



FEI World Combined Pony Championships

Catton Hall, Derbyshire, UK

13 – 17 July 2005



The British Team





SINGLE PONIES

Sara Howe
Sue Denney



PAIRS OF PONIES

Jo Rennison
Rachel Stevens



PONY FOURS

Sarah Jane Cook
Ursula Hirschberg

Introduction



Whether you are a newcomer to Carriage Driving or a seasoned campaigner, I would like to introduce you to the British Team for the second ever FEI World Combined Pony Championships, which we are pleased to host in Britain from 13 – 17 July 2005.

12 months of competitive selection and many years of training have gone into preparing for these Championships. The dedication and tenacity, not only of the whole team, but also of their many supporters, grooms, helpers and friends can easily pass unnoticed. We are a small sport, a friendly sport and a tightly knit community. The fund raising has been hard and the preparations arduous. It falls to me to thank personally all those, individuals and companies, who have contributed in many different ways. This I do from the bottom of my being.

To give this outstanding sport the recognition that it truly deserves, and to ensure that it continues to grow, we must continue to evolve our ideas and strategies. The way that this group of people has come together to share ideas, train together and help each other to achieve their best is an example of how to build for the future.

I know that they will all perform to their highest standards and beyond. I am sure that we will be proud of them. We all wish them every success for these World Championships.

The Earl of Onslow
Chairman, BHDTA

■ For further information on the British Horse Driving Trials Association, contact:
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■ For information on the FEI World Combined Pony Championships visit the website
www.catton-hall.com

SINGLE PONY BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: SARA HOWE



Sara is one of the lucky few who can claim to have made their hobby their job; training horses, teaching people to carriage drive and running her own carriage driving centre at Bradbourne for the past 18 years.

FACT FILE

Pony Profile:

Costa Llewellyn (Sooty), a bay gelding who was an unplanned arrival on Jane McDonald's farm and, like many of the best competition ponies, is best described as 'difficult' to break! An extravagant mover and a gutsy marathon pony who gives 110%.

Getting Started:

Began driving when working for Peter Munt, one of the UK's most recognized coachmen.

Track Record:

First National competition was 14 years ago. First of many good wins was at Brighton with her hackney horse, Roscoe. Now consistently at the top of single pony class with Sooty.

Career Highlight:

Wearing the Union Jack and representing Great Britain at the 2003 World Championships in Austria, where she finished a highly commendable 5th.

Best Decision:

Taking on Jane McDonald's Sooty.

Most pressured moment to date:

Any cones course when she has been in the lead!

Role Model:

Peter Munt - taught her what hard work and team work was all about.

Greatest Ambition:

To get a gold for GB and to watch her daughter continue to be successful.

Significant Others:

Lesley Edmed; Sandy Punyer (a great cook) and John Punyer (a great carriage maintainer); Tricia Jones who backsteps on the marathon.



SINGLE PONY BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: SUE DENNEY



Sue lives on the Isle of Man and when not competing works with her parents on their Asparagus farm and market garden.

FACT FILE

Pony profile:

Rolls Silver Spirit (Rolly), a 12-year old Welsh x Arab grey gelding, bought by Sue as a 7-year old with a view to being a pony pair. His movement and ability outshone any of the other ponies though, so Sue decided to try him in single – they haven't looked back.

Getting Started:

Watched an event at Tatton Park and thought it looked like great fun so bought an 11hh pony.

Track Record:

Competed at novice national level in 1994, coming 4th at the championships, then gradually climbed the open pony ladder from 1995 onwards. In 2005, she has been unbeaten to date, winning all national classes and the international Grand Prix at Royal Windsor.

Career Highlight:

Winning her first national event and winning Royal Windsor.

Best Decision:

Buying Rolly.

Most pressured moment to date:

Going into the cones at Royal Windsor when Emma Burge had just driven double clear leaving Sue no margin for error.

Role Model:

Every World Champion carriage driver.

Greatest Ambition:

Team gold.

Significant Others:

Simon Willis, partner, carriage builder and back stepper; farrier John Lace; mum and dad, greatest supporters and financiers; many and varied Isle of Man friends.



PAIRS OF PONIES BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: JO RENNISON



Jo works full time with horses: training, exercising, clipping, riding and driving. She is a consummate horsewoman and admired by many for her quiet and sympathetic manner with her ponies.

FACT FILE

Pony Profiles:

Mere of Westmorland, owned by Paula Liddon, was bred by gypsies, found as a stray on the M25 and is now borrowed from Paula. Limericks Pandora, a 6-year old bay, bought from Ireland and owned by Jo. Temple Druid Ganges, a 10-year old strawberry roan Welsh section C gelding, owned by Julie Hoskyns.

