

DRIVING HEALTH & SAFETY

The club committee and the event organisers put a great deal of effort into taking reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present on competition days. This can only be effective if everyone plays their own part in helping to avoid and prevent accidents. Please obey the instructions of the organisers, all officials and stewards. No matter how experienced you consider yourself **PLEASE READ** and remember the following safety rules. You may be held responsible for any accident, injury or damage to property if you are found to have breached any of these safety rules.

Always remember a loose horse running free in a crowded box park may be something of a hazard, one racing around with a carriage attached is considerably more dangerous.

Check your harness and vehicle is in sound condition and unlikely to break before every event.

Due to the nature of Driving Trials there is always scope for accidents to happen. Everyone must follow the more important rules listed below:

Never leave a horse harnessed to a vehicle without either the driver (whip) in control of the reins or the groom securely holding the bridle.

Never remove the reins or any part of the bridle or tie up a horse / pony whilst harnessed to a vehicle.

Always follow the correct harnessing up and unharnessing procedure, ie. connect the traces to the vehicle before the breeching straps etc.

Ensure your harness and vehicle are properly adjusted before attending an event. Do not risk adjusting them when you and your animal are keyed up and ready to go.

The driver (whip) must be correctly seated on the vehicle and in full control of the animal/s **BEFORE** anyone else mounts the vehicle and is the last to dismount.

Always move off at walk, especially in the box park and any crowded area, such as in a collecting area.

Never school a horse / pony at an event as the atmosphere can excite the animal and cause a runaway.

Remember that an inexperienced animal coming to an event is likely to react in a different way from a more familiar place, such as at home.

If you are tipped out during the competition, try to keep hold of the reins as you may be able to keep control.

Never strap anyone into the vehicle. Straps/seat belts are allowed as long as they have a free end that is held by the groom so they can be released easily.

Please also refer to the Policy Statement and Lorry Park Rules elsewhere within this book.

LORRY PARK RULES

1. All Lorries and caravans require a fully working 1kg fire extinguisher.
2. Competitors must park in an orderly manner upon arrival as space is limited.
3. When parking please consider the space allowance for side ramps and rear ramps.
4. Trailers will normally be positioned in a separate area to avoid reversing/turning.
5. Any accompanying cars should be parked away from horseboxes and should not be driven around the horsebox park.
6. Horses must NOT be left unattended tied to boxes/trailers, if rugged-up it must have surcingles fitted.
7. Always observe the correct harnessing up and unharnessing procedure.
8. No exercising or lunging may take place in the horsebox park, only walk.
9. Please do NOT leave rubbish, horse hay or muck - out in the horsebox area. A muck trailer is provided, positioned near the tennis court.
10. Please be aware of others when lowering ramps, starting engines or similar.
11. The horsebox park is considered part of the showground and anyone endangering others or ill treating horse, in any way, will be subject to disciplinary procedures.
12. Any damage to persons, animals or vehicles is the sole responsibility of the individual/owner, no responsibility is accepted by WPEC or its agents.
13. **Electric fencing** is allowed if you are staying overnight but it must be not larger than a lorry and must be switched off during the day.

Duty of Care and Accident Prevention

Accidents do happen but many may be avoided by following the guidelines below.

- All Harness should be in a sound condition and adjusted to fit the horse or pony.
- The vehicle should be in a sound condition and the type suitable for the terrain to be driven.
- A head collar/halter and rope plus a spares kit must be carried. The minimum requirement is: 1 spare trace, breaching strap (pole strap for a pair), rein or rein splice, a hame strap if applicable, Hoof pick and a sharp knife. A human and horse first aid kit is strongly recommended.
- NEVER put a horse/pony into a situation in which you believe it will find alien.
- Before attending an event, ensure that your horse/pony is happy driving with other turnouts.
- An active groom or passenger should be carried in the vehicle at all times.
- When driving in company never move off adjacent to another horse/pony being put to without checking that the other driver is happy for you to do so.
- Your whip is an aid and should be in your hand and NOT in the whip socket.
- When driving in company, leave sufficient distance from the vehicle in front to permit change of pace or direction. Do not race each other. If you want to overtake another turnout, ensure you obtain the other driver's permission and only were it is safe to do so.
- Look well ahead and anticipate your horse's reaction to what it sees to prevent any problems. Be aware of wild animals and birds.
- Always approach a ridden horse with extreme care as some are terrified of carriages and consider the position of your whip. Be prepared to stop to allow the horse to pass or move away.
- Pass pedestrians with or without dogs and other horses, ridden or driven, carefully, slowly and with a wide berth.
- Always have someone at the horse's head when you dismount and never dismount yourself before everyone is off the vehicle.
- Always stop in a space large enough to allow you, your groom and passengers to exit the vehicle easily at any time, this is especially applicable to groups and the Lorry/trailer Park.
- Never tie a turnout to a fixed object with the horse/pony still in the shafts.
- Never tie a turnout to another turnout or movable vehicle.
- Never remove the bridle until the horse is free from the vehicle

