



2026 Year Book



Nina Fitzgerald photo courtesy of Michael Cook

Our website is <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/> which has a lot of information and documents and there is a Contact Us form so you can send us any enquiries.



Our Facebook page is NEDTL chit-chat

Welcome to the 2026 Yearbook for the North Eastern Driving Trials Club.

Thank you for joining and supporting your club. This Yearbook is providing information to get you ready for the driving season of 2026. Good luck and we look forward to seeing you compete or support us by stewarding at events.

The Club is affiliated to British Carriagedriving (BC). The Club Administration and Events are generally in accordance with BC and it's Third Party Insurance. In the summer we have 6 two-day events in fantastic locations. Arena Challenge events at Manor Grange Arena located at Cridling Stubbs. In the winter the Club holds 10 Indoor events with ICD/Club Classes at Askham Bryan and Club events at Catterick Garrison. In addition there are training days for drivers and stewards and social activities.

All of the above could not happen without help from its wonderful team of volunteers who, organise, officiate, mark out and build the dressage, arenas, cones courses, set out the marathon course and build obstacles, score, stable manager and steward obstacles etc. Volunteers and stewards are always needed and made welcome. Our Volunteer co-ordinator is Christine Haddock and please contact her if you know of anyone who would be interested in helping out. A packed lunch and non-alcoholic drinks are provided out on the course and delicious tea and cakes at the end of the day.

We also have to thank the landowners for allowing us to use some of the most beautiful venues in carriage driving.

The Yearbook contains :

- A Calendar of NEDTL events for 2026 that we have planned for but we are looking at more training events
- Important information we want to bring to your attention.
- The general Rules and Health & Safety for the Club. Full British Carriage Driving rules are available online (BC will be launching a new website in Feb-March 2026 and a new rulebook)
- Information for new drivers
- NEDTL assessment policy

Your Committee 2026

Committee members are always helpful and if you have any questions or concerns then contact one of them but not after 9pm as they need their beauty sleep. Look out for them at events as well if you have any questions. If you do not know what they look like their photos are on the Club website.

President	Douglas Strachan	
Chairman	Alwin Harrison	07792 145591
Vice Chairman	Kim Usher	01325 730022
Secretary	Charmian Haigh	07791 837543
Treasurer	Mary Longbottom	07761 158194
Entries Secretary	Peter Carter	07769 706793
Pat Cooper	Assessment co-ordinator	07961 564348
Melody Jones		07967 041325
Angela Flanagan	Safeguarding Officer	07740 707729
John Wilkinson		07792 097997

Other officials are Christine Haddock as Volunteer Co-ordinator 07740 099933 and Penny Hartley as our Safety Officer at most events. Leslee Wilkinson is our indoor carriage driving liaison.

Driving Events 2026

Details of the events can be found on the NEDTL website on the Calendar page

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

Also see the BC website Calendar for more events.

2026 Dates	NEDTL Events	National Events (or other Club Events that NEDTL members may travel to)
11 th -13 th April		ICD - Indoor Championships at Arena UK Grantham
19th April	Escrick Drive - Escrick, York, YO19 6EA	
26 th April		Poachers Club - 1 day club event White House Farm, Eagle Moor, Lincoln LN6 9DP
2nd-3rd May	Feedale Farm - Ripon, N. Yorkshire HG4 5DG - 2 day Club event	
16 th – 17 th May		CEDTL -Home Farm, Backford, Chester– 1 day club event and training
21 st -24 th May		BC – Hopetoun, West Lothian - 3 day National Driving Trials
24 th May		Poachers Club - Whitehouse Farm, Eagle Moor – 1 day club event
30th-31st May	Nidd - Nidd Hall, Harrogate HG3 3BN - 2 day Club event	
30 th – 31 st May		BC - Windsor Park, Windsor, 2 day National Driving Trials and Club Event.
6 th -7 th June		CEDTL - Home Farm, Backford, Chester CH2 4DF
13th-14th June	Frickley Park - S. Yorkshire DN5 7BU - 2 day Club event	
20 th -21 st June		BC – Seacliff, North Berwick, Lothian - 2 day National Driving Trials
28 th June		Poachers Club - Winters Equestrian Cross Country, Thornton le Moor – 1 day club event
27 th -29 th June		BC & WPEC - Sandringham, Norfolk - 3 day National AND Club classes
4 th -5 th July		CEDTL - Pydew Farm, Near Prestatyn– 2 day club event
18th-19th July	Allerton Park - 2 day Club AND National Event	
26 th July		Poachers Club - Danethorpe Hill Farm, Collingham, Newark – 1 day club event
26 th an 27 th July		BC - Onley Polo Club, Warwickshire – 2 day National Driving Trials & Young Drivers' Championships
25 th - 26 th July		CEDTL - Plas Newydd, Pontblyddyn, CH7 4HY– 1 day training and 1 day driving trials
15th-16th August	Newby Hall - Ripon, Yorkshire HG4 5AE- 2 day Club event	
23 rd August		Poachers Club - Danethorpe Hill Farm, Collingham, Newark – 1 day club event
29 th -30 th August		CEDTL - Henbury Hall, Macclesfield - 2 day club event
		British Carriagedriving National Championships - Ashfields, Essex
19th-20th September	Escrick Park – Escrick, York, YO19 6EA – 2 day Club event	
20 th September		Poachers Club - Winters Equestrian Cross Country, Thornton le Moor – 1 day club event
26 th – 27 th September		CEDTL -Home Farm, Backford, Chester

Practice Days

The Club will be organising practice days as well where members can practice dressage, cones and obstacles under guidance of open drivers. A dressage arena will be set up, a cones course and an obstacle will be flagged. It will give drivers and back steppers a chance to practice in a safe non-competitive environment and receive advice on how to improve.

