

What a strange year it has been and weren't British Carriagedriving lucky with the timing of the introduction of our on-line membership and event entry system where the "new normal" benefits significantly from contactless and paperless transactions. Many thanks to everyone who has used the system.

Hopefully many of you will have been able to continue with your driving activities and the support for Ashfields in August was excellent. What an amazing job the organisers did in making the venue Covid compliant and the members feel safe. Thanks are also due to all the competitors and officials for assisting with the safety requirements. It's a shame that spectators cannot be welcomed but Government guidelines must be followed.

If you've kept up with the Carriage Driving news pages, you may already have seen some of the information in this newsletter but there is plenty that is "new" so please read through to the end.

### **New Regional at Frickley Park**

An exciting new Regional event, sponsored by Carriagehouse Insurance, is planned for Frickley Park on 10-11 October 2020, with the opportunity to qualify for the 2021 BC National Championships.

The course is planned out with 7 great obstacles including a very inviting water complex and a cones arena with a gorgeous back drop so the organisers are encouraging you not to miss out on this stunning venue which has easy access, not far from the A638 exit on the A1. The event plans to run club classes and the schedule is available to view on the BC website. All

entries for the Regional event will be on-line via the Members Login on the website other than club entries which should be sent directly to the organiser.

There will be catering for the duration of the event available to all. Saturday evening entertainment, if you can call it that, will be James Binns, the event organiser, "Braving The Shave" for Macmillan Cancer Support so he anticipates that should be a good laugh and requests that no-one lets him sit on his own. Hopefully lots of you will be able to support this event which plans to upgrade to a National in 2021.

### **BBC Focus on Driving**

At Ashfields in September, don't be surprised if you see a BBC camera crew roaming about on marathon day. There will be a production team from the "The Farmers Country Showdown", which is shown on BBC1, attending the event to follow two farming families whose hobby is horse driving trials. This is a great opportunity to promote the sport so fingers crossed the weather is better in September than it was in August.

### **Next Council Meeting**

The date for the next meeting of the British Carriagedriving Council is Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. 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 e-mail to the British Carriagedriving office, at least a week before the meeting, to allow time for the papers for Council to be prepared and circulated.

## Council Elections 2020

Please give some thought to anyone you may wish to propose for Council (with their permission of course). There are 3 vacancies and Council are keen to hear from anyone willing to put their name forward to take an active part in running British Carriagedriving. Patti Atkinson is willing to continue on Council and has put her name forward for re-election, Rod Holdsworth will stand for election as he is currently a co-opted member and James Broome retires after the maximum length of service of 9 years. The existing Council members are happy to chat about what is involved so please approach them for further information or contact the BC office.

The format for Council meetings has changed. Although forced by coronavirus, on-line meetings are now considered to be the best way forward. Council now meets every 4 weeks with shorter evening meetings and the intention of having one or two face to face meetings each year.

The relevant forms which require to be completed by each candidate are on the web-site [www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk](http://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk). If you are unable to download or print these, please contact the BC office to request a copy sent by post.

Nominations close on Monday 5th October 2020 to enable an election to take place before the AGM if required.

## New BC Chairman

Chris Smith is stepping down from his role as BC Chairman to avoid a conflict of interest as he has accepted an invitation to take on the role of BEF Council Chair. He will remain on Council for a further year to the end of his term of office. While we will greatly miss Chris's input, BC are delighted to announce that Andrew Counsell has accepted the position of Chairman, and will be co-opted after the 2020 AGM.

## A.G.M. and Conference 2020

The A.G.M., Conference and associated meetings will still take place on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October but will now be held on-line via Zoom.

Many people will now be familiar with Zoom and one of the handiest features is that pressing the space bar enables you to speak; your microphone is muted again when it is released.

There will be a test meeting a few days in advance of the Conference weekend to enable anyone who has not previously tried Zoom to ensure they have downloaded the app correctly and can get connected.

The plan is to follow the usual timetable with the International and Club meetings in the morning and, after lunch, the AGM and Conference.

Links for all meetings will be sent to members nearer the time.

Conference packs will be distributed in advance by email and can be requested from the BC office by any member who does not have an email address.

## Entering Events

Please remember if you have any trouble with your event entry to contact the BC office and not the event organiser. Don't forget to register your horse(s) before starting to complete your entry. In the horse box, start typing your horse's name (at least the first 4 characters) and wait 3-4 seconds for the drop down box to appear. At the end of the process, you can choose to pay by BACS or use a debit or credit card to pay via Stripe.

## Ability Levels for Drivers

All drivers who have competed in the last two years have been assigned an "ability level" which reflects the classes they are eligible to enter, but there will be some we have missed. Please login using the

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 if you feel this has been incorrectly assigned and this will be changed for you.

