



Harness Racing Calendar

The official publication of the British Harness Racing Club

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British Harness Racing Club

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We look forward to welcoming you all back to the races, however please make sure you keep up to date with any COVID requirements and restrictions by checking both the government and our own websites. Keep safe.

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George Button
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Regional Stewards: Andrea Barker (England)
Craig Stephenson (Scotland)
Garry O'Grady (Wales)

**International Media and
Promotion Consultant:** Bill Hutchinson

Consultant: Robert Millichap

Webmaster: Luke Enderby

Secretary: Heulwen Bulman

BHRC Contact Address: Delfryn, Llwynpïod, Llangeitho, Tregaron, Ceredigion, SY25 6TA

Telephone Line 1: 01974 298367

Fax: 01974 298089

Office Administrator: Lorraine Westall

Email: bhrc.office@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.bhrc.org.uk

Facebook: The British Harness Racing Club

Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9am-5pm & Thurs 10am-9pm

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Firstly, apologies for the delayed publication of this Summer Edition of the Calendar, it's been a rather hectic time for many over the last few months with many developments.

We have seen great activity on the tracks during the current season, and with that in mind I would like to pay tribute to the promoters, race committees and all those who devote their time and energy in staging race meetings.

We know it's doesn't come cheap putting on our fixtures, we must realise and appreciate the work that goes on before many of us even arrive on a race day, and sadly we don't have a central funding mechanism to assist, with the licence holder racing for his or her own money. We all really wish it was different.

The BHRC are currently going through the process of gaining official government recognition, by doing this it will put British harness racing in a stronger position to gain financial support in the future. This is not a quick or easy process.

This year we have seen some changes, one is the new handicap system which continues to bed in and hopefully this works for you all. Yes, there have been issues with its implementation, largely due to an inadequate computer system at the BHRC, however due to the dedication of our Secretary Heulwen Bulman and Handicap

Officer Dai John Edwards, we have managed to frame the race cards this year.

Most of our administrative issues stem from our dated computer system, with on line entries constantly in the spotlight, this is an extremely serious situation, one we have to act on.

Recently the BHRC agreed to make an investment in the computer system, the cost of which is at reasonable level as our friends at the IHRA are also investing in an upgrade, this means the cost is shared. In this project the plan will be to revamp not only the database but also the website. The work has now begun on the new system with the aim of completion by November.

Talking of the office administration, we this year have welcomed Lorraine to the team and the plan is to rent office space in the same building as STAGBI in Lampeter, the reason is the business must have a base to continue to operate as and when Heulwen has holidays, or should Heulwen become unavailable due to personal issues.

Many of you have long campaigned for one person one vote, for a more direct say in your support, well it's here. It was agreed at the last Committee Meeting, that you the affiliated members will now become the Committee, you will now all have the right to vote on all matters the old Committee previously managed, this includes the voting for BHRC officers.

For many years now Trot Britain have promoted the programme for Trotteur Francais bloodstock, it has long been the aim for Britain to gain UET membership for benefit of our stakeholders, for this to happen there would need to be a restructuring of our governance, it was therefore decided at a recent Committee Meeting that Trot Britain would take over the governance of trotting races, as set out in a proposed model, from January of next year.

Over the coming weeks and months the BHRC and Trot Britain will be working on the finer details of governance structure.

The governing body of the sport remains committed in working for you all, one of

the most important areas of course is ensuring a level playing field for all, with this in mind there has been a major step up in integrity testing this year.

That's enough from me, I hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Calendar, published at a time when we are celebrating the success of the Vincent Delaney Memorial Meeting, which was such a wonderful advertisement for our sport.

Good luck to you all as the season continues, and rest assured we in governance pledge to work for the best interests of your sport.

Darren Owen
Chairman

New Rule

R11. It shall be the decision of the stewards at the track and/or a BHRC representative to stipulate if mud guards and mud sheets must be used at a race meeting due to inclement conditions. It is the responsibility of the trainer to ensure these are present and fitted correctly and safely in line with the manufacturer's guidelines and fit for purpose. The mud guards shall be of a type approved by the BHRC. This shall be mandatory from 1st September 2021.

Update on Integrity: this year (up to the middle of August) our Integrity Team have carried out a mammoth 77 tests across a wide number of tracks. We carry out either blood gas tests, where results are recorded as satisfactory (if horses are within the agreed parameters), we also carry out full blood tests which are sent to one of the approved laboratories for testing.

We try to keep the website updated with tests carried out and the results as soon as they come back into the office. This can be found in the downloads section of the website along with the Uniformed Classification Guidelines.

Hugh O'Neil Snr

The BHRC is saddened to hear of the passing of Hugh O'Neil Snr on Thursday 17th June.

Hugh was heavily involved in all aspects of British Harness Racing for upwards of 50 years and alongside his family at Ayr Standardbreds bred and raced some of the best horses not only in Scotland but also in the wider Great Britain and Ireland.

Having 3 of the first 4 home in the Tuesday Night final at Musselburgh with the top class race mare Glendevon Countess winning, driven by son Tom; Ayr Glory winning the Junior Welsh Dragon at Tregaron, 3YO Derby at Corbiewood and breaking the track record at Appleby for 1m 500yd all when driven by son Hugh are among many highlights throughout the years. More recently he was able to enjoy watching grandson Hugh winning all over the UK with Ayr Empress.

Hugh was among the early pioneers from the UK to buy regularly at Harrisburg sales to improve the quality of breeding at Ayr Standardbreds. With the help of his close family he was able to enjoy watching Ayr horses being reared to compete and win at the highest level. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.



Tribute to Colin Dalby

By Barry Delaney

It is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of my good friend and long time associate Colin Dalby. A man that I met some forty years ago when we were organising the establishment of the Harness Horsemen's Association. He was introduced to me by Vincent Wareing the first H.H.A. Chairman.

I am not familiar with Colin's earlier history, however, I do know that he is from Haythornthwaite country (East Lancs.) and was well known to the family. I know that he had worked in North America and Canada for some well known Harness racing operations, notably Armstrong Bros. (Armbro Stud) in Ontario. I was fortunate to visit this place in the late 80s, the then General Manager Dr. Glen Brown remembered Colin and spoke very highly of him. There is no doubt that Colin acquired much of his extensive knowledge whilst over there which he passed on to many of us that were fortunate to have met him, I was one of those. You could ask him anything about Harness Racing and he would always be happy to share his knowledge with you, he was a mine of information on all aspects of the sport.

He was the originator of the S.T.A.G.B.I. model that we have today, it was he and Elizabeth Blazak using Colin's knowledge and records that created the project that we have today.

People like Colin are what every sport needs, British harness racing have been fortunate to have had his knowledge available to them over so many years. I consider myself privileged to have known him and enjoyed his company over all these years.

Update from the STEWARDING COMMITTEE

We all knew that the changes to the M9 rule would be difficult, but that voluntary changes were needed before they were imposed on us from external sources. There has been a number of drivers who have had the initial first warning, but with no penalties and although we initially had planned to cease this at the end of June we have discussed it and decided to extend this period to give all drivers a first warning (for the rest of this season) before moving to the penalty system.

We would like to praise the drivers, for working with us. It is clear that you are trying hard to work within the new rules, which even us as stewards are finding challenging at times.

However, watching the videos to carry out the retrospective stewarding it is obvious that we are starting to make progress as many races are now being completed without any incident.

