



Harness Racing Calendar

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British Harness Racing Club

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

Consultant: Robert Millichap

Webmaster: Luke Enderby

Secretary: Heulwen Bulman

BHRC Contact Address: Delfryn, Llwynpiod, 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

The season is over, the lawn has been cut for the final time, trees have shed their leaves, autumn is all around us and for those of us in British harness racing our season is done and dusted.

We now sit back and reflect on the 2021 Season, taking the opportunity to appreciate the exploits of our champions. So, let's congratulate Claire Fletcher, Teresa Haythornthwaite and Grant Cullen all champions of their respective divisions.

There are numerous equine stars to drool over and soon we will be announcing the shortlist of the nominations for you all to vote on ahead of the Annual Awards. Speaking of which, this will be held at the Mercure, Haydock on January 15th.

At this point I would like to pay tribute to the ex British trained Oakwood Anabella for her early exploits in North America and the Tom Hill owned Niki Hill, the Breeders Crown 2-Y-O Fillies Champion.

In addition to the season end, this is my final Calendar message as Chairman, I will not be standing at this year's election, it's time for someone else to have a go.

Some of you think as BHRC Chairman you hold a dictators position, you couldn't be further from the truth. I have always been part of fully democratic boards and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my fellow board members, a team who work fully democratically and tirelessly for the licence holder and sport.

Sadly, there have been turbulent times along the way which have led, regrettably, to the exit of some board members.

This year we will welcome one person one vote, which means all registered fee paying members will have a say on who governs our sport. I truly hope you all take up your electoral rights and cast your vote for officers of the BHRC.

You will all recall that the vote was taken in August to switch the governance of trotting races to Trot Britain from next year, work continues at the time of publication for this switch.

Hopefully it won't be long before the new database is up and running, one we will share with the IHRA. This will also lead to a new website launch before the 2022 season.

As we go into the winter there are areas of the sport that will be reviewed, including the new whip rules as we here in Britain ensure we act responsibly when it comes to equine welfare.

Looking at integrity, the BHRC have really ramped up its testing programme in 2021, after all, we all strive to play on a clean level playing field.

Regarding off course interest in our sport, I'm afraid we haven't cracked it yet, but hey the tracks that have tried should be applauded and hopefully we will preserve in our quest to attract more interest from off course betting clients in the future.

The handicapping team have met to review the new pacing handicap system and I believe at this stage there won't be many changes as the new rating based programme beds in.

Stewarding is an area of the sport we must focus on, we have a team of officials who offer their services for nothing and have, at times, been unacceptably physically and verbally abused. During the close season rules and procedures will be reviewed.

As I approach the end of my term I would like to pay tribute to Dai John Edwards and our Secretary Heulwen for the work they put in when producing the cards and keeping tabs on the handicap ratings. Without their efforts the season would have been lost.

As I end this piece Kayleigh Evans, Julie Park and Sarah Thomas deserve special

mention for the production of the modern look Calendar, Julie, as do all the directors, puts in hours of work for the BHRC and they all deserve our grateful thanks and appreciation.

May I wish the Board of Directors post December 5th the very best of luck, and can I remind you they are there to work for you, work for the sport, they are not there to make life difficult for you but want to try and regulate the sport in a professional, presentable manner.

We don't have a magic wand, we keep saying working together is the key, I'm afraid practising this wish proves a lot harder.

Let's hope the silent majority are allowed to enjoy their sport.

Good luck!
Darren Owen

Coalford Bythesea



BHRC Futurity 2Yr Old Colts Division

Coalford Stud have campaigned their youngsters carefully and have regularly been seen in the winners enclosure throughout the season.

Dam: Stormy Novel
Sire: Downbytheseaside

Time: 2.00.60

Strike rate: 28.57%



Roger Huston

In this edition of the Calendar, Hall of Fame Announcer (commentator to you and I) and voice of the Little Brown Jug **Roger Huston** answers our questions

AS ONE OF GLOBAL HARNESS RACING'S GREAT AMBASSADORS, HOW WOULD YOU SELL THE QUALITIES OF THE SPORT TO A NEWCOMER?

Here in Ohio we have a race program for all to compete in, Ohio Sires Stakes, Buckeye Stallion Series and County Fairs, thus no matter the quality of the horse there is a category he can compete in. The Standardbred is much more durable than other breeds. After racing they are excellent for riding. The standardbred also is a horse that can be hands on for the owner who can with proper training, jog his or her own horse and if he so desires the possibility of even being the driver in time.

YOU HAVE CALLED SOME OF THE GREAT RACES AND HORSES DURING YOUR LIFETIME IN THE SPORT, WHAT ARE THE BEST THREE PACERS AND TROTTERS YOU HAVE SEEN OVER THE YEARS?

Best three pacers are:

Niatross, Wiggle It Jiggleit and Bret Hanover;

Best three trotters are:

Nevele Pride, Moni Maker and Sebastian K

THINKING ABOUT THE HORSEMEN AND WOMEN YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED, WHICH TRAINERS AND DRIVERS HAVE LEFT A MARK ON YOU?

Trainers would be Ron Burke, Jimmy and Nancy Takter, and Alexis Laidler.



Drivers would be Dave Palone approaching 20,000 wins, Tim Tetrick, Dexter Dunn and Aaron Merriman and in early years Billy Haughton, Joe O'Brien and Bill O'Donnell. Women in the sport would be Linda Toscano, Alexis Laidler and Bea Farber.

TELL US ABOUT SOME OF YOUR EXPERIENCES AROUND THE WORLD AND HOW NORTH AMERICAN HARNESS RACING DIFFERS TO THE SPORT IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

When I went to Australia to call races at the Inter Dominion the one thing I remember most was how the people wanted to talk about racing in the states. They had so many questions that I almost lost my voice for talking so much.

In Britain and Ireland, again it is the people that I remember most, many have become very close friends over the years. The racing action is the same except for the purses. In the states the purses are the greatest but here the purses are no ways similar but the

love for the sport is much stronger than in the states - a true passion in Britain and Ireland.

In Sweden, Norway and Finland they race trotters and the biggest difference is in the training methods and how they go about racing. The methods are quite different. Ake Svanstedt has brought his skills and methods to the states and has done quite well with those homeland style training. In past years the same holds true for the Nordin family as well.

THINKING ABOUT HARNESS RACING IN NORTH AMERICA, ARE THERE AREAS OF THE SPORT THAT PARTICULARLY CONCERN YOU AT THE MOMENT AND IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS?

The biggest concern in the states is two-fold. The association with the casinos has increased the purse structure greatly over the last ten years. Today we are facing some losses of race tracks. This will be the last year of racing at Pompano Park and the fear is that other casino companies will attempt to end racing with decoupling.

The other problem is the use of illegal

medication. The recent indictments of a number of individuals has really hurt both the thoroughbred and standardbred sport in the states. It is an on going battle to clean up racing. A battle that we must win or we will continue to have a decline in our fan base.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE 2021 EQUINE STARS IN NORTH AMERICA?

2021 stars of today are the likes of Lyons Sentinel, Charlie May, Perfect Sting, Atlanta, Bella Bellini and many others. The attention to Oakwoodanabella has been great and speaks well for the Irish Bred. We will see more of your stars do well in the states. Evenwood Sonofagun had great success in Canada as well.

WITH CRYSTAL BALL IN HAND, WHICH HORSES DO YOU THINK WILL BE MAKING THE HEADLINES IN 2022?



The 2022 Stars to watch for in no particular order are Monte Miki, Beach Glass, Niki Hill (Tom Hill Owner), Sea Silk and Venerable.

We send our gratitude to Roger Huston for answering our questions and salute a great global harness racing ambassador - a wonderful friend to us in these islands.



