

Harness Racing Calendar

The official publication of the British Harness Racing Club

Volume 56 No. 2

British Harness Racing Club

	Pg No
Board Report	4
Draft Records	6
STAGBI	8
Tribute to Kit Bousfield	10
Man vs Horse	11
Tributes to Evelyn Slack and Doc Sowerby	13
BHRC Promotion Day	14
Musselburgh 2025	15
Appleby Spring Harness Racing	16
Racing from New Zealand – Bob Meadowcroft	20
BHRC Awards	22
Tom Hill	46
Handicapping Review	47
Breeders Crown 2024	48
Integrity Update	53
40 Years of Tregaron	56

We thank everybody for their contribution.

All photographs courtesy of **Sarah Thomas, Tamzin Lees, Graham Rees, Annette Sprowl, Andrew Gill and Jamie Gilmour** *unless otherwise credited. We hope we have not missed any of you out.*

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British Harness Racing Club

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BOARD REPORT

Welcome to the this the 2nd Edition of the 2024 Calendar, we apologise for this, in trying to keep costs down we have just Hayley in the office, and it is impossible to do everything. For those paying for a paper Calendar this year, we will give you a complimentary Calendars in 2025.

WEBSITE – as promised the 3rd and final stage of the computer system was launched in early spring, and includes the bit that you the licence holder missed the most, the added functionality to a website that allowed you to search both Horse History and Licence Holder information. The switch over is now almost complete, and hopefully at some stage we will return to our usual domain name of www.bhrc.org.uk. Further information will be added to the website over the winter, along with a couple of tweaks to existing formats. We do hope to add a history section to the website that includes details of winning owner/trainer/driver each year along with winners of significant races.

PROMOTION DAY – new Directors Frank Huschka and Willie Forrester, keen to roll up their sleeves and get involved in a task, undertook to host a BHRC Promotion Day, to increase awareness of the sport in an area of GB, whilst also raising funds for the BHRC.

This year it was, with the kind permission of Hamish Muirhead at Haugh Field, though the plan is for them to roll this out to both England and Wales in 2025 and 2026. I think all will agree the day was successful, whilst being an 'eye opener' to both Frank and Willie as to just what goes into the organisation of a race day. The event raised over £7,000.

CHILDREN'S EXHIBITON DRIVES – have continued to be successful, with the aim to encourage young people into the sport. They are our future, and we need to invest the time in them now. Seeing the children driving on a race day, doing 'their lap', reminds us all of the importance of taking 10 minutes out of the busy schedule. Well done to the children who have behaved impeccably, and to the parents/co-drivers for supporting them.

CONSTITUTION – anybody who has had to work with our existing constitution agrees that there is a need to update it, to either reflect current legislation, or to acknowledge the one-person one-vote procedure put in place 3 years ago, but mainly to make it easier to read and understand, and therefore to follow.

The Constitution and the Rule Book are key documents, and therefore must be easy to read and understand. With this in mind a solicitor has presented a draft to the Board, who have commented and sent it back for some minor amendments before it is shared with you the licence holder. It will be posted on the website shortly.

BEHAVIOUR – the behaviour of licence holders is again causing concern, during the season, it felt like there was barely a week went by when there was not either a fight between licence holders or some kind of verbal assault of an official, or other.

We keep stating that we have a zero tolerance, but we really do mean it. This sort of behaviour is not helping the sport in any way.

We also remind you of the Social Media rules, and whilst we have no desire to remove your freedom of speech, the so called 'washing of dirty laundry' in public can only be to the detriment of the sport you say you love so much. We have, and will continue to take action against any behaviour that falls below acceptable standards.

STAKES RACES looking back over 2024, we have seen dreams come true for some, - unfortunately not others. We have experienced the VDM at Wolverhampton, which came across well on the livestream, and certainly showed some of the highlights of our sport to a global audience, along with the BREEDERS CROWN at Tir Prince, with both events attracting more and more nominees each year.

We now look forward to 2025.

Alan, Barry, Carol, Charles, Frank, Gary, Jason, Julie, Will, Willie and Hayley

TRACK AND NATIONAL RECORDS

At the PACT meeting in York in July ONEFORTHEROAD smashed the 3yr old 1.25 mile record. Unfortunately nobody at the time recognised just what an achievement this was, taking over 2 seconds off the National Record. In fact, the records provided for York did not even list a 3yr old time. Unfortunately the horse was not tested on the day, and therefore an official record cannot be recognised.

In light of this, processes and systems have been reviewed, we are now in the process of collating information from records and from tracks to try to ensure this does not happen again. Page 6 and 7 provides a draft list of both NATIONAL and TRACK records. Please notify us of any errors or anomalies.

Once we are happy with this draft document we will be providing it to all hard tracks, suggesting that it is displayed in a prominent position. The tracks will be encouraged to include it in their race cards. We will include it in the Calendar, and on our website. We are hoping that these steps reduce the risk of this happening again.

Once again, our sincere apologies to all the connections of ONEFORTHEROAD on this omission, and congratulations on his performance at York at the PACT meeting.

RECORD	YORK	TIR PRINCE	AVTC
One Mile - 2 Yr Old (British Bred)	MIRACULOUS (Colt) 2.00.1/ British Bred Date: 16/08/15 Owner: Arnie Flower Driver: Patrick Kane Jnr	**MONEY HILL (COLT)** **1.58.6 / British Bred** **Date: 22/08/23** **Owner: H Muirhead** **Driver: H Menzies**	*STAMP HILL* *1.59.40 / British Bred* *Date: 26/08/12* *Owner: Raymond Huschka* *Driver: William Laidler*
		LOUISIANA (FILLY) 1.59.0 / British Bred Date: 18/09/21 Owner: Steven Gilvear Driver: Gordon GIlvear	
One Mile - 2 Yr Old (All comer)	**OAKWOOD ANABELLA** **1.58.3 / All comer** **Date: 26/09/20** **Owner: V Gill** **Driver: V Gill**		
One Mile - 3 Yr Old (British Bred)	**TITANIUM (COLT)** **1.56.7 / British Bred** **Date: 27/06/15** **Owner: V Gill/R Sheedy** **Driver: V Gill**	MIRACULOUS (COLT) 1.56.9 / British Bred Date: 02/08/16 Owner: S Teeboon Driver: P Kane Jnr	
	RHYDS RAINBOW (FILLY) 1.57.3 / British Bred Date: 12/07/14 Owner: J Howard Snr Driver: R Haythornthwaite	AYR CONTESSA (FILLY) 1.58.6 / British Bred Date: 28/08/21 Owner: Neil Holgate Driver: J Haythornthwaite	
One Mile - 4 Yr Old (British Bred)		MIRACULOUS (COLT) 1.56.2 / British Bred Date: 09/09/17 Owner: S Teeboon Driver: P Kane Jnr	
One Mile - 4 Yr Old (All Comer)		NEWTOWN JODY (FILLY) 1.58.02 / All Comer Date: 14/07/20 Owner: V Gill Driver: V GIll	
One Mile - Any Age (British Bred)	**EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN** **1.54.6 / British Bred** **Date: 31/07/22** **Owner: R Huschka** **Driver: W Laidler Snr**	JOINT: EVENWOOD SONOFA-GUN AND MIRACULOUS 1.56.2 / British Bred Date: 09/09/17 Owners: R Huschka / A Flower Drivers: W Laidler / P Kane	
One Mile - Any Age (All Comer)		NEWTOWN JODY 1.55.7 / All Comer Date: 31/07/21 Owner: V Gill Driver: V GIll	**DOONBEG** **1.53.7 / All Comer** **Date: 16/08/10** **Owner: Porterstown Stud** **Driver: J Dunne**