On behalf of the stewards we would like to thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

WHIP RULE

Drivers shall only use an approved whip. This being flexible, of standard construction either black or tan, with a fibreglass core covered in linen with a handle and snapper. The whip shall not exceed 48 inches/ 125 cm in length and the snapper shall not to exceed 7 inches / 17cm in length and must made of standard construction NOT knotted. No whip shall be modified in any way and damaged whips must not be used under any circumstances. No other device is to be used.

List of currently approved whip manufactures: Walsh, Finntack, Yonies, Westfield. This list is non exhaustive and subject to change at any time. No rawhide whips to be used.

For saddle / monte races then any whip used must be one approved for use by the BHA either for national hunt or flat racing. Available from Gibsons Saddlers (Newmarket).

Any whip deemed by the stewards unsatisfactory shall be confiscated by the stewards.

The driver shall only use the whip by means of a flicking motion of the wrist, whilst keeping one rein in each hand keeping a good contact with the horses bit. There should be no shoulder action engaged.

The flicking motion shall be used so that no force is generated from the movement of the elbow or shoulder. The forearm should not be raised more than 45 degrees to the track.

The whip must not be used with excessive, abusive force.

The whip may be carried over the shoulder when not in use but when brought forward may not be used for 10 metres.

The following is a list of unapproved uses of the whip, these are not exclusive and may be added to or changed:

Using the whip excessively, continuously without giving the horse time to respond.

Using the whip on a horse that is: not responding, is not in contention, cannot maintain or improve its position, is clearly winning, has passed the winning line.

Lengthening the reins i.e. loose-lining, regardless of whether whip is being used.

Using the butt end of the whip in a prodding or jabbing fashion.

A driver shall not use a whip which causes injury to a horse.

The whip shall not be used outside the confines of the shafts and wheel discs shall not be hit.

No sideways motion to be used.

No person shall offer inducement to, or instruct a driver to use the whip contrary to the above rules.

The only evidence relied on shall be from the official video, veterinary evidence and stewards evidence.

Q&A With James MacDonald

James MacDonald is currently the leading driver at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

He regularly drives British imports such as Matticulous, Mikey Camden and Evenwood Sonofagun.



What do you look for when you are driving a young horse?

"Just desire, they can learn a lot if they have the desire to win."

What is your favourite horse that you have driven and why?

"Probably 'So Much More' mostly because I like the story. Small Stable has her, she is very small and just wants to win so bad. She has been the queen of the FM [Fillies & Mares] Open at Mohawk for 2 years now."

Who was your idol in harness racing when growing up?

"My brothers. I learned a lot from them and they helped me out a ton."

Which horse was the biggest disappointment to you and why?

"Lots of horses have let me down. Some show so much potential but everything has to go right to be a very top horse."

What is your favourite track to race at and why?

"Mohawk. It's my home track so I'll go with that one."

What race win meant the most to you and why?

"Courtly Choice in the Canadian Pacing Derby. It was my first taste of a really big Grand Circuit race."



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If you could drive one horse that you don't already drive, who would it be?

"Manchego, if it's a current horse. She just looks like an absolute dream to drive."

What do you think of this race at Corbiewood Raceway, in Scotland, and what do you think of harness racing in the UK?

"Well it was fun to watch. Very different and tight track. I don't know much about racing in the UK, but they have produced some very nice horses currently racing in Canada."

What has been your favourite British horse to drive in Canada so far?

"If I had to pick one it would be Matticulous. He has been so sharp lately. Hopefully he can keep it going!"

CALLUM MURDOCH



The harness racing family, like all families have their ups and downs. One of the biggest strengths is their generosity at times of need, to help each other. Never was this more prominent than last summer when members up and down the country put their hands in their pockets to give generously for NHS Charities Together. Unfortunately due to Covid we have not been able to have the big presentation hoped for, however we were delighted to welcome (regular to winners enclosure) NHS worker Heidi Sowerby who in her paid work is a paediatric nurse. A big well done to all members of 'our family' who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. We owe you a huge debt of gratitude.

APPLEBY SPRING HARNESS RACING

After several planning meetings, and changes to ensure strict Covid procedures could be adhered to, APPLEBY finally saw the return of grass harness racing, and what a two days they had. The sun shone, the crowds were happy and there was some fantastic racing. With 19 races over the two day fixture the crowd certainly got value for money. It definitely made all the hard work worth it to see the bank, a natural amphitheatre, again decked with families with their picnics enjoying the racing and sunshine.

Although there was a bit of a lack of 'local' success stories this year,



we did see homebred Notagain owned by the Bousfield sisters of Holme Farm, Appleby and trained by dad Kit run a fabulous front running race to be just headed into 2nd place on the home straight.

The nearest we had to an Eden success story was in Heat 3 - when John Henry Nicholson partnered





Monday saw another 'bluey' with the sun blazing from dawn till dusk. The honours today were divided across the nations with Scotland taking out the major prize and the Muirhead stable taking home more than Loose Change when the 5 year old mare out of Call my Bluff by Forafewdollarsmore stormed home in the higher grade final.

Other stories of the meeting include the interestingly named horse Coconut Island who is owned and bred by a group of childhood friends who all lived in the same Scottish village. It is reported that the bus driver used to shout to the lads on the school bus 'last stop, Coconut Island'. The horse was partnered by Will Greenhorn who also hails from yes 'Coconut Island'.

Evenwood Hustler, a horse bred by his sister but now owned by north-east trainer Matty Quinn head to the winners enclosure.





The postman from Wales also had a first class delivery on Sunday when steering My Dude to the winners enclosure. This was quickly followed up on Monday with a 'next day delivery' when stablemate My Buddy followed him into the winners enclosure.



who knocked up another 4 wins, delivering a fabulous birthday present for loyal owner, and birthday girl, Claire Fletcher.

The atmosphere was buzzing. What a two days. Bring on 2022.



The 'hot to trot' leading driver for the two day fixture was the inform Grant Cullen (based in Scotland), with 4 wins over the two days on Close your Eyes, Lyons Queen, In the Money and Freerie De Triou.

With leading lady driver going again to the York based Vicky Gill.

Leading trainer for the meeting was the inform Theresa Haythornthwaite



Dan Carlin — FROM CARLANSTOWN TO CANADA VIA HAMBURG

This week's harness racing column resembles an edition of 'Who Do You Think You Are ?' as Dan Carlin's inquisitive mind takes him on a journey from Hamburg to Carlanstown, County Meath to North Wales to the trotting tracks of North America.

Some of the most unusual entries of the early volumes of the British Harness Racing Club stud books were those of several prolific broodmares bred by a Capt Johannes Kölln of Drakerath Stud, Navan.

Navan in the early sixties was about the most unlikely place to find a stud breeding trotters. The Irish Harness Racing Club did not even exist at that stage – hence the reliance on British records.

My late father had heard (through Ralph 'Rafe' Lavery - also deceased) - about a man known as 'The German' who could well have been the producer in the stud books. Shortly before his passing Hughie Richardson confirmed that there was a German who bred trotters and 'good black cattle' in the post war years in this country.

The recent lockdown has

allowed me the time to investigate Captain Johannes Kölln of Drakerath Stud.

What began as a cursory glance through volume three of the BHRC stud book became a trawl that took me to Carlanstown then to Hamburg, from there to North Wales before we established that at least one of The German's mares founded a bloodline that is still represented in modern harness racing.

My enquiries began with a call to Philip Dolan who runs the stud, still known as Drakerath near the midland village of Carlanstown. Philip, between typical horsemen's tales of the Irish Sport Horses he produces, confirmed that I had the correct farm.