DRIVING RULES AND REGULATIONS 2012

1. Windsor Park Equestrian Club Driving section run their events to the BHDTA National Rules (which are based on the FEI rules) with some minor changes to help the running of the events or to help club level competitors and newcomers.
2. It is highly recommended to read the current BHDTA rules by either reading them on the BHDTA web site www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk or buying a copy from the BHDTA office.
3. Please read the Health and Safety notes and lorry park rules on the previous two pages. Most of them are common sense and ensure that your grooms and helpers are also aware of them.
4. The Club organises several meets during the year where we offer Dressage, Cones and a Marathon these are either one day events (ODE) where we hold all three disciplines and two day events where Dressage and Cones on the first day and the Marathon on the second day.
5. All entries for Driving must be made on the this year's official entry form(s), which can be downloaded from our web site and should be sent to Mr Denis Williams, Jorric Stud, Church Lane, Wexham, Buckingham, SL3 6LH . All entry enquiries should be directed to jorricstud@aol.com. All other enquiries should be sent to jburlington@aol.com.
Emergency Telephone Number for competition days only 07773 618236
6. Due to the cost of Medical, Vet and Insurance Cover you are asked to pay a levy of £6.00 per meet. If you are entering all three phases at a meet you may deduct £4.00 from the total entry fee, i.e. £54.00 for one Dressage, one Cones and one Marathon. There are different conditions concerning qualifying classes for the Regional Event / National Novice Qualifiers at the May event. Entries for the August event, refer to the schedule and entry form.
7. A driver may enter more than once in any dressage or cones class but the second or any subsequent entry will be scored hors concourse.
8. A horse/pony may not compete more than once in a marathon. The driver or groom may compete a second or subsequent time but the driver only as hors concourse.
9. Owners must state on the entry form whether it is for horses or ponies and number of the class which they wish to enter. Please refer to the schedule.
10. Entries must arrive by noon on the date given for entries to close in the Schedule (normally the Monday before the meet). **Late entries may not be accepted.** The Club reserves the right to charge a late entry charge of £10.00. It takes a long time to organise the paperwork for an event, so it is in all our interests to enter before the closing date, shown on the event schedule.

11. The disclaimer within the Driving entry forms must be signed by both owner and driver(s). Entries will not be accepted unless properly signed.

12. In the event of a **cancelled driving meet**, entry fees may be carried forward to a subsequent Meet at the option of an owner or driver, but nonetheless **a fully completed fresh entry form must still be sent for that subsequent Meet** in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

13. Driving Competitors should refer to General Conditions shown in the general section on the club's web site.

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14. If there are less than three entries in a class then classes may be amalgamated at the discretion of the Driving Secretary.

15. Competitors are reminded that their track widths should be in accordance with BHDTA rules, Unless stated in the event's schedule and for the Pre Novice classes (see notes 31 to 35).

16. **IMPORTANT:** Driving members must use the route indicated on the central pages to enter the Great Park. **No vehicle will be allowed to enter the Great Park without the correct pass in full view through the windscreen otherwise you will be asked to pay an entrance fee.**

No unauthorised vehicles are allowed through the gate towards the Cannon Ground.

MARATHON NOTES

17. Competitors must ensure that they are **present and ready at the start of section A five minutes before their published time** to allow the harness and turnout to be checked. Late arrivals may be excluded from the competition.

