



Got a driving for fun bug?

Not everyone wants to be a competition driver. So what is the best carriage for your requirements?

The answer to that is the Bennington Fun Bug. Originally created over 10 years ago for newcomers to driving by Michael Mart, founder of Bennington Carriages, the Fun Bug is an extremely stable four wheel carriage. "I designed the Fun Bug because so many people were nervous about driving a standard two-wheeler which requires a very fine balance," says Michael.

"The shafts of the two-wheeler are designed to float in the harness so the horse can move freely. Because many drivers were worried about the shafts coming adrift and the carriage tipping

backwards, they would put their weight forward resulting in the shafts pushing down into the harness, creating pressure on the horse's back and a bumpy ride for all. I thought there had to be a better way and so I designed the Fun Bug," explains Michael.

A great family vehicle

The Fun Bug has four pneumatic tyres and an independent suspension unit to guarantee a smooth and safe ride over any terrain. There is no turntable so there is no risk of jack-knifing. Even if your horse spooks he can't destabilise the Fun Bug. It has sprung aluminium shafts which are fully adjustable for length, width and height so you can get a perfect fit whatever the size and shape of your horse or pony.

There is also the option of a backstep which makes it a great family vehicle and is ideal for schooling a novice horse or human - you can even have dual reins so it's an ideal teaching vehicle. The Fun Bug can be manufactured to carry a wheelchair which means disabled drivers or those with limited movement can join in the fun too.

It is very easy to get on and off the footplate so it's also very popular with drivers whose knees and hips have got a bit rickety.

It even comes in a choice of seven colours in the durable powder-coated finish that Bennington-made carriages are renowned for.

The Fun Bug might not be a showy carriage to look at, but it has all the same standards and quality of its flashy big sisters and it holds its

value should you ever want to sell it.

David Veasey, who breaks in and trains horses to harness, thinks the Fun Bug is the bee's knees when it comes to training: "The four tyres make it so much more stable for young ponies and it won't run up their bottom when they stop like two-wheelers will, so there is less chance of them being spooked and rushing forward to get away from it. The Fun Bug teaches ponies how to turn and how to balance. They can't turn the carriage so easily if they do spook, so you can stay in control of both the pony and the vehicle. I train all my novices in the Fun Bug now."

Go anywhere, do anything

Fun Bug owners take them across fields, through water, on the beach and even to fun competitions.

Jo Hall from Wisbech sums it up when she says: "I chose a Fun Bug because I wanted something stable, safe and comfortable as a starter vehicle. As a novice driver with a novice horse I haven't had to think about the carriage at all; the Fun Bug has let me get on with learning to drive. I didn't really appreciate that until I bought my competition carriage. I've taken my Fun Bug everywhere and it's got me out of trouble quite a few times, where a traditional carriage would have come unstuck. I just feel confident in it."

- Benningtons have a great offer on their Fun Bug Starter Pack - see their advert on page 60