The present day owner of Drakerath House, Tom Clinton was helpful with more information and introduced me to Frau Annkatrin Hoops of Hamburg who at 71 years of age survived one brother and is the only child of Captain Kölln still living.

From a harness racing point of view Captain Kölln bred a mare called Epiphora (1962 Jousko Williams(FR) – Elegantia (GER)) who was eventually sold to JS Jones of the fabled Saunders Stud at Saint Asaph, North Wales and became a cornerstone mare at that stud

where top quality matriarchs were the order of the day.

We will return to the great mares which The German (as he was known locally) bred in our summary but for now let's look at the human story.

Captain Johannes Kölln was born near Hamburg in 1916. He saw action on the Russian front in World War Two before returning to civilian life. According to Annekatrin (herself one of two children) he was expected to take over the family business which was in milling and baking 'but my father only wanted to farm. He loved horses and those who knew him said he had horses in his veins'.

He seems to have been a larger than life character and is said to have once ridden a horse out of an upstairs room at Drakerath.

Anne Katrin explains that Kölln had originally a stud farm of one hundred acres at Colinghof, also near Hamburg. The Captain had a love of Ireland and moved his glamorous wife, children, horses, sulkies, furniture and family here in 1962. Tom Clinton explains that in the early sixties there was a trend of wealthy Germans moving to the Republic of Ireland as it was thought that the state would become a full member of

'The Common Market' as the EEC was then known.

The officer had experience in show jumping which he felt helped him manage his trotting stud and Annekatrin believes he drove in races in Germany, France and Britain. He passed away in 1972, possibly in County Wicklow. His remains were repatriated to Germany.

Jim 'Jem' Richardson, the last surviving brother from the Richardson family of Gardiner Street in Dublin is now 82. Jem has vivid memories of The German's arrival in Carlanstown. "A friend of Hughie's (Jem's brother – father of current top driver John) worked in CIE and came to us with the news that a big load of sulkies had been shipped to Navan. So of course we had to get down to see what was going on".

"The set up was grander than anything we had seen here and the man (Captain Kölln) had plenty of time for us. My brother Barney had an old mare Gold Flake and The German had a decent stallion called Jousko Williams. Barney agreed to pay two hundred pounds for a service which was some money back then. She didn't hold and the next year the Captain had leased Jousko Williams to Italy for fifteen thousand pounds for the season – again telephone

numbers to us”.

“Barney was offered a return to another good horse called Permit. But he was set on Jousko Williams and stuck it out for another year until that horse got back from Italy. The subsequent foal was Hello Dear who my nephew Tom used to race”.

Hello Dear was actually born on the old veterinary college in Ballsbridge. The owners got safe keeping for the mare and the students got experience And we wonder where JR gets his brains?

Jousko Williams was to come back into the story later. Once sold to North Wales he came back (via Belfast dealer Henry Kane) to ‘Uncle Hughie’ around 1969. He was bought for stud but Hughie Richardson, never a respecter of a bit of age, did race Jousko Williams lightly in his late teens.

Jousko Williams did breed on in some of the early mares at Portmarnock. With the current penchant for Trotteurs Francais at the Dublin track it turns out that Jousko Williams’ half-brother Hairos II won the 1960 Prix d’ Amerique. The German newcomer did not trade in moderate horses.

For a variety of reasons the trotting stud at Drakerath was disbanded in the mid-sixties. As far as can be ascertained

some, if not all of the stock was bought by Drogheda based Portadown man Vincent Campbell. The record books show that of the Captain’s mares Epiphora went to the Saunders Stud, Flagge went to a Mrs Johnson, also in North Wales and the sisters Neschi and Nessel went to the Faircloths of Norwich, another dyed in the wool trotting family.

As one great breeding attempt came to an end, so the flood gates opened as the Drakerath mares proved to be prepotent. Flagge’s family leads to Flag Forever a top performer for Jim Winter and Mick Lord in the 1990’s.

Research has still to turn up any big stars from the mares that went to Norwich – although the Faircloths did enjoy success with Jousko, by – guess who ? Jousko Williams.

Ireland’s loss was Britain’s gain as Epiphora, raised near Navan, has turned out to be a foundation mare not just for John Saunders Jones, but almost an entire industry. JS Jones’ grandson Stuart O’ Hara proudly explained “She had two of her offspring go under two minutes (for the mile) and four exported to the States. Saunders Orbiter won \$ 200,000 in the seventies.”

Jim Mc Inally who trained for 'JS' said "The Epiphora family was one of JS' best producing maternal lines".

Joe Maw's family from Sunderland have built up the well-known Coalford Stud with the help of Epiphora's granddaughter Saunders Chelsea. Joe contributed "Chelsea had thirteen foals and thirteen winners. These include Walter Stewart's Coalford Western. She produced Coalford Delight who paced 1.53 in Canada".

Finally the title 'greatest ever' is sure to cause division amongst horsemen but there

are plenty who believe that Evenwood Son of A Gun is the greatest ever to leave these shores. Certainly with a 1.51 clock in the dead of winter and a five wins in Canada the eight year old son of The Firepan could warrant that claim.

And who is Evenwood Son of A Gun's sixth dam ? Why Epiphora of course.

"Alles ist in ordnung" as the old captain would say.

- With thanks to Tom McKenzie junior for his pedigree research

Anna Wallace Katanya Equestrian

I have taken over the reins from my late father Peter and I'm now selling a range of both racing and riding equipment and riding wear.

All products are available to order and can deliver to race meetings, post or arrange collection.

Opening times are on Katanya Equestrian Facebook page.

Friendly, family run business.



It's a Crazy family affair

The first Monte race of the year took place at York in early June, and although with just 3 horses in the race you could have thought you were in for a boring race, in reality it turned out very differently.

With the Nicholson family having two of the three runners along with a credible winning record with trotting horses you would have been a fool to bet against them. The dilemma being which horse to back, Crazy Du Calorne a new horse in the stable or the reliable Blason. I'm guessing many of us backed the wrong horse!

Crazy came over here from France in November and wintered initially with Marcus Lupyna before joining the Nicholson yard (who incidentally now have a half share in him). Talking to the stable they confirm he took a little while to settle down but is now starting to enjoy life in Bishop Aukland.

Crazy usually partnered in the sulky with son John was making a GB appearance in the saddle for niece Lucy. Lucy a competent horsewoman had been to ride out Crazy just once before her appearance on the track, and what an appearance it turned out to be. Not only did they take out the race convincingly but also took the unofficial Monte record for York recording an impressive 2.05.60 for a mile. We look forward to seeing Crazy Du Calorne Return to the track.



THROUGH A FAN'S EYES

Mel Dandridge

I know how the cows feel when they are first let out to grass after a long winter in the barn, it has been the longest one ever for the Dandridges.

We are not quite physically mooing, skipping and leaping around the field what with Mr D's dodgy hip and I am certainly not going to cavort around like the cows do I must keep my dignity.

I can jubilantly say Mr D and I are back in our happy place,

We did not realise until unable to access it how big a part of our lives is based around Harness Racing, and how we'd both been mentally and emotionally affected by this Pandemic, we are now free Whoooo!!! Fully vaccinated and fingers crossed hopefully not to return to our lockdown life.

We've just arrived back to our humble abode from our first weekend away racing, if you'd seen our little faces when we headed home down the motorway we ached from so much smiling, back with friends and like minded people, arriving home tired, sunburnt and euphoric with an invitation to return so we must have been on our best behaviour.

