

Harness Racing Calendar The official publication of the British Harness Racing Club

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British Harness Racing Club

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CHAIRMAN'S LAST MESSAGE

In 2021 harness racing fans welcomed the return of grass racing, having been starved of racing on the green stuff last season, there was a joyous feeling to be returning to the pleasant surroundings of rural venues, in addition to two of our 'crown jewel' fixtures Appleby and Musselburgh.

The hard tracks once again provided a wonderful platform and top-drawer racing was once again in evidence.

Needless to say, the BHRC and licence holders send their gratitude to all promoters up and down the land. It is with a heavy heart we read about the Corbiewood situation, the sport can ill afford to lose venues and sadly, we as the governing body don't manage or own a track or have a centralised funding mechanism like our professional cousins elsewhere.

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all harness fans in sending a debt of gratitude to all the owners for providing the equine stars, along with the trainers, drivers and grooms for their dedication and hard work in putting on the show at over 70 meetings in the latest season. Looking at some of the statistics in 2021 - there were 70 A Class Drivers, 47 B, 92 C licences issued; 340 Owners licences, 30 public trainers, 30 licences to train, 152 trainer permits and 62 grooms' licences issued.

Again, we are having the pleasure of watching top drawer pacers in action and should acknowledge the success in North America of those formerly trained in Great Britain, this is in addition to British based owners enjoying success across the pond. 12 months ago, there was uncertainty as to

whether the BHRC could continue to operate as there were issues over obtaining director liability insurance, fortunately we managed to cover this element of the business.

As we have stated in the past no directors, no governing body, no respectably regulated sport. I'm not going to lie to you, it's been a tough year but what I will say right now is we had an exceptionally strong proactive board assembled, working for you the licence holder, not against, as some felt.

There have been a number of major changes this year, 2021 saw the introduction of a new ratings-based handicap system for the pacers, this was after much deliberation, but a move that seemed a popular one.

Recently, the Handicap Committee met to make a few small changes to enhance the system as it continues to bed in.

The whip is a highly emotive area of the sport, this time last year we were preparing to review the rules, and with the assistance of our drivers and the officials of Harness Racing Australia, we overhauled the whip rules. Okay, the transition was always going to have teething problems but with the licence holder's cooperation the picture will improve, and improve it must, as rules over the whip in equine sports must be controlled by the governing bodies, not outside forces.

There has already been a meeting of the drivers and officials to review the last season and a few amendments will be made during the close season, with the early signals being changes to the penalties

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for whip offences will be made.

The fortunes of trotting in recent decades seemed to decline, however a few years ago Trot Britain struck up a rolling agreement with the French governing body Le Trot to buy a number of horses on a yearly basis. This has increased the quality and competitive nature of the trotting races, as they now race for increased purses.

Those investing in the trotter, naturally want to be part of the bigger European picture, striving ultimately to become members of the UET.

This will certainly raise the profile of British trotting and create opportunities for its stakeholders, however to achieve this there has to be a clear separation from pacing in terms of governance.

In the summer the BHRC Committee voted in favour of Trot Britain taking control of the governance of this aspect of our sport, basing the transfer of control on the proposals of the BHA's Brant Dunshea.

The terms of reference have been drawn up, now both the BHRC and Trot Britain need to work on the finer detail, my suggestion is with the new board of the BHRC about to be formed that the coordination group is formed asap.

This group will not be company or a governing body, it will be a group made up of representatives of both organisations to discuss points of mutual interest.

The pacing members will not be setting rules on trotting and trotting representatives will not have a say on pacing. Any points raised will need to go

back to the respective boards.

Trot Britain will also receive the Prakas Fund from the BHRC as this was generously given to the BHRC by Dr Iain Mackenzie the owner of Prakas to aid the growth of trotting in Britain.

Recently I made contact with Dr Mackenzie outlining the developments here in Britain and seeking his permission to transfer funds – he was more than happy to see this happen to aid trotting. Basically, from 2022 the BHRC will be the pacing governance.

The BHRC has made an investment in a new computer system, this will be a major aid to the administration and will also lead to a new website ahead of the new season.

Equine Medi Record, a world renown company in thoroughbred and harness racing, are currently building the new database, with the aim to be operational shortly.

The basic cost of the project is £15000 + VAT, with a few add ons for the handicap programme and Website. The cost would have been greater, however the IHRA are having the same database built by Equine Medirecord.

For some time, licence holders have been crying out for a direct say on the governance of the sport via one person one vote, well it's here. Its implementation was agreed with immediate effect in the summer and on December 5th the first election results of this new structure were declared. Basically, the affiliation paying members are now the committee with the

right to vote (on major issues) and put proposals forward for voting at the quarterly members meetings. In 2022 it is to be hoped that track stewards will also receive the vote.

For this first election under the system, we thank PJE Accountants for collating the votes as we felt it important that this should be handled totally independently.

This year we have seen an increase in integrity testing, after all we must ensure there is a level playing field for all.

The year hasn't been straightforward within the administration, we know there have been major issues over payments and the online entry system, this must change. It is hoped the new computer system and better working practices will bring about major improvements.

We must apologise to you all if you have been inconvenienced by our failings.

We have always aspired to deliver a fivestar service and I assure you we have worked tirelessly to deliver and will continue to work for you the licence holder.

There will be mistakes along the way, some decisions will be popular, others not so. We as a Board have worked as a democratic unit, we have had our differences but we've been proactive.

Please remember all members of the Board Members and track stewards are volunteers, they give up their time and put in a tremendous amount of time and effort for the sport. Unfortunately there are occasions when they are subjected to abuse, whether that be verbal in person, on social media or sadly even physical abuse.

This is totally unacceptable, it is sad that

the small minority, and it is a small minority, are potentially damaging our sport. Do you realise you are turning people away from the sport?

If you can indulge me, think about this, it is a sad indictment of British harness racing that nobody came forward to volunteer as Chair or Vice this year?

