

**BDS West of Scotland Press Release**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

## **British Driving Society West of Scotland Inaugural Indoor Carriage Driving Event at Morris Equestrian Centre – Fenwick Ayrshire**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 saw the second year of this event in Ayrshire. Morris Equestrian Centre were pleased to welcome us for a second year and were not disappointed with entries.

There were 17 classes with 68 class entries ranging from 33" mini Shetland to 18hh Percherons and Clydesdales.

Classes started with Potential Driving entries, followed by Ride and Drive and then Long Reining.

2 of the harder worked horses forward competed in the ride and drive. Gilly Chippendales lovely Fell Pony Stennerskeugh Smoke won both the ride and drive sections, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> in Private Driving and a qualification for the Osbourne Refrigerators championships later in the year at Addington Manor.

Claire Camerons lovely Piebald cob Jim Bob took a different route and competed in the exercise vehicle class followed by the Arena Challenge and Accumulator Cones.

Both of these ponies were well travelled, Gilly Chippendale coming from Krkby Stephen on Cumbria and Claire Cameron and her daughter Katie having travelled from the Morvern Peninsula in the Highlands.

BDS West of Scotland branch organised the show with help from Arena Challenge Course Builders Bobby Simpson and Davie Brown and supply of obstacles courtesy of Scottish Carriage Driving Association.

The Concour d' Elegance class was well supported with some lovely entries and a wide range of traditional and traditionally built vehicles, all in immaculate condition and beautifully presented to the Concour d' Elegance Judge Allan Lees, from a renowned local artist from Kirkmichael in South Ayrshire. His winner was Richard Lanni with his pair of Gelderlanders Symen and Vinney, driven to a 1960's Phaeton built on traditional lines.

Main Judge, Mr Robert Smyth from Northern Ireland commented on the quality of turnouts presented in front of him. He also enjoyed judging the wider range of classes with the heavy horse presentations. .

Ridden Judge Mr John Cartner had 3 ridden Clydesdales forward with a worthy winner in Ailsa Noble and Buddy. Ailsa qualifies for the Ridden Heavy Horse Final at Equefest and the Ridden Clydesdale Final at Blair Castle Horse Trials

Heavy Horse pairs and a team made the floor of the arena shake as they paraded in the ring. The surface at Morris is particularly good for carriages and provided a safe and solid surface for all the disciplines of the day. Heavy Horse Champion was JW & MMclntyres' Clydesdales, ably driven by Ron Brewster, with Charlotte Young taking reserve champion with her new Percherons, enjoying their first outing.

Light Horse Champion was Richard Lanni's turnout with Gillian McNinch standing reserve with her pony The Longhouse Glam Rock having its first outing of the season. This was the same result as last year and particularly poignant following Gillian's pony just returning to competition following injury last year.

The show catered for the more adventurous, with an Arena Challenge event of Cones and Obstacles driven at speed. There were 4 competitors forwards making 2 runs each, but with the first run counting towards the prizes. Wendy Scott, took top spot with Miranda Saunders in second spot with her new pony Gilmary Replica. IN the cones class, Claire Cameron topped her day with a win in the cones, following a steering error in the Arena Challenge.

A big thanks must go to both Bobby Simpson for designing, building and taking down the course that gave the audience a great spectacle whilst the judges had lunch. Bobby and his helpers made the build-up and knock down very slick.

With 17 classes and 2 championships to get through, plus the arena challenge, the show was very well run with all classes running to time and finishing on schedule with an accumulator cones class, by 6pm.

Running an event like this at such a big venue relies heavily on the auspices of Chief Ring Steward Robert Robertson and Outside Steward Aileen MacDonald, to get all the turnouts at the right ring entrance at the right time. Entries Secretary Julia Whitaker was pleased with entries and whilst some entries were not forward, the level of entries provided an interesting day for the steady stream of spectators that had come to see all the different varieties of driving turnouts. Behind the scenes work with sponsorship and advertising was capably supported by Carol and Norman McAllister and our sponsors area aly hosted by Sandy Lanni

Our commentator for the second year running was Eileen from Lanark who kept our spectators well informed throughout the day.

More information on Carriage Driving and on Heavy Horses can be found through the following websites:

<http://www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk/>

<http://www.scda.co.uk/>

<http://www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com/>

ends:

more information or queries to:

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Pictures can be obtained from:

Equiscot- <http://www.equiscot.com/>

Or those below can be used and have full permission from owners