We experienced the whole harness racing package from barn to track I know I have mentioned before how we spent many years just the two of us standing trackside knowing nobody to now making some wonderful friends and getting up close to

some of the best standardbreds in the country and what a beautiful nice natured and versatile breed they are. We have had a lot of Standardbred cuddles to catch up on and Emma, Cocoa, Bubbles and Dora were very happy to oblige especially when we came armed with carrots .

A month ago I wouldn't have thought it possible that Appleby Spring Races would be on but it was we were blessed with the best weather and good competitive racing all made possible by a team of very hard working volunteers, everyday people who give up a lot of their spare time so us fans can enjoy our racing, to you the behind the scenes people working tirelessly we say a very big Thank You.

Mr D and I were welcomed into the home of Julie and Brian Park for a very special weekend and to watch them work together with their son Ric, caring for their horses if I came back as a horse or a dog please let me be one of yours.

Julie described the weekend as Manic David and I had a different take on it Marvellously manic our visit was a delight. We were immersed into their busy lives for a most enjoyable weekend

Watching the hardwork and sheer effort that goes into planning, the frustrations which unfold, decisions made and the heartache and determination involved in just getting a horse fit to run on the track or not run as the case may be.

Two weeks later we were off again how lucky are we this time described by Jenny as Hectic but our take on it was happily hectic. This weekend was a test of our stamina more so for Mr D as he is the driver my very own Parker, but I'm no Lady Penelope as David has not once said "yes my lady".

Off to Tir Prince we went for yet another good evening of racing, followed by a long drive to the Main mans home which he shares with Marc and Jenny. We landed at about 1.30 poor David had been driving all day on his bus and was asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow, my brain doesn't switch off that quick I will still relive the evenings racing before I can reach the land of nod.

Up, a few hours later and we were off to Amman Valley, we had promised to visit last year but sadly Covid stopped those plans, the day was a thoroughly enjoyable one, watching the workouts and qualifiers followed by racing topped off with a cracking run by Coalford Tetrack winning from a 70 yard trail he's some horse.

Whilst we sat watching , once again enjoying from a different angle sitting by the lorry soaking up every moment of the day, I saw and heard the enthusiasm these people have for this sport not only the actual racing but the breeding side, planning for their horses of the future which have not even been conceived yet , listening to the experiences with their mares ,foals and youngstock ,the problems they encounter whether its nursing injuries tweaking the tack to suit the horse, it's not just get the

horse fit and rock up to the track its all about being a nutritionist, psychologist, fitness coach, nurse, recreational therapist, and treating each horse as an individual, the passion and knowledge sharing and helping each other with advice, equipment things they have tried, helping each other overcome problems, little bits of knowledge and experiences passed on, being totally at one with each horse these people have very busy lives and still find time to welcome us into theirs.

While raising, families working full time and fitting in training in all weathers and not to mention those who do all this and more with club and BHRC commitments, I only write a little piece for the calendar and that takes me ages I struggled for months whilst in lockdown scraping some of my experiences and ideas together and now I've got the opposite problem too much to write about so I am stock piling it now as Mr D would say "There's no pleasing you" he is right there is no pleasing me.

Highlight for me that weekend apart from watching Rockin Mambo working out and might not seem a big deal to some, but where my horse crush is involved sitting in the lorry as we trundle through the picturesque countryside watching the mane man on the camera in the back of the lorry was as with everything harness racing absolutely fantastic I just can't get enough.

I am looking forward to the next adventure, wishing you all a successful racing season stay safe everyone .

BUNNY'S LEGACY

FROM TWO HEARTBREAKS WE HAVE ONE SUCCESS STORY



One might ask what harness racing and polocrosse have in common, not a lot might well be the answer, to think the two disciplines might come to the rescue of each other is probably stretching the realms of imagination too far, but yes this summer it did happen.

It is no secret that breeding is a dangerous game and is better left in the hands of the experts, but sometimes it doesn't go right for them either.



I spoke recently to Sue Young about her experiences this summer and about one of her all time favourite mares Bunny's Legacy. Sue explained that the mare was out of Bunny Lake (a Hall of Fame mare) who is the 2nd richest pacing mares earning a mammoth 2.8 million dollars and who had been a mare that Sue had always loved. When the opportunity to buy Bunny's Legacy (out of Bunny Lake) was presented it was something she didn't think twice about.



Sue explained that this was Bunny's 4th foal, already having a Racing Hill filly, a colt by Tom Hill and of course the one that needs no introduction Stateside Deuce. However, being not the biggest mare, going overdue and having what appeared to be a big foal Sue started to get uneasy about the foaling, however the vet tried to re-assure her all would be OK.

The foaling started and everything seemed to be going ok. Sue got herself settled down for the night in the barn. Things however quickly

started to take a turn for the worse, the mare got down, the waters broke and the head very quickly appeared. It was soon obvious that the legs were back and there was nothing that could be done to get the legs forward. Sue quickly summonsed help from the vet and a friend, but the mare started to prolapse and it was soon apparent that they were at risk of losing both mare and foal.

The vet pushed the head backwards, and an eye blinked. Split second decisions were made. Sue was dispatched for coffee and on her return Frankie Jnr was out and very much alive. Unfortunately Bunny could not be saved.

Sue says at this point she almost went into blind panic, what was she going to do with this foal. Her love of the mare and the

precious gift she had left ensured that Sue went into auto-pilot. The mare was milked and the foal bottle fed the colostrum thus giving it the best chance of survival. In order to avoid problems later with bottle fed orphans being a little too cheeky, goats milk and a 'shepherdess bucket' was sourced. Luckily Frankie Jnr took straight to the bucket and then was quite happy to have a sleep.

The next four days was a rollercoaster with pleas for a foster mare on Facebook being shared by the whole harness racing family. Finally came the news Sue had been hoping for, but from a very unexpected source. A phone call from Beth Scott, Polocrosse player who has played at both club, national and international levels.



Beth had an Argentinian polo pony (Frankie) who had lost a foal at 16 days old, and was distraught. Beth wanted the best for her mare, and was prepared to let Sue look after this valuable polo mare for the duration. Although Sue offered to go for the mare, Beth a Veterinary Assistant felt the best way to increase the chances of a successful fostering was for her to be there with her mare.

Beth milked Frankie and loaded the mare and the milk and set off from her home in Huddersfield to Sue's home near Hereford. On arrival, she left the mare in the wagon, smothered the foal in the mare's milk, and then let the mare sniff at the foal (bum first) over a partition. It was love at first sight. Nobody need have worried about the safety of Frankie Jnr Big Frankie was going to mother him come what may.

Beth sat for 5 long hours, much of the time under her prized Big Frankie encouraging Frankie Jnr to suck. The trust between horse and owner never more apparent. Finally he grasped the idea and the rest has been plain sailing. "I couldn't have asked for anyone better to send my precious girl to. I knew as soon as I spoke to Sue that I was making the right decision". Beth says "it broke my heart sending my Frankie away, especially after everything that had happened, but I knew she would be treated like a princess and as soon as she met little Frankie I knew I had made the right decision".

I spoke to Sue quite soon after the arrival of Big Frankie and she said 'the bond between the two is unbelievable, and Big Frankie is just



the best mum ever, ironically a much better mum than Bunny has ever been'.

For now Frankie Jnr is just enjoying being with his mum, enjoying being a cheeky chappy and already showing he was born to be special.

Sue says 'I owe a debt of gratitude to Beth for the kind loan of her precious mare Big Frankie.