Why is this? It's seen as a poison chalice, after all who wants to be subjected to sustained, hurtful abuse or to find your tyres slashed?

Personally, I would like to thank those who have been there for me, directors and non-directors, and a special mention to Robert Millichap, Shirley Dixon and Brant Dunshea for their expertise.

You will also find that a number of our subcommittees include non-directors who share their passion and knowledge for the benefit of the sport.

That's it from me now as Chairman, I wish SHRC good luck in their pursuit of a new venue, the true harness racing fans good luck in the new season ahead and I look forward to seeing you back on the tracks in 2022 when I will continue in my role as race commentator.

A big thank you to Sally my wife who has supported me throughout, and who I will now get to spend a bit more quality time with, and of course to all the directors of the BHRC who I know work so hard for the good of the sport with so little recognition. I also wish good luck to the new Board for the future.

Darren Owen Retiring Chairman

A lifetime of Harness Racing - Gordon Corrie

We have come to the end of what must have truly been a lifetime of involvement in harness racing and the end of another era. From 1960's Hilton cum Murton sports, to a trip to Newton Stewart with a borrowed Land Rover and trailer, Young Champion and Mr Ed on tow, where when forgetting to turn left at Gretna and not checking the map until about 15 miles from Glasgow led to a quick about turn and a trip across country to arrive in time for the consolation trot and under 15hh gallop which they kindly allowed us to run in although his class was actually open!

Trips to Portmarnock from Liverpool in a 5 seater Kite and thousands of miles up and down the country to tracks opening, closing, some grass, some hard, some here for a while (Silloth and Lanark) and others which have created lasting memories ever since.

How the journeys have changed, the opening of motorways now part of everyday life. The people we have met on our trips, day and night in roadside cafes, services etc while coming home from near or far.

One such meeting that sticks in my mind is that we used to sit and chat with Father Eddie Stobart (flat cap in hand) having his break from his 6wheeler at Tebay Services, who was leading lime to spread the next day, in one of two lorries he owned at

that time.

Every day was a race day, another adventure, from Droylesden, Motherwell, EVTA grass, Corbie Wood, Lanark, Kendal, York and any others that would fit in from far North to further South.

There will be few that can remember a major meeting where Gordon was not in attendance at any time in the last 60 years, and some wont know of his time at Droylesden as Track Manager in the glorious 70/80s when I think we had Harness Racing at its most enjoyable.

Sure there were thrills and spills, and everyone had an opinion - so nothing changes there.

Gordon has been my friend since childhood and we have travelled far, most of which I can't find it within myself to write about as it becomes too personal.

In all the time I knew him and his time as a freelance handicapper, I never heard him raise his voice to anyone, have an argument out loud, or show disrespect to anyone he was involved with.

He has been and was one of the best people within the sport, yes maybe not to everyone, but one of the most knowledgeable men on harness horses that there will ever have been.

RIP Gordon

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THROUGH A FAN'S EYES

The gloom of winter is upon us, but for the first time in 14 years the Dandridge's will be warm and toastie we have had central heating installed whoooo the heating wars have commenced, on or off warmer or cooler David is wanting it turned up me what can I say apart from I am hot enough.

This year I'm actually feeling Christmassy I have not felt excited about Christmas for a few years, probably not since our sons were little, I have definitely had a touch of the Bah Humbugs in the past. Like scrooge we have got rather enthusiastic this time even splashing out on a real tree and for the record, there has not been a visit from any ghosts past or present.

If I've learnt anything from this pandemic it's to be grateful for my family, friends, good health and harness racing anything else is a bonus what more can anyone wish for. On reflection I thought maybe I should change the title "Through a Fans Eyes" to "Forgeside Frolics" as I seem to write about the Jones's an awful lot but they have become very much a part of our lives always sending us little updates of the horses keeping us in the loop.

I have already brought you breaking news of Rockin Mambos retirement and now I bring you more hot off the press news this is a real scoop, a new arrival into the Jones stables - Hold Up Brouet yes you read this correctly. A French trotter has arrived and a handsome chap he is a striking 4 year old chestnut, my first glimpse of him he was cavorting around the paddock in the dark. David looked at me and we thought the same thought, we are very in tune you know "Good luck jogging this one tomorrow Marc". The following morning we witnessed Brouets first jog on Welsh

soil and how wrong could our first impression of him be, he carried himself majestically out onto the track, glided perfectly around and did everything Marc asked of him. With the little family crowd that gathered to watch this momentous occasion he gave us all goose bumps even though Jenny tried to convince us it was the bitter cold wind.

Mr D, who when I ask have you anything to contribute to this page usually gives an "err um no" this time he actually commented "he was up on his toes and out to impress us all" he said. With the smile on Marcs face and Jessie's comment "Bon Garcon" to save you googling translate French to English it means good boy. Jessie you put us all to shame with your French pronunciation.

Returning to the stables later there was Marc with his Welsh accent, Scottish songs playing on the radio, the rest of us all in our English lingo having an in depth debate about which side his mane should go, the poor boy must wonder which country he has landed in, no wonder when checking on him later he was fast asleep.

Before I draw the Forgeside Frolics to a close I need to just mention the Matriarch Apopka Denise being awarded the Breeders Crown top broodmare award not once but twice first in 2018 and again this year 2021. It was lovely to see her looking so fit and well at the ripe old age of 23 keeping law and order out in the field with her companions. This year she is in foal to Forclosure due in May, this combination could maybe see her winning a third Broodmare award, many congratulations to Marc and Jenny on this achievement.

In my personal opinion I feel I should also be awarded one, my two colts are of exceptional quality and from good bloodlines too.

I need to give Les Smith a mention his cheery smile when greeting us all at the gate on race days, his infectious laugh can be heard across the field, he gives such a lovely welcome always has time to speak to everyone, this could be interpreted differently as likes to talk a lot, but I like to go with the first option. When we have a chat at Tir Prince we always seem to go into

competition with the P A system it becomes a race trying to finish a sentence before Darren Owen announces the non-runners.