### **YD and Para Saddlers' Prizes**

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers will present a training voucher to each para driver and young driver (as stipulated for British Carriagedriving Young Members) who completes a National or Regional event in 2020, without retiral or elimination.

The amount of the training award will depend on the number of applicants and be apportioned on a pro rata scale depending on the number of events completed in 2020.

To apply, send an email to the BC office with details of the events you completed by **30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. No further applications can be accepted after this date.

### **Council Chat**

One of the new initiatives Council was introducing this season, was to advertise specific times at which they will be available to chat to competitors at events. Events offer a good chance to meet informally but can be awkward for Council if members wish to chat while they are walking the cones etc. Competitors are asked to respect the fact that many Council members also compete. Look out for Jane Isaac and Jamie March who will be available for a chat at Ashfields from 5pm to 5.30pm on Thursday evening at their lorries – with appropriate social distancing in place.

### **Accident Reporting On-line**

The British Carriagedriving website now has a link to the Howden micro-site, under the "Insurance" heading on the right hand

side of the front page, where accident and incident reporting is now done online by Safety Officers. This link also gives members access to an extended list of Frequently Asked Questions about insurance matters and a direct line of communication to the insurers. Information submitted will be sent to both the insurers and the BC office. If there is no internet connection on-site, it will be necessary for Safety Officers to compile accurate notes and upload these at a later date.

### **Pony Dressage**

To mirror the FEI decision to reduce the size of the dressage arena to 80m x 40m for all pony classes, British Carriagedriving have followed suit, which was first implemented at Ashfields in August. This will have a very small effect on some of the BC tests which were written to work in both arenas. Other tests may have more significant changes so have a look on the BC website for updated diagrams.

### **Dressage Comments**

Council have approved a new rule that dressage marks of 6.5 or less must have a comment attached. This is being done to assist drivers identify areas that need work in their training.

### **World Championships**

Selection for the World Championship events in 2020 and 2021 has been fraught with difficulty due to event cancellations. Ashfields August held selection classes and the September event will have the final selection class for Single Horses and the first selection class for Horse Pairs.

The Single Horse drivers who are in contention for the team are: Harriet Bradford, Frank Campbell, Charlotte Chard, Lucy McGill and Grace Smith. The team will be announced after Ashfields.

### **Harness Fitting Workshops**

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers and the Society of Master Saddlers have generously made funding available to deliver two harness fitting workshops. Given the current Covid situation, these will take place on-line in November via webinars. Dates have still to be confirmed. There will be two sessions: the first on fitting the harness to the horse and the second looking at adjusting the harness to fit with the vehicle. Links for these sessions will be published when dates are finalised.

### **Young Driver Clinic**

The BYD October clinic is open to all young drivers from age 8 to 30 and takes place on the weekend of 24/25<sup>th</sup> October at The Unicorn Trust, Stow on the Wold.

Any YD who is not yet a member can join as a YD Supporting member at £5 which enables a YD to attend a training clinic if a £5 clinic ticket is purchased from the shop. Please ignore the fact that it says "Easter" as this will be valid for October.

Come and catch up with fellow young drivers, practice for the indoor season and start preparations for the FEI Youth Championships in 2021. You can also come without a pony and join in.

There will be 2 driven lessons a day, dressage as an individual and cones / obstacles as group lessons. Social Distancing permitting we will run some additional sessions around the driven lessons. Please book early so there is plenty of time to put the additional Covid 19 arrangements in place. You can stay for Friday and Saturday nights. Lunch and dinner are available on a pre-booked basis.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 1st October 2020. Please apply via the Members Login on the BC website.

If you have any questions or wish more information, email Mary Jane Campbell on [byd@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk](mailto:byd@britishcarriagedriving.co.uk).

### **National Clinic 2021**

The National Clinic for TDs, CDs and Judges is planned to take place at the Unicorn Trust at Stow on the Wold on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This will be run in conjunction with an international clinic. Booking will be available on-line or via the booking form which will be sent with your membership renewal reminder in December.

A change has been introduced into the BC Rule Book to give more flexibility for officials, who miss a clinic year, to be approved by Council to remain active on the Officials List. Should this be a year that you need to attend, but you are unable to do so for any reason, please e-mail your request to be considered for a year's extension to the BC office.

### **Important Vaccination Rule**

Although delayed by a year due to coronavirus, from first January 2021 the BC Rule Book will adopt the FEI vaccination rules.

A primary course of two injections not less than 21 days or more than 92 days apart is required and the first booster must be given 5 - 7 months (not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days) after the second injection of the primary course. Thereafter, annual boosters are to be given not more than 12 months apart with the most recent booster within 6 months of the competition.

In real terms this means that annual vaccinations are still acceptable in many cases. If you only compete outdoors, and time your booster for April, you should be covered until the end of the outdoor season. It may be necessary to administer an additional booster to get the timing right if your annual booster is due in the next 6 months or to vaccinate earlier than usual if you normally vaccinate during the summer.