Draft

RECORD	YORK	TIR PRINCE	AVTC
1.25 Miles - 3 Yr Old (British Bred)	***Unofficial Track Record*** *ONEFORTHEROAD* *2.29.50 / British Bred* *Date: 27/07/24* *Owner:* *Driver: R Haythornthwaite*	**RHYDS ROCK STAR** **2.31.7 / British Bred** **Date: 25/07/17** **Owner: C Fletcher** **Driver: J Haythornthwaite**	
1.25 Miles - Any Age (British Bred)	EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN 2.27.5/ British Bred Date: 06/08/17 Owner: R Huschka Driver: W Laidler Snr	**EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN** **2.25.96 / British Bred** **Date: 29/06/19** **Owner: R Huschka** **Driver: W Laidler Snr**	
1.25 Miles - Any Age (All Comer)		HE'S FOR REAL 2.28.6 / All Comer Date: 17/08/09 Owner: Porterstown Stud Driver: J Dunne	
1.5 Miles - 3 Yr Old (British Bred)		**RHYDS SCOUNDREL** **3.03.3 / British Bred** **Date: 17/09/22** **Owner: P Kane** **Driver: P Kane Jnr**	
1.5 Miles - Any Age (British Bred)			**COALFORD TETRICK** **3.00.6 / British Bred** **Date: 23/07/17** **Owner: S Jones** **Driver: S Lees Snr**
1.5 Miles - Any Age (All Comer)	MEADOWBRANCH DJ 3.00.8 / All Comer Date: 27/06/15 Owner: Meadowbranch Driver: J Richardson		
2 Miles - Any Age (British Bred)			**COALFORD TETRICK** **4.07.1 / British Bred** **Date: 01/07/18** **Owner: S Jones** **Driver: A Williams**
Saddle 1 Mile	**EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN** **1.57.5 / British Bred** **Date: 24/06/17** **Owner: R Huschka** **Driver: A Laidler**		

Draft

BHRC NATIONAL AND TRACK RECORDS (DRAFT)

Please contact us with any anomalies

STAGBI

IMPORTING HORSES FROM IRELAND, EUROPE or NORTH AMERICA

If you are importing a horse into GB from Ireland, Europe or North America, under DEFRA's current legislation on Equine ID, if the horse will be staying in GB for more than 90 days then owners are legally required to register imported horses with the appropriate GB Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) within 30 days of import. For Standardbreds & Trotters the appropriate PIO is STAGBI.

Therefore, you will need to:

Contact STAGBI for the appropriate Import Form.

Return completed form, Passport, Health Documents & fees to STAGBI Office

Apply to the governing body of the country of export for an Export Certificate. This Export Certificate will be issued direct to STAGBI and will allow the horse to be registered on the STAGBI Database and Stud Book.

EXPORTING HORSES TO IRELAND, EUROPE or NORTH AMERICA

Please contact your Vet, DEFRA or Transport Agent for information regarding the health checks, bloods or swabs required for travelling.

To facilitate the transfer of horse into the appropriate Stud Book or Database of the country of destination you will need to contact STAGBI for a Definitive (Permanent) Export Certificate.

NB: As the vet is required to complete a section of this form, the application form should be submitted BEFORE THE HORSE LEAVES THE COUNTRY.

Contact STAGBI for the appropriate Export Form

Once processed the Export Certificate (which includes race results & DNA) will be sent by STAGBI electronically to the Governing Body of the country of destination.

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to apply for an export certificate before the horse leaves the country and the subsequent non-issue of an Export Certificate, will result in the horse not being permitted to race.

Application for Retrospective Export Certificates will be referred to and issued at the discretion of the STAGBI Board of Directors with additional costs incurred.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Under current DEFRA legislation on Equine ID, a new owner is required to inform the appropriate PIO (STAGBI) of a change of ownership within 30 days of purchase. Please ensure that you complete the transfer of ownership form and return to STAGBI.

CASTRATION

When a horse is castrated, please ensure that the Vet records this in the passport and that you inform STAGBI.

DEATH OF A HORSE

When a horse dies, under current DEFRA legislation on Equine ID as the owner you are required to notify the appropriate PIO (STAGBI) that the horse has died and return the passport to STAGBI to be invalidated.

STAGBI is currently in the process of updating the website and the on-line database. It is hoped that the new website will be on-line within the next few months. Once the new website is up and running all forms will be available for download and it will also be possible for you to process some transactions electronically on line.

If you are unsure or require any assistance then please contact the STAGBI office. The office staff will be more than happy to advise and assist you.

Contact Information

Tel Office: 01570 429361 / Tel Mobile: 07581 438805
Address: Room 2, Creuddyn, Pontfaen Road, Lampeter, SA48 7BN
Email: info@standardbred.org

BHRC

Flu Vaccination Programme

The BHRC used 2022 as a transition period, from 2023 they required ALL horses to have 6 monthly boosters.

Primary course intervals (horses not previously vaccinated):

Primary course intervals are only required for horses that have not yet been administered a primary course or are required to re-start a new primary course.

An initial primary course of three vaccinations must be given (V1, V2 and V3): the second vaccination (V2) must now be administered within **21-60** days of the first vaccination.

Horses must not attend any official BHRC fixture/venue until 7 days after the second vaccination of the primary course.

Vaccine 3 (V3) must then be administered within **120-180 days** of the administration of the second vaccination (V2).

Boosters should be administered no more than **6 calendar months** apart, according to calendar months rather than a fixed number of days. For example, a horse that is fully vaccinated on 01 January would require a booster on or before 01 July.







KIT BOUSFIELD - "A life well lived"

On Wednesday 19th June, just weeks away from his 102nd birthday, Kit Bousfield closed his eyes for a final time. Kit, born into a family owning pacers, has along with his late brothers transitioned from pram to sulky, and at his funeral we heard how he got into trouble from Sandra, when keeping up the tradition, tied a sheet to the sulky and put 'baby' Claire in it, and then took her around the track with him.

The term legend is too easily used, but to all Kit was a legend, and in the tributes pouring in for Kit, the common theme is that he was a legend, a true horseman, and one that will have forgotten more about horses than many of us will ever know. Kit drove his first winner - Pandora, back in 1953, and went on to be a regular in the winners enclosure. He held a trainers licence until his death, and as such holds the record as the longest serving licence holder in the BHRC. Kits last winner as trainer came at the end of last season when winning Wolsingham Show Final with homebred Stakes on the Pan, partnered by daughter Claire. In true Kit style, he not only attended the meeting, but also made it into the middle to see the presentations.