Camden Equestrian Centre

York Annual Sale

Lot 1 Comte De Monteil £3000 N/S	Lot 18 Oakwood Hey Miki £17500
Lot 2 JK Reunited £9000 N/S	Lot 19 Greenhill Reeah £8000
Lot 3 Treasure Keeper £4500	Lot 20 Ayr Guitar £10000
Lot 4 Showtime Argentina £800	Lot 21 Imperial Dynamite £5000
Lot 5 Moonlight Lou £6200 N/S	Lot 22 Eternal Bud £9000
Lot 6 Enigmatic £23000	Lot 23 Stateside Buggy £6500
Lot 7 Oakwood Carmelita £75000	Lot 24 Vinnie Camden £10500
Lot 8 Oakwood Lucy Lou £25000	Lot 25 Jenny Camden £7000
Lot 9 Talavaryhuntsville £20000	Lot 26 Red Regal £3500
Lot 10 Teatime Special £15000 N/S	Lot 27 Amazon Fire £10500
Lot 11 Ayr Corleon £15000	Lot 28 Vincent £7000 N/S
Lot 12 Ayr Balmoral £38000	Lot 29 Wellfield Archie N/F
Lot 13 JD Camden £19000	Lot 30 Oakwood Time Again £10000
Lot 14 Simon Camden £7500	Lot 31 Oakwood Dynasty £10000
Lot 15 Rhyds Applered £6000	Lot 32 Ayr Harbour £5000
Lot 16 Rhyds Dude £4100	Lot 33 Ayr Pavarotti £4200
Lot 17 Oakwood Triki Miki £18500 N/S	Lot 34 Overarch £3500



Lot 35 Strictly Tyler £11000
 Lot 36 Stateside Ideal £6500
 Lot 37 Imperial Flame £5000
 Lot 38 Wellfield Apache N/F
 Lot 39 Mercers Shiralee £3200 N/S
 Lot 40 Talkaboutme £4000
 Lot 41 Red Cash £3800
 Lot 42 Imapreacher £6200
 Lot 43 Sweet Heartbraker £7500 N/S
 Lot 44 Rocket Man £10500 N/S
 Lot 45 Rhyds See A Star £10000 N/S
 Lot 46 Mayfellden Juno £3500
 Lot 47 Lanehouse Yankee £1500
 Lot 48 Laneside Lego £900 N/S
 Lot 49 Ffaraway £3100 N/S
 Lot 50 Jessica Jay N/F
 Lot 51 Rhyds Seequin £4200 N/S
 Lot 52 Oakwood Brooklyn N/F
 Lot 53 Shes The Real Deal £3600 N/S
 Lot 54 Laneside Layla £1500 N/S
 Lot 55 Mahogany Batman £1500 N/S
 Lot 56 Ontop Apachy N/F
 Lot 57 Duncan Camden £2100

Of the 57 horses entered, 5 were not forward. Of the remaining 52 presented for sale, 36 sold for a total value of £401,700 (16 not sold).

The sale average across all categories was £11,158.

Of the 39 yearlings entered, 2 were not forward. Of the remaining 37 that went through the ring, 32 yearlings sold for a total value of £390,100 (21 colts for £241,500; 11 fillies for £148,600).

The combined yearling average was £12,191.

The yearling colt average was £11,500.

The yearling filly average was £13,509.

The sale topper was OAKWOOD CARMELITA (f, 2020, Foreclosure x Carmel Camden) consigned by Oakwood Stud, Co Offaly, Ireland who sold for £75,000 – a new British and Irish sales record; AYR BALMORAL (c, 2020, Always B Miki x JK Majorette) consigned by Ayr Standardbreds, Ayr, Scotland topped the yearling colts selling for £38,000.

The 2021 sale was the second year where yearlings sold through the ring were eligible for the following year's Graduate Series races staged at York Harness Raceway on sale day. Each yearling was subject to a 2.5% buyer and 2.5% seller commission which is the initial fund for the following year's races. Colts and fillies have their own prize fund generated from their sale values and races are guaranteed to be split.

The 2020 Sale Graduate Series 2YO races were staged on sale day this year (October 2nd 2021) with the colts division won by RHYDS SCOUNDREL (£7,000 purchase) and the fillies division won by JESSIES HALLMARK (£14,200 purchase). From the fund generated in 2020, 20% was retained for a 3YO element which will be staged in July 2022. This is for eligible horses who won £100 or less as two-year-olds, and these races will be split for colts and fillies.

GRADUATE SERIES 2020

Eligible 3YOs:

COLTS

Ayr Emperor
Dillon Camden
Greentree Maverick
Greentree Wrangler
Majestic Smile
Quest For Fame
Red Rambo
Rhyds Riddle
Rhyds Skipper
Seetheaffection
Smokin Mambo
Ultimatum

3YO Graduate Series fund - £1951

FILLIES

Ayr Blaze
Greenhill Lucky
Imperial Lexi
Imperial Magicmiss
Kirsty Camden
Mercers Lilymay
Natalia Camden
Shebespecial

3YO Graduate Series fund - £997

GRADUATE SERIES 2021

Eligible 2YOs:

COLTS

Amazon Fire
Ayr Balmoral
Ayr Corleon
Ayr Guitar
Ayr Harbour
Ayr Pavarotti
Enigmatic
Eternal Bud
Ima Preacher
Imperial Dynamite

JD Camden
Oakwood Hey Miki
Oakwood Time Again
Red Regal
Rhyds Applered
Rhyds Dude
Simon Camden
Stateside Bugsy
Strictly Tyler
Talavary Huntsville
Vinnie Camden

Yearling colt total - £241,500

Graduate Series fund for yearling colts
- £12,075

FILLIES

Greenhill Reeah
Imperial Flame
Jenny Camden
Oakwood Carmelita
Oakwood Dynasty
Oakwood Lucy Lou
Overarch
Red Cash
Showtime Argentina
Stateside Ideal
Talkaboutme

Yearling filly total - £148,600

Graduate Series fund for yearling
fillies - £7430

ONLY YEARLINGS SOLD IN THE RING
qualify for this event.

Entry forms will be available in early 2022. Please note that going forward 100% of the Graduate Series fund will be allocated to the 2YO races staged on sale day; the 3YO element from the 2020 Sale will be honoured however this will be the only running of this event.



VDM Tir Prince 2021

In 2012, Oakwood Stud started the Vincent Delaney Memorial in honour of their brother. What started as an idea of a memorial race has grown exponentially in the last few years. The VDM racing weekend now hosts visitors from around the world, including the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and more. We are proud to be able to support Irish and British racing through the weekend and to bring it to a global audience.



This was the first year (of a three year programme) where Tir Prince will host our prestigious event, this year hosting 14 races over an action packed two days.

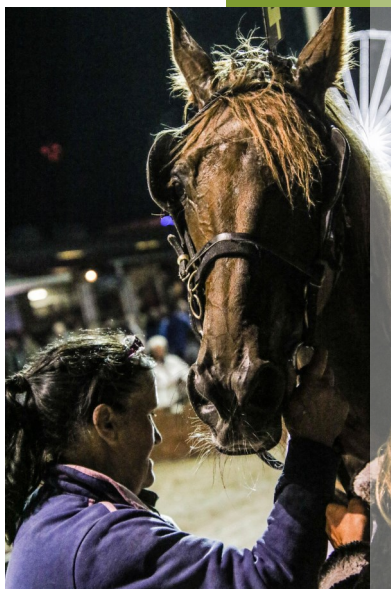
And on to the main event

2Yr Old Colts:

With a first prize purse of £15,000 and a total purse of £27,000 this has to be one of the races that everybody wants to win. The honours went to Irish raider Gavin Murdock partnering the impressive Oakwood Paddy. Also picking up prizemoney Biggins for the Teeboon/Haythornthwaite partnership and Oakwood Ardan for the mother and son Haythornthwaite team.