Tetanus has not been added to the vaccination requirements although it is

strongly recommended that you vaccinate for this devastating disease.

Please speak to your vet if you have any queries about your horse's vaccination record and remember to pay attention to the requirements of any venues you attend who may have different stipulations and may, in particular, require 6 monthly vaccinations which is not the same as the "within 6 month" rule.

### **New Rule for Fire extinguishers in the 2021 BC Rule Book**

Council have approved the Safety Committee recommendation that 3kg fire extinguishers must now be carried per camp. On arrival at an event, they should be placed on the near side of the main vehicle to be in close proximity to the entrance to the living area. This is in addition to any fire extinguishers required by law in any lorry or caravan. This rule will be implemented from 1st January 2021. It is recognised that lorries are now much larger than when the rule was originally written.

### **Class Progression for Singles**

With the lack of events in 2020, some drivers are struggling to progress as planned. A slight ambiguity in the Rule Book has been identified. Annex 16, 4.5.2 can be interpreted to allow completion of two classes at the same event as counting towards progression. While this was not the original intention of the rule (which refers to three classes rather than events) it has been agreed that multiple entries at one event will continue to be accepted in 2021 in case another season is decimated. This rule will be rewritten for 2022 to require completion of three separate events to ensure adequate experience at that level of competition is gained before progressing to Advanced.

### **Rule Clarification for Fours**

Council have agreed to clarify the wording of Article 942.1 regarding safety. A number of fours have been seen at events last year exercising with only one groom on the turnout. The rule will be reworded to make it clear that two grooms are expected to accompany fours at all times and a fourth person will be required if the spare horse is being led.

### **IMPORTANT**

#### **Identification and Microchipping**

All horses and ponies will need to be microchipped by law according to the following timeline: England has a deadline of 1 October 2020, Scotland is 28 March 2021 and Wales is 12 February 2021. The dates vary slightly according to the location of the passport issuing organisation (PIO) with which the horse is registered e.g. if you live in England but your pony is registered with a PIO in Scotland, then the Scottish deadline will apply.

It is important that owners check that their horse has a microchip AND that this microchip is recorded on the Central Equine Database. You can check your horse's microchip at <https://www.equineregister.co.uk/home>. If it doesn't appear and your horse already has a microchip you will need to notify your PIO of the microchip number.

If your horse has not been microchipped, you will need to contact your vet to arrange for this to be done.

If your horse has a passport issued in another European Union country, you will need to make sure that it is also recorded on the Central Equine Database, with its microchip number, within 90 days of it having arrived. If your horse has an EU passport and has been in the UK for a while, or is a foal that was born in the UK which has a passport from another EU country, the BEF can ensure these details

are recorded on the Central Equine Database at a cost of £25 (£8 of which is a RM Special Delivery before 1pm back to the owner), using the link below.

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/equine/passports/registering-an-imported-horse>

The BEF advice is to do this in plenty of time before 1 October 2020 to avoid possible penalties.

Civil sanctions are now able to be applied (as well as criminal sanctions) for failing to comply with these deadlines. Civil sanctions mean that anyone not complying on time may be liable for a compliance notice which may lead to a fixed penalty notice and a fine. This is similar to a fixed penalty notice for a parking infringement. The fact that fines can be applied may well mean that local authorities are more willing to enforce equine identification regulation than they have been in the past.

### Using the on-line portal

There's a link on the front page of the BC website. If you cannot remember your username or password, a reminder can be requested on the login page. Hopefully the process will be clear when you come to use it but please contact the BC office if you experience any difficulty.

If any of your personal details change, you can update these by logging in and accessing your personal profile.

Remember that you need to register your horses before you try and enter an event.

There will also be an event entry section but please note that late entry fees are now automatically added after the closing date.

All FEI passports, registrations, selection forms, rule books and event tickets are available from the shop.

You can also register as a volunteer without being a member and this allows you to note the roles you have previously performed, or if you are new but keen to get

involved. You can list the events at which you would like to volunteer to enable those organisers to contact you directly. Members can also add themselves to the volunteer list for events at which they are not competing.

### FEI Passport Applications, Renewals and Registrations

Please avoid using paper forms for any FEI Passport Applications, Renewals and Horse Registrations as these are now obsolete. Please log in to the new portal and complete the appropriate forms which can be found in the shop. You then pay for them in the usual manner via your basket and send your payment by cheque (with the passport if this is being sent to the BC office), BACS or credit or debit card via the Stripe system.

### FEI Pony Measuring

The deadline for measuring ponies has been extended to 31/12/2021. There is no information as yet regarding measuring dates in Britain.