Beth showed an act of pure selflessness, wanting what was best for her mare'. Perhaps we could all remember, 'In a world where we can be anything, be kind'.

We all look forward to seeing him campaigning as a 3 yr old, though don't anybody get any ideas about buying him because Sue says "he is very definitely not for sale".

FRANKIE



THE HEART OF RACING

The committee that organised the recent Cannock fixture need an endurance medal for the effort they went to to ensure that this meeting went ahead.

Originally the date should have been in Step 4 of the covid regulations however unfortunately due to the delaying of the rolling out of Step 4 they found themselves (at the last minute) having to meet all the requirements of step 3, and produce detailed risk assessments, produce an event management plan and jump through hoops that nobody could ever imagine, they seemed to be thwarted at every stage.

What a team, they battled through and those who enjoyed the event should all take their hat off to this small committee - as this event could so nearly not have been on. I know the team was more than these

two ladies, but a big round of applause to Sue Young and Joanne Taff for their sterling effort.

However with perseverance they put on a meeting and what a bumper meeting it turned out to be.

A massive 18 race card, with races to suit all, some fabulous prize money, ring side viewing for all and a host of stalls and to top it all wall-to-wall sunshine.

We saw the inaugural race of the The Jessie Jones Down Syndrome Awareness Races (see separate feature), we saw some fabulous racing from the Top class Handicap Pace down to the maidens just setting off their careers. From TROTS to PACING there was something there for everybody.

It is hoped that we see Cannock back on the fixture list again next year.

Creating awareness one race at a time

A new initiative - The Jessie Jones Down Syndrome Awareness Races

Marc and Jenny Jones and family are familiar faces on the harness racing scene in Great Britain and they are now putting together a race for young drivers to generate awareness for Downs Syndrome.

Marc and Jenny are the proud parents of three daughters, Georgia, Paige and Jessie. Jessie the youngest of the three has Downs Syndrome. Often when commenting on their family situation and Jessie's condition people say things such as 'we're sorry to hear that'. As a family they want to help take away the stigma around Downs Syndrome and teach people that it is not a bad word or an issue that should evoke a reaction of pity.

Jenny admits that the words Down Syndrome can be daunting particularly to those who know little about it. For the Jones family Jessie has been the gift that has jelled their whole family together and has made each and everyone of them better people. Jenny says that if everyone had a small amount of the



characteristics of Downs Syndrome in them the world would be a much better place as it would take away the nastiness and discrimination. Jessie brings laughter and joy everyday and for the Jones' she has made their lives complete.



And so an idea was born and the thought of running a race to raise awareness began. When you're trying to educate people what better place to start than with the youngest

generation. If youngsters can grow up without the negativity around Down Syndrome this can be passed on to future generations.

The family felt that there wasn't



the prizes.

Leading up to the race several fund raisers took place online and on the field and in excess of £2,000 has been raised.

A further race will then be ran at Amman Valley on 29th August. On the day the rosettes and prizes will be given out by the star of the campaign Jessie Jones.

Tir Prince are also interested in the cause and talks are ongoing about the Autumn series, though this may not be specifically for young drivers. In the future they are hoping that a Downs Syndrome awareness race can be held in Wales, Scotland, England and Ireland and that they can build on it year on year.

Young drivers get your horses organised, this is not a race you want to miss out on!

anything in the BHRC racing calendar for up and coming young drivers and wanted to give them something to aim for whilst spreading their message.

The first race will be open to C and B Class drivers under the age of 30 and will be held at Cannock on 17th July.

A tremendous buzz surrounded the first race at Cannock with young drivers across the country entering. A full field of 10 went to post and it was Ronald Grieveson and Greentree Pleasure who landed the spoils from the evergreen Next Generation and Catherine Lord. Star of the campaign Jessie Jones was on hand to give out



Creating awareness one race at a time

Inaugural Young Driver Race

On Saturday 17th July at Cannock, the first Downs Syndrome Awareness Race organised by Jessie Jones and her family was staged for young C and B class drivers. In what looked to be a close event, it was Ronald Grieveson with his own mare, Greentree Pleasure, who took the bull by the horns and made his intentions clear from the outset, leading from the widest gate position to dictate the entire race from in front. Catherine Lord, on board her sister's veteran campaigner Next Generation mounted the strongest challenge in the home straight, with Dan Russell Jnr overcoming his mammoth 50 yard trail on Springhill Glory to get in the mix, however Ronald had all moves covered and ran out a comfortable winner.

Speaking to Ronald after the race,



he had the following to say:

“Winning Jessie’s race...well!!! Not only was it a really competitive race on paper but it was on the track also. The horses were racing for the lead from the start line, I think all of us young drivers were so keen to win not just because of the fantastic prizes but more for the fact that it was Jessie’s race and there had been a great build up to the race raising money for her charity. I think we all wanted that special moment



where we could just say thank you to Jessie, this was her race and her day.”

All drivers received gift bags after the race, with the first three home receiving additional prizes. Ronald was also in receipt of the perpetual shield, the first recipient for what it is hoped will be a long running event.

Due to the success of the race, Jenny Jones and Sarah Thomas discussed the idea of further races this season at each end of the country. It was agreed that Amman Valley would host the ‘southern’ event on Sunday 29th August, with the Brough meeting at Appleby hosting the ‘northern’ event on Monday 30th August. Both races will feature the same conditions as the Cannock race, and prizes will

be on offer not only for the first three horses home but also the young drivers.

Going forward, it is hoped that Cannock can continue to stage the main central event, with the regional races moving around different tracks in order to give young drivers the opportunity to drive at different venues and also to support as many tracks as possible.

Congratulations to Ronald Grieveson, well done to all of the young drivers who competed and good luck to those who enter the next couple of events! Our thoughts went out to Mikey Millard who took a nasty spill in the race.



WHEN AGE IS JUST A NUMBER



Next Generation, officially the oldest horse in training, showed the next generation a thing or two at the recent Cannock meeting. ‘Taz’ owned, bred and trained by Kelly Peacock literally showed us all that age was just a number.

2 The old guy, a mere 15, who had to seek special dispensation this year to run, so nearly took out Race 7: Millstream Shelters Pace, putting up a stirring performance to be pipped on the line by one of the ‘babies of the race’ Brywins Ferocious.

I spoke to Kelly as she came off the track, commenting on the fabulous performance of the old guy ‘Taz’, and we fleetingly shared a joke about it putting the pressure on sister Catherine who was following up with

Taz in race 14, the Jessie Jones Downs Syndrome Awareness Young Drivers Race.

2 Next Generation who has now competed in over 140 races, with a lifetime best time of 1.59.4 and a strike rate of around 10% is clearly still in love with the racing game. It is no secret he is a family pet, it’s a great shame he will not still be competing when ‘next generation’ Myla takes out her licence!

So having followed the old boy for so long I was not surprised to see him back in the ribbons with sister Catherine later in the afternoon.

2 Two sisters, two races, two ribbons and just to make sure neither sister had bragging rights over the other he delivered them both into 2nd place. Taz you are an absolute gentleman.

Tamzin's Tale ...Young Media Star

I have been coming to harness racing ever since I was little, when I came to watch the horses my grandad (Sammy Lees) helped to break in/train along with Trevor Ewbank, as well as family friends Brian, Julie, Ric & Pandey Park's horse Red Emerald.