Kit was involved in the training right up until the end, where he could be seen flying around the yard on his mobility scooter, mixing feeds, or in the car pulling the training gate around.

It was no surprise that Kit had expressed a wish for a horse to take him on his last journey, and accompanied by Claire he made one last trip around his beloved Holme Farm track before his four daughters, Helen, Claire, Catherine and Rachel, along with grandsons carried him into church. His Eulogy read by daughter Catherine evoked laughter and tears before granddaughter Eliza lead the congregation in the Lords Prayer. A real family affair for a true family man.

Man v Horse race, Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys

Most licence holders who live in Wales, and many from further afield, know all about the M v H race, which came about in 1980 when the landlord of the Neuadd Arms Llanwrtyd Wells (Gordon Green) got involved in a discussion between a couple of customers about whether a man could beat a horse in a race. After agreeing that over a fair distance a man might manage it, Gordon got busy and organised the first ever competition. It is run over slightly less than a full marathon, at about 22 or 23 miles, but the terrain is rough and hilly. Over the years the rules have changed slightly to accommodate the welfare needs of horses (vet checks etc) but the basics remain the same. There have nearly always been Standardbreds involved, being known for their endurance and stamina, and in fact I took part in it once, on a Standardbred called Proper Charlie. We were in 4th place when I went flying and ended up in an ambulance!





In the vast majority of years since the start, a horse has won.

Here are the stories of 2 ladies who took part this year (2024) and a bit about their equine connections. Co-incidently both horses are now 15 years old, a fact which emphasises that there is indeed a fulfilling life after racing.

Krissie Jones from Hereford, riding Wellfield Picaso, (aka Rodney) bred by Roy Sheedy

Picaso has a racing history with both the BHRC and Wales and Borders, and Krissie acquired him as a 12 year old after he was gifted to her at the end of his racing career. He completed this year's race as a 15 year old, which is a fair age to be competing at that level, and he is still going strong.

Coming in 5th of the horses in 2.51.52 she just pipped our own Emma Layton into 6th place ! (see below). Krissie and her mount compete a lot with Endurance Great Britain, all over the country and in fact took part in the first English Man V Horse in the Quantock hills last year, coming in second overall.

Krissie isn't new to the race, as she also completed it on another Standardbred, Saunders Pageboy, in 2013 but she is yet to decide whether to compete again. As she said, Picaso is getting on a bit now, and she wants to make sure he stays sound for the series of endurance events she plans for this year. She also needs to be confident that he





continues to enjoy his long distance life rather than seeing it as a chore.

Emma Layton based in Ceredigion, riding Billy Elliot, (aka Twm) bred by Huw Evans

Billy Elliot has moved around a fair bit, and was at the Meadowbranch stables in Ireland when Emma bought him and brought him back to Wales, having acted as his groom when working for Huw Evans in Tregaron where he was bred. Billy was sold to Ireland but when Emma heard he was moving on again, she bought him for herself. She freely admits this was for sentimental reasons rather than using her head!

Twm has raced with both Wales and Borders and the BHRC in his career but since the age of 9 he has been a happy hacker. He follows a usual fitness routine, with road work before longer hacks and hill work starts, and he gets the best feed she can provide. To keep him happy, Emma is a firm believer in a daily turn out routine after work. The first half of the M v H was extremely challenging, with rough terrain and very rocky tracks, but while Emma admits to being exhausted at the end of the race, with cramp in her fingers and legs that buckled when she dismounted, she is extremely keen to do it all again next year! **Carol Jenkins**

SUSPENDED/WARNED OFF PERSONS and SUSPENDED HORSES

From the 1st April where persons are suspended (because of breaches of rules, or unpaid debts*), the Directors have made the decision to list them on the website, and to publish names in subsequent editions of The Calendar.

A list of horses suspended, because of integrity issues, or due to the non-payment of debts by an owner, will also be published on both the website and in The Calendar.

For the avoidance of doubt (and to protect potential purchasers), the suspension (under certain rules) will apply whether or not the horse remains in the same ownership at the time that the costs order was made.

David Moncrieff:
DKs Deuce, DKs Happy Forever, DKs Happy Moments

Leo Arnett
Simon Clarke

John Murphy
Greentree Legacy

*for clarification of a 'debt' this is where an aged debt has not been paid, or an agreement to pay off an aged debt (over 30 days) has not been made or kept up to-date.

Evelyn Slack

The first lady of harness racing Evelyn Slack sadly, and suddenly went to sleep for a final time on 27th August at her beloved Stoneriggs.

Evelyn a stalwart of harness racing not only in the Eden Valley but also nationally was a major force not only amongst the lady drivers but who also regularly 'served it up' to the men, and for over 40 years was a huge player in the sport.

Evelyn or Tom Tom as she was fondly known to family and friends was still to be found out in the barn or the arena working with the thoroughbreds and just days before her death attended race meetings at both Cartmel and Carlisle.

Evelyn can be found in the BHRC Hall of Fame - [arthur-and-evelyn-slack53653.pdf (bhrc.org.uk)]



It is sadly ironic that within 24 hours we also heard of the sad news of the passing of Doc Sowerby, longtime Stoneriggs employee, and former Eden Valley and York Track Steward.



For those of you rather longer in the tooth the month of August was not kind to Eden Valley, with former Regional and Track Steward Cyril Trevaskis sadly also passing away. Our thoughts are with the connections of all families.



As new directors myself (Willie) and Frank raised the idea of hosting a BHRC Promotional Race Fixture, to bring in new sponsors and people into the sport, and hopefully to make an income for the BHRC, which like all businesses is facing huge increases in outgoings, whilst having restrictions on income, as they fight to not pass these on to license holders.

The idea being to host one meeting annually across different parts of GB.

Being a promoter was certainly an eye opener, as we experienced first hand the work needed, the level of detail to be considered, the time critical issues to be dealt with, and the impossibility of keeping everybody happy all of the time.

We could not have done it without the help of many. Firstly Hamish Muirhead who not only allowed us to use his track and facilities, but also gave us advice and support when needed. Of course a huge shoutout to the ground team who ensured the track was in fabulous condition. Not forgetting John Smart and the Handicapping Panel for guiding us through the process and our own admin team for their support.
There are so many thank you's, it's difficult to know where to start, and of course a fear of missing any, so in no particular order - to SHRC for all your support, whether it be with the draws, the gate, first aid, advice etc - it was all really appreciated.

The hospitality team were fantastic, and it is something to consider as we move forwards. It is difficult to ask people to sponsor when we have so little to offer them in return. Food, drink, a base all certainly adds to the experience. In our case the two course meal was perfect, and having a base allowed the sponsors to mingle together.

We would like to thank everybody who was so generous in providing sponsorship. We have both been blown away by the generosity of people from both within and from outside of our sport. Sponsors were all offered hospitality tickets, this added to the atmosphere.

