



INTRODUCTION TO NEDTL FOR NEW DRIVERS

Welcome to NEDTL.

We have provided a list of events for 2024 and a guide to what to expect for your first 2 day events with NEDTL.

We have also included the Club Health and Safety document as we want to make sure everyone's safety at events. It may seem daunting to you and full of lots of do's and don'ts but it is important that you are aware.



DATE	NEDTL EVENTS	OTHER CLUB EVENTS	NATIONAL EVENTS
APRIL			
20/21			Indoor Championships
27/28*	Feedale Farm ODE (Sat) Arena Challenge, Manor Grange (Sun)	EACD2DE Ashfields, inc NQ *MC ODE, Anslow *PHC ODE, Eagle Moor	
MAY			
4/5		A1 ODE, Newark	Royal Windsor
11/12*		MC, Thoresby 2DE *PHC ODE, Eagle Moor	
18/19*	Feedale Farm 2DE	*MC, ODE, Anslow	
25/26		EACDG Blandings Farm 2DE	Hopetoun
JUNE			
1/2		CHDTG ODE, Backford A1 ODE, Rossington	
8/9			Cricklands
15/16*		CHDTG2DE, Plas Newydd inc NQ *PHC ODE, Thornton Manor *MC ODE, Anslow EACDG Ashfields 2DE	
22/23	Nidd Hall2DE(inc NQ)		Seacliff2DE (Regional)
29/30			Sandringham
JULY			
7		A1 ODE, Rossington	
13/14	Allerton Park2DE		
20/21		CHDTG 2DE, Backford MC 2DE, Onley A1 ODE Rossington	
27/28		MC Onley, 2DE PHC ODE, Norton Disney	
AUGUST			
4		A1 ODE, Sleaford	
10/11	Newby Hall2DE	EACDG Ashfields 2DE	
17/18		MC 2DE Oasby, Club Champs.	
24/25		CHDTG 2DE, Henbury Hall PHC ODE, Thornton Manor	
SEPTEMBER			
31/1	Frickley Park 2DE	A1 ODE, Rossington	
14/15			National Champs.
21/22	Escrick Park2DE		
28/29		CHDTG ODE, Backford	
OCTOBER			
5/6			Osberton

Key: MC –Midlands Carriagedriving; CHDTG –Chester Horse Driving Trials Group;
PHC –Poacher Harness Club; A1 –A1 Events; ODE – One day event, NQ- Novice Qualifier for the Nationals

To enter NEDTL events go to the Calendar on the NEDT Website

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/calendar/> and in the Monthly Calendar at the bottom of the page the events entry forms can be found in the Month they are scheduled. It also provides information on where the event is located.

If you have any problems contact Charmian Haigh for website support on 0779 1837 543 or Peter Carter the Events Secretary on 07769 706793



ASSESSMENT OF NEW DRIVERS

For safety reasons NEDTL needs to assess new drivers in accordance with British Carriagedriving guidelines. We just want to make sure they are sufficiently competent and their turnout is safe to take part in any Public Outings organised by the Club. If you are a member of another club where you have been assessed then the NEDTL Assessment Co-ordinator will contact them for confirmation.

In order to be assessed please contact Pat Cooper on [07961564348](tel:07961564348)

TWO DAY EVENT INFORMATION FOR NOVICE DRIVERS

Our aim is for everyone to have an enjoyable experience at all NEDTL events. To new competitors, it can seem daunting with so many rules and regulations, many of which may seem 'unwritten'. NEDTL Club rules can be accessed on the website, with the full BC rule book being available on the BC website <https://britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/rules/index.htm>. Health and Safety Information and Guidelines can also be accessed on the NEDTL website <https://britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/rules/index.htm>

This document is intended to provide some basic guidance and a few pointers to help you enjoy your events with the NEDTL.

Before the Event

Details of events and how to enter are on the calendar section of the website.