Escrick Drive at Escrick Park on Sunday 19th April

This drive out has been organised around Escrick Park to enable people to get their horses out for a lovely drive around the estate and test the fitness in preparation for the upcoming season, and it's open to all. There will be 2 or 3 obstacles flagged for participants to drive and stewards there to make sure help is on hand. You will be given a start time so that we do not have clashes on the course. Once you have completed your drive and cooled your horses/ponies down then you can leave as hard-core parking is limited. If we get more than 20 drivers booked the Park Estate will close the Rideway for horse riders, if there is less than 20 then the riders will be informed but may be on the tracks so please slow down as some ridden horses are scared of carriages. The Riders Retreat Café will be open for refreshments throughout the day.

Please use the online booking form to enter the drive. The cost is £40 with £10 going to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity. If you would like to donate more then just let us know and we can arrange this. The charity has just announced that Kathryn Marsden OBE is their new CEO. Kathryn competes with the Club and we congratulate her on this appointment.

Indoor Competitions

From October to March the Club runs indoor competitions. At Askham Bryan the classes are either Indoor Carriage Driving classes (ICD) or Club classes. At Catterick Saddle Club they are just Club classes.

There are three phases precision and paces (dressage), cones and obstacles.

Each phase is scored separately and the winner of each class is the person with the lowest combined score. For the ICD classes the driver to compete is competing in a league to be able to compete in the ICD championship at Arena UK, an exciting three-day event where the regional winners and qualifiers compete to win their classes and show the best they can do.

For more information see their website <https://www.indoordriving.co.uk/about.php>

The Club are fortunate that it always has a good representation at the Championship and in 2025 we had the following results.

Leslee Wilkinson	Open Horse Champion	Melody Jones	Novice Horse Champion
Steve Hoyle	Veteran Champion	Angela Smith	Pony Team Champion
Laura Wray	Open Small Pony Champion	John Wilkinson	2 nd Open Horse
Neat Sharrock	3 rd Intermediate Pony	Julie Lockey	4 th Veteran
George Wood	5 th Veteran	Laura Wray	5 th Small Pony Pair
Nina Fitzgerald	5 th Junior	Ruby Gray	6 th open Pony

We wish all our members good luck for the rest of the 2025-2026 season especially if they qualify for the championships on the 11th-13th April 2026

If you want to compete at the indoor competitions and in particular the ICD classes then contact Leslee Wilkinson with any questions you have or even to enter the competitions on 07891925870.

Club Classes for all NEDTL Events

Short Format Pony or Horse including pre-novice class

Novice Pony or horse

Intermediate Pony or Horse

Open/Advanced Pony or Horse

Open Pairs – Horse or pony

Tandem – Horse or pony

Teams – Horse or pony

VSE – selected events only (see website)

We reserve the right to split/amalgamate classes where we see fit.

- A driver can only compete in pre-novice for 2 years and then they will be promoted to Novice.
- The intermediate class is for drivers newly promoted from Novice.
- Any driver can step down a level and compete by going HC so their results do not count in the competition. This is useful if you are bringing on a young horse/pony.
- The short format is open to any driver and the classes are now being split Open and Novice. Intermediate drivers will compete in the Open class and drive the intermediate dressage test. Just select the dressage test of your level, i.e. novice, intermediate or open.

ENTRY FEES

The NEDTL entry fee for events has not increased but we have had to add on the BC start fee to entries.

British Carriagedriving levy a start fee for all events and for 2026 the fee has been slightly increased.

For the 2 day outdoor events it will be £8.30. For 1 day outdoor events & Gateway it will be £4.15.

For arena based 1 day events like Manor Grange or the Indoor competitions it will be £1.55.

So for the 2 day outdoor Club events the charge will be :

NEDTL members £90 + £8.30 start fee for the full weekend or £50 +£4.15 start fee for 1 day.

For non-members £105+£8.30 start fee for the full weekend or £60+£4.15 start fee for 1 day.

Entry fees payable by BACS to HSBC Bank Ac No: 61396129 Sort Code: 40:45:11 (reference Event+name) or by cheque payable to North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd and sent with your entry to Peter Carter.

You can use the Online Entry Form on the website <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/events/online-entry-for-outdoor-events/>

The form will automatically email Peter Carter and send you an email confirming what you have entered. If you do not receive an email then it has not worked. Make sure there are no error messages that you have missed as there are some compulsory fields you need to fill in. The form does tell you it has submitted successfully and clears all fields.