The day got off to a great start with the sun beating down on the track which looked fabulous, the winners enclosure

decked with the sponsors banners, and the four flags of the UK fluttered in the home straight. The stage was set for a fabulous day of racing.

A large crowd amassed, in eager anticipation of a great afternoon of racing. Charles Inglis met up with the 20 locals representing staff and service users of a local Dementia charity. He gave them an insight into the the sport of harness racing and took them around the paddock area to show them the horses explaining the harness they were all wearing, whilst at a safe distance from the horses of course. The look on their faces was a sight to see.

Frank was in charge of hospitality and sponsors, some of whom had never been to a harness racing meeting before. Frank looked after the Sponsors all day, including the main sponsors Dereck Heaps & Ashcourt Group. They were all treated to a lovely 2 course sit down meal , along with other guests who had purchased hospitality tickets.

As something different, all races were run over the distance of 1.25 miles which made some great racing along with some close finishes. The Children's Pony exhibition was also well represented by our future talent, and well received by the audience.

On looking around there were a lot of new faces at the meeting, enjoying the racing, sun, an odd bet, or liquid refreshment or two). People came as far as Ireland, England, Wales and of course the ever-faithful Scottish fans and I am sure that everybody had an enjoyable day.

The organising group, myself, Frank and Charles would like to thank personally thank all sponsors, volunteers, SHRC, Haugh Field Ground Crew and Hospitality, Karen Kennedy Rosettes, owners/trainers and drivers, bookmakers and spectators and anybody who contributed in anyway - once again thank you to all for playing your part in making the day such a success. Having had chance to now add up all the figures we have made in excess of £7,000 for the BHRC.

Willie Forrester

The Calendar

The Calendar this year will continue to be in a paper format for those who requested it (at an extra cost). Digital copies available on the website.
There will be 4 publications
Throughout the year

As per usual we request that any individual, promoter, advertiser with any content send it to us ASAP (we collect information all year around)
We prefer content by the end of the preceding month (this allows us 2 weeks to produce the artwork, 1 week for printing and a week for postage)

BHRC Facebook Page

Should any promoter have information they want posting on the BHRC Facebook Page please send your request to the office.

Where it is an urgent notice (ie a meeting cancelled due to weather, please phone either the office (if in office hours, or a Director if out of hours).

For general posts please allow 24 hours in racing season for posts to be published. We will try to upload before where possible, however this is not always possible due to the streamlining of our office staffing.

Musselburgh 2025

Since the omission of Musselburgh from the fixture list back in 2022, licence holders have actively voiced their disappointment about the loss of the fixture and it's place in history for our sport and what appeared to be a lack of effort from the BHRC.

I tried to explain to licence holders, and those interested, that it was not a lack of apathy on behalf of the BHRC, but that quietly we were working in the background to try to secure a return to the racetrack for our sport, and that in fact we have done all that we possibly could do to get racing back.

Bill Farnsworth, Racecourse Director, Musselburgh Racecourse has been helpful throughout, and always supported the idea of harness racing returning to this prestigious fixture, there has been numerous conversations, ideas and proposals discussed informally over a long period of time.

As they say "patience is a virtue", and in the summer Darren Owen, in professional capacity, met up with Bill at Musselburgh, and the idea was re-visited.

From a very small working group of myself, Darren (Owen) and Ryan (O'Neil) an outline plan was put forward to Musselburgh and Chester Racecourses. As this began to look more positive a working committee was formed.

We had already been informed that to increase the likelihood of success the committee should be led by the governing body. With this in mind the committee of 10 is made up of 3 directors, myself, Gary Dowse and Jason Podmore, alongside this we have Ryan O'Neil as the Chairman of STAGBI, Ian Pimlott (TrotBritain) and James O'Sullivan representing IHRA. Joining these six are Darren Owen (who without his support, contacts and his position in thoroughbred racing we would not have made it past first base), Hamish Muirhead, Eric Witherspoon and Huw Evans. All of whom bring different qualities and skills to the committee.

As they say, 'it takes an army to fight a battle', and we will need the help of many others if we are to make this a success. In the new year, we will start reaching out to you all.

In the short term, nothing apart from the date (Saturday 14th June) is set in stone. The outline idea is hold approximately 14 races, comprising of pacing and trotting races. Both disciplines will be contributing to the event, and sharing the risk of any loss. The initial plan is just to hold the Famous Musselburgh Pace, this is due to financial viability and the potential lack of horses in the handicap to have two big handicaps on one day.

We will be looking for help with sponsorship and promotion, as well as physical help, but above all we need you all to attend (and bring friends along), not only does this help the gate money, but it also helps to increase the atmosphere.

Who knows in 2026 we may be back to a two day fixture, supporting both the Hurricane Pace and the Famous Musselburgh Pace.

Julie Park

The BHRC politely remind all trainers that they MUST notify the office when stabling horses away from their registered base (ie for race days which involve overnight stays or overnight stays at a veterinary practice etc.

Horses must always be located at the registered yard.



Appleby Spring Harness Racing

The rain definitely dampened the ground and the spectators at Appleby at the Spring Bank Holiday meeting, luckily it certainly didn't dampen either the atmosphere or the celebrations of the winning connections which saw BORN IN LOCKDOWN lift the Jack Stewart Memorial silverware. The challenging conditions did however lead to a few withdrawals on the day.

ALWAYS SKYE started proceedings off with what can only be described as a masterclass drive from Vicki Gill narrowly beating last year's winner ARTISTIC with COALFORD PROMISE again running a great race to finish third. Gill came off the track beaming, clearly pleased with the performance of Always Skye.

Heat 1 of the Grade 2 Jack Stewart Memorial Pace had hot favourite NIKKI BEACH in, following an earlier noticeable performance at York. However, hearts were fluttering, especially those who had backed him, when going off stride down the stretch but the 4 year old quickly regained his stride to win by a neck from an impressive run, for new stable, AYR EMPEROR, Mr Reliable - MESSIAH was the third placed finisher, gaining his ticket through to the final.

EAGLES WARRIOR took the second heat where the Simon Clarke trained horse was the strongest finisher as conditions started to worsen. Top Dollar gave last year's winning connections a chance of lifting the silverware for the second year in succession as he booked his place in the final.

MAHOGANY CAIO, after an impressive Tregaron win gave the Welsh a ticket through to the final.

BORNINLOCKDOWN took the top heat on the card giving the Cullen brothers the first leg of their treble on the card. ARCHIE CAMDEN gave Will Greenhorn his second blue rosette of the day whilst Greentree Loveart finished third to give Simon Clarke two horses in the final.

By the Permit Trainer Conditioned race, horses were starting to face the worst of the ground, and most found it hard going. Not so for this guy, who started off a quick fire double not only for the trainer Samboy Howard but also the impressive HOWARDS WISEGUY who relished the conditions and was a 23 length winner from Thinking of Daddy finishing in second with local horse Rhyds Cocoa, having made the early running, finishing a very tired third.