2Yr Old Fillies:

The impressive Gilvear filly Louisiana showed again just how good she is making what can only be described as light work of the opposition. With the lions share of the prizemoney heading not over the water but over the border to the Gilvear stable. Congratulations to the Laidler camp taking out both 2nd and 3rd places for respective connections.





3Yr Old Colts:

Certainly a day for the Irish, with Foreclosure siring the first three home. Following up from his 2yr old win, Churchview Frankel steered home by Bernard Nicholson, made a return trip to the winners enclosure. Picking up 2nd and 3rd places were the Teeboon trained but Irish bred Oakwood Denver followed home by stable mate Oakwood Vegas.



3Yr Old Fillies:

Outsider of the betting Showtime Im A Lady running a personal best, and a sub 2 minute time, gave driver Grant Cullen his only trip to the winners enclosure for this meeting, and new trainer Melissa Sweeney her first win on a big stage - well done to all connections.



4Yr Old Colts:

A return to the winners enclosure for the Gilvear stable this time with A Rocknroll Star also recording a personal best time. With prizemoney also heading to Ireland (Oakwood Cowboy) and Wales (Stateside Dude).



4Yr Old Fillies:

A premier meeting would not be complete without a trip to the winners enclosure by trainer Alexis Laidler. Oakwood Coral duly obliged for

connections showing she is equally impressive on grass and hard-track, over different distances. With a 50% strike rate she is certainly a fantastic brood mare prospect for the future.

Bernie Kelly Memorial Free For All

What is lacked in quantity it made up for in quality, the reliable Miraculous reminded us all that he was 'not to be forgotten. However eventually it was all about the ladies, the memory of the fabulous Bernie, and the ladies on the circuit, the impressive Newtown Jody and lady driver Vicky Gill.

Leading Trainer and Driver:

Gavin Murdock

Leading Sire:

There were no surprises in the stallion stakes with the two leading contenders coming from Oakwood Stud. Foreclosure again showing he is 'the man'.

“Overall we are extremely happy with the success at the new venue, even during these testing (Covid) times I believe the VDM committee & Tir Prince management were able to pull off a very memorable event for Vincent’s 10th Year Anniversary.”

Derek tells us - it took literally 9 months to strategically plan this event and I think this came across on and off the track with the richest purses raced for in the history of the event and the fabulous and varied





entertainment over both days of the festival. The entertainment went down really well with the public, who were in awe of the horse stunt riders and the choir solo singer pre race finals. Maybe the top class after party DJ carrying on to the early hours of the morning went down a little too well!

Records were broken on and off the track with Tir Prince Management reporting record attendances, record numbers of live-stream tickets purchased and record takings in the bar! This was all made possible due to innovative thinking of our committee and Tir Prince Management and the huge level of support from the horsemen and all our sponsors from near and far. On that note I would like to say a special Thank You to our Committee, Tir Prince Management and staff, commentators, our major sponsors for their trojan effort in making Vincent's 10th year anniversary such a memorable one.

VDM Committee

Gareth Byrne - accountant/treasurer (IRL)
Caroline Vazquez - Media Marketing (USA)
Mandy Stanley - Secretary & Race Day presentations coordinator
James Delaney - Logistics
Lillian Delaney - Ladies Day Co-ordinator
Maria Witherspoon - Ladies Day Co-ordinator

Tir Prince Management

Eric Witherspoon/Manager
Adam Williams/Owner
All the Tir Prince Staff

Commentators

Roger Huston (USA) Hall of Fame
Darren Owen (UK) BHRC Chairman
Mike Crolla (UK)

Our Major Sponsors

Adam Bowden - Diamond Creek Farms (USA)
Russell Williams - Hanover Shoe Farms (USA)
Derek & James Delaney - Oakwood Stud (IRL)
Claire & Shane Fletcher - LPD Demolition (UK)
Adam Williams - Tir Prince Group (Wales)

Highlights

My personal standout highlights, the inaugural Bernie Kelly Memorial, Oakwood Paddy giving us our first VDM Colts, Louisiana performance in VDM Fillies, the competitiveness of the racing, the solo singer national anthem and medley before the VDM finals - the atmosphere was electric.

We have already started the planning for next year and between ourselves and Tir Prince Management we are fully confident that we can deliver an even larger event at the venue in 2022.

Yours in Sport

Derek Delaney

Chairman VDM Committee

THROUGH A FAN'S EYES

York Sales has been and gone and Autumn is in full flow. The curtain has now sadly come down on the harness racing season.

I will of course begin by mentioning the Mane man Rockin Mambo. I recently received a lovely message from Jenny Jones telling me they have decided to retire him from racing, but he won't be putting his feet up, oh no he is going to be as my nan would have said "doing a little bit of courting". When I received the message I was walking to work and I confess I did shed a tear, not because I wouldn't see Rocky on the track again but because of the words Jenny wrote.

"I thought you should be one of the first I told as if it wasn't for Rocky and you liking him so much we would never have become the great friends we all are today".

This is very true and we value their friendship and their family's friendship as we do many of you. Having a very small family and only a handful of close friends, harness racing has opened up a whole new circle of friends and acquaintances and new experiences. I feel I have learnt so much about this sport soaking it up like a sponge and there

is so much more for this sponge to ingest .

We would like to wish Marc and Jenny every success with Rocky in his stud duties and may he sire many winners in the future. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of little Mambos gracing us with their presence on the track. However, I do now have to find another favourite to support at the races. I know Forgeside Standardbreds have one or two ready and waiting in the wings who will fit the bill I am spoilt for choice. But Rocky will always be the Mane man for me. And, just for the record I use mane not main not because I can't spell but in reference to the equine connection.

I would like to say a very big thank you to Rockin Mambo for bringing so much enjoyment to our lives, watching you race, your great turn of speed heading for the finish line, the sheer thrill of shouting you home and then getting to come onto the track to celebrate your wins with you. I will never forget the first time I met you at Tir Prince Marc opened up the back of the lorry and there you were I stood in awe at the bottom of the ramp looking up at you in your red rug and headcollar matching your dark

complexion. I was transfixed by your sheer beauty not believing that a horse I had admired for so long was now stood before me.

The silence was broken by Marc who said "you can stroke him you know" my reply to Marc was I am just admiring him enjoying the moment. It wasn't long before I walked up the ramp and patted him on the neck, and now every chance I get to stroke him or even watch him out in his paddock I do. He has such a lovely temperament for a stallion and I hope Rocky you pass this on to your youngsters along with your amazing ability out on the race track.

Enjoy your winter off sir as I think you could have a busy spring ahead.

This season I have grown more interested in the breeding side I think because the horses we have watched and admire racing through the years now have their own offspring out on the track. We have also gained an interest in the racing overseas and more stallions names now becoming familiar to me.

This year I endured some late nights to watch the Little Brown jug and Juliette as Friday afternoon drew to a close I regretted my week of late nights, clock watching until it was

home time. It was well worth the sleep deprivation - how exciting to watch Oakwood Anabella run and come third and be able to say I've seen this horse race trackside here in the UK. I have managed to educate all my work colleagues and children in school, who now all now know all about the famous horse race in America and of course the name of one fine young filly racing over there.

Mr D has enjoyed his Imperial Bubbles cuddles this year and we watched from afar as he won his first race at Wolsingham. Sadly we missed it, we had chosen to go to Ivington where we experienced equally good racing. Watching wouldn't have been possible without the expert filming from Tamzin, thank you what a delightful young lady so nice to see her enthusiasm for the sport and so lovely to see the Park's stable have a win with Bubbles and also a successful season with Cocoa too.

Mr D and I have had a full season of racing and enter into winter looking forward to Christmas and New Year - the planning begins again. I always look forward to the end of grey days and the dawn chorus waking us up. These are the signs that racing is nearly upon us once again.