- If when entering online you enter incorrect information, then re-submit your entry and put a note in the special requests informing Peter what you have changed so it avoids confusion.
- Also remember to use the special requests to inform Peter of any sharing like carriages, backsteppers/grooms or even the horse.
- Or you can download the entry forms from the website and send it to Peter Carter by email (carterp258@gmail.com) or post (Mr Peter Carter, 42a Dotland Close, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1UF).
- Any entries after the closing date are at the discretion of the event organiser and subject to a surcharge of £20. The closing date is 15 days prior to the event start.

- Dressage will be driven in 80 x 40 arena and if sufficient Team entries it can be enlarged to 100 x 40 with the Event Organisers agreement. Dressage times will be emailed to all competitors.
- There are onsite facilities for stable waste but all household rubbish must be taken home with you.
- Onsite catering will be available where possible, details in the competitor information published following the closing date.
- Dogs must be on a lead at all times, clean up after them and all dog waste taken home, not on the muck heap or into the toilet.
- A Competitor letter will be emailed to all entries after the closing date. Make sure you read it as there will be some very useful information in it often about the route to the event e.g. at Nidd there is a low bridge and if you take the wrong route you will need to reverse or you will damage your roof (and reversing may not be your best skill). Check your spam/junk folder if you do not see it and contact Peter Carter if you do not receive it.
- The event/horsebox area is usually opened from 12noon on Friday until 6pm on Sunday, but check the Competitors letter in case it is changed. Competitors wishing to arrive before or leaving after these hours, MUST ask permission of the Event organiser and "if" permitted then do so at their own risk and are not covered by the competition insurance.

Allerton will be a 2 Day National Event as well as a Club Event

Allerton will be a National event that NEDTL will run in 2026. Club classes will run alongside the National Classes so do not worry there will be classes for everyone. Novice drivers if you want to enter a National you must have a completed Competency form (card) signed from events within the current or 2 previous seasons. Check the BC website for more information. If you are trying to get your competency form signed notify the Entries Secretary when you enter an event. Also ensure that your form gets given to the Event Secretary before the start of the event so that it gets signed. It cannot be signed after the event.

The entry fee for Club classes will be £90+£8.30 start fee but for National classes it will be £120+ £31 start fee, except if it's your first National it's zero start fee. Contact BC for further information and start fee vouchers as you get 3 free start fees for new national drivers.



Kathryn Marsden photo courtesy of Michael Ashby-Arnold

Events

Feedale Farm 2nd-3rd May 2026

Feedale Farm, Copt Hewick, Ripon HG4 5DG
What3Words ref: removable.musically.tones
By kind permission of Terry and Elaine Mason
Event Organiser Alwin Harrison
Entries Close : Friday 17th April

The event is held over hilly farmland on a mixture of field margins, tracks and grassland. Distance TBC.
Feedale may run with a controlled warm up in place of section A purely to endeavour to get a full Section B close to 5 km with 4-6 obstacles. It depends on the condition of the ground.

Short Format will only be 4 obstacles.

Please park where directed by the stable manager.

Directions - Feedale Farm is approximately 3.5 miles East of Ripon and is reached via Dishforth Road, which runs between the A1M and the A61.

Nidd Hall 30th-31st May 2026

Nidd Hall, Nidd, Harrogate, HG3 3BN
'What3Words' ref: dripped.nest.licks
By Kind Permission of Miss Hannah Blakey
Event Organiser: Melody Jones
Entries Close : Friday 15th May 2026

The event is held over gently undulating farmland. The marathon (distance tbc) has 2 sections plus transfer and Section A is over parkland, field margins, tracks (which can be very bumpy) and joins public roads for short sections. The 6 obstacles are within the undulating parkland on old turf. VSE 4km with 4 obstacles.

Please Note: Access to the event field is difficult for very large vehicles!

Directions - Leave the A1 at the junction with the A61 towards Ripon and Harrogate. At Ripley turn left at the first roundabout and at the second roundabout turn left onto the B6165 signed Knaresborough. Continue on to Nidd village – Do not turn into the main Nidd Hall drive!

Competitors are asked not to leave the site until after the marathon is finished as the exit is close to the end of the marathon.

Frickley Park 13th – 14th June 2026

Frickley Park, Frickley Hall, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN5 7BU
'What3Words' ref: digestion.slippery.circular
By Kind Permission of Charlie and Jayne Warde-Aldam
Event Organiser Pat Cooper
Entries close : 29th May 2026

The event is held over gently undulating terrain on a mixture of field margins, tracks and grassland. The marathon has 2 sections plus transfer, Section B has 6 obstacles, VSE 4 km and 4 obstacles. There is a water obstacle.

Directions – Try to approach the event from the A638 or A1 only. Unless you live locally it is strongly recommended that you approach from the A1 leaving it at the A638 exit. Head towards Hooton Pagnall. Proceed through Hooton Pagnall village and turn down the hill towards Clayton. The entrance to the estate is located on your right approximately 500 yards after leaving Hooton Pagnall. Proceed along the main drive.



