

Purchasing a pre-owned carriage

If you're thinking about buying a second-hand carriage from a private seller or a reputable company, Sue Mart advises purchasers to do their homework as well as asking the vendor the right questions. Her expert advice to help you make the right choice.

1 Is the carriage the right size for your horse or pony? If you already own a carriage and are looking for the same size again, take some measurements with you when you view the carriage or ask the seller to confirm the measurements you have provided. If you're buying through a reputable company they will be able to offer you advice on sizing and you may even be able to take your horse or pony to the company to ensure it's suitable for them.



2 Does it tick all the boxes for you, not only now but also for your future goals? Ask yourself what your goals are and then do some research to make sure the vehicle you intend to buy is suitable for the purpose.

3 Does the carriage comply with the rules of your chosen discipline? For example, if you participate in indoor driving you will need a vehicle with 125cm track width. If you want to use the carriage for all three phases of outdoor driving trials it will need to have an extending axle to the correct cone width, which is 138cm for a single horse or pony. The carriage needs to be over the minimum FEI weight and

have a rear groom's seat for the dressage and cones driving phase. Refer to your chosen discipline rule book for further details.

4 If you take part in pleasure driving classes, ensure the carriage has somewhere for you to carry your spares neatly. You may choose to invest in a spares bag which can be easily fitted to your carriage, or use a wicker basket, allowing you store all your spares safely and securely in one place.

5 When buying a two-wheeler, check the ground tug height with the carriage level. If you don't already have a carriage, I'd recommend putting the harness on your horse and measuring the tug height from the ground.

6 Are the shafts the correct length and width between the shafts at the tug stops? As an approximate guide, here are standard widths, but it also depends on the build or breed of your horse.

Bennington Intro Two-Wheeler fitting correctly with a 14.2hh pony

Size of horse or pony	Width between the shafts at the tug stops, i.e. the narrowest point
10hh	18 inches
11hh	19 inches
12hh	20 inches
13hh	21 inches
14hh	22 inches
15hh	23 inches
16hh	24 inches



Measuring the shaft width between the tug stops



Measuring the ground tug height with the carriage level



The key measurements you would take against your present carriage if you were looking to buy a new one

7 Does the carriage have shafts that can be adjusted for length, width and height?

secure in the seat? Ideally, you want to feel more weight through your feet than your bottom.

8 I always strongly advise that you sit in the carriage to make sure it suits your leg length. Ask yourself, is the seat movable? Are your hips higher than your knees when you are sitting in it? Can you reach the foot board? Do you feel safe and

9 If it's a pairs carriage, is the pole the correct length and height? Is the pole easily adjustable for height?

Remember, take your time to find the right carriage and seek advice from a knowledgeable expert.



The world's finest carriages, accessories and service.

- New & pre-owned carriages
- Servicing & parts
- Harness
- Driving accessories
- Showroom
- Online ordering
- Tuition
- Expert advice & support

01400 281280
benningtoncarriages.co.uk



By appointment to H.M. The Duke of Edinburgh
Carriage Builder
Artistic Iron Products
Newark



Bennington Mini Magnum

Online shop & expert advice from Team Bennington.
We are only a click or a call away!