Mr D and I have also enjoyed visits this year to the Michael O'Mahony and Kayleigh Evans stable. I thoroughly enjoy watching them train their youngsters and lost count of the amount of youngsters they have in for breaking and training this autumn. They are definitely into the double figures, both of them are so knowledgeable and very patient with answering our numerous questions.

They amaze me with their dedication to the sport. Every horse is catered for individually with time patience and gentle handling. Their needs are met by this lovely couple working side by side and so in tune with each other and the horses. It creates a lovely environment for these young horses to start their education and introduction into this sport. I remember hearing somebody say Michael is a true horseman and yes I totally agree.

Mr D and I have discussed owning a horse, if we win the lottery that is and we've always said it would have to be trained close to home, we would be those nightmare owners always wanting to come and see our horse and be involved. You've got it the ones who's car when seen arriving produces a chorus of "oh god its them again".

Well Michael and Kayleigh we are sorry to say you would be the ones uttering those words because we pick you, not just because your close to us but firstly and more importantly because of your affinity and empathy for all the horses in your care.

We sat with friends, cooking in the heat at Cannock, looking across at the lorry park. We see Michael with 5 horses walking calmy along and we were so impressed. "A man truly outstanding in his field was one of the comments made." And where would we source this horse dream horse you may ask? That one is easy - Forgeside of course because it would be a baby Mambo. We can but dream.

And with 2021 drawing to a close I would just like to convey mine and David's congratulations to you all for a successful season and our heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and for making us smile all year.

A Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year to you all.

Stay safe and well everyone and be mindful the big bad wolf is still out there, see you all in 2022.

Runningononeleg - Brett Corbett

Until I did the Fantasy Racing fundraiser I confess I did not know Brett Corbett, but when he contacted me asking to buy a horse and call it Runningononeleg I started to take an interest in his story.

Almost exactly a year ago we talked to Brett and at the time he was working incredibly hard at getting out of the wheelchair, and as he told me "running on one leg". For those of you who like me follow Brett's story, you know he has worked extremely hard, and earned the admiration of many.

I promised (or threatened - whichever way you look at it) that I would be back, and I here am.

So this time last year Brett told me he would be up on his feet, walking unaided and more importantly back in the sulky. I confess (not that I told Brett this, but although I hugely admired him I was not sure he would be back in the sulky this year). Shows how wrong you can be.

So Brett tell us about your year

It's been the same as everyone really trying to play hide and seek with COVID and try get things back to normal after 2 years of recovering! It's been nice to get back to the races and to see a decent crowd back at most race meetings! It's been a busy year



with Lee & Kayla Morris from January helping with the horses and trying to figure out some decent goals for the team, which they managed leading driver and trainer in Wales and West! Not even going to start thinking about next years plans.

I got back in the cart at Lee's in April time I think it was slowly went round the edge of the track and the smile on my face was massive! It may not sound much to some, but when I got rushed to hospital I never thought I would see the day where I'd be back in the cart! It was everything I'd been waiting 2 years for, if I'm honest it was what kept me going through the dark days.

I had huge drive from the start. I never doubted I would be back. As I lay in my hospital bed, all that was on my mind was how is this going to work in the sulky and how can I get back on the track!

I knew I'd have to work hard and push myself. I was determined to be walking on my prosthetic, I set a goal of 12

months from the day I got it and I think I did it within 8 months! It's really hard to explain what it's like walking on a prosthetic it's not as easy as people think there's so much that goes into it!

I'm not going to lie, I was nervous getting back in the cart of course I was but there's no way I was going to show it! And when I kitted up the reaction off everyone in the paddock was so good, people shouting over made my day before I even got on the horse! I was jogging past the spectator parking and I heard a elderly couple say look there's the lad with one leg! This made it even better showing people that no matter your situation you can still do things. I've always said since day 1 there's always someone worse off than yourself in life so be grateful for what you've got and don't focus on what you've not got!

Once I was physically fit enough, I sent an email to the BHRC, if I'm honest I was thinking I'd get shrugged off but the BHRC were fully supportive from the start and looked at what were the barriers to me getting back in the cart. Jason Podmore checked out the insurance requirements, they were all brilliant, from the Heulwen and Lorraine in the office, to the Board of Directors, they all wanted me on the track and we agreed that I'd do a driving assessment.

I messaged Mark Pritchard he didn't even hesitate he was so keen for me to get back on the track and I can't

thank Mark enough, he gave me a horse to drive. So it was set up that I would do a driving assessment at Cilmerly.

I had no worries about Mark's horses, they are all phenomenal, they have a good mouth, and are reactive to your voice. I am sure anyone would love to have horses like that in their yard!

I was driving to the track, my kit bag next to me, I was beaming from ear to ear (I was also bricking it!)

What worried me most was what people would say in the paddock about me driving again! People see me on crutches with my prosthetic on and then the next minute in the sulky.

I just want to settle everyone's nerves and thoughts and say the crutches - I don't need them but at the races they are just there to help, because I have no rotation in my ankle or knee, it's better to have them on the rough ground! In the cart I would say that my prosthetic leg is better in the cart because there's no flex in the ankle it just sits there nicely.

If anyone is concerned about me driving then please message me and I'll go into everything in depth and then hopefully it will relay any concerns you have.

The feeling when I was driving was incredible it was an emotional rollercoaster, and I was so happy it made the last two years so much easier its a feeling I couldn't even begin to explain!



I've watched all year the young driver races and it has hurt. It has hurt more because when I was fit there were no young driver opportunities certainly not like the series that Marc & Jenny Jones put together - The Jessie Jones Down Syndrome awareness series.

I hope this runs next year and certainly aim to be apart of it! It would be wrong to say there were no races, there was the odd C class race but there's no thought out plan to develop and give regular opportunities to young drivers. Sarah Thomas tried to get a series going I think in 2018 and I just think it's sad that owners and trainers don't get behind it.

When I went to Australia top trainers would use young drivers over older because of their claim. We are lacking in that area.

Each owner, trainer and driver have their own opinions, naturally this is usually focussed on the needs of their own horses/drives. In my opinion, this sport needs more of these types of races/series. For me,

maybe less heat and finals and more young drivers races. I think people see us as Micky Mouse drivers but there's plenty young drivers beating these regular drivers so I just don't get it!

I've made my dream come true which was to be back on track. My next goal is I want to race, I want to get a winner, I want to get a winner ASAP - that would be incredible! To some people it sounds stupid but honestly I can't explain what the last two years have been like and what it's like to be back doing something you love and want so bad!

I know when that first winner is going to happen and comes it's going to be a huge emotional day, it will complete the dream, my dream. I hope that all those people who have been on the journey with me and supported me are there. Just believe me, it will come. It's nice being back.

Hope every one has a good Christmas and New year and see you all in 2022.

Also just remember anyone wants a 'C' class driver you know where I am, and I don't mind travelling!



Pictures courtesy of Brett Corbett

From Amman Valley to Ivington and all that was in between

Racing in the area got underway at Amman Valley on the 23rd May with the inaugural running of the STAGBI 4 year old championships. This was part of a new STAGBI initiative to support British bred 3 and 4 year olds with races taking place on all four of the all-weather tracks across Britain. The two £1,000 first prize pots got both Rhun Wilson and Alan Jones off to a great start with Ayr Dancer winning the fillies division and My Dude taking out the colts and geldings contest.

The return of grass racing took place on 6th June, all be it behind closed doors at Presteigne but it was a step in the right direction towards normality for the racing community. By the 20th June the easing of restrictions meant that crowds were allowed to return to race meetings both

sides of the border.

Amman Valley held a competitive heat and final on 27th June using the funds provided by the Standardbred Sales Company. Two heats decided the runners for the final with Finley Wells narrowly winning heat one and Ithon Orbit a comfortable winner in heat two. Ithon Orbit provided Matt & Christine Lewis their biggest win to date taking out the final from Lord Sugar in second and Finley Wells in third.

