



British Horse Driving Trials Association

www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk

Minutes: BHDTA Affiliated Clubs Meeting The Best Western Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth 11am October 30th 2010

1	Welcome: Club Liaison Chairman, Mike Watts MW introduced the members of the Club Liaison Committee to the club members. He asked the clubs to make use of the Regional Representatives. He noted that the meeting would be more interactive this year with breakout sessions.
2	Report by MW on Club Liaison Committee 43 clubs affiliated in 2010 including the IHDTUK with 3 new ones this year. He pointed out that some only do pleasure drives but many run driving trials competitions. MW displayed statistics showing the number of clubs running 2 day events and the corresponding number of entries. He felt the standard of these events was very high. IHDTUK ran 82 events with more planned for 2010/2011 season.
3	Summary of reports received from clubs – club liaison members MW summarized points raised in the clubs' reports. The clubs seem to be healthy with minor fluctuations in membership although they continue to seek new members. He noted that many clubs had their own rules for a variety of reasons. Tony Gregory reported on the Midlands Area. The 6 Midland clubs fall into 3 groups: some run good 2 day events with National Qualifiers, 2 run 1 day events, training sessions and drives and the other 2 just organize picnic drives. Tony had liaised with the clubs to raise concerns with Council members. The BEF had offered funding which enabled "Training for Trials" to be organized. This had been well supported and covered a wide variety of topics for a range of abilities. The aim was to encourage drivers to have the confidence to move up to national events. The Midland Driving trials Group supported this initiative. He hoped that this can be extended to other regions if the funding continues. The BEF Youth Council has not yet been formed.
4	Introduction to breakout sessions MW MW introduced the topics and facilitators as follows: Dick Carey: indoor driving Martyn Willis: club driver challenge Tony Gregory: recruitment of new members and progression Mike Watts: scoring/technology or model club rules Wendy Peckham: PR, publicity and press Nigel Williams: safety.
5	Breakout sessions – on club issues The club members were invited to attend their choice of discussion group.
6	Breakout groups report Indoor driving: Dick Carey reported that fitness was identified as an issue. It was necessary to have the horse or pony reasonably fit. He noted that IHDTUK were happy to assist clubs wishing to run events. Club driver challenge: Martyn Willis reported that revision of the rules would include cone width and orientation. It would be aimed at club drivers not national competitors and he hoped to have the final at the National Championships. Recruitment of new members and progression: Tony Gregory reported on ideas to introduce new members. Clubs were encouraged to do more demonstrations although not place too much emphasis on very young children. He felt a personality to head up the driver recruitment was needed. Single ponies need to be shown rather than horse fours. Assistance as grooms to existing drivers can be a good way to get people into the sport due to the expense of getting started.



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	Scoring/technology or model club rules: Mike Watts reported concerns about different rules between clubs. The need for experienced officials was also an issue. A likely guideline will be that a club or national clinic qualified official should be used although experience was also needed. Scoring was also discussed as there are 2 systems currently in use. PR, publicity and press: Wendy Peckham reported that much of the discussion overlapped with the group discussing recruitment. She identified a need to define the target audience and encourage the public to come and watch and draw in other equestrian disciplines. Retention was then needed as stewards or drivers. The relative merits of singles or fours as the best turnouts to promote was considered. Local papers and TV as well as equestrian magazines were discussed. Safety: Nigel Williams noted that his group had found that good paperwork and risk assessments were needed in the event of a mishap. Where venues also have public in attendance, control of the public presents additional problems. Claims are not common but will arise from time to time. Some venues may also have their own safety advisor which can lead to differences in the way to approach a problem. Good relations with the TD are important. It was highlighted that barriers can complicate an accident. Only one person used the BHDTA paperwork and he suggested this could be updated. He noted that safety was a job that could not be completed, just done as well as possible.
7	Wrap up and AOCB MW felt that more questions may have been raised than answered and said he was happy to be approached at any time. Douglas Strachan asked about the progress of the safety information for clubs. Mary Kusin confirmed that this had been revised but the completed document was too complex for the club pack and further work needed to be done. She hoped to have this completed in time for the new season. Douglas asked for copies of the risk assessments completed on the Young Driver rules. Tony Bache agreed to look into this. The meeting felt that the groups had worked well. Some felt more preparation would enhance the discussion. MW thanked members for attending.

Questions

From Douglas Strachan: “could Mike please detail the input that the Club Liaison Committee had on Council’s decision for Novices in Council’s proposed new Class Structure ?”

Answer: Yes. The Club Liaison members consulted clubs then fed back in this area briefly as follows; *Clubs want to be consulted on major changes. Novices need to reach an appropriate standard before taking part in nationals. Novice qualifiers play a useful role in progression to nationals and it would be good to see some NQs at national events [so novices can try big events before Windsor], some at club events .This is reflected in the reopening of the class proposals for comment and the revised proposals to be presented at this conference.*