

Chairman on tour

New Chairman Hugh Scott-Barrett is busy visiting (and helping at) our regional events, enjoying getting to know us. His excellent rosette-presenting skills have been put to the test so far in the South, Lincs and Leicestershire, North East, Norfolk, Thames Valley, Wessex and Midlands. There are 21 regions and he plans to visit them all by the end of next season.

Below, Hugh and the Midland winners, possibly singing carols.



Small changes...

Small pony drivers have two new championship qualifier classes for singles. Numbers are growing and now there are small pony novice, intermediate and open singles classes to match the bigger ponies and horses.

The class level entered – novice, intermediate, open – depends only on the driver, not the pony. That is, for example, anyone who is already an intermediate driver enters the intermediate small pony class. Drivers progress through the classes in the same way as they progress in the other singles classes and they retain their class whatever the size of pony or horse being driven.

The class in which a driver last competed can be checked: go to the For Organisers page – linked at the foot of the website main pages – and use the option there.

If you have a query about eligibility, please contact Mike Watts, ihdtm@mikewatts.com



Above, Sam Kingdon and Bella, winners of the fancy dress competition, West Norfolk. Photo thanks to Matt Smith Photography.

Grooms for the small pony driver

A good groom/backstepper is a vital member of the team for every driver.

A reminder for the on-the-ground grooms for small pony class drivers: please make sure you are standing where you are safe and can quickly go to the assistance of your driver, if required. You need to be paying attention to your driver, not on the phone, chatting, taking photos or videos...

Wear a helmet – you don't need to wear a body or back protector: for singles, the driver should wear the number bib.

In the cones and obstacles you can talk to and direct your driver, as required: "The other left!"

Rules – keep up-to-date

You can read and download the latest ICD-UK rules - 2023 - from our website. Indoor driving rules, of course, vary slightly from the British Carriagedriving Rules 2023, which underlie our sport and are in force from 1 October.

Do make yourself familiar with the rules because knowing them can help you to avoid unnecessary penalties and even elimination (we don't like to eliminate anyone...!)

***Wishing all our members,
supporters and friends a very
happy Christmas and New Year.***



Indoor Carriage Driving UK Newsletter

December 2023 - Affiliated to British Carriagedriving

Clean Sport

"My pony has Cushing's and is on medication..."

"My vet has given my horse a course of..."

We are part of BC and we must follow the Clean Sport instructions, no matter the level of competition. If your horse or pony's medication is on the Controlled Medication Substances list, although these are legitimate, they are prohibited in competition.

We are planning to hold an online presentation with a vet to go through what clean sport means for competitors at all levels.

Here is the link to the BC list:

www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/reference/clean_sport.htm

Welfare of the Horse

When competing at ICD regional events and at the Championships, officials are monitoring for excessive use of the whip that could firstly cause distress to the animal and secondary, cause reputational harm to our sport.

Social Licence to Operate

A SLO is an intangible, implicit agreement between the public and those who pursue an activity, and equestrian sports' practices must all comply. There are some useful videos on the BC SLO page, if you want to find out more.

<https://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/slo/index.htm>

The Championships!

Put it in your diary, Friday, 19 April, 2024 to Sunday, 21 April – at Arena UK – all free to watch. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours!

Open Precision & Paces tests

The paces will be adjusted slightly to create the new Open P&P test (but the same pattern) which will be driven by the Open, Intermediate, Multiple & Veteran Classes.

The new test will be available in February.

Regions may choose to allow their open drivers to use this test at their last event.

Championships-class running order

The Supreme Championship will be the last presentation of the Championships, on Sunday. As a result, many classes that ran on Friday will now move to Saturday and vice versa. We plan to inform everyone as soon as we can so you can plan ahead. Please see the website for the class timetable which is, of course, subject to change depending on entries.

Entry fees - down to £50!

A very generous anonymous sponsor is funding reduced entry fees for all classes. This means that the 2024 Championships entry fee is just £50 per class. Overnight stabling is available to be booked separately through Arena UK.

Championship crew needed

We need happy efficient team members to join the crew who make it all work at Arena UK.

Drivers, grooms and helpers from all regions are welcome; being part of the crew means you also get an insight into how the event works, have a chance to make new friends and see the best of our sport. Training, hot drinks, refreshments, lunch (and cake) are provided.

If you are new to the sport or you haven't qualified this time, please think about joining us on the organising side – it's a great way to see what it's all about without the pressure of competing. Please contact Kayti to volunteer - scdc.kayti.harvey@gmail.com

Championship sponsors

Sponsors are hugely important to running our Championships. We've got new packages for our lovely sponsors which include a reserved hospitality area overlooking the main arena, with refreshments.