As 2022 is not very far away I feel that it is going to be a good year for the Dandridge's, I can feel it in my bones because 22 is my favorite number. I'm having a milestone birthday later on in the new year, I don't feel almost 60 but then again, I'm not sure how your supposed to feel at this age. I think my family would probably say I act 6 not 60. My reply age is just a number your only as old as you feel me I am in my prime.

INTEGRITY UPDATE

Cirrus Briolais - York - 11th July

Further to the test result received by BHRC from Laboratoire des Courses Hippiques for analysis of the sample taken from the horse Cirrus Briolais at York on 11th July, a positive test was returned for the prohibited substance OXYPHENBUTAZONE and PHENYLBUTAZONE which under BHRC rules is identified in the Uniform Classification Guidelines for foreign substances as a Class 4 Category C Prohibited Substance.

A hearing was conducted by Zoom by an Independent Panel according to Section Y of the BHRC Rules and Regulations. The BHRC can now confirm that this matter has been brought to a conclusion and that the following penalties have been applied in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC.

Penalties

Mr Andrew Cairns was found to be in breach of Rules 1 and 5 and as such:

The horse Cirrus Briolais to be disqualified

from the race on the 11th July and that all prize money be forfeited.

Mr Andrew Cairns's licence as a trainer to be suspended (Category B) for period 3 months as from 17th April 2022 to 17th July 2022. During this period Mr Cairns will be banned from entering any horses to race but will be permitted to carry out duties in the preparation and caring for horses in his stable

Mr Andrew Cairns as trainer of the horse fined the sum of £450.

Mr Andrew Cairns to pay the sum of £1100 to the BHRC for all costs incurred in relation to this matter.

The horse Cirrus Briolais will be required to undertake a further integrity test, prior to being entered to race, which must prove negative for all prohibited substances. This test to be at the cost of the Responsible Person.

All findings are for this case only

Coalford Stud - the home of the Maw family

The 2021 season has been a fabulous year for the Maw family and Coalford Stud, with 16 wins including 3 group 1 and 3 group 2 races. It is hard for those on the outside looking in not to be envious.

So on a cold and gloomy December morning I made the short journey to visit Coalford Stud to reflect on 2021 and look at some of the new kids on the block, or as I found out 'The Goodfellas', sired by Henry Hill (Roll With Joe x Bliss N Vinegar). Henry Hill is a new stallion to Great Britain and his yearlings will be the first that he has ever produced to hit the track in 2022.



It was obvious to all early in the 2021 season that Coalford youngsters were going to be a force to be reckoned with, from stepping off the wagon for those early qualifiers to the high value juvenile races.



COALFORD BET ALINE

Just one of the many stable stars this year, Bet Aline although not gelded, is an absolute perfect gentleman, displaying no coltish behaviour whatsoever, and one that certainly was used to, and enjoyed some affection. What struck us was how quiet all the horses were and even though horses often don't look at their best at this time of year the Coalford horses all looked fabulous in their coats and looked like me, well conditioned.

With 4 wins from 7 races, a Grade two, two wins in the IHRA Juvenile Series at York, and of course a memorable win at Tir Prince at the NWHOA night, when the Maw family stole the show, having 3 wins on the big stage winning a division of the 2yr old colts and with a personal best of 2.01.2 this colt certainly looks likely to continue to be a player on the big stage moving forwards in 2022.

COALFORD BYTHESEA

Another member of the class of 2021was Coalford Bythesea who like his stable neighbour picked up both Group 1 and Group 2 wins on the big stage at Tir Prince on both the NWHOA night and BHRC Futurity evenings. In both stakes fixtures he showed speed very seldom seen from a two year old and produced electrifying performances on both nights.

With a personal best of 2.00.60 he





looks sure to be making return visits to the winners enclosure in 2022 this time as a three year old.

Other hopes for next year in the three year old stakes races include Coalford Somebeach and Coalford Danceman.

As if this wasn't enough for one family we also have to consider the 2yr old fillies

COALFORD SWEETLOU

With an impressive 55% strike rate winning 5 races from 9 starts including a Group 2 on NWHOA night,



sweeping the board with the heats of the Black Horse Juvenile 2 Yr Old Fillies (York) and then going on to claim the final in Portmarnock and a personal best of 2.00.40 in Britain. Coalford Sweetlou was placed a very creditable 2nd to the show-stopping Louisiana in the Breeders Crown, whilst placing in every start and finishing in the money, this filly has certainly had a very impressive year.

Whilst not yet in the same league as Coalford Sweetlou, everyone loves a grey, and what a story that could be:

COALFORD PROMISE

To most stables to have had a youngster performing in the stakes races would be enough, and to have had just 5 starts and be placed in 3 of them, winning one of them would be the icing on the cake. This 2yr old daughter of the late Coalford Laag, a

stunning grey is certainly to be followed as she matures a bit more.

Just in case that is not enough ammunition, there are also high hopes for Coalford Soul, Coalford JoieDeVie, Coalford Sunshine and Coalford LadyLou

And on to the new kids on the block.

The Goodfellas aka The Class of 2022

With a roster of yearling colts only, a firm favourite was obviously Coalford TopGuy (Henry Hill x Coalford Honey), a half brother champion 2yr old filly Coalford Sweetlou, Other stable companions include Coalford JimmyG, Coalford OneOfUs, Coalford Goodfella, Coalford Billybats and

Coalford Mademan.

And in conversation about not having any fillies the Maw family explained that they had recently acquired a yearling filly Coalford RollOnBy, a 15.1 hh filly by a Rocknroll Dance out of Icommandmyspirit, and who will be gracing our shores soon and will hopefully be representing Coalford Stud in their 2022 campaign.