My earliest memory of harness racing is from Musselburgh in 2013 when my favourite horse to this day Red Emerald won the Maiden pace with a time of 3.03.50 with the driver Barry Westgarth. Red Emerald, lovingly known as Emma, would go onto have 91 starts, 11 wins, win £6,475, a personal best of 1.59.9 and have a foal (Dora) who is now 2. I ride Emma everyday as well as muck out and tack up the other horses in the stables ready to jog out Rhyds Cocoa (Cocoa), Imperial Bubbles (Bubbles) and Cheeky Beggar (Dora).

A big winner for me is the multiple ice



cream vans at most tracks. Like most young children on a hot day (or also a cold day) all I wanted was an ice cream (and a winner), so in came the "wait until Race 6" rule. Which basically meant that I wasn't allowed an ice cream until after Race 6. So the minute Race 6 finished I was begging for this ice



cream. Fortunately this rule does not apply anymore once you are 11 (mainly because I am big enough to go and get my own!)



Now I spend most of my time at race meetings Facebook living most races to be put on the Northern Harness Racing Facebook page. These videos are watched internationally in countries such as New Zealand and Canada. I get a lot of positive comments off the harness racing public who unfortunately can't make it to the meeting (I really enjoy reading them!). I ask all of the meeting organisers before I start my videoing for permission to do so and most of them support me and see the benefit to the sport.

Another horse that holds a special place in my heart is Ashbank trained by The Nicholson Family (John, Georgina, Savannah & John Henry). This horse was bred and broken in by The Ewbank family with the help of my grandad. The 5 year old Ashbank, fondly known as Herbert, has won 2 races so far, one

being at York and one at Binchester where on both occasions he was driven by John Henry Nicholson.

I hope to carry on with harness racing all the way through my life as it is such an exciting yet nail-biting sport. I would like to thank my parents, my grandparents and The Park family for all they have done for me throughout my harness racing life. I also want to thank Sarah Thomas for encouraging me and letting me help her. I got a camera for Christmas and a step, so watch out Sarah - here I come!

"The thing I like most about harness racing is the happiness it brings to people when their horse wins".



Tamzin Lees (age 11)

STEWARDING

What categories of stewards are there and what are their roles at the races?

There are 3 types of stewards within the BHRC; firstly BHRC stewards who are Directors of the club and whose roles are to uphold the rules and the constitution, as well as to run the business. Normally there will be a few at each race meeting, and they will at times step in to help the track stewards, particularly at the larger meetings or if track stewards are thin on the ground. BHRC stewards can also stand in as a Regional steward if necessary. They are also responsible for overseeing integrity testing and programmes along with integrity officers.

Regional Stewards

Each region has one (England - Andrea Barker, Scotland - Craig Stephenson and Wales - Garry O'Grady). In a couple of areas there is also a deputy. A regional steward must be present at every stewards enquiry. Their role is to support and advise on the rules and their interpretation, ensuring that each enquiry is conducted correctly. They also support integrity testing and can make track stewards aware of an infringement if it has been missed. They advise both the track stewards and drivers, trainers and owners at enquiries.

Track stewards

Track stewards are responsible for the running of a race meeting with regards to identifying rule infringements, and following the rule book recommendations on penalties. There must be a minimum of 3 track stewards at every race meeting and at every enquiry, though extra stewards can be seconded in an emergency.

Every enquiry is run by a Chair of Stewards, who will inform the owner, trainer or driver of the alleged infringement and subsequent questions and statements go through the Chair. The Chair is also responsible for ensuring that the correct paperwork is completed after each enquiry and that copies are given to each relevant party.

How is an enquiry conducted?

The Chair on the day (in some regions this changes, in others it is usually the same person) will be made aware of a potential issue, either by a fellow steward, by the starter or by a driver or trainer who may lodge a complaint.

After discussion with other track stewards and possibly after viewing a relevant video, a decision will be made as to whether the issue warrants further investigation. If it does, then the commentator will be informed that there is an enquiry and whether the outcome might affect the result; either winner or placed horses.

Usually the first stage will be to examine the race video. This will sometimes mean waiting until the post race parade has been completed. Very often viewing will need repeating several times to ensure that all stewards are clear about what they can see and what happened.

At this point they may decide no further action is needed and the result can be announced. If they feel there is a possible infringement then they will call an enquiry and ask the commentator to call relevant witnesses to the stewards room. Anyone who is the subject of an enquiry can also request to see the video.

This can take a while, if drivers have other horses to attend to, or if the paddock steward need to use their own speaker system to call people. Witnesses are

interviewed one by one in the presence of 3 track stewards and the Regional steward, who will also have been called.

Once witnesses have been spoken to then they leave the room, the stewards discuss their findings, consult the rule book and make a decision as to the outcome. The licence holder involved is called back and the Chair informs them of the outcome. The Chair will then inform the commentator of the outcome, straight away if it affects the placings, and this is then announced. Enquiry forms have to be filled in and signed by everyone present, and a

copy given to the individual, the office and one remaining in the book.

Stewarding is a voluntary position, it can be rewarding, it can be frustrating, but without stewards we cannot race. Please think about whether you could volunteer your services and become a steward. We would welcome new volunteers - if you think you could help please contact me or one of our regional stewards.

Andrea Barker (England)

Craig Stephenson (Scotland)

Garry O'Grady (Wales)



Welsh Classic goes to Scotland

Like so many events in 2020 the Tregaron Trotting Club festival of harness racing had to be cancelled.

Again in 2021 it looked as though one of the pinnacles of the harness racing calendar may be lost due to the Covid pandemic.

Not wanting another year with no Welsh Classic Tregaron Trotting Club made the decision to move the entire fixture to Tir Prince. The meeting boasted no less than 10 Group 1 races.

On the first weekend of July thunderstorms loomed around the coast of North Wales, thankfully Saturday escaped with very few showers, unfortunately Sunday was not quite as lucky. Track conditions resulted in several non-runners but never the less there were still many notable successes. We can all dwell

on should have's and could have's but instead we will celebrate the highlights.

Sunday was all about the Scots! The runners for both finals over the weekend were made up of the first five from two heats. Glory in both heats of the Welsh Classic went to Scotland with Keir Camden (Eagle Luck/Anthology) in the hands of Grant Cullen taking out heat one and Cash All (Kikikolt/Yoko Hall) with Hugh Menzies successful in heat two.

In fact five of the seven runner field for the Welsh Classic final were Scottish trained, with Hamish Muirhead impressively gaining three entries into the race. However, it was Keir Cullen and brother Grant who landed the spoils with Live in Star (Doonbeg/Live in Beauty) from stable mate Keir Camden, driven by Richard Haythornthwaite. A first time victory in the prestigious race for all connections and a 1-2-3 for Scottish

connections with Cash All taking the third spot in a thrilling finish.

The five year old mare Loosechange (Forafewdollarsmore/Call My Bluff) has had a terrific start to the 2021 season and she took out the honours in the first STAGBI Future Broodmares race of the year, narrowly beating Newtown Jody by a neck. Heats will continue across the country with the final scheduled at York on October 2nd.

Fittingly the Cullen stables won both the first and last races of the Tregaron festival, getting their weekend off to a flyer was Laneside Logic (The Preacher Pan/Laneside Lady) in heat one of the Strata Florida on the Saturday evening.

The second heat was won by Oakwood Ideal (Western Ideal/Dreamlands Hardie) for the Sally Teeboon stables. Sally was another who had a lucrative Tregaron winning the 2 year old Junior Dragoness with Strictly Paige (Foreclosure/Strictly Mambo) and also dead heating in the 4 year old Senior Dragon with Somemanyouare (See and Ski/Whispur), the other dead-heater being Star Attraction (Yankee Lariat/Judy Hall), with the Haythornthwaite brothers having a battle to the finish and the judge unable to split them.