Unfortunately the easing of restrictions did not come in time for the Tregaron festival of harness racing and the fixture was relocated to Tir Prince. As previously covered in the last edition of the calendar it was the Scots who left North Wales with smiles on their faces and the prize money in hand.

The first of the three Hereford & Border meetings at Ivington was the next on the agenda on the 11th July, with a return visit the following week.

July 25th was a return to Amman Valley with



Ithon Orbit (Amman Valley) - Photo courtesy of Graham Rees



Delwyn Thomas Memorial - Photo courtesy of Graham Rees

the feature races on the card being the STAGBI 3 year old Championship and a division of the Future Broodmares. Ayr Dancer notched another victory at the track winning the future broodmares race whilst Apopka G signposted her name as one to look out for in the three year old category.

Lampeter was up next and Blue Showdown continued his run of good form taking out the £2,500 final in the hands of Lee Morris. Another of the feature races was the first running of the Delwyn Thomas memorial race for mares. Delwyn was a well know face amongst the harness racing community and a regular on the Wales & West circuit. Following his death in January 2021 a small group of friends worked together to create a race in his memory. Due to Covid concerns the race at Lampeter was the sole race in 2021 but going forward it is hoped that it can be turned into a strong series open to mares 4 years and old. Several tracks have already confirmed their involvement for 2022 and there will be a full series of five heats with a final to be held at a September Wales & West fixture. Heats will be ran throughout the region and will include the following confirmed tracks to date Amman Valley, Cilmeri, Lampeter and Ivington. Fittingly the winner of the 2021

mares race was Ceirion Vickey, a mare bred by Delwyn himself and a winner I'm sure he would have been proud of.

The feature meeting for Hereford & Borders Club was next on the agenda and the first heat and final win for young driver Jay Matthews. He partnered Manhattan Gangster for trainer Martin Baddams to a seven length victory to win the first running of the Roland Pugh memorial final. It was great to see Roland being honoured with a race in his memory after all he contributed to racing in the area.

Unfortunately the traditional Boughrood venue was unavailable in 2021 but luckily the committee secured an alternative venue at Cilmeri for the Group 2 final. Four heats were staged with first and second from each making the eight horse final. Northern raider Blue Da Vida Loca looked a worthy favourite after an impressive victory in heat two, whilst other punters couldn't look passed Coalford Tetrack after a mighty run in the heat to win off a 60 yard trail. However it was Cheeky Devil in the hands of Garry O'Grady who took the spoils with bookmakers cheering him home at a price of 10/1.

It wasn't long before Jay Matthews scored



Picture courtesy of Hereford and Borders HRC

his second final, this time with family owned horse Sealofapproval. Another fitting winner as it was Jay's sister Jess who raised the funds to run the Tony Edwards memorial final in honour of their late family friend and avid supporter of racing at Amman Valley.

It was back to the grass for the final three meetings of the season. The decision to move the Cilmeri fixture to September paid off for the club who have in the past been plagued with wet weather at their traditional June fixture. The feature race was won by Cheeky Devil who showed that he was able to compete at a higher level following his Boughrood victory, another great win for a young couple Charlotte and Bryn Evans.

The last three fixtures of the year also hosted the now well established Charlie Blissett memorial for trotters. For the first time numbers this year meant that two divisions were ran at each of the last three fixtures. Simon Clarke's support of the series paid off with Velours Darche taking the honours following two wins and a second place finish. Runner up of the series was stable mate Esmeralde Face.

The final race of the season was another new initiative for 2021, the Wales & West members final. Horses owned and trained

by Wales & West members accumulated points across WWHRA staged fixtures and the highest eight points earners were invited to the end of season final. It was Lord Sugar who landed the spoils providing Melanie Langford her biggest success since joining BHRC in 2020.

Despite the uncertainty at the start of the year, and a short period of behind closed doors racing 2021 has been a successful season in the area. It has been a big year for the small trainer with a number of first final wins for connections. Harness racing, the sport for

Picture courtesy of WWHRA



Indiannas Quest (18)

BHRC Oaks

After a disappointing run in the Breeders Crown, with a change of mouth gear we saw a different Indiannas Quest turn up at the races.

Dam:

Ladyford Indianna

Sire: Arts Conquest

Time: 3.10.80

Strike rate: 36.3%



Tir Prince - September 2021

On an early autumn evening, blessed with nice weather we experience another premier evening of top class racing where the best of the best competed for the silver wear. For those who could be trackside, there was an electric atmosphere that those on the live stream could also feel. Well done to all connections for what was another fabulous evening of racing.



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

BHRC DERBY

The further the better for this horse, and he looks an exciting prospect for next year in some of the big grass handicaps.

Dam: Docdor Valentia

Sire: Sportswriter

Time: 3.05.70

Strike rate: 50%

Comfort Zone





Saturday 15th January

Mercure Hotel Haydock

Ticket Price £38 including Three Course Meal & DJ
Available via the BHRC website

Celebrate the Stars of 2021

TICKETS NOW ON SALE ONLINE OR FROM THE OFFICE



Menu Options

STARTERS

Leek & Potato soup, fennel cream & potato crisps (v,GF)
Mature cheddar cheese tartlet, pickled grapes, walnuts &
watercress (v)
Ham hock terrine, piccalilli, ciabatta crisp, pea shoots

MAINS

Pan-fried chicken breast, thyme & sea salt roasted new
potatoes, port & shallot jus (GF)
Roast pork fillet wrapped in pancetta, pressing of celeriac &
potato, cider & sage jus (GF)
Grilled seabass, fennel & celeriac puree, tomato & coriander
dressing (GF)
Asparagus, roasted plum tomatoe & basil risotto, vegan
cheese (v,V,GF)

DESSERTS

Roast pineapple, dark run caramel, vanilla ice cream (v,V,GF)
Mascarpone tiramisu, espresso sauce
Glazed lemon tart, raspberry sorbet, vanilla

2 Yr Old Sire Stakes Colts

Rhyds Scoundrel

The Irish raider Rhyds Scoundrel bred by John and Grethe Wright of the Rhyds Stud, Wales made an impressive venture into the winners enclosure at York.

The 2yr old colt by See and Ski out of Rhyds Hasty Affair, owned and trained by the Kane team and driven by Patrick Kane Jnr, from a two draw made a dash to the front, making light work of a 30 second first quarter. It was always going to be a race of tactics in a three horse race. This impressive colt, given a confident drive, then led post to post never coming off the bridle in a time of 2.01.9.

Second across the line was Mick Lord partnering the Stateside Stud bred Stateside Deuce by Ambro Deuce out of Bunnys Legacy, and trained by Sheelagh Lord with another Stateside Stud horse, Stateside Glory taking up the rear. **Prize Money:** £1366, £745, £374



Sire: See and Ski

Dam: Rhyds Hasty Affair



2yr Old Sire Stakes Fillies

Eternal Luck

Sire: Eagle Luck

Dam: Eternal Lobell

Eternal Luck by Eagle Luck out of Eternall Lobell, owned and trained by Billy Timmins, drew pole position from a field of 8, and made the most of the draw to lead out in what turned out to be a controlled early pace. Strictly Paige (by Foreclosure out of Strictly Mambo), pressed on from a 3 draw, pushed the pace and forced a gap in behind Oaks Breeze (by The Preacher Pan out of Hollieoaks). The racing order then didn't change much.

Patrick went to the first quarter in 32.4 and continued to control the fractions going to the half in 1.05.5, the pace picked up down the backside with Richard Haythornthwaite pulling out Strictly Paige from 3rd passing brother James Haythornthwaite on Oaks Breeze and attempted to serve it up to Eternal Luck at the three quarter stage. Patrick Kane's tactics on Eternal Luck and on what looked to be his race plan to turn it into a sprint finish worked to perfection, as he always looked like a confident winner, followed over the line by Strictly Paige and Oaks Breeze.