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/calendar/>

The dressage tests you need for the event can be found on the Club website

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/information/dressage-tests/>

Once you have entered you will receive an email, after the closing date, with further information about the event, including the time that you can arrive from. A few days prior to the event, you will receive a further email giving your dressage time. This is a draft time, do check your paperwork that you need to collect from the Event Secretary at the event for any changes.

Arrival at the event

On arrival at the event, please park where the stable manager directs you. Let them know if you intend to use electric fencing as this may affect where you are asked to park. If you are able to arrive on the Friday of the event, this will give you time to get your camp set up and to check out where everything is for the following day.

Also you will need to walk the cones course in-preparation for Saturday.

Collect your paperwork from the event secretary. This includes running orders for Saturday's dressage and Sunday's marathon, 3 competitor numbers, a small card number to be displayed on the carriage for dressage and cones, and two larger numbers which worn in a number tabard by the groom for the marathon. Number bibs are widely available from harness and carriage suppliers, tack stores etc. There will also be a competitor detail sheet to complete and leave in the window of your horsebox or car.

Before dressage on Saturday, make sure you find out where the Safety Check area is, check with the event secretary if in doubt. You will need to report to the Safety Check steward **30** minutes before your dressage.

Take time to walk the cones course, your groom can accompany you on this. Remember the **Red** number is on your right. You should always be able to see the number of the next cone to be driven from the current cone but sometimes the number is at an angle. Driving a cone in the wrong direction or missing one out, is elimination. You can also walk the dressage test in the



arena if you wish to get a feel for the markers. If you bring your dog to the event, please don't walk the arenas or obstacles with the dog, please secure safely outside the arena or obstacles.

Dressage and Cones on Saturday

Remember if you have a carriage with extending axles that they will need to be done before you do the cones. Most drivers extend them when they arrive at the event.

The dress for the day is smart and tidy for both driver and groom, see the guide on the website for further details <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/information/getting-started/>.

The groom should be seated for dressage and cones (see club rules for exceptions to this).

The person conducting your Safety Check will be very experienced and happy to give you tips and advice. Safety (hard) hats are compulsory for the cones phase for driver and groom. As you will normally proceed straight from dressage to cones, it is perfectly acceptable to wear your hard hat for dressage too.

After your Safety Check, warm up for the dressage, letting the dressage steward at 'A' know that you're there at least 10 minutes before the time you are due to enter the arena. The steward will let you know when it is your turn. As a new driver, if you wish to have your test read to you by your groom for your first few NEDTL events then that is allowed. Let the event secretary know so they can warn the Dressage judges.

Cones

Proceed directly to the cones course after dressage. New drivers who are unable to extend their axles may drive the cones with an axle width of 125cm and it is also permissible for the groom to stand for dressage and cones if your carriage doesn't have a suitable seat for the groom. See NEDTL club rules for further details, please note that this relates to NEDTL events, other clubs may not have these concessions. Please let the Entries Secretary know at the time of entering if you wish to make use of any of these concessions.

The notice board at the event will give you details of the required speeds and cone width for each class.

Marathon

Remember to put your axles back in for the marathon.

The obstacles will be open to be walked by the Technical Delegate (TD) of the event. Walk the obstacles as often as possible to plan your route with your groom, you will find plenty of people are happy to help you find the best route for your turnout, what seems like the shortest route may not be the quickest!

Note that if you drive an obstacle flag incorrectly you can correct the course by then driving the correct flag and resuming the course. You will get a penalty but its better than elimination.

At most events it is possible to use a vehicle or ATV to access the obstacles, check with the event secretary however as there may be restrictions.

Remember do not to park within the obstacle or take a vehicle or bicycle into the obstacle.

Be aware of any Compulsory Turning Flags on the course, these must be driven in numerical order to avoid elimination.

Please don't walk your dog round the obstacles.

There will be a competitor's briefing on Saturday evening and again, check the notice board on the club trailer for the time/place that this will take place. Your dressage sheets will be available from the event Secretary after the scores for dressage and cones have been pinned on the notice board.