WEE LEWIS, who certainly doesn't listen to his name as the big strong powerful horse, picking the better ground, came up the stand rail, helped home by his supporters in the betting ring, beating local horse KING KEN who finished second, with SOUTHERN MIKI finishing third.

BLYTHEVIEW LANDA ran impressively through the mud and took the second maiden race of the day for the husband and wife team of Jason and Cheryl Podmore. Whilst Vincent made an eye catching debut, and will certainly be one to watch as he progresses through the grades, with



Newmoors Joesph also handling conditions.

HOWARDS WISEGUY, already having won emphatically in the Permit Race, showed just how much he loved the conditions, managing another runaway win, this time by 11 lengths. Sam Howard definitely put a smile on his dad's face as owner John Howard headed to the bar to celebrate after the post race interview. AYR CAMELOT finished second with Chloes Dream in third.

THE JACK STEWART MEMORIAL set the hill alive as Grant Cullen made a mid race move to dash to the front, and the winning line. The celebrations commenced, and from the look of pictures carried on well into the night. BORNINLOCKDOWN, 4yr old son of Judy Hall was an 8 3/4 length winner from Eagles Warrior finishing second with Top Dollar picking up the yellow ribbon.

Unfortunately the rain mid week, overnight and on the Sunday took its toll on both the track, and the car park and the racing on Bank Holiday Monday had to be cancelled.



BORNINLOCKDOWN



WINNER THE JACK STEWART MEMORIAL APPLEBY 2024





AN UPDATE FROM BOB MEADOWCROFT

Change is coming to Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ)

Newly appointed HRNZ Chief executive Brad Steele plans to do things differently, as long as it's the best thing for the sport. Steele, a 61 year old with extensive experience in business and racing in Queensland, Australia was appointed by the current board of HRNZ.

Firstly, he wants to stabilize the business and wants to rebuild the momentum for Harness Racing in NZ. He wants to grow wagering then ownership. " If you grow ownership, then everything else grows", Steele said.

Steele's father was a "bush bookmaker" in rural Queensland. Once settled in he plans to run road shows promoting the sport in four cities in the country over the next few weeks.

He is hoping for increased ownership, growth in wagering and the industry going from surviving to thriving. Recruiting company Brannigans, along with a panel of five will sought through applicants for the seven board member positions. To full fill the requirements applicants must be strategic thinkers... Individuals with strategic planning to help navigate the sports ever-changing landscape.

Engagement experts being able to build relationships with the stakeholders.

Financial Capabilities... someone with a sharp financial acumen and experience in senior commercial roles.

Wellbeing, Health and Animal Welfare.. candidates must be committed to welfare and ethical standards

Compliance Guardians..... rules matter. Someone who can provide oversight and adhere to negotiating and standards

Industry specialists.....knowledge of the industry and helping to shape it.

Innovators ..... with change being inevitable, HRNZ is looking for people who thrive on driving progress and embrace innovation Tech Enthusiasts.....technology will be the key to the sport going forward. If you embrace technology and efficiency, HRNZ want to hear from you.

This year's Premier North Island races were run in May in Auckland, the Trillian Auckland Cup for pacers and Rowe Cup for Trotters . With two visiting Aussie raiders entered it made for interesting racing. It was an Australian rout with Victorian trainer Jess Tubbs and her driver Greg Sugars winning both events.



Better Eclipse, a Better Than Cheddar gelding picked up the Auckland Cup for pacers and Just Believe won the Prestigious Rowe Cup. Both races are run over 2 miles (3200 meters). In total the pair took home $247,500 plus the trophies. Not a bad hours work!

Announcements last week re increased stake money for all codes (thoroughbred, harness and greyhounds), see harness racing receiving $10 million a year for the next three years. British Company Entain have signed a five year deal along with the TAB. 30 million is a big jump which will benefit everyone in the sport including owners, ,trainers, drivers, breeders and punters. Speaking personally, not sure how punters will benefit because the ones I back usually like to follow other ones!

It means now the country's number one race the Cup will be worth one million dollars. It hasn't been at that level since 2009. The top Trotters race is also now up to $400,000.

So in summary, 24/25 has a 20% increase for all races. Fillies and mares get 150 more races nationwide and a $900,000 increase in stakes.

A new brand of advertising will be launched under the banner of "Friday night lights".

Although already well covered with free to air TV coverage of all racing, it is hoped the increased coverage will show the industry off with more "one on one" interviews with participants in the sport. More presenters will be giving expert advice to punters and hopefully attract more interest in the sport. Interesting times!





BHRC Awards Nominees

With the 2024 season now firmly behind us there remains only one final task to complete before we can all look forward to the return of racing in 2025: the annual awards!

We would like to start by congratulating all of our award winners so far for the 2024 season:

Leading Owner—Matthew Quinn

Leading Trainer—Alexis Laidler

Leading Licence to Train—John Gilvear

Leading Permit Trainer—Matthew Quinn

Leading Driver—Rocker Laidler

Leading B Class Driver—Jay Matthews

Leading C Class Driver—George William Wilson

Leading Horse—Mahogany Caio

The above awards are based purely on the number of wins during the 2024 season.

Licence Holder Voting

The remaining BHRC awards need your vote, (with the exception of Groom of the Year and Special Contribution Award).

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

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

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

Where horses could not be split on points, second and third placed finishes considered. In circumstances where horses could still not be split on points AND placed finishes, all horses will go onto the shortlist.

This year there is also a extra categories - 4YO Mare and 4YO Horse. With the rise in 4YO Stakes racing we felt it was only fair to highlight these horses in their own category the same as 2 and 3 year olds.

The exceptions being:

Groom of the Year nominations (any licence holder acting in the capacity as a groom/caretaker) to be nominated by a licenced trainer via email to the Awards Committee – to be decided upon by the Awards Committee.

Special Contribution Award nominations (from individuals, clubs or associations) to be emailed to the Awards Committee to be decided upon by the BHRC Directors.

All winners of the above awards to be announced at the BHRC & STAGBI Awards Ceremony on Saturday 1st February 2025 (tickets available via the BHRC office).

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

Voting closes 4th January

Voting to be completed online on the BHRC Facebook Page.

BHRC AWARDS 2024



PUBLIC TRAINER



PERMIT TRAINER



LICENCE TO TRAIN TRAINER



LEADING OWNER



A CLASS DRIVER



B CLASS DRIVER



C CLASS DRIVER

BHRC LEADING HORSE OF 2024



MAHOGANY CAIO - Winner of 7 races including the Group 2 Boughrood Classic Final and the John Greedy Memorial Final.



IT IS NOW UP TO YOU: Please submit your votes online for the 2yr and 3 yr old colts and fillies, 4yo horses and 4yo mares, the aged Mare of the Year, the Grass Track Champion, the Aged Horse and the Overseas Horse of the Year.

You will also have the opportunity to vote for BHRC Horse of the year from you list of winners (excluding overseas horse)

And of course please remember to contact the office and **BOOK YOUR TICKET.**

BHRC Awards Evening

Mercure Hotel Haydock - Rooms available please contact the hotel to book

Saturday 1st Febraury 2025



RHYDS SUPER COOL - Winner of 3 races including the Group 1 Breeders Crown Colts Division, the Group 2 NWHOA Colts Division and the York Sale Graduate Series Colts Division.