Fabulous breeding performance by Marc and Jenny Jones of Forgeside Stud who bred 1st, 2nd and 4th horses. Prize money: £1490, £745, £358, £238, £149



3 Yr Old Sire Stakes Colts

Oakwood Denver

Sire: Foreclosure

Dam: Angela's Cosmo

The BHRC 3 Yr Old Sire Stakes Colts Division on paper always looked like being a two horse race between Oakwood Denver and Oakwood Vegas with results to back this up. With a clock of 1.56.9 on the York track Oakwood Denver edged favourite with both the crowd and the bookmaker. Both horses were sired by Foreclosure and trained by Sally Teeboon.

In a five horse race Oakwood Denver (bred by the Oakwood Stud by Foreclosure out of Angela's Cosmo) and drawn two, made the most of his renowned lightening gate speed to lead into the first bend from GDs Thunder. Richard Haythornthwaite partnering Oakwood Denver set an honest early

pace going to the quarter in 29.1, he then slowed the tempo down substantially coming into the home straight for the first time going to the half in 1.01.4, unchallenged, getting a 'freebie' on the front end.

Continuing in Indian file the tempo started to lift at the three quarter pole, but benefitting from the breather in the 2nd quarter Oakwood Denver (owned by Alan Dickinson) finished unchallenged in 1.59.5 from the Cassells trained GDs Thunder who equalled his lifetime best and in third Oakwood Vegas.

Prize Money: £2030, £1015, £487, £325, £203



3 Yr Old Sire Stakes Fillies

Apopka G

Sire: Doonbeg

Dam: Apopka Denise

From a 2 draw, Rhyds Roulette (by Hasty Hall out of CPS Village Jigsaw) led out with Ayr Contessa (by Ambro Deuce out of Ayr Queen) hard on her heels. At this stage Apopka G was situated towards rear of field. The opening quarter went in a breakneck speed of 27.8. The race then began to take shape moving to the half mile marker as the drivers began to show their hand with many moving to get a position, at this point in the race Marc moved the filly into the fast lane, poised to make a move. A 58.0 opening half mile guaranteed that this race was going to be a stamina test. Moving down the back with 3 furlongs left to travel Apopka G was forced 3 wide to make ground on the long time leader Rhyds Roulette, and by the 3/4 pole the progress was eye-catching and on entering the home straight the race was put to bed, the question then was how far and how fast.

Well done to Marc and Jenny Jones who owned, bred and trained the winning horse who set a lifetime mark of 1.58.8. This 3 yr old filly by Doonbeg showed she had the heart of her sire, and out of Supermare Apopka Denise, she certainly did not disappoint.

Prizemoney: £2560, £1280, £614, £410, £256



BHRC Prakas Championship Thunderball Sam

Sire: Hiltons Sam Boy

Dam: Pussy Kosmos

The BHRC Prakas Championship race was for British bred four year old trotters. Hopefully we will see more entries as more trotters are bred in this country. A two horse race featuring winner Thunderball Sam, on his debut, bred by William Arnold and owned by Elaine Quinn and trained by Joe Quinn. His opponent was Hot Lava (by Reach de Vandel out of Vanua Lava) already having had her debut on the York track.



The BHRC Sire Stakes would like to congratulate all successful connections and say a big thank you to all connections who continued to support the BHRC Sire Stakes programme.

With four different stallions siring the winners of the 2yr old and 3yr old divisions: See and Ski, Eagle Luck, Doonbeg and Foreclosure. On a countback of placed positions FORECLOSURE was declared leading sire of 2021. Our congratulations go to Derek and James

Delaney of the Oakwood Stud.

Details on eligible sires, yearling, 2yr old, and 3 yr old nominees, conditions and the sustaining fee payment dates can be found on the BHRC website. The Sire Stakes has its own section on the website.

Should you have any queries about anything linked to the BHRC Sire Stakes please email into the office marked for the attention of the Sire Stakes Committee.

Jugette joy for Oakwood Anabella

From the moment Oakwood Anabella set foot on the racetrack she looked like something special. Her runs on British and Irish soil as a two year old brought victory after victory and given the success of our horses recently exported to the US a plane ticket looked inevitable but I don't think any of us could have predicted the race she would end up in.

Anabella travelled to the States with a perfect undefeated record, six starts – six wins. After a delay with quarantine and DNA she made her first start on US soil, under the care of trainer Brian Brown on September 9th at Scioto Downs and from there the perfect record continued. Her second start, again at Scioto Downs saw her clocking an impressive 1.50.4. Not only was she now six from six this side of the water, she was two from two in America. From there the bold decision to pay the late supplementary fee of \$15,000 for the Jugette was born. The Little Brown Jug is arguably the most famous race in the harness racing world and on 22nd September 2021 an Irish bred horse, previously trained in GB was amongst the line-up in the filly version.

Ten fillies had entered for the illustrious race meaning there would be two five horse

eliminations. Anabella's elimination consisted of herself, Odds On Whitney, Continualou, Test Of Faith and Smothastenesewisky. Whilst the other division contained Paula Bet Hanover, Scarlett Hanover, Mikala, Nashville Elgenna and Chase Lounge. Driver Ronnie Wrenn Junior would be at the reins for the major event.

For many years people from across the UK and Ireland have tuned into the Little Brown Jug coverage but this time we had a vested interest. Conditions were not ideal, rain throughout the day meant the track was described as sloppy. Scarlett Hanover in the hands of Tim Tetrick was a comfortable winner in 1.56.0 in the first elimination. Then it was time, Anabella stepped onto the track for her toughest test to date. Leaving the gate she got a position in third as the five horses travelled in single file for the first circuit. At the half she was the first to move with Test Of Faith right on her helmet. At the three quarter Anabella headed the inside horse Odds On Whitney and led turning for home but Test of Faith in the hands of David Miller was just in behind and was able to angle past her in the home straight to come home in 1.55.3. Anabella finished in second place, so the dream was still alive.

The top four finishers in each elimination made up the eight horse field for the \$152,280 final with Anabella again drawing three and the two elimination winners on her inside. Paula Bet Hanover blasted to the lead from gate five with Nashville Elgenna managing to get the rail in second ahead of Test Of Faith, Scarlett Hanover and Oakwood Anabella. Little movement happened in the first half a mile with all eight fillies travelling in single file. At the halfway point Test Of Faith was sent forward with Scarlett Hanover following her cover second-over and Anabella in hot pursuit. Four in, four out with Anabella on the heels of the two favourites. Test Of Faith and Scarlett Hanover battled to the line with Scarlett Hanover prevailing. Back in an honourable third was Oakwood Anabella. In a race which nobody

could ever have imagined that an Irish bred filly would be entered in she proved she was not there to merely make up the numbers and was gallant in defeat.

Since Anabella's heroics in the Jugette she has gone from strength to strength finishing second in a new stakes record (1.50.2) to Test of Faith in the Courageous Lady at Northfield Park. She then smashed the track record for three year old fillies at Dayton Raceway from the eight hole in a magnificent 1.49.3. Her debut run at the Meadowlands saw her back in the winners enclosure again, this time against older mares winning in 1.51.3 on a wet track with her final quarter in 26.3. That win took her earnings to \$110,000 with plenty more to come from the filly dubbed stateside at the Irish sensation.



Photo from: HARNESSLINK.COM [Ten fillies to battle in 51st Jugette](#) - Harnesslink a CONRAD image

MEMBERS MEETING

The BHRC broke new ground with the first Members Meeting on October 26th since the inception of One Person One Vote. These meetings replace the old Committee Meetings, it is important to remember that you, the registered fee paying member, now form the BHRC Committee. You are all welcome to attend future meetings and notice will be given as to when to register your attendance.