Getting Started:

First got hooked on driving when working full time for team driver Alwyn Holder. Started her own freelance business and gradually acquired ponies and equipment to get herself started.

Track Record:

First national event in 2000. From 2002 has never been out of the top 3 in the UK. Has held National Championship titles for the past 3 years and is the current National Champion, Points League Champion and the reigning Royal Windsor Grand Prix Champion.

Career Highlight:

Representing Great Britain in Austria's 2003 World Championships where she finished 9th and was the highest placed pony pair lady driver.



Best Decision:

Working freelance, which has opened many doors.

Most pressured moment to date:

Marathon and cones at the last World Championships where her score was essential to the team, but in Jo's usual style, she rose to the challenge!

Role Model:

Any athlete who works hard for success and makes it.

Greatest Ambition:

To always enjoy the sport – oh, and to be world champion.

Significant Others:

Alwyn Holder; Philip Goddard, Jo's competition partner and owner of Danny; Ellis Campbell Group (sponsors); Malcolm Ladell, Jane Carpenter, Jo's Mum, Paula Liddon, Julie Hoskyns, Pippa Bassett, Cathy Goddard and a cast of thousands who support.

PAIRS OF PONIES BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: RACHEL STEVENS



Rachel works for a performance improvement company specializing in incentive travel, conferences and product launches. She has been involved with horses all her life and trained the British Team who brought back silver medals in the 2002 and 2004 World Championships for drivers with disabilities.

FACT FILE

Pony Profiles:

Glenmead Flashman (Flash), a pony that no-one else wanted to take on so he was delivered to her stables with his rugs and harness. Pontadawye Lord Lucan (Luke), spotted by a fellow competitor as a good match for Flash. Little Joe, who somehow found his way into the fold as another good match.

Getting Started:

After a riding accident, driving was the next best thing. Her junior event pony was somewhat reluctantly broken to harness and despite his continued preference to jump obstacles, he won his first novice national event.

Track Record:

10 great years of fun and competition with single pony, Buttons, taking many National and International victories, including National Points Leagues, National Championships and Grand Prix Championships. Started competing with a pony pair in 2002.

Career Highlight:

Winning Royal Windsor Grand Prix in 1999 having gone into the cones on equal points with Germany's Uwe Nichts and having to drive double clear.

Best Decision:

Not worrying about it all so much.

Most pressured moment to date:

Trying to cook a full Sunday lunch.

Role Model:

Anyone who makes it look easy.

Greatest Ambition:

This is it, being part of Team GB.

Significant Others:

Family including mum (back stepper), sisters, nieces and nephew, extended family, Lynzi Bennett, and many special friends.



PONY FOURS BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: SARAH JANE COOK



Sarah Jane works in a local tack shop, exercises and schools horses. She is based in Surrey and when not putting her own ponies through their paces, she's off running marathons herself.

FACT FILE

Pony Profiles:

She drives her own team of Welsh section C ponies, three of which are Sackville breeding and two are Leyeswick.

Getting Started:

Started driving at the age of 13. Debuted on the National circuit in 1996 with a pony pair.

Track Record:

Fenix Points League Champion with Pony Tandem and National outdoor and indoor champion in 2003. Reigning Pony Tandem champion indoors and reserve National Champion with pony team in 2004.

Career Highlight:

Winning all four selection events for this World Championships having only decided to put the team back together again last year.

Best Decision:

To put the team back together!

Most pressured moment to date:

The first selection event.

Role Model:

George Bowman, Boyd Exell, Karen Bassett, HRH Duke of Edinburgh – team drivers that have all inspired her.

Greatest Ambition:

To win team gold and the 2005 National Championships.

Significant Others:

Minta Winn for her help last year; Dick Carey for providing harness and carriages.



PONY FOURS BRITISH TEAM DRIVER: URSULA HIRSCHBERG



Ursula lives in Cheshire and works as a buyer for an engineering company in Knutsford. She juggles her profession with raising a family and her passion for driving ponies – we all wonder what she does in her spare time...

FACT FILE

Pony Profiles:

Jason, Bestman and Sprintman are brothers and have all taken part in the 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2002 Championships. Bestman and Jason also competed as a pair in the 2003 World Championships. Mr Moonshine is the new recruit to the team.

Getting Started:

John Fowler driving a tandem first got her hooked; her mother, ridden and driven dressage judge, was a big influence.