NOMINEES – BHRC 2YO COLT OF THE YEAR



STATESIDE ATOMIC - Winner of the Group 1 BHRC Sire Stakes Colts Final.



ELWOOD - Winner of 2 races including the Group 1 Daniel Welling Memorial and the Group 2 SHRC Colts Futurity.

NOMINEES – BHRC 2YO COLT OF THE YEAR



LOSTOUTWEST (IRE) - Winner of the VDM 2YO Colts Heat.



PERFECT SMILE - Winner of 2 races including the Group 1 BHRC Sire Stakes Fillies Final and the Group 1 Junior Welsh Dragoness.

NOMINEES - BHRC 2YO FILLY OF THE YEAR



ON FIRE BELLE - Winner of the Group 1 Blossom Kelly Memorial.



ON FIRE BRIDGETTE - Winner of 3 races including the Group 1 BHRC Fillies Futurity, the Group 2 NWHOA Fillies Championship and a heat of the VDM 2YO Fillies.

NOMINEES – BHRC 2YO FILLY OF THE YEAR



WINDFALL - Winner of the Group 2 SHRC Fillies Futurity.



Moneyhill - Winner of 4 races including the Group 1 BHRC Sire Stakes Colts Final, the Group 1 York 3YO Colts Championships, the Group 2 NWHOA 3YO Colts

NOMINEES – BHRC 3YO COLT OF THE YEAR



AYR DAVE - Winner of 4 races including the Group 1 VDM 3YO Colts Final, VDM 3YO Colts Heat and the Jessie



LADYFORD CLINT - Winner of 3 races including the GROUP 1 Little Welsh Dragon, the Group 2 STAGBI 3YO British Championships and the Haugh

NOMINEES – BHRC 3YO COLT OF THE YEAR



MONTANA - Winner of 2 races including the Group 1



NAKED ATTRACTION - Winner of 3 races including the Group 1 Little Welsh Dragoness and the Group 1 BHRC 3YO Sire Stakes

NOMINEES – BHRC 3YO FILLY OF THE YEAR



TOTHEBARANDBACK - Winner of 2 races including the Group 2 NWHOA 3YO Fillies Final.



PUSSYCAT DOLL - Winner of 2 races including the York 3YO Fillies Championship and the Group 2 SHRC Oaks.

NOMINEES – BHRC 3YO FILLY OF THE YEAR



EMILY ROSE - Winner of both a maiden race at York and a



OAKWOOD HEY MIKI - Winner of 6 races including the Group 1 VDM 4YO Colts & Geldings Final, the Group 2 LPD Demolition Junior FFA and the Group 2 NWHOA 4YO Geld-

NOMINEES – BHRC 4YO HORSE OF THE YEAR



STATESIDE LOCKDOWN - Winner of 4 races including the Group 1 Tregaron Welsh Classic Final and a heat of the



TOREADOR - Winner of 4 races including the Group 1 Breeders Crown 4YO Stallions & Geldings Final, the Group 1 Senior Welsh Dragon and the Group 2 STAGBI 4YO British Championship.

NOMINEES – BHRC 4YO HORSE OF THE YEAR



MESSIAH - Winner of 5 races including the Group 2 STAGBI 4YO British Championships and a heat of the Tregaron Welsh Classic Handicap.



STAMPHILL SHADOW - Winner of 7 races including the GROUP 1 VDM 4YO Mares Final, the Group 2 STAGBI 4YO British Championships and the Camden Stud Spring

NOMINEES – BHRC 4YO MARE OF THE YEAR



LOU HALL - Winner of 4 races including the Jimmy Knocker Rennie heat & final at Haugh Field.



LOUISVILLE - Winner of 3 races including the Group 2 NWHOA 4YO Mares Championship and two legs of the STAGBI Future Brood-

NOMINEES – BHRC 4YO MARE OF THE YEAR



MELROGUE - Winner of a maiden race at Haugh Field and a permit race at Appleby.



EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN - Winner of 4 races including the Group 1 Bernie Kelly Memorial FFA, the Group 1 BHRC Pacing Classic, and the Group

NOMINEES – BHRC AGED HORSE OF THE YEAR



BILLY CLOSURE (IRE) - Winner of 6 races including the Lloyds Chip Shop Heat & Final at Lampeter and the



MAHOGANY CAIO - Winner of 7 races including the Group 2 Boughrood Classic Final and the John Greedy Memorial Final.

NOMINEES – BHRC AGED HORSE OF THE YEAR



CHECK ON WILLIAM - Winner of 4 races including the Group 2 Jimmy Muirhead Memorial Scottish Classic Heat & Final and the Ashcourt Group High Grade Heat & Final.



NEWTOWN JODY - Winner of 3 races including the Group 1 STAGBI Golden Girls Final.

NOMINEES – BHRC AGED MARE OF THE YEAR



COALFORD PROMISE - Winner of 4 races including the Zilco Europe Saddle Pace and the Jessie Jones DSA



DREAMFAIR I AM - Winner of 4 races including the Heat & Final of the Alex Thomson Memorial Handicap.

NOMINEES – BHRC AGED MARE OF THE YEAR



TEJAYS GEM - Winner of 2 ratings races at York and a ratings race at Wolsingham Charity Meeting.



MAHOGANY CAIO - Winner of 6 races on grass including the Group 2 Boughrood Classic Final and the John Greedy

NOMINEES – GRASS TRACK CHAMPION



VICTIMISED - Winner of 5 races on grass including a heat of the Lloyds Chip Shop Handicap at Lampeter and ratings races at Almeley & Ivington.



CHECK ON WILLIAM - Winner of 4 races on grass including the Group 2 Jimmy Muirhead Memorial Scottish Classic Heat & Final and the Ashcourt Group High Grade Heat & Final.

NOMINEES – GRASS TRACK CHAMPION



WORLD FAMOUS - Winner of 5 races on grass including the John Mailey Snr & Dawson Brothers Memorial Final and the Podmore & Family Low Grade



AYROPLANE - Winner of 4 races in Britain including the Group 1 VDM 2YO Colts Final, the Group 1 Junior Welsh Dragon and the Group 1 BHRC 2YO Colts Futurity.

NOMINEES – OVERSEAS HORSE OF THE YEAR



SWEET DREAMS - Winner of 2 races in Britain including the Group 1 VDM 3YO Fillies Final and the Group 1 Breeders Crown 3YO Fillies Final.



CHURCHVIEW MEOW - Winner of 2 races in Britain including the Group 1 VDM 2YO Fillies Final and the Group 1 Breeders Crown 2YO Fillies Final.

NOMINEES – OVERSEAS HORSE



NOSMALLTALK - Winner of 3 races in Britain including Heat & Final of the Group 1 Breeders Crown 3YO Colts & Geldings Division and a heat of the

Tom Hill



Since being imported in the October of 2018 **Tom Hill,** or just Tom as he is known at home, has stood with owners Sue and Carly Young of Stateside Stud.