18. Any competitor who starts but does not complete the course or drive **MUST** report his or her return to the Timekeeper at the end of section E or the Event Secretary at the Driving Caravan.

19. No motorised vehicles of any description are allowed at any time on the marathon course. Approved routes will be provided for competitors and guests to inspect marathon obstacles. These will be open until the first competitor has started section E. However inspection may continue on foot until told to clear the area by the Obstacle Stewards or the Technical Delegate. PLEASE NOTE: All vehicles used to inspect obstacles / drive around the park **MUST** be road legal, ie. have current insurance, road fund license and MOT.

20. Please remember **NOT** to drive on MOWN GRASS except where required to do so as part of the course as you will be eliminated from the competition.

OBJECTIONS

21. At Driving Meets, objections to the course, the results or the interpretation of the Rules, should in the first case be made to the Technical Delegate or if not then available to the Driving Caravan not later than 30 minutes after the results for that class have been posted. If not resolved then the objection may be pursued in accordance with conditions 22 - 26.

22. Only the owner, his authorised agent, or the rider or driver of a horse taking part in the competition is entitled to lodge an objection.

23. Objections must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary, accompanied by a deposit of £20, within 30 minutes after the Technical Delegate has dismissed the objection.

24. Objections will be heard by the members of the General Committee present on the ground.

25. The deposit may be forfeited unless the objection is upheld or the Committee decides that there were reasonable grounds for the objection.

26. The Driving Competitions will be held under the British Horse Driving Trials Association Rules subject to these General Conditions. These and also the Dressage test sheets may be purchased from the Executive Officer of the British Horse Driving Trials Association, the Driving Secretary or down loaded from the BHDTA website, www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk.

ASSOCIATE JUNIOR DRIVING

27. Junior membership is open to those aged between 10 & 18 years old at the beginning of the year. Junior members' parents or legal guardians need not be full club members but a junior competitor **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult to ensure their safety and protection. Hard hats and a white armband must be worn at ALL times when driving. 10 -14 year olds are only allowed to drive a single pony and must have their own Public Liability Insurance as we are unable to offer cover. 14 and 15 year olds are allowed to drive Pony Single, Pair, Tandem and Four in Hand as long as the groom/s are at least 18 years old. 16 year olds are allowed to drive the above and also Horse Single and Pair but must have a groom of at least 18 years old. 18 year olds may drive any class including Horse Tandem and Four in Hand and can have grooms of 14 years old and above.

28. New driving members must produce evidence of having passed BDS Level 1 (1998 test) or the BHDTA Safety/Competence Assessment before being allowed to compete in any competition.

29. New members (as above) must have completed three marathons without retirement or elimination as a single competitor (horse or pony) before being allowed to compete as a multiple (horse or pony). This will not apply to new members who have competed in a national competition in 2011, or before, in the class (horse or pony) in which they wish to compete. Any Driver who wishes their **competence forms** to be completed by their Judge, Club Secretary and Technical Delegate **Must hand them in before** their dressage otherwise they will not be completed. They will not be completed in retrospect following the meeting.

30. All Competitions will be run in Classes.

PRE NOVICE CLASS

31. This class is open to newcomers to the sport of combined driving trials who drive single pony or horse.

32. The rules are relaxed enabling competitors to use any harness and any carriage, minimum track width of 125 cm and may have pneumatic tires, as long as it is suitable, safe and must be clean and tidy.

33. Cones widths may be relaxed with a 25cm allowance and the marathon speeds are slower than club novice.

34. Drivers may progress to Club Novice between their third successfully completed event, at the discretion of the Driving Organiser, and their tenth event.

35. Once progression to Club Novice the driver must use a carriage with a minimum width of 140cm for cones and have solid rubber tires.

SMALL PONY CLASS

36. This is open to animals which are under 12 hands

37. The ponies may be driven as a single or pair, although a newcomer will need to have additional assessment concerning pairs driving and show that they are competent and safe.