The other division of the 2 year old Dragoness went the way of Jessies Hallmark (Hasty Hall/Jessies Conquest) and saw Marc & Jenny Jones breed two classic winners on the same night. The 2 year old Junior Dragon for colts and geldings were also split into two divisions with Oakwood Ardan (Sweet Lou/Trend

Setter) taking a three length victory in division 1.

The impressive looking Rhyds Superfly (See and Ski/Sandfly Hanover) made up for an error in his only other previous start to lift the trophy in division two. All roads for these two year olds now lead to the VDM on August 14th & 15th. Oakwood Coral (Sunshine Beach/Lucky Jeans) has been unstoppable of late and she added the 4 year old Senior Dragoness to her tally of wins for the 2021 season.

Alexis Laidler will also once again have her name engraved on the Strata Florida final trophy, this time her Frankie B (Hasty Hall/Running River) with super sub Will Greenhorn doing the steering was a 3 length winner of the Group 2 final.

And then there was the Mick O'Brien Electric Mile free for all, a race to savour on paper. Seven horses across the gate featuring Britain's current top pacers. Miraculous got the plum draw but it was Merrington Movingup who showed early speed. Rocking Mambo sat parked out for the first quarter before getting his nose in front and completing the half in 57.1. Meanwhile at the back of the field sat Coalford Tetrick (Rogue Hall/Sweet Tahoma). His move was to come on the back straight with Rhyds Rockstar in pursuit. Andrew Carins came the widest of all on the final bend and ran away from the field to a comfortable 4 length victory in 1.57.4.

Congratulations to the connections of all winners and fingers crossed 2022 will see us return to the familiar setting of the fields of Dolyrychain.

OUR DIRECTORS (part 2)

Name: John Towe

Occupation: Equine Dentist

How you got involved in harness racing: I have been fortunate enough to have been involved in Harness Racing all of my life. My Father was a BHRC Steward for many years, acting as Chief Steward at York and Wolverhampton, while my Grandfather trained and drove a prolific amount of horses with great success. So it could be suggested that I have been born and raised with Harness Racing in my veins.

Current involvement in the sport: I was voted on to the board of directors for STAGBI four years ago, and during that time, I have spent two years as the Vice President, and I am currently coming to the end of my first year of a two-year Presidency. In addition to that, I am also the Chairman of Heart of England Racing Club, a new and exciting harness racing club developed with positivity, hope, and conviction that we as a group can facilitate in the continued improvement and progression of the sport we all love.

Why did you become a director: Through my STAGBI and Heart Racing experiences, I have a good working relationship with others involved in the sport, both in this country and abroad. My work offers me opportunities to meet a large number of horses and owners, enabling me to communicate and treat horses on a professional level, safeguarding the health and welfare of the equines I treat. Moreover, my work allows me to ensure the owners' horses are happy and comfortable, enhancing their performance in whatever the chosen discipline. Home life sees me managing and working on our



suckler cattle farm and breeding and training some of my home-bred standardbreds for Harness Racing and pleasure.

I propose that my home and professional life, with the addition of the work I carry out with STAGBI, offers experience and objectivity, purpose, and aspiration that will benefit the BHRC committee. As a board member, I will bring with me skills of communication, reasoning, and loyalty to the sport, but most importantly, fresh enthusiasm to keep moving our sport forward for the good of the owners, trainers, drivers, licence holders, and the public.

Name: Julie Park

Occupation: Teacher

How you got involved in harness racing:

As a child I was into Pony Club and BSJA and used to compete at Droylsden along with my two cousins. My cousins lived next door to Jack Lang, and through Jack we started going harness racing. When we moved to Hilton near Appleby as a 13 year old pony mad girl I quickly became friends with Dianne Slack and Stoneriggs became my second home.

Current involvement in the sport: We are what used to be 'the typical hobby'



Favourite racing memory: Red Emerald winning Porterstown Road at Musselburgh, unfortunately she was taken out in the final by another horse and lost loads of ground but still ran home to be a credible 4th.

Name: Barry Delaney

How you got involved in harness racing: I was introduced to harness racing by a good friend Dougie Nichol who raced in the 1960s and 1970s. I raced my first horse in 1977.

Current involvement in the sport: I'm a BHRC director and an owner.

Why did you become a director: It's so long ago I can hardly remember. I was asked by the then chairman Lord Langford and vice chairman Arthur Slack.

Aims as a director: To help improve the sport and see it progress.

Favourite racing memory: Winning the National Pacing Derby with Saunders Computer.

participant, sadly we are seeing less and less in this category. We train our own horses only, husband Brian holds the trainers licence, whilst son Ric drives, until a recent move other son Andrew owned some of the horses, but living in Scotland he is not as involved in the sport at the minute, so horses will revert back to being in Brian's name, and me well yes I have the groom's licence!

Why did you become a director: I became involved in Northern Harness Racing about three years ago because there were lots of complaints about the BHRC and the lack of progress within the sport. I have always been of the belief you can't just moan about something, you need to get off your soapbox and do something, so I volunteered to be a director.

Aims as a director: To try to help the sport survive and be there for my grandchildren (if Ric and Andrew ever finally get around to it), and to improve the credibility.



Name: Will Evans

Occupation: Retired trading standards officer for the local authority.

How did you get involved in harness racing: I have been a spectator for 40 plus years travelling as far afield as USA, Australia and New Zealand. Our family involvement escalated once Kayleigh expressed an interest in driving and then Mike started training.

Current involvement in the sport: Owner of Enez Leman, breeder of trotters and pacers, the oldest of which are now on the track. Dad of Mike and Kayleigh and part time yard helper for Mike.

Why did you become a director: Being semi-retired I have time available to get involved in improving the profile of harness racing in the UK and the integration of trotting and pacing.

Aims as a director: To raise the profile of harness racing by improving integrity and standards.

Favourite racing memories: Kayleigh's first win driving Popeye and watching Mike drive in Kaikoura, New Zealand.



Name: Ryan O'Neil

Occupation: We have a family business supplying livestock handling equipment and agricultural fencing materials.

How did you get involved in harness racing: Dad bought his first horse to race in the seventies so I was pretty much in it from the beginning. From as far back as I can remember we went racing and I started to take an interest in working with the horses when I was thirteen.

Current involvement in the sport: Breeder, owner, trainer, STAGBI director and now a BHRC director. Breeding them is my favourite part of being involved.

Why did you become a director: Funny I ask myself that very question on a daily basis! I don't claim to have any great vision for the sport and I'm certainly under no illusion of what is achievable but I do think we can be better than we currently are.

Before we get carried away with grand ideas we must first try to be a well organised amateur sport and see where that leads us before attempting to moving forward.

In my few decades in the sport many things have improved but on the other hand a great many things have either stood still or declined.

The BHRC are often accused of making the sport too expensive but the sad reality is that keeping horses is expensive with or without the governing body. Fuel, feed, hay, harness, blacksmiths etc are all considerably more expensive than they once were and that can't or won't change. What we should be striving for is a minimum purse structure for races that allows more horses to earn a bit more towards paying their way, not an easy task but not impossible!

Aims as a director: To make the BHRC more directly accountable to the individual members who fund the sport and the governing body.

To gain full recognition for the BHRC as the official governing body for harness racing in Great Britain, only by achieving this will be able to tap in to government funds in the future.