Sue and Carly first saw Tom as a two year old when on a visit to the states and he
immediately caught their eye. They followed his career closely over the years and when the opportunity arose to import him as a stallion they jumped at it.

Speaking to Sue she said the thing that has blown her away about working with Tom is his intelligence, he is the smartest horse she has had the pleasure of working with and is definitely a people person in horse form.

Three of his crops are now of racing age and are definitely leaving their mark.

The last two years running Tom has been the leading Sire Stakes stallion taking home both of the two year old divisions in 2023 with Chasingthestars and Money Hill and then three out of the four divisions in 2024 with winners Money Hill, Naked Attraction and Stateside Atomic. This is a fantastic achievement for a new stallion and definitely makes his offspring of the future ones to watch in the series.

Tom's upcoming crop of yearlings are eligible for the Sire Stakes races in 2025 which will see the first year of the newly introduced heats and final format.



Handicapping Review

The BHRC Handicap Panel has carried out their annual review of the handicap system. Following feedback from various licence holders and non licence holders the following updates have been made and ratified by directors:

Once a horse has reached 3 wins AND a rating of 32 it will not drop below a rating of 32.

A promoter will be able to run a maximum of 4 heats if they are staging one final or 6 heats if they are staging two finals at an event.
If a heat and final event is oversubscribed to select which horses are eligible to run any horses on the same rating at the cut off point must be selected based on the horses with the highest earnings in their last 5 starts. Position in the race will be determined as detailed in the promoters schedule.

Horses aged 8 years old and older will receive a lift of ten points on the first 1st January each year from 2025 onwards however there will no longer be a penalty reduction table on points earned during the season for horses 8 years old or older.

The mare's lift has been removed.

There will no longer be any splits for drivers.

All maidens must be split (if required) and framed by random ballot.

There will be no splits for owners/ trainers/drivers in any heat & final event.

To be eligible to run in a non winners race a horse must have a minimum of 1 lifetime win and be aged 3 years old or older. In order for the race to receive the reduced penalty all horses in the races must be non winners of the last 6+ races.



Breeders Crown UK & Ireland 2024

Another successful Breeders Crown held on Tuesday 20th August at Tir Prince saw a diverse crowd consisting of diehard trotting folk with a good mix of holiday makers and general public. It was nice to see a genuine interest in the sport from new race goers with lots of questions on the sport, and for those who could not make it in person the day, there was the live streaming.

To kick off the event, before racing we were all treated to some great singing entertainment courtesy of local legend an X factor contestant Sami Brookes and her daughter, who got the crowd going on a sunny, but windy afternoon.

We were treated to 10 races which included heats for the 3 Year Old Colts and Geldings, and a first for the Breeders Crown this year with enough horses to make the 4 Year Old Stallions & Geldings compete in 2 heats before their final, which was the last race of the day.

This was a proud moment for Claire Fletcher as her homebred horse Toreador by Matador Hall oo Lady Claires Best, won the final in a dramatic close finish on the line in 1:59.8.

Another highlight was seeing the 2 Year Old Colt Rhyds Super Cool come home







first for Bob Forrest, his daughter Dawn and trainers Simon Clarke and Kirsty Legrice. I'm not sure who was most excited! This 2 year old has gone on to have an amazing season.

Overall, it was a great meeting with yet again record breaking prize money.

A big thank you to all the sponsors, stallion owners, and race horse owners who make this possible.

All races are available to watch on our website

www.breederscrownukandireland.com where you will also find all the information you need to enter yearlings etc.

Breeders Crown awards on the night for the following:

2 Yr old Colt/Gelding: Rhyds Supercool - R Forrest

2 Yr Old Filly: Churchview Meow - Joe Gannon

3 Yr Old Colt/Gelding: Nosmalltalk - Christian Joyce





3 Yr Old Filly: Sweet Dreams - Neville Martin

4 Yr Old Stallion/Gelding: Toreador - Claire Fletcher

4 Yr Old Mare: Always Skye - Bernard Grendon

Top 2 Year Old Sire goes to Foreclosure with 8 points followed closely by Hasty Hall on 5 points.

Top Overall Stallion was Always B Miki on 27 points with Sweet Lou coming second with 23 points.

Top Driver James Haythornthwaite

Top Trainer John Paul Murdock

Top Broodmare Shesgotanattitude (Kikikolt – Mattributes)





To see if your yearling is eligible for the Breeders Crown check the list of nominated stallions on our website.

Nomination fee of £50 for yearlings due before 1st January 2025 to avoid a supplementary fee of another £50.





BHRC & STAGBI AWARDS EVENING

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

STARTERS

Vegetable soup (v, GF)
Chicken liver parfait, chutney, toasted ciabatta
Mature cheddar cheese tartlet, pickled grapes, walnuts and watercress (v)

MAINS

Roast Chicken Supreme, smoked bacon & mushroom cream, Parmenttier potatoes & green beans
Braised feather blade of beef, creamed potato, smoked bacon and baby onion jus (GF)
Grilled Seabass, fennel & celeriac puree, tomato & coriander dressing (GF)

DESSERTS

Roast pineapple, dark rum caramel, vanilla ice cream (v, V, GF)
Warm apple and blackberry crumble, vanilla English custard
Glazed lemon tart, raspberry sorbet. vanilla sauce

FOLLOWED BY

Coffee & tea served with mints

MERCURE HOTEL, HAYDOCK

TICKETS £43

CONTACT THE BHRC OFFICE TO BOOK TICKETS

INTEGRITY UPDATE

The Integrity Team continue to work with other international promoters and governing bodies to share information and best practice, this was demonstrated this year with both the BHRC and IHRA working very closely together to carry out Out of Competition Tests (OOCT).

We remind all trainers of their duties to be aware of the Y Section of the BHRC Rules and Regulations and the Uniform Classification List. If in doubt about the suitability for use of any product when racing, withdrawal times etc, ask your vet or the supplier of the product about whether you can race on the substance, and any withdrawal periods etc.

We also remind Trainers that ALL horses registered in their care must be stabled at the registered stable at all times. The trainer must notify in writing the BHRC (prior to the event) of any temporary movement of horses which involves an overnight stay.

Desk based sampling: All trainers have a duty to hold an up-to-date Medication Book which is provided to Trainers. As per last year, we are carrying out desk-based sampling of these books.

We continue to work with other Governing Bodies and countries in our quest to improve the integrity of our sport. Recent meetings with America have proved to be particularly helpful, we are positive that the information shared with us will help us in our quest for a clean sport.

In 2024 the Integrity Team have carried out 206 tests and include:

75 Post-race full blood tests
3 Pre-race full blood tests
2 Private full blood tests
51 Out of Competition full blood tests (13 completed by IHRA, 7 taken in GB and processed, 31 taken in GB and stored at the laboratory)
75 Blood gas tests

We thank IHRA for their full support with our out-of-competition testing. We continue to work closely together to share intelligence, research and results.