I would like to thank Gary, Joe and Alex for their time and patience on a 'dank' December day, and congratulate them on their fabulous year in 2021. Wishing them every success moving forwards in 2022.

Pictures courtesy of Nadina Ironia and Sarah Thomas

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Each of us start the year with high hopes and ambitions, these don't always go to plan but for Chris Heaton and partner Louise Fresson 2021 was a year to remember. With just four horses in training, the season ended with an impressive 11 wins, 10 seconds and 8 thirds, a UTRS of 0.369 and a string of rosettes any owner would have been proud of.

At the beginning of the year the hope was to get one win out of each of the four horses in training (Majs Lad, Connor McGregor, Druids Big Deal and Red Impulse). Chris and Louise had discussed that harness racing was becoming more concentrated with less owners and trainers, believing it would be hard for them to get a win. They didn't start the season thinking they had a particularly strong team. Connor McGregor was one they had hopes for in 2020 but he had only managed a single victory despite running consistently.

As the year began, their first thoughts were

- how are we going to train four horses in the evenings after work? but they set themselves a challenge to do it and although it was hard work commitment paid off. Chris, a builder by trade would do his day job and then come home to start jogging at 5.30. Louise would do the tacking up and mucking out whilst Chris does the exercising. They started training at the end of February jogging two horses a day on the road on alternate days due to limited daylight hours. From April onwards they were able to jog all four each evening on the road for another 8 weeks. Their location means they have quiet country lanes to jog on which is a big help.

After eight weeks the weather had improved so the horses changed their shoes and began jogging on their grass track. The facilities by their own admission aren't anything fancy, just a field on a bank that is three times round for the mile. Previously they had used treadmills and horse walkers but have found consistent jogging to be the most beneficial. Each



horse would jog for 25 minutes a night with one day off each week. The horses are stabled during the evening but are turned out daily in individual paddocks until they get worked in the evening.

Of the four horses in training Maj's Lad would be the one they consider as their stable star, as it was he who added the most to their impressive tally this season. They purchased him as a yearling from Mr Till who assured them he would be a very good horse as he was by Yankee Lariat and the first foal out of the good race mare Imperial Majesty. He was broken in at two and went to qualifiers as a three year old but wasn't mature enough. He returned as a four year old, qualified and picked up two wins in his first season and several placings. As a five year old in 2017 he visited the winners enclosure on three more occasions but his perhaps most impressive run was in defeat, finishing second at York in a clock of 2 minutes

parked for the mile. It was at that point they realised they had a horse with potential.

The following year he managed another win and several placings but things weren't right, he would weave across the track intermittently during a race or doing a piece of fast work. After being examined by the vet who couldn't find anything wrong, he advised Chris and Louise to give him a year off and that is what they did. As an 8year-old in 2020 he was brought back in to work and following fast work the farrier discovered he was bruising his feet and suggested this could be attributing to his wayward movements on the track. Leather pads and magic cushion were fitted and although lightly raced due to the Covid pandemic he won three races including a win at York trailing 20 yards in 1.59.2.

Coming back into work this year he was fitted with a different shoe with cushion and he achieved his best season to date winning five races and placing 2nd on three occasions and 3rd in a further four races, making him the biggest contributor to the year's haul.

The Heaton horses attributed greatly to the driving success of the Haythornthwaites this season, in particular Richard who drove the main bulk of the winners with the best day the at Wolsingham on coming September with Richard notching up a five timer, four of those trained by Chris. The journey to Wolsingham wasn't as straight forward as the results that followed, taking five hours due to traffic jams. The three horses on board weren't affected by the journey with Druids Big Deal and Connor McGregor both winning their respective races and Majs Lad taking out the heat and final. Four winners on the day, not a bad days work!

Other season highlights include Majs Lad

winning the Daniel Welling Memorial race at York. Then on the final pacing race of the season both Druids Big Deal and Majs Lad were entered in the same race at Tir Prince but it was the old boy Majs Lad who finished strongest just nicking it from his stable mate on the line.

When asked what their hopes for 2022 were, the quick answer was, "same as 2021 will do!" For Connor McGregor they hope he gets an easier time as he always seems to land in tough races. Druids Big Deal showed some lovely potential and was improving with every race. And for stable star Majs Lad, they just hope he goes out does his thing and still enjoys racing.

Chris and Louise showcased this season that success doesn't always go to the big stables with the flash facilities. If you have the right horses and are willing to put in the hours you will be rewarded. Congratulations on your 2021 success.



BHRC Awards Nominees

With the 2021 season now firmly behind us there remains only one final task to complete before we can all look forward to the return of racing in 2022: the annual awards!

In the previous edition of the calendar we looked at the winners of the Owner of the Year (Claire Fletcher), Trainer of the Year (Teresa Haythornthwaite), Driver of the Year (Grant Cullen) and Leading Horse (Catalane Du Canet) awards. These are awards which are based solely on number of wins in a season and therefore there is no element of surprise – indeed towards the last few meetings of the season it was a case of checking the updated leaderboards to see who would come out on top at the finish!

However, the remaining BHRC awards all require nominations, votes and decisions by the Awards Committee and/or the BHRC Directors. The system adopted for the 2020 awards was agreed upon again for this year, namely that:

BHRC affiliated members and all types of licence holder are eligible to vote on the shortlisted horses for the 9 equine awards

Shortlists are made up via a points system within each category – a win = 1 point, a Group 2 win = 3 points and a Group 1 win = 5 points

The top 4 in each category to make up the shortlist for the public vote (unless horses could not be split as below).

Where horses could not be split on

points, second and third placed finishes considered.

Where horses could not be split on points AND placed finishes, all horses into the shortlist

Groom of the Year nominations (any licence holder acting in the capacity as a groom/caretaker) to be emailed by licenced trainers to the Awards Committee to be decided upon by the Awards Committee (voting closed 20th December).

Special Contribution nominations (from individuals, clubs or associations) to be emailed to the Awards Committee to be decided upon by the BHRC Directors (voting closed 20th December).