Favourite racing memory: Apart from many enjoyable race days with our own horses the one that sticks out for me was seeing Missing Link break the two minute mark for the first time in this country at York back in 1987.



Name: Jason Podmore

Occupation:

How did you get involved in harness racing:

Current involvement in the sport:

Why did you become a director:

Aims as a director:

Favourite racing memory:

Musselburgh

After much uncertainty Musselburgh was finally given the greenlight and our thanks go to Anthony Fettah for his hard work and perseverance in getting this meeting on. It was good to see this fixture, one of the 'jewels in the crown' back, even with limited crowds.

Tuesday (Day One): a warm but cloudy evening, saw an eight race card with the feature event being the The Hurricane Pace Final, with the evening's winners coming from all three corners of the country.

Heat one saw a popular SOMEMANYOURE storm home by 7 lengths, trained by Sally Teeboon and driven by Richard Haythornthwaite.

Heat two saw Rhyds Cocoa put in much of the early work and put up a valiant fight to be headed at the post by just a nose by one of the heat/final favourites Vino Rosa.

Kelly Nott made every post the winning post in Race 3 with JMs Macy Hallstar showing a return to form. In the final heat of the evening we saw the start of the winners for Grant Cullen who steered Kier Camden to be first past the post. The evening's card staged two maiden paces one being taken out by inform driver Grant Cullen with Mayfellden Ivor and the other by yet again inform driver Cullen with The Real Rogue. The card also featured a TROTBritain race where

honours this time went to the rather out of form Chambord Fromentro.

Onto the premier event of the evening, the 10 runner Hurricane Pace Final, it was no surprise that the Laidler stable had two horses in the final, and only a fool could bet against them. However when turning the first corner for the long run down the back stretch you could have been tricked into believing there was no place for them in the shakeup. With just 6f to go the two horses were still in 7th and 8th position, however coming home up that long run home out pops super-sub Will Greenhorn with the blue and



white hooded Oakwood Coral to take the spoils.

Day two of Musselburgh dawned - and unfortunately for us there was no reporter there. Sarah as usual busy with her camera. Winners again came from England, Scotland and Wales but the moment that we had all been waiting for came from Heat 3 - could the Laidler bred and Huschka owned Merrington Movinup fulfil Alexis's dream? Joey didn't let her down taking out his heat by a cool 2 lengths from the inform Muirhead stable.

Merrington Movinup proved to be just as good if not better in the final winning by 3.25l from the Gilvear horse

Someones Fantasy.

What a day for this orphan foal who has gone on to prove he can run on any surface over any distance.

The question on everyone's lips now Will Joey head overseas for a campaign with his former stable mates?

Well done to everybody concerned

Leading Driver:

William Laidler (4 wins)

Grant Cullen (4 wins)

Leading Trainer:

Alexis Laidler (5 wins)

Kier Cullen (2 wins)

John Gill (2 wins)

David Taff (2 wins)



Team Laidler

who took out both of the major
Musselburgh finals



Well done Abby

Well done to Abby Collinson the girl with the enormous smile and Greentree Precious who took out the Small Stables Pace at Binchester run in memory of Peter Wallace. Abby has won the hearts of all the officials, and it has been a pleasure to see her gaining confidence drive by drive.

Abby who spent much of last year gaining experience running in qualifiers and having her first drives in betting races earlier this year, has been knocking at the door of her first win on a weekly basis.

Abby who drives for dad Ian, having just two horses in the stables at home. Abby says that she jogs both horse sat home and hopes to drive both horses next year.



Monkroyd Mystery Hall of Fame Induction



Following the public vote to create the 'Champion of Champions' Pace during lockdown in 2020, it was agreed by the BHRC directors that the ten horses voted by the harness racing fans as the greatest of all time should be inducted into the BHRC Hall of Fame (of those which weren't already inducted).

Of the ten, Monkroyd Mystery was the only mare to have been included in this line up. In a career spanning seven seasons, the daughter of HT Navy and Monkroyd Girl raced 147 times with 68 visits to the winner's circle. The most successful partnership came with Evelyn Slack, with the duo notching up 26 wins together; closely followed by daughter Diane with 22. Of the catch drivers, Alan Haythornthwaite recorded 11 wins, with Mick Lord, Peter Robinson and Josie Trevaskis all scoring three apiece.

Monkroyd Mystery's career highlights include:

Winning a stunning 19 of her 29 starts in 1988, including:

- Appleby heat and final (trailing 60 yards in the final)

- The New Fair saddle race (trailing 100 yards)
- Hawes heat and final (trailing 10 seconds)
- Carlisle heat and final (trailing 10 seconds);

As well as:

- Winning Brough Appleby heat and third place in the final (trailing 100 yards) - 1989
- Winning Eggleston heat and final (trailing 10 seconds) - 1989
- Winning Newton Stewart heat and final - 1990
- Winning Appleby New Fair saddle race (trailing 100 yards) - 1990

In addition to her success as a racehorse, Monkroyd Mystery went on to a lengthy second career as a broodmare for the Slack family. Her most notable descendant is a fellow Hall of Fame inductee, STONERIGGS MYSTERY, a grandson out of Stoneriggs Quality. And it is that achievement, along with many others, that also led to Arthur and Evelyn Slack from Stoneriggs Stud being inducted into the Hall of Fame as well.

2021 BHRC Leader boards

The first half the 2021 season is already bringing out strong competition in each of the four categories. Two horses sit on 5 wins a piece but there is a queue of horses behind them each with 4 wins already. Clare Fletcher and Coalford stud are level pegging in the owners championship with several others not too far away. Teresa Haythornthwaite and Alexis Laidler have been chopping and changing the lead in the trainers division but Keir Cullen, Sally Teeboon and Hamish Muirhead have all been building up the wins in July. The most competitive division so far has been that of the drivers with the top spot changing several times already this year.

Up to the end of July we have had 296 races, two of which ended in dead heats. Across those races we have had 185 different horses winning. 124 owners have had the pleasure of winning races. These have been spread across 80 different trainers and 62 different drivers.

List below up to 31st July 2021.

LEADING OWNER

Clare Fletcher	13 wins
Coalford Stud	12 wins
Joby Randall	10 wins
Steven Gilvear	8 wins
Alan Davies	7 wins
Fred Dickinson	7 wins
Muirhead & Craw	7 wins
Y-Not-Stables	7 wins

LEADING TRAINER

Teresa Haythornthwaite	28 wins
Alexis Laidler	23 wins
Keir Cullen	17 wins
Sally Teeboon	17 wins
Hamish Muirhead	16 wins
Joe Maw	12 wins
Rhun Wilson	11 wins
John Nicholson	10 wins

LEADING HORSE

Ferrie De Triou	5 wins
Loosechange	5 wins
Ayr Paparazzi	4 wins
Cash All	4 wins
Coalford Betaline	4 wins
Coalford Sweetlou	4 wins
Coalford Tetrick	4 wins
Comfort Zone	4wins
Dreamfair Duke	4 wins
Live In Star	4 wins
Oakwood Coral	4 wins
Oakwood Ideal	4 wins
Somemanyouare	4 wins
Teafortwo	4 wins

LEADING DRIVER

Richard Haythornthwaite	28 wins
Grant Cullen	26 wins
James Haythornthwaite	24 wins
Rocker Laidler	21 wins
William Greenhorn	20 wins
Andrew Cairns	12 wins
John Henry Nicholson	12 wins
Hugh Menzies	10 wins
Michael O'Mahony	10 wins
Rhun Wilson	10 wins

