

# You're through to Bennington

We caught up with Sue Mart at Bennington Carriages to find out what people ask when they call the company's helpline. Here are two of the most commonly asked questions, Sue shares the advice she offers those who contact her.

**My pony has recently been broken to harness and I am now looking for a carriage to use for pleasure driving classes and some off-road driving. How do I find the right vehicle?**

Sue advises: To start with you could buy a pre-owned carriage. At Bennington we have a pre-owned section on our website and all the carriages are on display here.

A carriage has to be the correct size and weight for the horse or pony, so being able to try before you buy is the best way to ensure a correct fit. If you have a trainer, it is worth seeking their advice on buying a carriage as they will be able to recommend some suitable models and the best place/s for you to buy from.



Sue Mart chats to a customer

As far as designs go, I often recommend a Bennington B1 Classic for horses and ponies ranging from 13hh-15.2hh because they are smart, safe and versatile and suitable for

indoor driving, as well as driving outdoors, along with BDS pleasure driving. Also, it is a suitable vehicle to take you from novice to national level, which saves buying another vehicle

a few years down the line when you might be competing at a higher level.

If you decide to buy a second hand Bennington and want to know more about the carriage, jot down the four-digit chassis number then ring me with it and I can provide the specifications of the carriage. Every vehicle made after 1986 was issued with a chassis number and it can give potential buyers a bit more reassurance knowing the history of the carriage. I would avoid buying unseen and always check the weight of the vehicle to make sure it's not too heavy for your horse or pony. You also need to consider whether the vehicle has the correct features for the job you want to do. For example, for the marathon phase and indoor driving vehicles for singles must have a track width of 125cm and for dressage and cones the width must be 138cm.



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# Feature



On most two-wheelers, the shafts can be adjusted on a series of holes to raise/lower the shaft height, or for fine adjustment the tugs can be moved on the back band



To achieve the correct balance (i.e. the shafts floating in the tugs when being driven) in a two-wheel carriage the floor should be horizontal to the ground

As far as designs go, I often recommend a Bennington B1 Classic for smaller horses and ponies.

Finally, make sure you get a receipt from the vendor on purchase and ask them for proof of ownership, as well as a service record if there is one.

**My horse isn't a conventional shape. He has a pony sized head and a full size body. How can I find harness to fit him?**

At Bennington we can supply harness within the Zilco range by swapping individual parts around to the exact specifications of your horse or pony. I can send out a measurements chart to be filled in and once I have the measurements back, we can assemble the harness to suit.

Even better, you can bring your horse or pony to us and we can measure him or her up on site. We have stabling at Bennington and there are good local B&Bs so why not tie in a visit with some training and stay for a few days?

You also need to check that the shaft width of the vehicle is wide enough for your horse or pony and if you're buying a two-wheeler you need to ask the vendor the tug height. A carriage needs to be level in order to be in good balance and should neither tip up nor down.

Of course if you do want to buy new, we have a great range of Bennington carriages on our website and we now offer finance, making it easier for more people to get started. If you want to ask any more questions just pick up the phone and give me a call.



The Bennington showroom

Like any other equipment you use on your horse, it is essential that it is comfortable in order for the horse to perform at his best. So

don't worry, whatever shape or size your horse or pony is, we can supply harness that will fit perfectly and offer maximum comfort.

For more information, visit: [www.benningtoncarriages.co.uk](http://www.benningtoncarriages.co.uk) or call 01400 281280.



Fitting a harness