All winners of the above awards to be announced at the BHRC & STAGBI Awards Ceremony on Saturday 15th January (tickets available via the BHRC online entry system).

Although the nomination and vote closing date will have passed by the time this calendar has gone to print, take a minute to look at the shortlisted nominees for each of the equine awards and reflect on the some of the superstars we have had the pleasure of seeing race this year.

PLEASE HELP US TO PLAN AHEAD – buy your tickets early, don't forget to include your menu choices.

Dust down your party gear and get ready to party.



NOMINEES - BHRC 2YO COLT OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC 2YO COLT OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC 2YO FILLY OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC 2YO FILLY OF THE YEAR







NOMINEES - BHRC 3YO COLT OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC 3YO FILLY OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC 3YO FILLY OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC MARE OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC MARE OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC TROTTER OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC TROTTER OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC AGED PACER OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - BHRC AGED PACER OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - OVERSEAS HORSE OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - OVERSEAS HORSE OF THE YEAR





NOMINEES - OVERSEAS HORSE OF THE YEAR

Kit Bousfield Centenary Meeting - 24th July

This year this very special man will celebrate a very special birthday - Kit Bousfield is 100 years old in August.

Kit is certainly the patriarch of our sport and in recognition of his contribution to our sport over the decades we plan to hold a one off race meeting - a meeting to remember.

Our basic plan is to have 100 horses, 10 races of 10 horses. We have discussed having an entry fee of approx £100, but with prizemoney of £1000/£250/£100 we

feel sure everybody will want to enter.

We will be looking for sponsors for our races, each sponsor will have their name mentioned, but will also include the name of Kit's 10 favourite horses.

Sponsorship will cost £350 per race. We would like to thank all those who have already offered to sponsor a race. Should anybody be interested in sponsoring a race, or have any ideas for how to mark this momentous occasion please contact Julie Park (Julie.park4@gmail.com).

PRAKAS

Few of us know the history behind PRAKAS and how the BHRC came to have a PRAKAS fund. We thank Dr Iain Mackenzie for not only his generous donation to try to promote trotting here in Great Britain but for also taking the time to share his fabulous story with us.

How did I get into harness racing?

I was always interested in horse racing from my childhood in Sheffield. I attended the St Leger and the Doncaster Thoroughbred sales on several occasions.

I listened on the radio to the Derby and the Grand National. But I never knew anything about Harness Racing. This interest in horse racing has continued throughout my life.

What brought Harness Racing into the picture was the confluence of four events.

The first was my choice of York in Central Pennsylvania, the home of many Standardbred Breeding Farms, to spend my professional career as a Gastroenterologist.

Second was my medically caring for an elderly Swedish man visiting his daughter in York. Happily my medical efforts on his behalf were life-saving which resulted in an ongoing friendship with his daughter and her family.

The third confluence occurred shortly after that episode when my wife and I decided to buy a country home outside of York. We had paid a deposit on it showing we were serious yet not fully committed. We



And where it all started

Prakas with William O'Donell his

Driver and Tina Lundgren his groom
after setting (a then) World Record
for the mile of 1.53 at the World

Trotting Derby at Du Quoin Illinois.

weren't fully committed because the house came with 100 acres of farmland. And I'm no farmer.

The fourth and final confluence was that our Swedish friend invited my wife and I to a cocktail party at her York home. When we introduced ourselves on our arrival there she asked us what were our present activities outside of my medical practice.. We told her that we had just put a deposit on a country home but we were concerned

because it came attached to 100 acres of farmland. And we hadn't decided what to do with that appendage. She said, oh,I have a Swedish friend here at the party who is a farmer. Maybe he can give you some ideas. She then introduced me to Hans Enggren. Yes, said Hans. I am a farmer. I farm and breed horses. And in fact I can sell you two right now. At that stage I had enjoyed two excellent Crown Royal Manhattans, and there and then bought them! That was in April 1983. They both were yearling fillies. On Hans advice I gave them to Per Ericsson to train at his barn in New Jersey.

My wife and I never went any further with the house purchase. Happily for us the seller returned our deposit. Unfortunately both fillies were duds that I subsequently sold as breeding stock.

A few weeks later I joined Hans and a colleague of his from Hanover Pa, Carl Vizzi, on an expedition to Per Ericsson's training facility in New Jersey to see my two newly acquired fillies train. On the way back Hans and Carl told me that the third partner in their group that owned five colt yearlings wanted to be bought out because he needed the money to buy the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg, Pa as a gift for his wife. They asked me if I would be interested. Needless to say, I said 'yes'! The five horses included Prakas and Mark Six. The other three didn't amount to much and we sold them.

Prakas was sired by Speedy Crown and bred on Hans's farm. His mare was Prudy Hanover. In accordance with tradition the name Prakas was chosen so that the first two letters of his name were identical to that of his mare. At that time Mike Prakas, actually a pharmacist, was a agent who was an intermediary in buying and selling racing stock and had been helpful to Hans in that regard.

They subsequently fell out over some of Mike's shady dealing. But the Pr of Prakas fitted nicely with the Pr of Prudy. Hence the name Prakas for the horse. (I should emphasize here that despite his training as a pharmacist, his shady dealing had nothing to do with pharmacological manipulation of a horse's performance).

When did we think Prakas could make the grade?

Early in his training as a two year old Per was very high on him. Per had spent several years as an Under Trainer with Swede Soren Nordin who many acknowledge as one of trotting's greatest trainers. Because he was so great a trainer he tended to be given the best stock to train. So Per had the opportunity of training several great trotters and could recognize talent when it was present.

Prakas in several informal races as a two year old always liked to be in front! And he never broke gait! Per based on his impression of the very young Prakas told us to stake Prakas to all the big races. On that advice we did so.

Interestingly to begin with, Mark Six by Speedy Scot, Speedy Crown's sire, was the more dominant.