David Critchley, Elaine Smith and Sophie Bean are fantastic stewards. Without stewards and volunteer support we would not be able to compete. So remember to say thank you.



Angela Smith photo by Michael Cook

Allerton 18th -19th July 2026 – Club Event and a 2 Day National

Allerton Park, Knaresborough, HG5 2SE
'What3words@ ref: vitamins.removable.obey
By kind permission of Lord and Lady Mowbray
Event Organiser Alwin Harrison
Entries close : 3rd July 2026

The event is held over gently undulating farmland on a mixture of field margins, tracks and grassland. Distance TBC, Section B has 6-7 obstacles plus transfer, including water. VSE 4km with 4 obstacles. There is the famous water obstacle onto an island to challenge you and we always have an obstacle in front of the beautiful house.

And it is likely that we will have the hogroast on the Saturday night so get ready to order your tickets from Pat Cooper when we advertise it (usually in early June).

Directions - From the A1 take the A59 turnoff to Harrogate/York and take the York exit on the roundabout. Immediately after the roundabout take the 1st left, at the T junction turn right.

The entrance is through the brown doors on the right as indicated by the NEDTL signs (not the entrance to Allerton castle).

Newby Hall 15th-16th August 2026

Newby Hall, Ripon HG4 5AJ 'What3words' Ref: skate.deed.scorching
By Kind Permission of Mr & Mrs R.C. Compton and Newby Hall Estates
Event Organisers James and Kim Usher
Entries close Friday 31st July 2026

The event is held over gently undulating terrain on a mixture of field margins, tracks and grassland. The marathon has 2 sections plus transfer, Section B has 6 obstacles, VSE 4 km and 4 obstacles. There is the "bomb hole" which is great to drive and lovely views of the house when driving your dressage and cones.

Directions - From the A1 take Junction 48 and follow the brown tourist signs to Newby Hall, postcode HG4 5AJ. The event field is towards the Hall, follow the club signs. The Estate has a one way system, exit is past the Hall, **do not turn right** from the stabling field to go through the farmyard unless directed by the Event Organiser.

Escrick Park 19th – 20th September 2026

Escrick Park estate, YO19 6EA 'What3words' Ref: ///revised.banquets.regime
By kind permission of Escrick Park Estates
Event Organiser Melody Jones
Entries close Friday 4th September

The event at Escrick Park is held over flat terrain, utilising a mixture of woodland tracks and grassland. The marathon has 2 sections plus transfer, Section B has 6 obstacles, VSE 4 km and 4 obstacles.

The winners of Escrick Park are awarded the Northern Championship trophies so if you want a chance of winning a cup to polish for year get your entries in.

Directions - The event is to be held at Escrick Park Estate on the A19 between York and Selby

From the A64 at York take the A19 to Selby, after 3½ miles pass through Escrick Village, the entrance to the park is ¾ mile on the left opposite the Stillingfleet turning.

As the entry is quite tight for large vehicles, it is suggested that HGVs continue beyond the entry and in ½ mile use the lay-by to turn round and approach the entry from the opposite direction (see below).

From Selby continue on the A19 towards York, when approaching Escrick village the entrance to the park is on the right opposite the Stillingfleet turning almost at the end of the dual carriageway.

Rosettes will be awarded

- Best dressage for Novice, Intermediate and Open, Pairs, Teams & Tandems.
- Best Marathon for short format, VSE, Novice, Intermediate, Open, Pairs, Teams & Tandems.
- Double clear rounds in the cones
- 1st to 4th place to drivers.

Club Championship

Throughout the outdoor season points will be awarded to NEDTL members for the drivers league. At the end of the year the winner is awarded a trophy and winner of that class, and put forward for possible promotion if the Committee think you are ready to step up to the next level.

Points awarded in the Club Drivers league will depend on the entries at that competition. i.e. so if there is 1 competitor in the class then 1 point will be awarded, but if there are 4 competitors the winner gets 4 points, the 2nd person 3 points, 3rd gets 2 points and 4th 1 point. If you are eliminated you get nowt!

If there are multiple drivers on the same score they share that result and the result moves the additional place. i.e. joint second no 3rd is awarded but a 4th will be.

A driver must complete 3 events in order to qualify for the Club Championship.

2025 Points Championship League Winners

Short Format Pony	Sara Ashby-Arnold Julie Lockey	Short Format Horse	Melody Jones
Novice Pony	Nina Fitzgerald	Novice Horse	Kathryn Marsden
Intermediate Pony	Shona Playfair	Intermediate Horse	Melody Jones
Open Pony	Sandra Ormerod Gary Brown Kim Usher	Open Horse	Neat Sharrock
Pairs	Margo Smith	Advanced Horse	Leslee Wilkinson
Teams and Tandems	Angela Smith John Wilkinson Pat Cooper	VSE	Laura Wray
Best Dressage	Leslee Wilkinson	Best Junior	Charlotte Hollingworth
Best Marathon	Sandra Ormerod		
Presidents Trophy	Mary Longbottom	Committee Trophy "Herbie" donated by Elizabeth Greensmith	Tommy Thomlinson



Kim Usher photo by James Marsden



Leslee Wilkinson photo by Melody Jones



Angela Flanagan photo by Melody Jones

Information (useful we hope)

1. Volunteers

As a competitor it is greatly appreciated if you are courteous and thank the volunteers, stewards and helpers on the course as without their help we could not hold the competition.

