe for scoring, who enable us to enjoy our sport. Without the legions of willing volunteers we would not have such a range of events at which to compete throughout Scotland. As a small token of our appreciation they will be invited to attend the lunch again prior to the A.G.M.

Eglinton

Eglinton is traditionally the first date on the Scottish Points calendar and as usual the season got under way with a super event; a few showers did not dampen everyone's enthusiasm. There was a good turnout of competitors to enjoy the open flowing obstacles and Anne organised the ceilidh with her inimitable efficiency. An excellent supper was followed by dancing into the small hours.

Dalmeny

The following week competitors headed for the East coast instead and enjoyed a sunny though distinctly chilly event. Rumour had it that it was so hot on the West coast that people had their barbecues out in April! Conditions were ideal for the horses and some excellent times were posted through the varied obstacles. There were numerous routes to challenge the drivers' ingenuity.

Hopetoun

Yet another stunning success for the organising team. Everything ran like clockwork (or if it did not the furious paddling was all under water – metaphorically, not literally as it was dry and sunny for most of the event). The number of competitors attending Hopetoun was high compared to other events and this has to reflect very positively on the welcome visitors receive, the hospitality shown, the efficient organisation and the challenging, yet driveable, obstacles. Fingers crossed the event runs for many years yet.

Sponsors and guests were treated to a coach ride in the new Kelvin Coach driven by Andrew May and, as ever, we are grateful for their continued support. Our principal sponsors, Janet and Owen of Owen Pilling Graphics, were in the unusual situation of both competing and entertaining guests. Fortunately their rounds were early in the day, enabling them to enjoy the later sages of the competition from the Sponsors' Marquee.

Falkland

A truly memorable event as always and David Brown will remember it more clearly than most. Rumour has it that he was taking a short cut across the log in the water obstacle on Sunday morning when a moment's inattention caused his foot to slip. The result is reported to have scared the fish for miles. Many thanks to John and Pat for their hospitality on Saturday night when competitors enjoyed a cheese and wine party with a much stronger emphasis on the wine than the cheese. Everyone made the marathon though!

St. Fort

National standard obstacles and a really testing marathon always makes St. Fort one of the events everyone wants to drive at and this year was no exception. The water is great fun too and the cones provided a serious test for drivers in the immaculate arena.

Dalswinton

Unfortunately Dalswinton did not have as many SCDA entries as usual, possibly due to a clash of dates with the Royal Highland Show. Local competitors kept up the numbers to ensure an entertaining competition. The village hall was again the venue for an excellent night of entertainment and socialising.

Seacliff

This event is fast becoming a fixture in the Scottish calendar and yet again enjoyed strong support. One of the attractions is the ability to take your horse down onto the beach and enjoy a relaxing splash, or unscheduled dip, depending on the temperament of your particular equine. The relaxed atmosphere is ideal to produce new turnouts and Owen Pilling took this opportunity to try his pair in company. The indoor/outdoor format works well and it is always interesting to see what the rosettes will be presented for as there are frequently new innovations to keep everyone on their toes.

Barskimming

Unfortunately the wet weather took its toll on Barskimming and the event had to be cancelled.

Castle Kennedy

Unfortunately the weather followed the wet trend of the summer months and poured at Castle Kennedy. The dressage was driven in the dry but marathon day left everyone looking like they had been mud wrestling. The later competitors found the obstacles tiring as they had become deep but the construction of them left plenty of scope to find fresh ground or choose an alternative route. A twisty cones course on wet going made it tricky to achieve the time and double clears were sparse. The organisers had clearly put in a good deal of effort to attract trade stands and exhibitors to the country fair so fingers crossed for better weather next year.

West Newton

Despite the fact that Audrey nearly had a nervous breakdown over the times and distances on marathon morning, all went well once the event got under way. There were reports of some spectacular leaps across the water obstacle and one competitor was so astounded at the way her horse had negotiated this that she nearly drove through a gate backwards instead of progressing through A. The fact that she also tipped her husband out twice on the same day has fortunately not led to an irreconcilable breakdown of the partnership. An excellent ceilidh on the Saturday evening put the seal on an brilliant event.

Blair

We had surprisingly good ground at Blair this year despite the frequent predictions of cancellation before the event due to the weather. There were some soggy spots on the marathon, but as much of this was off road and on tracks through fields this was not unexpected. The obstacles were varied with some open flowing ones and some that were tighter and more technical.

Thornton

Another casualty to the wet summer.