38. Your marathon times will be as for Pre-novice

NOVICE NATIONAL QUALIFIER

39. To be eligible to compete in the National Novice (Level 2) Qualifier classes at the Third Meet, the driver must have successfully completed Competitions A, B & C at three affiliated club events, each having a three section marathon, within the current or the previous two seasons. Competitors must submit a photocopy of a competence form to the BHDTA prior to entering the Qualifier, signed by the Event Secretary, the Dressage

Judge and the Technical Delegate, to signify their approval of the competitor's ability to enter the Qualifier. These competence forms must be submitted to the event secretary **BEFORE** Competition A (Dressage) to ensure that the judge can sign the document.

A driver will be a novice driver provided they have not:

- (a) Previously competed at an Intermediate Singles class at a Regional or National event, unless this was in a qualifying class, nor
- (b) Finished in the top 50% of the Class in the National Novice (Level 2) Championships, nor
- (c) Won two National Novice (Level 2) Qualifiers although they can retain their National Novice (Level 2) status throughout the season in which this is achieved.
- (d) Qualified for the National Novice Championships in 2012 or previously.

40. To aid the running of Competition C (Cones), the track width of the vehicles should comply with British Horse Driving Trials Association Rules.

ORDER OF STARTING

41. From the THURSDAY prior to the Meet, all times can also be obtained from the Club internet website Driving page at www.wpec.org.uk. Or competitors can telephone 01753 577969 for their starting time. Have paper and a pencil ready - you may hear a recorded message.

42. Marathon Dress, see article 947 para. 2.2 British Horse Driving Trials Association Rules, with the exception of Pre-novice and one day events.

All persons riding on a carriage in the marathon must wear a correctly fitted hard hat properly fastened.

43. Any competitor who **drives on mown grass**, including road verges, except where required to do so as part of a course, **will be eliminated from that Meet**.

44. The marathon course will be driven 'blind'. Approved routes will be provided for marathon obstacle inspection.

45. Any competitor in a motorised vehicle of any description, who fails to leave the marathon course at least 30 minutes before the first competitor starts Section E, or who later returns in a motorised vehicle of any description, will be eliminated from the Competition. 'Competitor' shall include groom, assistant or supporter. In the case of a groom, assistant or supporter the competitor whom that person came to groom for, assist or support will be eliminated from the Competition.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

46. Driving - Only competitors who have driven in at least two previous Meets in 2011 and who have completed all three Competitions at one of those Meets may enter for the

Championships. Competitors who have not qualified for the Club Championships will nonetheless be allowed to compete separately in each competition as at a normal event and rosettes will be awarded to sixth place.

PLEASURE DRIVE CLASS - CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

47. The Drive is open to Windsor Park Equestrian Club members, full or day members.

48. All horses/ponies will be 4 years old or older and be fit enough for the length of the drive. They must be driven to a suitable vehicle, as the going may be rough and muddy. Pneumatic tyres are allowed.

49. The drive will be through the Royal Park, which is open to the public, so all drivers and grooms/passengers must be reasonably smart and wear HARD HATS and the driver must also wear gloves and carry an effective whip.

50. The drive will follow the route of the day's cross-country, which is marked with directional arrows and Kilometer (Km) markers. Be aware that you may drive through the deer park and woods with loose deer and pheasants. You are not allowed to deviate from the marked track. The route is split into three sections, A. Which will be 5 to 10 Km, D. Walk section which is 800 to 1000 mts and has a 10 minute halt with water available, and E. Which will be 7 to 9 Km. You may complete A, D & E or just E. Please indicate your preference on the entry form. You WILL NOT be able to drive any of the obstacles.

51. Entrants will start at five minutes intervals.

52. The Organisers reserve the right to refuse entry or stop any turnout they deem unsuitable or unsafe.

53. The Organisers and the Royal Park accept no liability for damage, injury or illness to any person, horse/pony, vehicle or property however caused.

54. Entrants will be issued with car/lorry pass.

55. It is strongly advised to read the Duty of Care and Accident Prevention notes (posted on the driving caravan) , this is for your, your passengers, your horse/pony and the general public's safety.

INVITED DRIVING JUDGES

HRH The Prince Philip
Miss M Winn
Mrs D Lucas
Mrs L Woods
Mrs D Gordon

Mrs D Hayes
Mrs L Ruffe
Mrs B Mellstrom
Mr A Puddy
Mrs S Petitpierre

Mr L Ruddiman
Mrs F Bonney
Mr B Stokes
Mrs M Wilson
Mrs K Hooper