If you know of anyone or a business who might



Indoor Carriage Driving UK Newsletter

December 2023 - Affiliated to British Carriagedriving

sponsor a class or use the opportunity to reach a driving audience, please

contact Hugh Scott-Barrett or Caroline Douglas

hughscottbarrett@me.com

215cdouglas@gmail.com

Supreme/overall Champion Classes

The table below shows the classes at the Championships and which P&P test they will drive.

Novice Junior	Overall Novice Champion	Qualifying P&P Test
Novice Small Pony		
Novice Pony		
Novice Horse		
Intermediate Small Pony	Overall Intermediate Champion	New Open P&P Test
Intermediate Pony		
Intermediate Horse		
Open Small Pony	Supreme Small Pony Champion	New Open P&P Test
Small Pony Pair		
Open Pony	Supreme Champion	New Open P&P Test
Open Horse		
Pony Pair		
Pony Tandem		
Pony Team		
Veteran		

This makes the organiser's life much easier, especially where entries are made online, because the app can just scoop up all the drivers'/grooms'/horses' names, classes and other details and the schedule can be re-arranged and tweaked as much as necessary. (This could also be done using the previous Excel spreadsheet system but now it's even simpler to use, whatever your app runs on.) ICD runs on volunteers' free time so anything that saves time, reduces errors and makes life easier is a Good

Equine passports

Note that, at the Championships at Arena UK, 19-21 April 2024, your horse and pony passports...

- will be checked upon arrival or – preferably – beforehand online.
- Equine Flu vaccinations must be up to date and show the primary course of two vaccinations followed by the six-month booster then annually, meaning on or before the same date in the following year.
- A vaccination must not be within seven days of the event.

- ICD advises, but does not insist, on a vaccination being given within six months (and 21 days) of the event.

New scoring app

Lots of work goes on behind the scenes at ICD Towers and Mike Watts, our website, results and scoring system guru, has launched a new app which runs on Windows, Macs, tablets, Android and other smartphones.

Thing. The app also includes easy access to concise help for each phase, describing errors, penalties and rules.

Downloading the entries minimises common whoopsies like mis-spelled names. This matters because you want your points correctly allocated in the leagues – which saves everyone time and unnecessary grief.

Interesting fact: Mike has lists of alternative spellings/corrections for a number of drivers, so he can identify the correct person easily – the leader so far has 18 different spellings.

Now one person (such as the organiser) can download the online entries after the closing date and schedule the event, taking into account those sharing a groom/pony/carriage, and then upload the timetable to the cloud, posting it and other details – a competitor's letter, obstacle maps, etc. – to the Details area against the event on the Events page of the website. Then another person (such as the scorer) can log in and download the finished latest version of the timetable and start scoring. Where there is a reliable internet connection or a mobile phone hotspot the scorer can post the latest provisional scores every few minutes.

Check your own and your class's scores and penalties as soon as they are posted, and ask your organiser (not the scorer) if you have a specific query.

There are always opportunities

for helpers to join in. Every event needs a scorer and a dedicated assistant to keep track on paper, a timekeeper/spotter/number-checker and someone who can multi-task, perhaps with commentating skills, too.

Usually the scorer and assistant(s) sit in a warm, quiet area where they can see what's going on and, if they are lucky, they are regularly fuelled by butties and hot drinks.

Each driver completing an event perfectly and without any extra penalties has a minimum total of 35 scores or times to be entered accurately and quickly and before the next driver arrives. Drivers entering the arena out of order or making an error that needs querying can put the pressure on, mistakes can be made – but we always want to get things right! So check your scores and if you have a specific query, please tell your organiser (not the scorer) immediately so there is a chance of sorting it out before the end of the event.



Above, West Norfolk organiser Liz Harcombe won the open pony class, Andy Bircher topped the novice horse. Centre is our VIP, collecting steward Ann Melhuish, who must be one of the most patient and smiley people on the planet.

Photographers: smile, please?

Many regions are lucky to have professional photographers who attend their events regularly. It's a tough, long day... please support your local photographer by buying a few images or prints? We want them to come back!

Stop press – website update

On Thursday, 14 December, our website host updated their system to make its sites more secure. This is a Good Thing however it made some parts of our website reluctant to load – so we apologise!

Mike is on the case and things should have resolved by now.

If you are still having issues, please contact Mike Watts, ihdtm@mikewatts.com – email is best! Please send specific details of exactly what you did and what you expected to see. Screenshots are always helpful. Thank you.

Spreading the word

You may already know that Indoor Carriage Driving UK is on Facebook and Instagram. When you get a spare moment, please like and comment on our posts and do share your favourites. Do send us your own news, photos and videos? Thank you. FP