He and Prakas were yearlings the same year. He was trained by Soren Nordin. Every December through March all the important Standardbred trainers took their stables down to Florida to train, Soren and Per included.

Mark Six started his three year old season in February by winning the Dade County trot raced at Pompano Park, Florida. He continued by winning the Canadian Trotting Derby in early May. That stakes event was an interesting experience. Mark Six won the first heat. Prakas won the second heat. In the final Mark Six finished first and Prakas second. That was their first race together.

As my wife headed down to the Winners Circle for the third time that night, she remarked to Hans, to his everlasting amusement: 'I love this sport!' After that race they both raced in the major stakes races for three year olds. If there were two separate races like the Beacon Trot at the New Jersey, Meadowlands each would win one division. If it was a heat and then a final each would win a heat, but ever after that one Canadian Trotting Derby occasion, Prakas always won with Mark Six second.

As Norman Woolworth (of the five and dime store chain) remarked to me, how unlucky to have two great horses at the same time. Norman was a top level breeder and racer of Standardbreds but mainly Pacers rather than Trotters. His most memorable Pacer was Zoot Suit.

Regarding Prakas preparation, was it always plain sailing?

This really is a question for Per Ericsson rather than for me. If I recall correctly there was only one race where he was unable to race because of injury. That race was the Kentucky Futurity.

The Trotting Triple Crown in those days comprised The Yonkers Trot, the Hambletonian and the Kentucky Futurity. We didn't enter Prakas into the

Yonkers Trot because it is raced on a half mile track. Prakas had lower leg problems that worsened over the racing year. They kept him out of the Kentucky Futurity and because of the tight circumference of the turns on the half mile track we elected to keep him out of the Yonkers Trot too.

But otherwise he was always ready to go thanks to the excellent job Per Ericsson did. At one time he did have a problem of being very 'studdy'. When I discussed this problem with Lord Langford he told me the tale, which I'm sure you will have heard from him, of how that affected his thoroughbred horse Russian Patrol. His Lordship had served in the 14th Army in Burma during World War 2. Whilst still stationed after the war in Calcutta he raced Russian Patrol in Calcutta. He observed that parade ring excitement slowed Russian Patrol's track performance.

To effectively solve the problem he used the cooling side-effect of a spray device used to kill jungle mosquitoes with DDT, called Flit. Per, perhaps was less exotic in his approach to Prakas's parade ring excitement and essentially used a jock strap euphemistically termed a 'stud support'! Otherwise Prakas never cause a problem with race readiness.

What were our emotions on race day at the Hambletonian.?

The lead up to the day had resulted in Prakas being a heavy favourite. So, as I recall, we approached the race more with a feeling we should not screw up Prakas's chances rather than thinking he only had an outside shot at winning.

Additionally by that stage of the season we knew the relative abilities of all his potential

rivals. Of more concern to us was how would Mark Six perform. Sensibly the USTA enforces a 24 hour pre major stakes race detention in a monitored detention barn so we felt that any monkey business was extremely unlikely. We had on the bike the best Meadowlands driver Bill O'Donnell. We knew too Per had prepped Prakas well. Mark Six our other entry, prepped by Soren Nordin had John Campbell the second best Meadowlands driver on the bike. So we felt good about him too.

The stake was raced in two heats and a final. Placing in the heats determined the position in the final. The first heat should have been won by Mark Six but John Campbell thinking he had the race easily won eased up a few lengths from the finish. This allowed a determined competitor (I forget his name now) to overtake Mark Six one step before the finish. That was very upsetting to say the least.

Prakas heat on the other hand was uneventful with him winning quite easily. The final too was another relatively easy win for Prakas with Mark Six finishing third.

After the win of the final the most astonishing thing I think to all three of us was the winner's circle. There were so many people in it that I think the three of us owners were almost hidden. Most importantly Prakas, Bill O'Donnell and Per were front and centre. But the rest of the crowd mostly had only limited connections with Prakas. They included his feed supply company rep, his blacksmith, his dentist, his vet, his grooms and an abundance of Meadowlands officials. Altogether they made up a huge Winners Circle! It was a

great day and a great accomplishment for Prakas, Bill O'Donnell and Per.

Other People in the Prakas Story

Hans Enggren: He was born in Sweden and came to the USA in the late 1950's when he was serving in the Swedish Embassy. He later moved to a similar role in Mexico but when his next assignment was to be in the Swedish Embassy in the Congo he decided it was time to quit!

He returned to the USA and started out owning a Motel in Gettysburg Pennsylvania, a popular tourist destination because of its importance in the USA Civil War. He also had a side business with other hotels in the area of fitting beds with mechanisms that made the beds vibrate when coins were placed in a bedside slot. He told me this was really quite lucrative especially after a Holiday weekend and the payments were all in cash. As a result the IRS never looked over his shoulder.

Being Swedish he was always interested in trotting. When he could afford it he purchased his first horse, a colt out of Nevele Pride. He obviously was a good judge of horse flesh since this first colt won many races and provided him along with his other ventures with a solid financial foundation to find and develop his own breeding farm.

He called his farm Meadowbranch Farm apparently an English translation of the Swedish word Enggren. He subsequently raced and bred many successful trotters. Sadly he died aged 92 a few months ago from Covid-19. He left a wife Christina (also Swedish) three sons and a daughter. None of the rest of the family got involved in

horses. One son however was a professional bull rider. Hans brother interestingly enough was Archbishop of Stockholm.

Carl Vizzi: Carl Vizzi was originally from Buffalo New.York. He is Italian-American and had a Mom and Dad both of whom were tremendous Harness Racing enthusiasts.

Clearly they passed that enthusiasm on to Carl. Initially Carl lived in Hanover Pennsylvania and started out as a salesman for a wallpaper manufacturing company. He clearly was a great salesman because ia very few years later he bought out the owners and made it a major force in interior decorating. He then moved to York, Pennsylvania. Interestingly one of his most successful lines was titled "Cricket" which is not a usual term for an American! His best lines he sold through the Disney Company.