The minutes from the October 26th meeting will be published soon, but just to highlight some of the discussion points :

A general Integrity report was read re the number of tests in the latest season (181 of which 104 were full blood tests) and which had resulted in 6 positive tests. Testing had been carried out from Corbiewood and Haughfield down to Amman Valley and numerous tracks inbetween.

A report on Stewarding incidents was read, a summary of which includes: there were 219 recorded incidents of which over half were warnings and cautions. Of the incidents involving fines (across a range of rules) the main breaches included K13, M8b and not surprisingly M9. Of the 38 M9 infringements, 26 were the first fine. A big thank you to the stewards who have worked tirelessly again this year, however, unfortunately they have

suffered verbal and sadly in one case physical abuse.

A question was raised re what the BHRC was doing to keep stewards safe. The answer is that we must ALL follow the rule book, we must ALL work together, by **we** that includes the BHRC, the tracks and individuals as licence holders. Members expressed a wish that there was a zero tolerance to this sort of behaviour.

It is no secret that we have had several problems with our outdated computer system this year, and designs for a new computer system are now well under way.

Other announcements/discussions included:

- the current Chairman announcing that he would not be standing again at the AGM
- PJE Accountants of Lampeter have been signed up to carry out accountancy work for the BHRC,
- the Terms Of Reference for the structure of trotting and pacing governance have been proposed for both organisations to now discuss
- the need to improve the entry system/race framing so that entries could not be changed without approval from the trainer
- the recording of integrity results on the website

The BHRC Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to everyone for their input at this first meeting.

2021 Leader Board



The 2021 season consisted of 73 race days and 623 races with three of those resulting in dead heat finishes.

319 different horses each made it into the winners enclosure with Catalane Du Canet making it to the top of the table with an impressive 8 wins.

190 different owners enjoyed success this season with the overall title going to Clare Fletcher.

118 different trainers got winners with overall winner Teresa Haythornthwaite getting 50 of these wins.

Finally in the drivers division 93 different drivers won races with the three at the top of the table each reaching the 50 winners in a season milestone.

A huge congratulations to all winners across the season.

LEADING HORSE	LEADING OWNER	LEADING TRAINER	LEADING DRIVER
Catalane Du Canet – 8	Clare Fletcher – 21	Teresa Haythornthwaite – 50	Grant Cullen – 58
Live In Star – 7	Steven Gilvear – 17	Alexis Laidler – 39	James Haythornthwaite – 51
Coalford Tetrick – 6	Alan Davies – 14	Keir Cullen – 32	Richard Haythornthwaite – 50
Louisiana – 6	Coalford Stud – 14	Sally Teeboon – 23	Rocker Laidler – 41
Somemanyouare – 6	Raymond Huschka – 14	Hamish Muirhead – 22	Andrew Cairns – 25
Ayr Paparazzi – 5	Joby Randal – 13	John Nicholson – 21	William Greenhorn – 25
Comfort Zone – 5	Savannah Nicholson – 13	John Gilvear – 17	John Henry Nicholson – 24
Crafty Dream – 5	Y Not Stables – 13	Mike Evans – 17	Hugh Menzies – 17
Diamant De Godrel – 5	Billy Timmins – 11	Rhun Wilson – 15	Mike Evans – 17
Feerie De Triou – 5	Chris Heaton – 11	Joe Maw – 14	Ryan Inglis – 16
GDs King – 5	Gary Allan – 11		
Loosechange – 5			
Majs Lad – 5			
Oakwood Coral – 5			



Driver of the Year

John needs little introduction and not only is he TROTBritain Driver of the Year but John also represents Great Britain in the *Prix des Rencontres Internationales du Trotteur Français* at Son Pardo racetrack, Palma de Majorca on the 14 November.

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



John Henry Nicholson
16 wins
from 59 drives
Prizemoney: £36575

Trainer of the Year



John Nicholson Snr took the TROTBritain Trainer of the Year title with 7 trotters in their stable including the crowd pulling Diamant de Godrel and his nearly as famous stable mate Blasson but not forgetting Ebony Star, Crazy du Calrone, Elena du Mouline, Espion De Ole and Feline du Padoueng.

Matthew Thomas took out the runner up position with 10 wins from 52 runs and amassing prizemoney of £23300 and in 3rd place was Rhun Wilson 9 wins from 63 runs earning of £31900.

Congratulations to all trainers.

John Nicholson Snr
15 wins
from 65 runners
Prizemoney: £35800



Leading Owner

The ever glamorous **Savannah Nicholson** took out the 2021 TROTBritain Leading Owner title ensuring it was a Nicholson family affair.

With 11 wins from 48 runs earning £27150.

Well done Savannah, we look forward to seeing you again next year in the winners enclosure.



Horse of the Year



DIAMANT DE GODREL - 8yo gelding
Owner: Savannah Nicholson
Trainer: John Nicholson
Driver: John Henry Nicholson
Breeder: Pierre Lasseur

Nicholson stable star Diamant de Godrel or 'Godrel' reaffirmed his status with an impressive win on the opening day of the season at Tir Prince, his subsequent performances including British record-breaking wins in the Ephie Mather Memorial at Tir Prince (mile and quarter) and Prix Argentan at York (mile and half, coming off a 40 yard trail), as well as taking out the big handicap at Appleby.



Mare of the Year

CATALANE DU CANET

Catalane has been thriving since arriving in the Matty Thomas' stable, with 8 wins to date, including ones at three of our hard tracks (Tir Prince, York and Amman Valley) as well as several grass meetings. Most recently she was the decisive winner of the Golden Queen (La Reine d'Or) Mares championship at York. With nearly £10,000 in prizemoney already, she is certainly one to follow.



9yo Mare

Owner: Fern Williams

Trainer: Matthew Thomas

Driver: Steven Williams

Breeder: Mickaël David

**Congratulations to Catalane du Canet on her 8 wins
- making her also the BHRC Horse of the Year**

The reason we all love harness racing because it is a family sport. Never was this more evident than at York at the final meeting of the season.

We said goodbye to Next Generation. We wish him a long and successful retirement. I am sure he will be well loved.



Grant Cullen secures British Leading Driver title on final weekend of racing in Great Britain

As the 2021 British harness racing season drew to a close at the weekend, the race for the coveted BHRC Leading Driver title was far from over. Scottish driver Grant Cullen entered the weekend with a 7 point lead over nearest rival James Haythornthwaite, with brother Richard Haythornthwaite sitting only 1 win behind in third. The brothers had the advantage of drives at both Corbiewood (Saturday 16th) and Tir Prince (Sunday 17th), however by close of play on Saturday at Grant's local track, he had maintained a sufficient lead to secure the title regardless of Sunday's outcome.

Aged just 28, Grant becomes the youngest driver since modern records began in 1995 to win the award and only the second Scottish driver ever to do so, after William Greenhorn in 2016. Multiple Scottish Driver of the Year titles precede this national title, and also accompany it for 2021 after he stretched clear of his rivals in recent weeks on his home soil.

Grant's driving career began in 2009, however he had to wait until the 2010 season for his first visit to

the winner's circle partnering Sovereign Howard to victory at Corbiewood, having only picked up a handful of drives in his first two seasons. The wins came in quicker succession in 2011, with Grant also enjoying his first drive outside of Scotland at Brough, in Cumbria. The following year he kicked off the season with his first win outside of Scotland on board stable legend Another Man at York Harness Raceway, a winning drive that would become one of many at the top level track throughout the years that followed.

Grant's first win at a major fixture came in 2014 with Hamish Muirhead's Racezapan when



winning at the Tregaron Festival in Wales, following up on a string of successes closer to home and an ever-increasing number of catch drives for the young driver.

Wins followed at Aberystwyth on the family's homebred Y-Not-Wait-N-C, a win Grant credited later that year as being one of the most memorable of his career thus far, and Tir Prince, as well as closer to home at Bells Field and Musselburgh. Victories in the Scottish Harness Racing Club 2YO Futurity and 3YO Derby, as well as the Murdock Final are just some of the home track highlights.