The event organiser also needs help building and knocking down events so if you have spare time please can you help. Contact Alwin Harrison or the Event Organiser of the event.

2. Dressage arenas

Where possible we will provide a dressage arena for people to practice in on the Friday of an event (weather and ground permitting). Please ask the Event Organiser or Secretary prior to using. Please be respectful and do not monopolise the arena as other competitors would like to have a go.

3. Dressage Tests for Newcomers

New competitors to the sport at outdoor and indoor events can have their dressage test read to them by their groom, the test movements only and not instructions on how to drive better (if only we all could).

4. Dressage Tests

Dressage tests are available from the NEDTL website and from the BC website.

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

5. National Events

Drivers who compete at National Events are included in a championship points table. If any NEDTL member compete could you please nominate NEDTL so your points count for the Club.

6. BC Rulebook

The BC Rule Book will be changed in 2026, we do not know when it will be released.

- From 2026 Body protectors minimum level 3 and not back protectors are to be worn on the marathon or obstacles for indoors.
- Hard hats to be worn at all times at competitions including exercising. (see the draft hat rules below). Your head is precious and accidents can happen so easily.
 - The hard hat must conform to the same hat standards of other British Equestrian Standards Member bodies.
 - No recording device is to be fitted to the hat.
 - Make sure your hat fits correctly. The hat should not move on your head especially if you tilt your head forward.
 - Hats should be replaced after a severe impact as subsequent protection may be compromised. Damage after an impact is not obvious and the shell could be cracked.
 - Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced every 3 to 5 years dependent on use.
 - The TD or Event Organiser may disqualify a competitor if they are driving on the competition field, even if just exercising, if they are not wearing a hat or their hat is not securely fastened, or their hat does not comply with the standards.

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
Snell E2016 & 2021 with the official Snell label and number	
PAS 015: 2011 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
(BS) EN 1384:2023 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark	
ASTM-F1163 2015 & 2023 with the SEI mark	
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 with SAI Global Mark	

British Carriagedriving strongly discourages purchasing second-hand riding hats or buying them from online retailers without a professional fitting in person.

Hat Checks and Tagging

British Carriagedriving and its Affiliated Clubs will appoint Officials, who are familiar with the British Carriagedriving hat rule, to carry out hat checks and tag each hat that complies with the requirements set out in the hat rule with British Carriagedriving hat tags. Hats fitted with a Pony Club, British Eventing (BE) British Riding Club (BRC) or BC hat tag will not need to be checked on subsequent occasions. However, British Carriagedriving reserves the right to randomly spot check any hat regardless of whether it is already tagged.

7. Safeguarding

North Eastern Driving Trials Ltd (NEDTL) are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for children, young people and adults at risk. The club has adopted the British Carriage Driving Safeguarding Policy which is under the umbrella of British Equestrian Federation Safeguarding Policy.

The club has a Safeguarding Officer who is Angela Flanagan. In addition any member of the committee can be approached with regard to safeguarding concerns, if you are worried about something or if you see something that doesn't look or feel right, then speak to someone appropriate – safeguarding is everyone's business.

Alternative support can be sought from British Carriage Driving direct, please see their webpage for safeguarding contact details.

8. Passport/Vaccination Checks

NEDTL will carry out spot checks of equine passports at events to ensure your horse has an up to date Equine Influenza vaccination. You cannot compete your horse/pony within 7 days of its booster vaccination. See the BC website for further rules about vaccination and do not get caught out as you may not be able to compete.

e.g. Horses and ponies not entered in the names shown on their passports will be allowed to continue to compete, but will be fined £20.00. NEDTL will only insist on this at Allerton if you enter a National Class. At Club events we will not enforce it but other Clubs could especially at a National event.

Remember when travelling with your equine you should have it's passport by law.

9. Club Coaches

We have the following people in the Club who are UKcc coaches and they are more than happy to help club members with any aspect of their driving. Their contact details can be found on the website.

Angela Flanagan

Kim Usher

Rosie Mould

10. Winter Training Events

We have a training on the 15th March at Catterick Saddle Club in their indoor arena with Kim Usher at £45 for 45mins, Contact Charmian Haigh to book a place.

Melody Jones is arranging some training at Thornton House Livery Yard near York. All lessons are 45min. Longer lesson time can be arranged if required.

14th February with Tara Wilkinson £75

28th February with Angela Flanagan £60

21st March- Tara £75

Contact Melody if you wish to join them.

11. Escrick Park as an exercise place

The Club no longer has exclusive use of the dressage arena area at Escrick Park and drivers must now book ahead through their website at a cost of £26.60 per day <https://www.escrick.com/things-to-do/rideways-bookings> .