After our successful run with Prakas and Mark Six unfortunately he and Hans had a falling out over different interpretations of money and ownership. They never worked together again. As a result ever after our successful 1984, 1985 and 1986 run he invested not in Trotters but Pacers. He and I, though remain good friends.

Leroy Smith: Leroy Smith was the member of the original group of three who sold his one third share in the group of five colts to me.

He did buy the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg and gave possession of it to his wife. Sadly, just a few weeks after this he was involved in a serious one car automobile crash and received severe injuries especially to his brain. I had the uncomfortable situation after he was transferred to my hospital for advanced care, of caring for another very sick individual in the very next bed. Leroy died from that injury.

Per Ericsson: Prakas was by far his most successful horse. He ran a large stable of trotters usually around 40-50 made up of 2, 3 and a few 4 year olds. He married Prakas's groom Tina Lundgren, a Norwegian girl. They had two children. They really intrigued me by making them trilingual: Norwegian, Swedish and English! Amazing. A few years after the Prakas success he returned to Sweden, there he seems to have had limited success as a trainer.

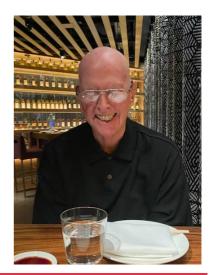
What prompted my decision to make a donation to the BHRC?

After the successful year of Prakas and Mark Six I felt an obligation to give something back to the sport that had given my wife and I so much excitement over the course of two years.

The monthly USA trotting publication Harness Horse guite often published reports of British harness racing. What always struck me about those reports was the absence of Trotting. Everything was pacing. So I thought a contribution in honour of Prakas would be a good way to help encourage trotting in Britain. I spoke by phone with the Secretary of the BHRC, Ann Brophy and told her of my plan. She was very helpful and encouraging. She presented the idea of a 3 year old and a 4 year old trotting championship to the then Chairman of the BHRC Lord Langford. He was kind enough to embrace the idea. He invited me to a lunch at his formidable mansion Bodrhyddan Hall near Rhuddlan in North Waleswith his wife and the BHRC secretary to work out the details of the racing schedule.

Subsequently he welcomed my wife and myself to present the trophy to the winner the first time the event was raced. So, in brief, my participation in the British trotting scene was both an attempt to memorialise Prakas in return for all he had done for us and secondly to try to give a boost to the trotting side of British Harness Racing.

All that remains is to wish good luck to TrotBritain and the new Entente Cordiale!



INTEGRITY UPDATE

Dks Deuce - York - 7th August

Further to the test result received by BHRC from Laboratoire des Courses Hippiques for analysis of the sample taken from the horse DKs Deuce at York on 7th August, a positive test was returned for the prohibited substance OXYPHENBUTAZONE and PHENYLBUTAZONE which under BHRC rules is identified in the Uniform Classification Guidelines for foreign substances as a Class 4 Category C Prohibited Substance.

A hearing was conducted by Zoom by an Independent Panel according to Section Y of the BHRC Rules and Regulations. The BHRC can now confirm that this matter has been brought to a conclusion and that the following penalties have been applied in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC.

Penalties

Mr David Moncrieff was found to be in

breach of rules 1, 4 and 15 and as such:

Mr David Moncrieff's licence as a trainer suspended for period 6 months as from 17th April 2022 to 17th October 2022. During this period Mr Moncrieff will be banned from entering any horses to race but will be permitted to carry out duties in the preparation and caring for horses in his stable.

Mr David Moncrieff as trainer of the horse fined the sum of £1500.

Mr David Moncrieff to pay the sum of £1100 to the BHRC for all costs incurred in relation to this matter.

The horse DKs Deuce will be required to undertake a further integrity test, prior to being entered to race, which must prove negative for all prohibited substances. This test to be at the cost of the Responsible Person

All findings are for this case only

INTEGRITY PROCESS

Following receipt of a Positive Analysis for a Prohibited Substance the BHRC (Integrity Panel) commence any necessary preliminary investigations.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS commences - Chairman informed / Responsible Person (RP) is notified of a positive test. They receive a letter (BHRC), certificate and data pack (FEI Lab) RP have **two weeks** to put in writing a request for an analysis of B Sample, Owner informed, BHRC Council Members informed, Promoter Informed and a notice is put on website

IF B SAMPLE ANALYSIS IS REQUESTED (made in writing with appropriate fee)

BHRC contact the host lab and receiving lab and arrangement for shipment (this can take approximate time 2+ weeks just for shipment and a further month for result

BHRC prepare letter to Responsible Person (RP) asking for any reason for the positive test

Suggested approximate time (3 days)

The Responsible Person then has **two weeks** to submit in writing any explanation to the BHRC

The BHRC / solicitor prepare Case Summary, collect any evidence inc. expert witness statements

Suggested approximate time 3-4 weeks

Case Summary sent to Responsible Person - 3 week window to respond or ask for extension

RP can request a 3 week extension period to answer Case Summary which can be granted by BHRC upon request

BHRC set up external panel / and send out paperwork to external panel members / panel have time to prepare approximate time 2 weeks and mutually convenient time for meeting agreed

If requested by RP a final 3 week extension period to answer Case Summary - this can only be granted by external panel members

External Panel Hearing - made up of 3 external members
Hear evidence, make a decision and if needed agree penalties

2 week appeal period - to allow either party to appeal the decision

Results published on BHRC website

All as detailed in BHRC Rules & Regulations Y Section & Appendix V INTEGRITY PROCESS

Time scales in **bold** are actual Timescales in itplic are approximate

Tamzin's Highlights

I would like to start this piece by thanking two very important people who have done a lot for me this season. Those two people are Julie Park & Sarah Thomas, the reasons being that they have both helped me develop a wide range of photography and tech skills and have just generally helped me throughout the 2021 season. Over the course of this season there has been many surprises such as me being fortunate enough to have get my grooms license as a 12th birthday present, the Northern Harness Racing Facebook page getting near to 3000 members, and the fact that I have made a Northern Harness Racing Instagram page which now has 200+ followers - thank you if you have followed! As well as all of this I have recently made a calendar which includes my favourite photos from the 2021 season. I would like to sav a huge thank you if you have purchased one and supported me. I would like to thank Sarah too as she let me use the photographs.

