

It's all Happening at Bennington!

It's turning out to be quite a year at Bennington Carriages. Sue Mart and Team Bennington have been selected to represent Team GB at the World Driving Championships for Ponies in Breda, Netherlands, in September. They took third place in the Advanced Single Pony class at the National Driving Championships at Sandringham in June, which secured Sue and team their place in the GB line up.

All three drivers chosen to represent Team GB in the Advanced Single Pony class drive a Bennington carriage, which is a real feather in the cap for the company.

"This is great PR for us and for British engineering and manufacturing", says Sue. "The World Championships is a wonderful showcase for what our carriages can do and it is particularly pleasing to be flying the British flag on two fronts – as competitors and makers."

Never a company to rest on its laurels, Bennington Carriages is constantly reviewing its range and updating with the latest technologies in engineering and design.

So Team Bennington will be driving the new Bennington Blaze Ultra at Breda, which they also drove at Sandringham. The Blaze Ultra is the next generation four-wheel carriage for single competition drivers. Combining innovative design and new, lightweight materials, it is



Sue Mart and sister Wendy driving the Bennington Blaze Ultra at the Breda, Holland, test event 2014.

the lightest competition carriage Bennington has produced for the 14hh + pony.

For pleasure drivers and those just starting out in competition, Bennington has launched the Fun Bug RS (Rear Steering). This is the latest evolution of the ever-popular Fun Bug. The unique rear wheel steering system combined with the versatility of the standard Fun Bug gives the driver unrivalled manoeuvrability and agility – all of which means more fun!

The Fun Bug RS is the perfect carriage for those who train in small areas or who are starting to compete in indoor driving trials, where manoeuvrability is a key requirement. It is also suitable for driving on all terrains, so is a good choice for those wishing to participate in long distance carriage driving or British Driving Society Trec driving.

The new Fun Bug RS is also proving popular as a carriage for equine assisted therapy programmes. Leeds Donkey Sanctuary have recently taken delivery of a Fun Bug RS for use in its Donkey Assisted Therapy Programme. Qualified riding instructors, grooms and volunteers deliver tailored Donkey Assisted Therapy riding sessions in a specially designed indoor arena and the Fun Bug is enabling them to offer driving sessions to children who are too big or too physically challenged to ride the donkeys. These sessions



Cone driving phase at Breda, Holland, test event, 2014. Final placing 6th. Venue for this year's World Pony Championships in September.

open up a whole new world to wheelchair-bound children who experience a new sense of freedom and achievement from being on the carriage.

In Scotland, the Chariots of Fire company, founded by carriage driver Amanda Saville has just ordered a Bennington Fun Bug RS. Chariots of Fire specialise in enabling people with special or additional needs to enjoy the fun, excitement and challenge that carriage driving has to offer.

The Bennington Fun Bug offers exceptional stability and its independent suspension unit enables a firm but comfortable ride across all terrains. It was designed and engineered by Bennington Carriages as a safe and fun carriage for the pleasure driver and the newcomer to carriage driving. Because the Fun Bug can be adapted to carry a wheelchair, or (on the GL version) adjust the seat position to suit individual leg lengths, it is fast becoming the must-have carriage for drivers who have physical challenges or drivers who offer driving sessions to people with special needs.

For more information about the new Fun Bug RS and the new Blaze Ultra contact Sue Mart on 01400 281280 and visit www.benningtoncarriages.co.uk.

Follow Team Bennington's progress in the lead up to the World Championships in Breda, and at the competition itself, on www.facebook.com/Bennington-Carriages and twitter @thebenningtons



Amanda Saville driving the Bennington Fun Bug adapted for wheel chair drivers.

September issue

we'll be finding out more about how carriage driving is helping children and adults with physical and mental health issues regain confidence and self esteem, and help them cope better with everyday life.



Carriage driving for all ages, having fun in the Bennington Fun Bug.



New Blaze Ultra 02

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