Track Record:

3 times National Tandem Champion before taking on a pony team. Represented Great Britain as a team member in 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2002, winning team silver and bronze. British team member in the last World Championships in 2003, competing with a pony pair.

Career Highlight:

Winning team silver at Saumur in 1999.

Best Decision:

Sticking with ponies – so much fun.

Most pressured moment to date:

Driving cones in a freak down pour at the European Championships and managing a double clear.

Role Model:

Karen Bassett – the world's leading female driver; Gee Frith, three times Individual European Champion – ladies with determination.

Greatest Ambition:

To win gold then gracefully retire!

Significant Others:

Kelvin (husband and back stepper); Gina Saunders (navigator); a host of noble volunteers who act and support in all areas; her two children Marcus and Theo, even though their idea of helping is not always part of the big plan.



SINGLE PONY BRITISH INDIVIDUAL DRIVERS:

JULIE CAMM



Julie owns and manages a 30-bedroom hotel on the outskirts of Bristol. Her whole family form part of her driving support team – extending to her brother-in-law, John, who navigates for her. She drives Pannau Pandora (Annie), a Welsh section D mare who she competed with at the World Championships in Karlstetten.

Getting Started:

Was helping a friend find a safe riding pony and stumbled across driving. Got completely hooked!

Track Record:

A very successful national career that started out with a skewbald mare, Victoria Plum. Represented Great Britain at Karlstetten in 2003.

Career Highlight:

Coming 2nd individually in the dressage at Karlstetten.

SUE CORLETT



Sue is a retired Riding School and Dog Boarding Kennels proprietor. She and her husband spend winters at their home on the Isle of Man and summers on the British mainland, competing with their ponies. Sue drives Lakeland Spirit (Maddy) a 10-year old fell cross hackney.

Getting Started:

It started 15 years ago with a section C stallion, Polo, showing and competing in one day events. After 3 years, they crossed the water to compete on the mainland.

Track Record:

First national competitions in 2000; 2nd in the National Points League in 2002 and 2003, winning the League in 2004.

Career Highlight:

Winning at Lowther 2003 followed by wins at Alnwick and Castle Kennedy.

MARY KUSIN



Mary is an English teacher at Grange Academy in Kilmarnock, having recently switched from her former career in broadcasting. She still keeps her hand in though, working weekends for a variety of broadcasters including BBC, Sky and Channel 4. She competes with her husband, Vic Kusin, and drives her own Welsh Cob, Soberton Spartacus (Sparky), a 12-year old chestnut gelding.

Getting Started:

First started driving on a Harness Horse Holiday in Devon which inspired her to start driving her own horse.

Track Record:

Scottish Points Championship, followed by open national competitions from 2002.

Career Highlight:

Still to come – to win a National event.

PAIRS OF PONIES BRITISH INDIVIDUAL DRIVERS:

TOM MCGREGOR



Tom runs a small business maintaining horse pasture across East Anglia. He drives his own bay Welsh Cross mare and gelding, Del and Amber, and Chrissie Nash's Welsh Section C gelding Grayswood Joker (Tom).

Getting Started:

Visited Sandringham Driving Trials in 1990 and thought it looked like good fun. Took some driving lessons from Sally Walrond and never looked back.

Track Record:

Successes at single pony level until 2002 when he brought out his pony pair and has continued his success in this class.

Career Highlight:

Coming 2nd in the dressage at Royal Windsor Grand Prix with his single pony.

ROWENA MOYSE



Rowena has her own livery yard in Wales, breaking and schooling as well as teaching riding and driving. She drives Welsh section C ponies, bred in Carmarthenshire at the Menai Stud.

Getting Started:

Took up driving in 1978, began with scurry driving and was best newcomer at Wembley in 1980, then switched to Horse Driving Trials.

Track Record:

Consistently in the line up for the past 6 years.

Career Highlight:

Winning Lowther in 2003 – her favourite event.

JO SORE



Jo lives in Hampshire and works for a manufacturing company in the stores department. She drives a Bay Roan pair of registered New Forest ponies, Richard and Milo.

Getting Started:

Broke her first riding pony to harness then back-stepped for Barbara Nadin – decided it was safer to take the reins herself.

Track Record:

Competed at novice level in 1996, moving to open and then pony pairs.

Career Highlight:

Taking 4th place at the Pony Pairs National final in 2004.

PONY FOURS BRITISH INDIVIDUAL DRIVERS:

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh needs no introduction. He has been pivotal to the establishment and success of British competition carriage driving, not only as an ambassador of the sport but also as an inspiration to many. He was President of the FEI when the first rules for driving were introduced in 1968. He drives the Queen's team of Fell ponies.