They no longer offer NEDTL members a discount for an annual pass.

12. Catering at Events

“That’s How we Roll “ catering are booked for the outdoor events. Michael is a really nice guy and is very helpful so please support him so that he will keep coming to the events and feed us his lovely burgers and bacon rolls. And he is doing chips for 2026!



Laura Wray photo by Jenny Woodward



Melody Jones photo by Tony Mellor



Gary Brown

*Tony Mellor
Photographer*

NEDTL RULES, GUIDANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

GENERAL

NEDTL will 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. NEDTL do have a Health & Safety Policy and Manual. The full document is available from the Secretary at the Event or can be accessed on the website.

Risk Assessments

The Event Organiser in conjunction with the event Safety Officer will complete RAs and summarise these, noting significant/unusual aspects of the trial. This summary will be posted on the Event Board and every competitor should read this and take appropriate actions.

It is important to familiarize yourself with the 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, guidance and Safety points 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.

1) The Competition

1.1 The decision of the Technical Delegate/Judges is final. Objections must be made with a deposit of £10 to the Event Organiser or TD within 30mins of the scores being posted.

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

1.3 No Entry will be accepted unless we receive a completed entry form and payment in full by the closing date of the competition. **Anyone who has not paid their entry fee with their entry by the closing date and all late entries must pay a £20 surcharge. No refunds will be paid for withdrawals after 12noon on the Monday prior to the event.**

1.4 All drivers must be EITHER;

a) A fully paid up member of the NEDTL or any other Affiliated Driving Club *

b) A BC Full member * . From 2023 BC Associate Membership provides insurance cover for competing at events (thereby having 3rd party liability insurance to compete).

1.5 All competitors must report any accident which occurs at the event to the Event Organiser, Safety Officer or Event Secretary.

1.6 Parents/Guardians must give written consent for all young drivers/grooms to allow them to compete.

1.7 Only those drivers who have been assessed and entered into the competition may drive anywhere on the show field during/at an event.

2) The Event (also see the Health and Safety Guidance Document on the website as this is only a subset)

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/NEDTL-Health-and-safety-policy40125.pdf>

2.1 Horses must be fit enough to complete the marathon without showing signs of distress. Competitors driving distressed animals will be retired.

2.2 Never leave a horse harnessed to a carriage without a driver in control of the reins or a groom holding the bridle. Never tie up a horse whilst it is harnessed to a carriage. Never remove the reins or bridle of a horse whilst it is harnessed to a carriage.

2.3 There will be a safety check before dressage and at the start of the marathon for pre-novice, novice and short format drivers.

2.4 Entrants must report to the relevant stewards for dressage and marathon at least 10 minutes before the allotted time. Proceed directly from dressage to cones. Lateness for dressage may result in elimination. Lateness for the marathon will incur 0.25 penalties for every second over and possible elimination as you may not be allowed to be accommodated into the schedule.

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

2.6 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.

2.7 NEDTL allows the imposition of 20 penalty points for infringements of rules, including those in respect of taking motor vehicles where it is not allowed and dogs on leads. The penalty will be applied after an initial verbal warning has been given.



2.8 All dogs must be kept on leads at all times and pick up their poo and do not put it in the muck heap. Dogs are not allowed to walk the dressage arena or cones course to prevent weeing on the boards, markers or cones. Remember someone has to handle them later. They are permitted to walk the obstacles but any mess must be picked up

2.9 Children (except junior competitors aged 10 and over) are not allowed on carriages at any time during any event. Children must be under appropriate supervision at all times. NEDTL follows the guidance of BC with respect to the Safeguarding Legislation.

2.10 Speed limit of 10mph for motorised vehicles must be observed.

2.11 Always proceed at WALK with your horse/pony in the stable area and in crowded areas, and along the roadway at Escrick Park. Please be considerate to horse riders as some horses are scared of carriages.

3 PARKING AND STABLING

3.1 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.

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

3.3 A roadway of 10m must be kept clear at all times between the rows of parked vehicles to enable the use of emergency services. Just in-case the bacon sets a fire and the fire engine as to be called!

3.4 Electric fencing is allowed with several restrictions. Matting is not required. Maximum area to be length of truck/trailer; depth from side of truck/trailer to be 4 metres (per animal). Fencing must be energised and have proper signage to advise that it is live. And ensure it does not constitute a trip hazard in the dark (we don't want anyone to get an electric shock as they stumble to the toilet in the night).

3.5 No tethering or loose-hobbling. Open-railed corralled fencing is not allowed. Should a horse have a history of breaking its halter rope it will not be accepted for future events unless an alternative method of “stabling” is provided.

3.6 No paper bedding.

3.7 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.