Work out your marathon times for Sunday using the information given on the marathon running list. There are apps available for this, do ask for details e.g. MikeWatts.com [HDT Marathon times](#) .

Competitors often write a list to put on the carriage with section times and the required minimum and maximum kilometre times.



Make sure you know where the **Start** is so that you can allow enough time to get there if this is a little way from the box park, you need to report in at the start 10 minutes ahead of your start time, timings are exact and penalties can mount up if you are late to start.

On Sunday the dress code is Marathon clothes, which are usually comfortable, practical driving clothes and often 'team colours'. Drivers and grooms must wear a securely fitted hard hat and a body/back protector throughout the marathon, grooms wear the marathon bib displaying the competitor number front and back. The groom should know all about your timings and at which time you should be at each kilometre marker, using a stopwatch (or two!).

On arrival at the start, the groom must collect the green card, this shows your recorded start time. It is carried throughout the marathon, with timings marked down at the start and finish of each section. Ensure the timings are correct, ask if you have a query. The groom will be asked to initial the card to confirm that it is correct. The card is handed in to the steward at the finish, it then goes to the scorers. Remember, there are penalties for coming in too soon (below minimum) or too late (over maximum).

The starter will give you a two minute, one minute warning and will count you down from 5 seconds – then the groom can start the stop watch. It is always a standing start. Once you set off just enjoy yourself! Marathons often run through fabulous countryside.

Results

The results will be put up on the Event Notice Board and later on they will be on the Website under Results <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/results/>

Help and Assistance.

This is not an exhaustive list to answer all your questions, please just ask any of the event officials or the more experienced Open drivers who will be happy to help you.

The Club has a mentor scheme where a new or novice driver can be teamed up with a more experienced driver. This works really well, having a 'mentor' to be available to you for any question you may have that needs answering or any help at all that you feel you might need. Simply let us know. Enjoy!

Essential Reading – Guidance on H&S for Members and Competitors (2024) on the Club website <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/information/club-documents/>

Additional Reading

NEDTL Rules and Guidance

Presentation and Dress

BC Rules 2024 (on the British Carriagedriving website)



NEDTL RULES AND GUIDANCE

GENERAL

NEDTL endeavour to run all events as near as possible to BC rules, but some rules have been introduced to recognize the difference between National and Club events.

It is important to familiarize yourself with the 2024 BC Rules for Competitors published on the BC website. <https://britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/rules/index.htm>

The following information provides details of the Club rules and guidance either in addition or in contrast to BC Rules, or just as a reminder. The main object is for everyone to enjoy events in as safe an environment as is reasonably possible.

If you have any queries about the rules and guidance, please contact a committee member.

WELFARE

At all NEDTL events, the welfare of the horse is paramount and must take precedence over all other demands. It will encompass good horse management, farriery and fit of harness and carriage. Mainly all horses must be fit, sound and competent before they are allowed to compete.

THE COMPETITION

Presentation in dressage is judged on the move for all classes. Novice drivers to have safety check 30 minutes prior to their dressage time.

Dressage

Tests are available on the website <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/information/dressage-tests/>

Information about the Event schedule can be accessed when you select the Event in the calendar page <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/calendar/>

Tests may be read out to the driver during the first year of competing, but without advice as to how to drive the test!

Marathon

There are two sections (A and B) to the marathon plus the transfer.

Speeds for Section A are 14 km/hour for ponies and 15 for horses and for Section B 13km/h for ponies and 14km/h for horses. The Transfer is timed with ample time to enable it to be completed in walk.

There is a short format marathon which is usually between 4-5km and includes obstacles. This could be a good introduction for new drivers.

Cones

The cones are run as per the BC rules. However grooms may stand for novices in their first year of competing without penalty but must stand still. Competitors with carriages that are under the compulsory width may still compete but must state this on the entry form and will then be subject to a penalty of 20 points.

The decision of the Technical Delegate/Judges is final. Objections must be made with a deposit of £10 to the Event Organiser or the TD within half an hour of scores being posted.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel, divide or combine any classes or refuse any entry with or without stating the reason.