Getting Started:

He took up driving in 1972 when he gave up polo, starting with a team of Cleveland Bays from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace.

Track Record:

Represented Great Britain at numerous Championships between 1973 and 1986. Now consistently successful with the Queen's Fell ponies from the Balmoral Estate.

Career Highlight:

Member of the gold medal winning team at the World Championships in 1980, and the bronze medal team at the European Championships in 1981 and at World Championships in 1982 and 1984.

ANNA GRAYSTON



Anna is based in Surrey and is a professional carriage driver. She is active in bringing on the next generation of carriage drivers, regularly coaching at junior clinics for the BHDTA. She drives her and her mother's team of bay mares and geldings.

Getting Started:

Anna started driving at an early age and has rarely been out of the line up since her debut at National level when she won the young driver's award in her first year of National competition.

Track Record:

Across her career, Anna has won National Championships in Novice Pony, Open Pony, Pony Tandem and Pony Team classes.

Career Highlight:

Winning National Championships in all disciplines she has competed at. Representing Great Britain at the European Pony Team Championships.

COLIN ALLEN



Colin is a self employed plumber, but has been involved with horses all his working life. He and his wife have competed together across all driving trials combinations - single, pair, tandem and team. They drive a home produced team of Welsh section B ponies; Millcroft Seabright (Freddie), Telynau Gendarme (Bobby), Birkinbrook Copperman (Brook) and Larklands Royalist (Rory).

Getting Started:

Pleasure driving in 1980; took up competition driving at club level in 1989.

Track Record:

First National Championship success in 1992; moved to Horse Tandem in 1996 and from 1997 to 2002 won 30 National competitions consecutively including 4 National Championships. Brought out pony team in 2003.

Career Highlight:

Horse tandem unbeaten record.

BRITISH TEAM CHEF D'EQUIPE



JILL HOLAH

Jill is one of the cornerstones of our sport. As one of the most successful competitors across a variety of driving disciplines including single pony and pony pair, she now brings her experience to bear in the organizational echelons of horse driving trials.

ASSISTANT CHEF D'EQUIPE



ROSEMARY NEALE

Rosemary runs her own management development consultancy, specializing in influencing and interpersonal skills, team building and cross cultural communication. She has been competing in carriage driving for the past 14 years and has been working with the long list of competitors for the past six months.

BRITISH TEAM TRAINERS

BOYD EXELL

Boyd lives in Leicestershire where he is a professional carriage driving instructor and trainer. Born in Bega, Australia, he has been involved in equestrian sports since he was 8-years old. He has many accolades to his name including Australian Pairs Champion; UK National Horse Teams Champion and significant achievements on the FEI Indoor World Cup circuit. Together with Michael Freund (Germany) and Chester Weber (USA), he is a member of the Global Driving Team.

ROBERT BUCK

Robert is a professional ridden and driven equine trainer, based in Andoversford near Cheltenham. Whilst a good deal of his career has been focused on training the ridden horse and rider, he has been involved in training carriage driving horses and ponies for the past 10 years, transporting his outstanding ridden skills successfully to the driven horse and driver.

TEAM VETERINARY SURGEON

VIKI EDMONDSON BVSc, MRCVS

Viki has extensive experience of competition horses from all disciplines including dressage, eventing and driving. She has worked with many competitors to help achieve the best performance possible and provided invaluable support to the British team at Karlstetten.

TEAM EQUINE PHYSIOTHERAPIST

NICOLA BROWNE BSc, CatA ACPAT

Nicola is a well respected chartered animal physiotherapist who runs her own practice (Touchstone Physiotherapy) in Nottinghamshire. She combines this with competing at international level in eventing.

Team GB would like to thank all sponsors, friends and family who have supported them through sponsorship and personal donations to aid the team training and preparation for the 2005 FEI World Combined Pony Championships.

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Team GB's training facilities have been generously sponsored by CarriageSales.com and we would like to thank Steve Jarman for his continued support to the team and the sport.

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simon willis

Simon Willis is a sculptor based in the Isle of Man. Working in steel and copper, he produces unique pieces portraying characters in atmospheric settings.

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HADYN MARTIN

Hadyn is a Toddington based artist specializing in commissioned paintings and portraits and has kindly donated a painting to support Team GB fundraising.



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Individual, team and team training photographs have been kindly supplied by Gary Lane Photography. Gary is based in the East Midlands and specialises in action, corporate and sports photography.

