

Indoor Carriage Driving UK

The Lincolnshire area for the Indoor Driving Trials hold monthly competitions at Laughton Manor, near Folkingham, Lincs NG34 0HB

Although a very cold day, then sun shone and 16 enthusiastic carriage drivers and their back steppers took part in the second competition of the series on 22nd November.

The standard was very high and was great to see some many different combinations from single shetlands, pony pairs and junior drivers.



Kirsty Thompson-Dowse



Kevin Smith

Sue Mart commented "I was thrilled with how Fudge performed and is providing a good foundation in our preparation for our outdoor season next year"

The dates for the next events are :

Sunday 17th January
Sunday 28th February
Sunday 13th March

Results

Novice Pony: 1st Kirsty Thompson-Dowse/Jamie Jackson **Open Pony:** 1st Sue Mart/Erica Hine **Novice Horse:** 1st Kevin Smith/Lisa Smith **Open Horse:** 1st Lucy Barclay/Rebecca Guest **Multiples:** 1st Lindsey Doran/Tim Allen

Midlands' celebrates an all-round successful year



Rosemary and Ian Wall received the Chairman's Trophy in acknowledgement of their support and help during 2015

Midlands Carriagedriving (MC) held its AGM and Competitors' Conference towards the end of 2015 (22 November) at The Kegworth Hotel, with some 30 members present plus a full complement of the Board, bar one.

Two vacancies had arisen on the Board as both Wendy Nix (Publicity Officer) and David Smith had opted to stand down after several years' of office. There had been two nominations for the vacant positions and Chairman Dave West announced that David Wheeldon and Stephen Trebble had been duly elected. Stephen, a former treasurer for the club, makes a welcome return while Pam Brown takes on the club's publicity role.

Current treasurer Mike Hawley presented the club's financial situation which remains in robust health; Dave West proposed a small increase of £5 on entry fees for 2016 to cater for the foreseeable expense of replacing the secretary's caravan and the inevitable rising costs of putting on competitions. The

proposal was passed unanimously.

The Competitors' Conference followed immediately after with Dave reviewing the past season and congratulating club members who had been successful at the National Championships. He then looked forward to 2016 when the club will celebrate competing at Catton Park for 25 years when it opens the season in April; other highlights to look forward to will be the return to Belvoir Castle Estate and hosting the British Young Drivers' National Championships at Onley.

Angela Flanagan reported on training days in 2016 that will include separate ones for backsteppers, stewards and drivers, the latter being organised to

suit individual drivers' needs and convenience rather than on set days.

Dave West explained the new rules for back/body protectors before several of those present contributed to a discussion on the proposed Countryman Fairs competition, giving a cautious welcome to the format and expressing a desire for British Carriagedriving involvement to ensure safety and animal welfare.

The club's website, www.midlandscarriagedriving.co.uk, will post event and training dates plus other information in the coming weeks.

The day concluded with MC President George Spencer presenting the annual trophies and points' league rosettes

Results

The Gateway Trophy (Novice): Cathy Gilbert **The Weston Trophy (Intermediate):** Emma Burton **The Jill Neill Trophy (Open Pony):** Elisabeth Greensmith **The Geoff Samson Trophy (Open Horse):** Ruth Auton **The Ben & Zog Trophy (Pony Pairs):** David Wheeldon **The Dainty Trophy (Horse Pairs):** Angela Flanagan **The Tandem Horn:** Claudia Bunn **The Roger Godfrey Trophy (Teams):** Angie Smith **Chairman's Trophy:** Rosemary / Ian Wall **Points League Winners: Pre-Novice:** Lianne Dolan **Novice:** Megan Wheeldon **Intermediate:** Stephen Trebble **Open Pony:** Elisabeth Greensmith **Open Horse:** Sara Clough **Pony Pairs:** David Wheeldon **Horse Pairs:** Ruth Auton **Tandems:** Anne Chambers **Teams:** Angie Smith

Advanced Horse Pair driver

Advanced Horse Pair driver, Angela Flanagan, has become the first person in Driving to be awarded the UK Coaching's highest qualification - Level 4 with a Pg Dip., in Professional Practise in Sports Coaching. She is one of only 4 people in Equestrianism in the UK to achieve this.

Angela says: "Having taking over the responsibility of UKCC for British Carriagedriving, I have been part of the CDAT - Coaching Development Action Team - for the British Equestrian Federation. Just over two years ago, we were invited to an Induction day to launch Level 4. Having successfully completed my Level 3 it seemed like the natural progression. The day was full on and many of us came away feeling very unsure about the time factor as well as the return to study, but one of my friends at CDAT suggested we should at least give it a try!

So off went the letter of intent followed by an application. Being part of a NOD (Non Olympic discipline), I thought that would probably be the end. Not so!! I was invited for a very searching interview, which included me giving a Presentation and as a technophobe that in itself meant sleepless nights, and lots of practice with one of my daughters.

Seven candidates were accepted onto the course run in conjunction with Northumbria Uni. The next year saw us travelling between Northumbria, Stoneleigh and Hammersmith, as guests of British Rowing, who also had participants on the course. We had the opportunity to meet and listen to experienced, expert coaches from many diverse sports. I think the highlights of Year 1 were being invited to the Coaching Conference in Glasgow, just before the Championships, and meeting with Olympic coaches, and also an invitation to Henley Regatta. A Post Grad Certificate was reward for all the hard work for the four of us still managing to juggle jobs, family, competitions not to



Advanced Horse Pairs - Angela Flanagan. Inset: Angela Flanagan at Hopetoun 2010

mention all the work and reading for the assignments.

Year 2 was all change! The course changed its base to Gloucester University. At Gloucester we were able to join forces and interact with the full time students. It gave a fresh vibe and the year moved quickly by, with assignment dates always closing in fast, our driving season taking up lots of time and qualifiers fighting for priority against deadlines!

September brought the end of the driving season and also saw three of us achieving the Post Grad. Diploma which was crucial, as without this we could not progress forward to Level 4. Any thought of easing up or celebration had to be put 'on hold'.

The last hurdle - Level 4 assessment and gruelling interview and yet another Presentation, still had to be faced at the end of November in front of a panel of five including BC's representative James Rooney.

I am delighted to say that two of us (good friends now) have successfully reached the end of our two year journey, thanks to the support from Gloucester and also from each other. Coincidentally we are both

from NOD's!! (Non Olympic equestrian disciplines!). We join an Elite group of two from the first cohort.

This could not have been achieved without the support and patience of my family - particularly my twin daughter Maria, for her help, support and IT skills - and my husband for funding it all!!

The course had allowed me to meet, talk and listen to coaches and other experts I could have only otherwise seen through the media or through their articles and books. In addition I have made lifelong friends with my fellow students.

I would like to thank everyone at Gloucester Uni, Dr Anita Navin, Dr Abbey Brady, Course Leader Alison Croad and my tutor Mark Jeffreys, for their support and encouragement through the good times (and the down times) of this process.

For the future, I hope that BC will allow me, together with my Level 3 Coaching team, to lead the way forward towards continual Coaching to develop our medal winning teams of the future."

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