National Championships

The most recent Foot and Mouth outbreak caused Windsor Park to be closed and the organisers of the Championships had an immense headache getting the event rescheduled for the following weekend at Catton. A relatively high number of the original competitors managed to compete although there were inevitably casualties with some unable to find help or reschedule work commitments. Those that did go enjoyed good weather with open flowing obstacles, which were beautifully decorated given the short notice of the event.

West Newton Reprised

For those that wanted a relaxed informal event to round off the season, West Newton was the ideal location. A group meal out on the Saturday evening was enjoyed by all. The format for the dressage worked well although it felt very strange driving the

indoor test outdoors. The obstacle in the cones was an unusual innovation but did not cause any problems. Sunday morning's drizzle cleared away to leave sunshine for the driveout with the obstacles completed in the afternoon.

National Junior Championships

The success of the Junior Championships is now assured and was hotly contested again this year. Sadly Megan Noble and Dan Wilson both incurred elimination in their respective classes during the marathon. This was a shame as Megan had won the dressage phase of the competition. Megan Carruthers and Becky Pflanz completed in fourth and sixth places respectively in the 15-18 age bracket. Both girls improved on their dressage scores but Becky's was the most impressive as she came back from a disappointing 13th in dressage. Ollie Dernie led from the front with a decisive win in all three phases to secure the championship in the 18-25 age group. Congratulations to all the juniors who took part and represented Scotland.

Indoor Events

Many thanks to Campbell Bosanquet and John Nisbet for running indoor events in Aberdeen and Ayrshire respectively. Please visit the SCDA website, which has all the information including results, entry forms, dressage tests and the most up-to-date indoor driving rules. The winner of the Scottish Indoor Points League in each class will qualify to compete at the Championships. The points tables and current standings can be seen on the SCDA website.

SCDA Merchandise

Sadly the limited number of members in the SCDA has meant that it is not viable to continue to offer the range of branded clothing. We hope that those of you that did place orders will continue to enjoy the garments for many more years. There are still some of the decals (stickers) available in a range of sizes and these can be purchased from Mike Brown.

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Scottish Points League Results

Don't forget that the number of scores that count towards your annual points total is 3 less than total number of events. This means that a total of 4 events count this year as only 7 of the possible 9 events were able to run. Competitors who are not members of the SCDA are discounted when the points totals are calculated. In the event of an equality for first place, the marathon scores at the events where both competitors participated are taken into account.

The Scottish Points results for 2007 are as follows:

Single Pony	1 st	Janet Pilling	19
	2 nd	Susan Don	19
	3 rd	Jacky Jeffrey	14
	4 th	Susan Hendry	12
	5 th	Audrey Barron	8
	6 th	Ollie Dernie	7
Single Horse	1 st	Mary Bryson	21
	2 nd =	Joan Martin	18
	2 nd =	Ian Bertram	18
	4 th	Owen Pilling	15
	5 th	Karen Blair-Imrie	10
	6 th	Jock McFarlane	7
Pairs	1 st	Mary Kusin	8
	2 nd =	Jessica Meredith	6
	2 nd =	Ian Gilbert	6
	4 th =	Barbara Patterson	3
	4 th =	Amanda Nisbet	3
	6 th =	John Farmer	1
6 th =	Tommy Tomlinson	1	
Multiples	1 st	Carol Boswell	8
	2 nd	Faith Szczuka	7
	3 rd	Andrew Mylius	5
	4 th	Elinor Bosanquet	4
	5 th	Liz Melville	3
Small Pony	1 st	Shirley Macgregor	6
	2 nd	Fiona Gordon	5
	3 rd	Pat White	2
	4 th	Carolyn Fraser	2
	5 th	Elinor Bosanquet	1
Club Novice	1 st	Carolyn Love	12
	2 nd	Catriona Love	11
	3 rd	John McNaughton	6
	4 th	Margaret Lupton	5
	5 th	Anne Baillie	3
	6 th	Carolyn Fraser	2
Juniors	1 st	Daniel Wilson	10
	2 nd	Christine James	10
	3 rd	Alice Spence	8
	4 th	Chelsea Atkinson	7

5th = Megan Noble 5
5th = Rebecca Pflanz 5

www.scda.co.uk

The full event results are posted on the web-site as soon as Vic receives them. This means that you can pore over your obstacle times, in comfort, at your leisure. If you are not familiar with the web-site, log on to www.scda.co.uk for the up-to-date news and chat on the discussion page. Don't forget that the web-site operates an advertising service, free of charge for members, where you can post "wanted" or "for sale" items and reach a wide audience quickly.

SCDA Contacts

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SCDA information

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

Latest information, news and results
on the SCDA website

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