3.8 Cars, motor cycles and ATVs may be used for access to obstacles at the **discretion of the Event Organiser** it may not be feasible at all events. It is strongly recommended that properly secured hard hats be worn at all times when using motor cycles, mopeds, ATVs. ATVs and motorbikes must only carry the number of people for which they are designed for and must not be ridden by children. NEDTL Safety Policy Statement must be followed. Any ATV or motorbike driven on a public highway at an event must be road legal and any person driving an ATV or motorbike on a public highway must have the benefit of adequate and valid third-party liability insurance

3.9 Riders of motorcycles and mopeds must be over 16 and ATVs over 17 and must have the appropriate licence and public liability insurance.

4. DRIVERS/GROOMS

4.1 All drivers and grooms must wear suitable, properly secured safety hats during all phases of the competition and when exercising your horse (see previous rules update). Safety hats are also compulsory when riding. 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 Drivers must inspect the obstacles for unmarked elements such as roots, tree stumps, ruts, boulders, etc and then determine their safest route compatible with their anticipated speed. If any holes or potential hazards are seen whilst walking please highlight to the Event Organiser, Safety Officers or Event Secretary.

4.5 New drivers including Young drivers must be assessed in accordance with BC guidance before competing. Young Drivers between the ages of 8 and 18 will be assessed in accordance with the BC Affiliated Club Paperwork. They will be assessed alongside the competent experienced adult, who will be accompanying the driver, and must be driving the pony that they will be competing with for their first 3 events. For H&S reasons the whole turnout is assessed. If the pony is changed then permission to compete must be requested to determine if reassessment is needed.

4.6 Pre-Novice /New Drivers

NEDTL allow pre-novice/new drivers in their first season of competition, who are unable to extend their axles to 138cm, to drive the cones course with an axle width of 125cm provided that you inform the Entry Secretary at the time of entry. So submit it in the special requests on your entry form. A penalty will be added to your cones phase. Also if your carriage does not have a dickie seat your groom can stand for

dressage and cones as long as they do not move.

4.6 Young drivers 8-10 can drive at indoor events with double reins and must be with a competent adult over 21 years.

4.7 Young drivers who have attained their 10th birthday by the date of the event may compete in 2 day outdoor events as long as they have completed at least 3 indoor events, without elimination, with the pony that they will be competing with at the outdoor events. Any change of animal must be notified to the Assessment Officer.

Grooms on vehicles driven by an adult must be 14 years of age for the marathon and 12 years of age for dressage and cones.

Class – Outdoor Minimum age at National Events	Athlete	Body protector	Groom	Body protector
Horse Fours / Horse Pairs / Horse Tandems	18 years		14 years	Yes - all phases
Horse pairs	16-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	Marathon
Horse single and all Pony class	18 years		14 years	Yes - all phases
Horse single and all Pony class	14-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	Marathon
Single pony	12-14 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	Marathon
Gateway & VSE – all classes	10 – 12 years	Yes - all phases	21 years	Marathon
Gateway & VSE – all classes - multiples	12-13 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	Marathon
INDOOR Carriage driving				
Single pony	8-12 years	Yes - all phase	21 years	Marathon
Single pony	12-17 years	Yes - all phases	18 years	Marathon

Age in the NEDTL is considered by their birthday unlike the calendar year which is adopted by BC.

5. Carriages

5.1 Pneumatic tyres are allowed on a 2 wheeled vehicle driven by an introductory (new) driver in their first 12 months of competing. Modern 4 wheeled carriages with pneumatic tyres are allowed in competitions.

5.2 Lamps are not required

5.3 All horses and ponies must be 4 years old or over for dressage and cones, and 5 years or older for the marathon phase.

6. Dressage

Presentation in dressage is judged on the move for all classes. Novice drivers to have safety check 20 minutes prior to their dressage time.

7. Marathon

NEDTL run two sections (A and B) to the full marathon plus the transfer. There is always a technical briefing on the Saturday night at events where the marathon is explained and you can ask questions. Make sure you attend to benefit you and horse/pony.

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. VSE also do a 4km marathon and 4 obstacles.

8. 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 may then be subject to a penalty of 20 points.



9. Air Ambulance

Should an Air Ambulance be required, the TD will instruct the competition to STOP IMMEDIATELY and a horn is pressed to announce to everyone. Only the TD will determine when it can be resumed. All walking competitors/grooms must return to their animals in the stable area immediately. Those in carriages are strongly recommended to uncouple immediately and lead their animals to a safer location. See Form 3 Appendix A (on the notice board) for more details.



Sandra Ormerod photo by Tony Mellor

NEDTL Assessment Policy (last updated 2021)

All new driving members must either provide evidence of previous experience or be assessed if new to horsediving trials.

Procedure:

1. New members are identified by the Membership Secretary who informs the Assessment Co-ordinator (Pat Cooper)
2. The AC will arrange for drivers without experience to be assessed under the procedures outlined above.
3. For drivers with previous experience the AC will verify their experience with the appropriate club if not already known.