### Riding and Harness Stuff Quizzes

After the last quiz in the on-line events series "at Bywell", we would like to thank our generous sponsor, Sanchia May, whose business Riding and Harness Stuff is such a regular supporter of horse driving trials at all levels.

Also, thank you to everyone who took part in the quizzes "at" the six events over the summer. The winners of the £50 Riding and Harness Stuff vouchers were:

- Ashfields – Hamish Reid
- Hopetoun – Esther Rawlinson
- Cricklands – Terry Logan
- Sandringham – Team Bradford
- Onley – Esther Rawlinson
- Bywell – Team Bradford

There were 4 contestants earning a final total of over 500 points: Terry Logan, Marisa Pinnock, Hamish Reid and Ginger (Sara) Howe. With a grand total of 572 points, Terry Logan wins the overall Quiz Champion title and the £100 Riding and Harness Stuff voucher.

With the success of Ashfields (August) and the forthcoming events at Ashfields (September) and the new Regional event at Frickley in October (both qualifiers for the National Championships in 2021), we hope events will now run in their more usual format and we can have Drivers of the Year again in 2021.

### **Howden Insurance**

Our other points league sponsor is Howden who have been our insurance broker for many years. This year, with no points league to sponsor, they have very generously provided sponsorship for the September Ashfields to allow each driver to receive a commemorative plaque (since it's "Not the National Championships").

All the Howden insurance documents are available to view on the microsite, linked from the front page of the BC website.

### **ATVs and Scooters**

If you are taking a quad or scooter (or, any motorized vehicle) to any events, please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure you are adequately insured and that the vehicle is only ridden according to the manufacturers' specifications. It is also important to remember that vehicles used on public roads (often part of the marathon route) must comply with the Road Traffic laws.

### **Competence Cards**

If you are a club level driver at present, and wish to make the move up to compete in Novice classes at a club's Novice

Qualifying Event, Regional event or National Event, or any of the classes for multiples, remember you need to submit a signed Competence Card, with the final results from the 3 events at which your card was signed, to the BC Office. If you are contesting the Indoor Finals at Open level, you may use this as one of the events on your Competence Card.

### **Safety officer training**

All new Safety Officers, appointed to act at National and Regional Driving Trials, must now be approved by the British Carriagedriving Council. Before appointing them Council will want to see that they have sufficient experience to complete the job satisfactorily. They will be expected to demonstrate some experience of driving trials and basic knowledge of the rules and have acted as an assistant Safety Officer under the guidance of an approved Safety Officer at two national events.

### **Event feedback form**

As the season is finally underway, please take a few moments to fill in the on-line event survey form for any events you attend this year. This information is of great benefit to the organisers who are always looking for ways to improve their events and offer what competitors want. While they are happy to receive ideas for improvement, please don't forget to let them know what you liked about the event too. It can be a thankless task organising events and without these dedicated people, there would be no events to enjoy.

### **BC Gain (CASC) Status**

After some correspondence with HMRC, it has been agreed that British Carriagedriving fulfils the necessary criteria to be accepted as a Community Amateur Sports Club. This is expected to have some tax benefits and hopefully encourage more

people to stand for Council as some companies allow their staff time off for volunteering activities.

### **International Class Funds**

Council have created a policy, which the Chefs d'Equipe have endorsed, to formally document the process of administering the international class funds and increase accountability and transparency for the squad (the drivers who have put their names down for the selection procedure). Squad drivers will receive a copy of the final accounts after any championship.

### **Review of The Highway Code**

British Carriagedriving have been invited to participate in the "Review of The Highway Code" which aims to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. The consultation closes on 27 October 2020. Proposals include:

- Insertion of the phrase 'horse drawn vehicles' where appropriate
- Creation of a hierarchy of road users
- Guidance on safe passing distances and speeds

### **Forestry Access Survey**

The Forestry Commission is conducting a survey to establish which forests are accessed and for what purpose. If you access any forests in England, please complete the survey at the following link: <https://subscribe.forestryengland.uk/ActiveForestsParticipantSurvey/>

### **Network Rail Research**

The BHS is carrying out research on routes that are driven with a horse and carriage where part of the route includes driving alongside an active railway line. If you know of any routes then the BHS would be most grateful for your insight and experience.

Please send your response direct to [janice.bridger@btopenworld.com](mailto:janice.bridger@btopenworld.com) giving as much information as you are can. The BHS aims to use this information to present evidence to Network Rail that it is not dangerous, in principle, to ride or drive a horse alongside railway lines.

The sort of information that will be useful is:

- Location (map please if possible)
- Name of Railway line / single or double line / main line?
- Frequency of trains if known
- Steam / diesel
- Approx. distance from railway fence / railway track
- Whether the path alongside the railway is a restricted byway, byway, road or private track
- Approx. length next to railway
- Whether part of a promoted route or used as organized drive
- Evidence of accidents / conflict
- History

Any Other information of relevance.