All drivers must be EITHER a fully paid up member of NEDTL or another Affiliated Driving Club or be a BC Full Member.

No Entry will be accepted without the Entries Secretary receiving a completed entry form and payment by the closing date of the competition.

Anyone who has not paid their fee with entry by the closing date and all late entries must pay a £20 surcharge. No refunds for withdrawals after 12 noon on the Monday prior to the event.

Parents/Guardians must give written consent for all drivers and grooms under the age of 18 to allow them to take part in the competition.

THE EVENT also see the Health and Safety Guidance

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GUIDANCE-NOTES-ON-HEALTH-AND-SAFETY-FOR-MEMBERS-AND-COMPETITORS.pdf>



- Horses must be fit enough to complete the marathon without showing signs of distress.
- Competitors driving distressed animals will be retired.
- There will be a safety check at the start of the marathon where appropriate.
- Entrants must report to the relevant stewards for dressage and marathon at least 10 minutes before the allotted time, and proceed directly from dressage to cones. Lateness for dressage may result in elimination and for the marathon. Drivers will incur 0.25 penalties for every second over time where appropriate.

The Ground Jury will consist of 3 independent committee members and if this is not possible, the Event Organiser may nominate members.

NEDTL members are considered to be held responsible for any misconduct by their grooms or others within their entourage. The Committee will consider the consequences of the misconduct.

NEDTL allows the imposition of 20 penalty points for infringements of rules, including those in respect of motor vehicles and dogs. The penalty will be applied for a second infringement after due warning. All dogs must be kept on leads.

PARKING AND STABLING

All caravans and horses boxes with living accommodation must carry a 3kg fire extinguisher which should be placed on the near side of the main vehicle in each camp, near the entrance to the living area.

A clear gap of 6m must be left between each unit – a unit being one competitor's box/stable/caravan complex.

A roadway of 10m must be kept clear at all times between the rows of parked vehicles to enable the use of emergency services.

Electric fencing is allowed with several restrictions (see H and S). Matting is not required.

No tethering or loose-hobbling. See H and S in connection with tying of horses to lorry/trailer.

No paper bedding.

Competitors are responsible for ensuring all stable and domestic rubbish is removed and cleared up.

Failure to comply may result in suspension from future events.

Cars, motor cycles and ATVs may be used for access to obstacles at the discretion of the Event Organiser. It is strongly recommended that properly secured hard hats be worn at all times when using motor cycles, mopeds, ATVs. Riders of motor cycles and mopeds must be over 16 and ATVs over 17 and must have the appropriate licence and public liability insurance.

DRIVERS/GROOMS

All drivers and grooms must wear suitable, properly secured hard hats during the cones and marathon phases. These can be worn for dressage without penalty in presentation. Back/Body Protectors must be worn by all drivers and grooms/backsteppers during the marathon phase of an outdoor event and for the obstacle phase of an indoor or arena challenge event. All those aged under 18 must wear a body protector and securely fastened protective headgear at all times whilst on a carriage.

All grooms must wear approved tabard number bibs for the marathon, displaying the competitor number both front and back. Numbers may be attached to the carriage for dressage and cones provided they are clearly visible.

It is the responsibility of the Driver to ensure that their groom is fit and capable of rendering assistance at any time. Any official may at any time stop a competitor whose groom in their opinion appears unfit or incapable.

New drivers must be assessed in accordance with BC guidance before competing.

Young Drivers between the ages of 10 and 18 will be assessed by NEDTL (H and S Section)

Young Drivers of 12 and over must be accompanied by a competent adult 18 or over, with Young Drivers from aged 10 must be accompanied by a competent adult 21 or over.

See H and S section for details of competition requirements/eligibility for Young Drivers.

Grooms who have attained the age of 14 may compete on vehicles driven by adults with those grooms aged 12 and 13 being able to compete as dressage and cones grooms in a singles class driven by an adult 18 years or over.