Assessment Procedure:

This should meet the following criteria:

- The Assessor must be an appropriate person as listed **and not involved in training or assisting the person to be assessed.**
- The assessment should be at a suitable outdoor venue, **not** an indoor or outdoor competition venue.
- The BC guidance notes must be followed and a form completed and signed.
- The following may carry out assessment: A National Driven Dressage Judge, a National Open Class competitor with at least three years' experience, a Level 2 or 3 UKcc approved coach and the President of the Jury.
- When the assessment is completed, the Membership Secretary should be informed so that the data-base can be up-dated.
- The AC should then retain one copy of the completed form and the original be sent to the Secretary for filing.
- **New and Junior drivers must complete a minimum of 3 events with the horse/pony they were assessed with before they can change their equine partner. Discuss with the AC if you are not clear. We just want to make sure you are safe.**

Drivers wishing to progress from single to pair:

- Must inform the AC who will arrange for a verification check to be made by an experienced multiple driver prior to their first competition.

Drivers wishing to progress to tandem or team:

- Must contact the AC.

Tips on Event Etiquette for New Drivers

We want everyone to enjoy the outdoor events and for new competitors it can be daunting with so many rules and regulations, many of which seem 'unwritten'. We do have a document on the website for new drivers <https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Introduction-to-NEDTL-for-New-Drivers.pdf>

So here is a quick guide to point you in the right direction.

Remember the BC rule books are online. There are 2 rulebooks at the moment (hopefully this will change for 2026), The Competitors and the Technical. It's recommended to read both to make sure you have an idea of what you need to do and what you will be penalised for at competitions or eliminated (which happens to all of us as we make mistakes and learn from them).

Most Club Open drivers are helpful and will answer questions or give you advice. If as a new or novice driver you feel that you would benefit from having a more experienced mentor please contact a member of the committee who will arrange this for you. This will be a nominated experience and friendly open driver you can call on for assistance and advice when required. Any of your committee members will also be happy to be approached to help deal with any questions you may have.

Presentation Tips

Presentation during dressage is judged on the move for all classes. However if you would like some guidance as to how to best gain a good mark in this phase the NEDTL have a document on the website which will point you in the right direction. [NEDTL Guide to dressage presentation](#)

e.g. The driver and groom must wear brown gloves during dressage and cones (if not wearing any you will get penalties). A hairnet should be worn to keep your hair tidy. The driver needs to wear an apron. And smart wet weather gear can be worn when it's raining.

During the 60 minute period immediately prior to each driver's scheduled start time for each competition phase only the driver may drive the turnout. Contravention of this rule will result in Elimination.

Walking the Courses and Warming up

You should walk all courses from the dressage, cones and obstacles so you are clear on what you are driving. Please do not walk the dressage and cones with your dog. Secure them safely outside of the area. And please clean up after them.

There should be obstacle diagrams on the notice board which will help you determine the direction of how to drive the obstacles flags. Ask for assistance if you are not sure.

Grooms cannot walk the dressage course. During the dressage normally the groom cannot speak (at NEDTL we are allowing grooms to read the dressage test for any driver at any level, at other Clubs and Nationals they only allow new drivers to have their test read).

Leave yourself enough time to warm up before the dressage and present yourself 10 minutes before each phase. When warming up be mindful of other drivers passing right hand side to right hand side. And try not to warm up close to the dressage arena when someone is doing their test.

Remember to salute the dressage judges at the end of your test.

When you have completed your dressage test go directly to the Cones course. Some Cones judges like to be saluted so be prepared to do so. A bell or whistle will inform you when to start your round.

In the cones the groom can speak and say the cone number, the direction of the course to the driver, but they cannot point or move.

If any part of an obstacle in advance of the one being driven is dislodged or knocked down, or if you go wrong, the cones judge will ring the bell/whistle and stop the clock for the obstacle to be re-built. The whistle or bell will be rung to indicate to the driver that the course is ready and the clock will re-start when the driver reaches the next obstacle on course to continue their round.

In the marathon :

- a) if you go through the wrong gate you can correct your course by then going through the correct gate and resuming the correct order of gates. You will be penalised but not eliminated, which would happen if you did not correct your course.
- b) If your groom gets off your carriage in the obstacles you will get 5 penalties for each occasion.
- c) Assistance by the groom whereby a horse is led through an obstacle by the bridle ends of the reins while harnessed to the carriage in either marathon or cones will incur 25 penalties for the assistance in addition to the penalties for dismounting.



Neat Sharrock photo by Steve Hitchin



Margo Smith photo by Tony Mellor



John Wilkinson photo by James Marsden



Charlotte Hollingworth photo by Tony Mellor



Shona Playfair photo by Melody Jones



Pat Cooper photo by Melody Jones



Julie Lockey photo by Michael Cook

Thank you to everyone who has allowed us to use their photos for the Yearbook.

And please keep posting them onto our Facebook page and granting us permission to use them on our website.

Thank you to all our members and supporters

With your participation and support over the years we gained sufficient funds to buy a new equipment trailer for the Club. We have a lot of equipment for outdoor events and the old trailer was about 30years old and was getting very unstable.

Now we have a lovely bigger trailer with enough room to carry all of our equipment. Here are some photos of it in pristine condition. (It's too clean to be used!).

It is a big thank you to Alwin Harrison for fitting out the new trailer with all the racking and moving the equipment over. Alwin even cut the hole and fitted the front door.