This year I have especially enjoyed watching Next Generation (fondly known as Taz) on his farewell tour. I was "over the moon" For Kelly, Myla and Taz when they won the final at Stanhope Show. As well as enjoying watching the older horses of the sport I have also enjoyed watching the younger horses, especially Louisiana! Owned, Trained and Driven by the Gilvear family and winning six out of six races! She has made the hair tingle on my neck.

Next year I am particularly looking forward to the Kit Bousfield Centenary Celebration Meeting at Appleby, as I know that it will be a well supported meeting and have a really good feel to it! I want to thank the Maw family for letting me have a stable tour of Coalford Stud - I am really looking forward to following them next year.

I would like to thank you all for fabulous season of racing and I hope to see you next year. Merry Christmas and a happy new year! Tamzin









Prix Des Rencontres



TROTBritain would like to congratulate John Henry Nicholson who accepted our invitation to represent Great Britain in the Prix des Rencontres Internationales du Trotteur Français at Son Pardo racetrack, Palma de Majorca on the 14 November. Donning the Union Jack colours and partnering Django Bella in the Prix des Rencontres Internationales John-Henry finished a very respectable 4th.

Drivers from 16 different countries took part in the race, which was part of the annual International Meeting of the countries participating in the Le TROT Trotteur Français initiative.



John told us it was a fabulous opportunity representing his country, and one he would love to do again. He said it was very different driving there, he said nobody wanted to sit on the fence, and that they seemed to press on more than in Britain. He thanked the trainer in Spain for the support and information prior to the race, as well as everybody here in Britain.

Thank you to Nadina Ironia and Trot Britain for the photos.



PROVISIONAL FIXTURE LIST

APRIL

17th Sun York - Qualifiers

17th Sun - AVTC Qualifiers

24th Sun York - Qualifiers

24th Sun AVTC - Qualifiers

29th Fri Corbiewood - Qualifiers

MAY

1st Sun AVTC

2nd Mon York BANK HOLIDAY

6th Fri Corbiewood - Qualifiers

7th Sat Tir Prince - Anto Russell

8th Sun AVTC

13th Fri Corbiewood Qualifiers

14th Sat York

15th Sun Tregaron Senior Dragon &

Spring Hcp

20th Fri Corbiewood

21st Sat Tir Prince

22nd York Qualifiers

22nd W.W.H.R.A. venue TBC

27th Fri Corbiewood

28th Sat APPLEBY SPRING (1.30pm)

29th Sun APPLEBY SPRING (1.30pm)

29th Sun AVTC

JUNE

3rd Fri Corbiewood (3yo Derby)

4th Sat Tir Prince 5th Sun York

5th Sun W.W.H.R.A. venue TBC

10th Fri Corbiewood

11th Sat Tir Prince

12th Sun AVTC

12th Sun York Qualifier

13th Mon Corbiewood

14th Tue MUSSELBURGH Hurricane

Pace

15th Wed MUSSELBURGH Famous

Musselburgh Pace

17th Fri Corbiewood

18th Sat York (3 v/old)

19th Sun W.W.H.R.A. venue TBC

24th Fri Corbiewood

25th Sat Tir Prince NWHOA 2/3/4 YO

26th Sun Hellifield

26th Sun AVTC

30th Thu Corbiewood

JULY

2nd Sat TREGARON

3rd Sun TREGARON

8th Fri Corbiewood

9th Sat Tir Prince

10th Sun Appleby New Fair

10th Sun Ivington

15th Fri Corbiewood

16th Sat York

17th Sun N.E.S.A. @ Wolsingham

17th Ivington

22nd Fri Corbiewood

23rd Sat Tir Prince

24th Sun Kit Bousfield Centenary

Celebration Appleby

24th AVTC

28th Thurs Corbiewood

30th Sat York PACT Weekend 31st Sun York PACT Weekend

31st Sun AVTC

AUGUST

4th Thurs Corbiewood

6th Sat Binchester

7th Sun Haugh Field

7th Sun Lampeter

11th Thurs Corbiewood

13th Sat TIR PRINCE (VDM)

14th Sun TIR PRINCE (VDM)

14th Sun Ivington

20th Sat Corbiewood

21st Sun Corbiewood

21st Sun Boughrood

27th Sat Tir Prince Breeders

Crown

28th Sun Brough (at Appleby)

29th Sun AVTC

30th Tues Kilnsey Show

SEPTEMBER

3rd Sat Wolsingham Show

4th Sun Haugh Field

4th Sun Cilmery

8th Thurs Longnor Sports

10th Sat Stanhope Show
10th Sat CORBIEWOOD 2 YO Futurity

11th Sun CORBIEWOOD

11th Sun W.W.H.R.A. venue TBC

17th Sat Tir Prince COG Final

18th Sun Wolsingham E.V.H.R.A.

18th Sun Corbiewood

18th Sun W.W.H.R.A. venue TBC

24th Sat York BHRC Sire Stakes

25th Sun Pike Hall

25th Sun Corbiewood

OCTOBER

1st Sat Tir Prince

2nd Sun Corbiewood

8th Sat York Sale day/Graduate

Series

9th Sun Corbiewood

15th Sat Tir Prince

16th Sun Corbiewood

22nd Sat Tir Prince

23rd Sun Corbiewood

29th Sat Tir Prince

30th Sun Corbiewood

Due to development work

Corbiewood dates are now in

question