Rest assured however, that despite the intensity of our testing this year we have remained within the budget set.

BLOOD GAS TESTS - one small vial of blood taken on the day by the vet and processed through the blood gas analyser (Black Box). Results are recorded as SATISFACTORY (if the sample is within recommended tolerances) or UNSATISFACTORY (if not). Where a sample is UNSATISFACTORY, further tests may be taken. The race/horses to be sampled are usually selected by the vet at random or by using a randomiser. Results are available on the same day.

FULL BLOOD TESTS—6 vials of blood are taken (making up the A and B Samples) and are then sent to either Newmarket or France for analysis. Results from Newmarket are usually within 10 days. Tests may be taken Out of Competition (OOCT) or PRE RACE, or POST RACE.

In most cases our FULL BLOOD TESTS are

analysed. This year however, we have introduced storing tests at the laboratory for OOCT, this allows us to collect a larger number of samples. The Integrity Team can then select a range of horses to sample post race.

We check the Integrity email daily, and ring the responsible person and the track promoter the same day to update them of results from the laboratory.

We have included extra detail on the Integrity Spreadsheet on our website to record OOCT, and to show which ones are stored at the laboratory, or which have been processed at a later date. We have also included in our spreadsheet horses tested OOCT in Ireland.

We have an excellent working relationship with Newmarket Laboratory who are equally passionate about integrity. We also use the LCH Laboratory in France, however results are slower from France and there have been issues with samples being held up in customs. Both laboratories work to the same quality standards and the basic screening package is the same. Newmarket, (at our request) also carry out a couple of extra tests (at the same cost), working on intelligence we have received. We do however, continue to work with France.

Last year saw out of competition testing in a number of yards. This has again been part of our testing strategy and the push towards a clean sport. Our licence holders are split into geographical locations, a geographical location selected, we then strive to test a number of yards within the geographical sample, looking at who is on the hot list, (number of wins: runs) as well as trying to sample different types of trainers. We also work closely with IHRA and have a reciprocal agreement to carry out out-of-competition tests on behalf of each other where horses are competing 'over the water'.

What many licence holders are unaware of is that we also have to fill in statistics for the ITA, and these include how many tests are in competition, out of competition, qualifiers, winners, non-winners etc.

We must continue to be recognised as a valued contributor to equine welfare, of which integrity is just one part.

Desk-based sampling of Medication Record Books has continued this year. There were some anomalies identified during the OOCT and these have resulted in fines for the Responsible Person. The Trainer (Responsible Person) must ensure that the Medication Record Book is accurate and up-to-date.

Whilst the reporting and recording of the use of Omeprazole has improved, we are still investigating samples which include findings of the drug that have not been reported and recorded correctly. Penalties have been and will be enforced where correct procedure is not followed.

In 2024 our rules say that if your horse is receiving Omeprazole you must: submit the current prescription to the BHRC, it should be recorded in both the passport and the medication book, a copy of the passport medication page should be forwarded to the office. The horse should run with the letters

OR after its name in the race card. Failure to do so is breach of the current rules.

Going forwards, we will be reviewing the rule on the use of Omeprazole following the change of rule within the BHA.

If a change to BHRC rules is made, this will be included in published on the website and on social media.

Budget: whilst most of the licence holders appreciate the testing that is carried out and the endeavours made to have a clean sport, some do have concerns about the money spent on testing. Each year owners pay a "Race Fee" for their horse. For a long while this has been £80. Of this £80, £20 is to cover the basic administration cost of the horse, and the remaining £60 is ring-fenced for integrity. The budget is therefore £60 x the number of horses in training. Each year the team have to produce for the Directors a balance sheet showing all of their income/ expenditure. This is also shared at Members Meetings. The Integrity Accounts are totally transparent. Any surplus (from fines etc), has historically been returned to the BHRC main account. The team work hard to ensure they run a balanced budget.

The Integrity Team thank the trainers that work with us for their support, it makes what could be a difficult job, easier. Our small team is made up of: Andrea Barker, Hayley Cassells, Gary Dowse, Julie Park, Jackie Maguire and Craig Stevenson.

We all have some sort of connection to either stables, or horses etc. When there is a conflict of interest because of this we have in place procedures so that the testing process still remains active.

Should you have any questions or concerns the Integrity Team welcome your emails on their own dedicated email address: bhrc.integrity@yahoo.com.

KNOW YOUR DEFINITIONS

Stand-Down Period: *some drugs have a mandatory stand-down period, a minimum mandatory period when a horse cannot race.*

Detection Time: *some drugs have a published detection time, this however does not guarantee that a substance is out of the system*

Withdrawal Period: *is a calculation of the Detection Time and a Safety Margin. It is vital that you ask for professional advice on Withdrawal Periods*

NOTICE TO ALL TRAINERS:

Due to insurance restrictions PLEASE ensure that all staff, helpers and visitors to your horsebox /vehicle and trailer (which is within the licensed area) hold a BHRC licence. Any unlicensed person in a licensed area such as the lorry park, stabling areas etc will be asked to leave.

This is not an official being difficult, it is because they are NOT insured. If an uninsured person were to have an accident it could be the end of our sport.

When it comes to the greats of British and Irish harness racing, virtually every top class pacer since the 1980's has floated across the the green swathe at Dolyrychain, Pontrhydfendigaid and in doing so generally enhancing their standing in our sport.

Tregaron means many things to many people, it's still a place revered in the harness racing community. You ask the owners, trainers and drivers, a winner in this part of Wales is worth as much as Welsh Gold. **Darren Owen**

What does Tregaron mean? Firstly, great memories, of which I am reminded in this book's walk down memory lane. Prior to my time in 1997, for me there is a fascinating record in print of the early years of this jewel in the sport.

Gwenan's work will be a constant reminder of the life and times of the Tregaron Trotting Club's 40 magical years, a reminder of the wonderful people and equine stars that have entertained legions of fans.
Darren Owen

Like most "good ideas" the conception of this book stemmed from a simple conversation, in this case with the current Club President Mr Alan Davies, that to celebrate the 40 years of racing in Dolyrychain the history should be chronicled for posterity. The idea was floated in a committee meeting and it was decided to invite Gwenan Thomas to take on the task. Gwenan, a midwife by profession, has been immersed in harness racing all her life and involved with the Tregaron Festival for most of the forty years it has existed in a multitude of roles, writing this book is just the latest!

Back in October 2023 we suggested it might be a nice little project for the long winter nights but when a job is to be done properly it can take up an awful lot of time, energy and not a little stress!!!! During its gestation there were times when she certainly regretted taking on the task but she has given birth to a true record of the Tregaron Festival over the past 40 years – a book to be proud of poignantly dedicated to her late father David Evans.



The foreword has been written by our own Darren Owen, who has commentated on as many Welsh Classics as he has Grand Nationals, not just a race-caller but the glue that holds a racemeeting together.

The book is available to purchase by contacting Gwenan Thomas.

"Well done Gwenan, I have thoroughly enjoyed reading mine and stepping back through the various memories - Julie"

CLWB TROTIAN TREGARON 2024