Back to the present day, and the 2021 season has been filled with major milestones for Grant, with



stable favourite Live In Star in particular providing a number of memorable moments. In July, the duo landed the Group 1 Tregaron Welsh Classic Final at the relocated festival meeting at Tir Prince, and followed this up by winning the Robert Morton Memorial FFA at the PACT Charity Weekend a few weeks later.

Returning to Corbiewood, the pair became one of only a handful of horses in the track's 55 year history to hit the 2 minute marker when winning the Crock of Gold heat at the track's feature Anniversary Weekend.

Not to be pigeonholed as a top class driver of pacers only, this year Grant has emerged as one of the leading drivers of a trotter also, having guided his brother's Feerie De Triou and Green Light to victory no fewer than 7 times between them. Catch drive wins on board Amedeo De Jelma, Eliothrope and Equilea Du Hauty further cemented Grant's reputation as a talented reinsman behind a trotter.

There have been very few meetings this year that Grant hasn't attended; his dedication to his craft and the miles that he has racked up in pursuit of success have come to fruition and I am sure that everyone in British harness racing, and further afield, will join me in congratulating Grant on this major achievement. Well done!

Sarah Thomas

Leading Trainer 2021 - Teresa Haythornthwaite

First trainer's title for Teresa

For the first time since taking out a public trainer's licence, Teresa Haythornthwaite has landed the top award as she becomes BHRC Leading Trainer for the 2021 season. With 50 wins this year, Teresa, supported by the stable's three drivers – husband Alan, and sons James and Richard (who finished second and third in the driver standings respectively) – enjoyed success all over the UK at some of the biggest meetings and in some of the biggest events in the racing calendar.

Training highlights include:

Oakwood Ardan – winner of the Junior Welsh Dragon for 2YO Colts at Tregaron (*Tir Prince*)

Star Attraction – dead heat winner of the Senior Welsh Dragon for 4YO Colts at Tregaron (*Tir Prince*) and STAGBI British Championships 4YO event at Corbiewood

Henrys Best & Rhyds Mayfly – first and second in the STAGBI British Championships 3YO event at Corbiewood for a lucrative stable 1-2

Wasntexpectingthat – winner of the STAGBI British Championships 3YO Colts event at Tir Prince

GDs King – heat and final winner at both Brough (*Appleby*) and Pikehall

Rhyds Rock Star – winner of the Anto Russell Memorial FFA on York Sale Day

Oaks Breeze – winner of the Breeders Crown 2YO Fillies division

Ayr Contessa – winner of the Breeders



Crown 3YO Fillies Final

Multiple wins and places on Breeders Crown night at Tir Prince also secured Teresa the Breeders Crown Leading Trainer award.

A massive well done Teresa, and to

everyone who works hard behind the scenes.

Other contenders in the title race included Alexis Laidler (39 wins) and Keir Cullen (32 wins).

Louisiana



BHRC Futurity 2Yr Old Fillies Division

With 6 wins from 6 and prizemoney in excess of £31,000 she is certainly going to be an exciting prospect next year

Dam:

The Player Hanover

Sire: Sweet Lou

Time: 1.59.00

Strike rate: 100%

In our Winter edition:

The return of Evenwood Sonofagun

A Permit Trainers Story - an interview with Chris Heaton and Louise Fresson

Two Year Old and Three Year Old race conditions and eligible horses

Fixtures 2022

Introduction to our new board

Breeders Crown 2021



**Christmas orders still
being taken**

LEADING OWNER 2021 - CLAIRE FLETCHER



Claire picks up third owner's award

As could be expected, the BHRC Leading Owner title goes hand in hand this year with the Leading Trainer, and the partnership between Claire Fletcher and Teresa Haythornthwaite paid dividends as the former followed up on previous successes in 2011 and 2016 with a third Leading Owner trophy.

Along with husband Shane, Claire enjoyed 21 wins this season with Henrys Best (3), National Treasure (2), Oakwood Ardan (2), Rhyds Mayfly (2), Rhyds Rock Star (2), Rhyds Seeandbeseen (2), Star Attraction (3) and Wasntexpectingthat (2). The Eck Taylor-trained mare Bella Beauty added a further three wins to the tally.

Highlights include:

Oakwood Ardan – winner of the Junior Welsh Dragon for 2YO Colts at Tregaron (*Tir Prince*)

Star Attraction – dead heat winner of the Senior Welsh Dragon for 4YO Colts at Tregaron (*Tir Prince*) and STAGBI British Championships 4YO event at Corbiewood Henrys Best & Rhyds Mayfly – first and second in the STAGBI British Championships 3YO event at Corbiewood Wasntexpectingthat – winner of the STAGBI British Championships 3YO Colts event at Tir Prince

Rhyds Rock Star – winner of the Anto Russell Memorial FFA on York Sale Day

Both Rhyds Rock Star and Rhyds Seeandbeseen repaid the faith shown by the Fletchers and the Haythornthwaites to find their way to the winner's circle in 2021 despite having to overcome potentially career-ending injuries prior to this year, which made for emotional celebrations. Picking up wins with their homebred Henrys Best added further poignancy to the winner's circle visits.

BHRC Leading Horse - Catalane Du Canet

French debutante Catalane Du Canet catapults connections right to the top

It was a fairy tale first season for both Catalane Du Canet and the team behind her as they embarked on a campaign together into the unknown which ultimately saw her crowned BHRC Leading Horse for the 2021 season. From 17 starts, she won 8 races at Tir Prince (x2), Presteigne, Amman Valley, Lampeter, Cilmerly, Pikehall and York at their closing meeting of the season.

Accompanied at all times by her owner, Fern Williams; trainer Matty Thomas; and drivers Steve Williams and Aled Wyn Davies, the trotting mare (who was allocated at random via the Trot Britain purchase and ballot scheme) proved capable of winning on both hard and grass tracks and took her connections all over the country on one of the summer's most enjoyable and wholesome adventures.

"It's been an unbelievable season and our first proper season since coming over from Wales & Borders. We have travelled the length of the UK on a shoestring budget and enjoyed every minute of it and have met so many lovely, helpful people that will be friends for many years to come. We are totally overwhelmed with how people have welcomed us with open arms. Teamwork makes the dream work and we are so grateful." – *Matty Thomas, trainer of Catalane Du Canet*



Trot of Gold



Calimero Brouet s

The best Trotters in Britain lined up for Tir Prince's signature race, and when the best, race the best, there are no hiding places – you need everything to go right to win or at least nothing to go wrong.

Mike Evans said in his post race interview “I was sick of this horse being unlucky” and that goes a long way to explain his in race tactic. Seeing the opportunity behind the start car to get in front of key rivals, Mike pushed **Calimero Brouets** forward from the seven hole to lead and then played catch me if you can with the rest of the field.

This time lady luck was on the side of Calimero, with his rivals jostling each other for position throughout the race. As a result nobody was able to mount a serious challenge to the leader who went on to a four and a half length victory.

All had place chances turning for



home but it was the redoubtable Emir du Levant (Richard Haythornthwaite) who took second in front of **Blason** in third (Alan Haythornthwaite).

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 (1.30 pm)
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 y/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 Cilmerly
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



BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB



2 YEAR OLD FILLIES

- 2007 IMA FOX
- 2008 PAGE BANK MAGGIE
- 2009 FRISCO MANEER
- 2010 RHYDS POWER
- 2011 RED TREASURE
- 2012 CAMDEN KINKI
- 2013 RHYDS ART
- 2014 HAT TOWN CAMDEN
- 2015 TILLA CAMDEN
- 2016 AS CONQUEST
- 2017 TORIA CAMDEN
- 2018 MYSTIQUE