

# Training the experts



Delegates from eight countries attended the annual FEI Clinic for Judges at the Unicorn Trust in Gloucestershire and news of how younger drivers can sign up to gain new skills through the Young Equestrian Leaders Award scheme.

## OFFICIAL NEWS Council Meeting

For the foreseeable future, Council will be conducting business through on-line meetings and email conversations. Council always welcomes, and takes into account, feedback received from members, so if there are any matters or issues which you would like Council to consider, please send an email to the British Carriagedriving office.

## Accident Reporting On-line

The British Carriagedriving website now has a link to the Howden site where Accident and Incident reporting will now be done online. This reporting system should be used by events and individuals.

## Clinic Reports

**National / FEI Clinic for Judges, Course Designers, Technical Delegates and Stewards**  
*Philip Bateman reports:* With what is now becoming somewhat of a pilgrimage, the Annual Clinic at Stow on the Wold got under way with participants from eight countries including Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands and the United States.

Unlike some years the weather was more clement, although the outdoor area, which was unusable, was somewhat moist to say the least!

With a total of 51 Judges, FEI Stewards, Technical Delegates and the BC Course Designers present at the Clinic, this was a good representation.

Andrew Counsell (GBR), Leen Devaere (BEL) and Philip Bateman (GBR) were the Course Directors for the FEI and Johan Jacobs took the Course for the BC Course Designers. The FEI Course Designers was cancelled after the Course Director had health problems and was unable to attend at the last moment: therefore the FEI part was not held this year.

The Stewards got the Clinic started early on Thursday morning, with Leen on her first visit to Stow. With 6 attendees, mostly from this

country, there was an early start and late finish.

The new FEI Education Format got under way with an on-line examination of 50 questions, posed by the Governing body in Switzerland. All FEI Officials and potentials, have to carry out the test along with an English test, which many found rather taxing.

Friday afternoon started with the Official FEI introduction, the FEI Rule changes and a joint session for all FEI participants to prepare for the start of the main Clinic.

Saturday, itself, began with a short welcome and update of British Carriagedriving Rules, then everyone divided to their respective classes. Andrew Counsell took the Judges through some theory first and then went to the indoor school for some practical work.

Dick Lane, generously brought his Four in Hand and Lucy McGill brought a Single Horse to help and guide the Judges through their paces, this included the new BC Novice Test, on show for the first time.

Johan Jacobs had 12 Course Designers for his highly interesting course and some Obstacle Cones Driving on Sunday, with all the Attendees.



Annual clinic at Stow on the Wold

Philip Bateman took the remaining 11 technical delegates through some intensive training with power point presentations and written tests to achieve their desired levels.

Sunday started as early as possible, with the Course Designers producing an Obstacle Cones Driving Course with some Deliberate Mistakes. The Technical Delegates corrected the Course and left it for the Judges to Judge with Dick Lane making as many deliberate mistakes as possible, followed by Lucy. Then Final Tests and lunch to get everyone on the road straight after lunch, but not before the usual photograph on the Unicorn Steps.

On the lighter side, Unicorn host Sydney Smith was pleased to welcome the conference participants back again and Fran More, with her team of helpers, produced an elegant three-course dinner which was enjoyed by all 44 diners on Saturday evening.

The social and networking aspect of the weekend is a key point, when new friends are made and working relationships are forged. Everyone there could make a contribution and join in discussions based on their own experiences.

## Club Workforce Clinic

*Angela Flanagan reports:* The Workforce Workshop was held at Oakridge E.C, Newark, on Saturday 29th February 2020. Despite the poor weather, it was well attended with lots of positive feedback. Workshop leaders: James Rooney, Allan Potter, Stephen Trebble and Stephen Lunn all made sure there was plenty of time for discussion, questions, reflection as well as learning. Special thanks to the gallant drivers: Anna Jackson, Jon Gadsby, Lindsey Doran, Philippa Archer and Angie Smith.

## Officials: promotions and retireals

Congratulations to Marisa Pinnock and Gail Smith on their promotion to FEI Steward Level 1. There have been a number of additions to the National Officials list and we encouraged by the number of people putting themselves forward for official roles. Derrick Mayes and Julie Tomasik have been added to the Probationary Judges list, Catherine Stewart as a Probationary Cones Judge, James Binns to the probationary Course Designers list and Heather Brown to the probationary Course Designers list for cones. Ivor Harper has been promoted from Judges List 3 to List 2 and Gail Smith and Leigh Kenworthy have been promoted to the list of Specialist Cones Judges.

We also wish to thank Jane MacInnes, Margaret Brockie, Di Hayes and Tony Bache who have, after many years of excellent service, retired from their respective roles and we hope they will continue to be involved in the sport.

## What is YELA?

The Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA) is a scheme for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) which recognises the time and effort that young people put in to volunteering in

equestrian sport; with the view that it can help shape them in to leaders of the future.

The award is aimed at those aged between 13 and 25 years old with three progressive levels; starting with Bronze and moving all the way through to Gold. Each of the three levels have differing requirements but each one focuses on encouraging the young person to develop a range and depth of skills, qualities and attributes by trying different voluntary roles with different BEF Member bodies.

Once the YELA Candidate has completed the voluntary hours and log book they are able to send it in for review and sign off. Sign off means they will achieve the level and be certificated.

For more information <http://yela.org.uk/>

## EVENTS

### Ashfields 1st-3rd May

#### Closing Date Monday 13 April

Ashfields kicks off the summer season and Zoe has been looking for ideas, via social media, for the evening entertainment most drivers would like to have. Remember that after the closing date, the late entry fee is automatically added so remember to get your entries sent in good time.

## How to enter events on-line

There are inevitably going to be some teething problems with the new on-line system for entering and paying for events this year but, once identified, these will be resolved as quickly as possible. If you are having any trouble, please contact the BC office (not the event organiser) after checking the list of common problems below.

Some initial problems include:

- trying to enter horses which are not registered in the Horse Directory

- not signed in and trying to enter
- signing in but looking at the BC website calendar instead of the Events Calendar on myClubhouse
- having the wrong (or no) ability level assigned (this has to be corrected by the BC office)

## Ability Levels for Drivers

All drivers who have competed in the last two years have been assigned an ability level but there will be some we have missed. Please login to the myClubhouse portal (Members Login in the top menu bar on the BC website) and check your ability level in your profile. Remember, you cannot change this but please let the BC office know and this will be changed for you.

## Horse Directory

The Horse Directory lets you add as many horses as you wish. As the Horse Directory was designed for Endurance, some of the fields are irrelevant for British Carriagedriving. Only fields with a star beside them are compulsory. When you go to enter an event, just start typing the name in the "horse" box and the list of your horses will appear. Click on the one you wish to enter (and repeat if you are entering a multiple).

## INTERNATIONAL

### New FEI Pony Measurement Requirements

Please remember that any ponies registered from 1/1/20 must be measured before they can be entered in any FEI competitions. Any ponies registered in 2019 or before, have a transition period but must be measured by 1/1/23. At the time of going to press, no measuring date for British ponies has been confirmed.

## GENERAL

### The Stork delivers March in March

Congratulations to Rebecca March (Advanced Pony) and her husband Jamie (backstepper and Council member) on the birth of their daughter Zara Margaret Rose March on 10th March. Was the timing intentional? With British Carriagedriving judge, coach and many times National Champion Carol Boswell as her granny, we expect she'll be driving before she can walk.



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Dick Lane at Royal Windsor Horse Show

Photo: Amy Mundell