

# INDOOR NEWS

Indoor Horse Driving Trials UK - Indoor Carriage Driving Co. Ltd

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Have you had fun? Not got too wet and cold? Enjoyed the Winter season?  
Looking forward to the sweet smell of spring and the long warm evenings of Summer, and a exciting Summer season outdoors, Bar-B-Q's and wine?

Before all that we have the NATIONAL FINALS at Keysoe on 3 – 4 April. Who has qualified? It has been a close run contest in some regions. Starting in the South East – the Indoor home region we have seen some needle matches going on. Talking about needle matches - did you see Grudge Match on tele? Katie Hughes and Trevor Kimber (both from SE region) having a battle royal at Merristwood. Both trying to win only to get beaten by Sarah Jane Cook. Good exposure for the sport. Back to the South East – last years Junior Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion, Phillipa Howe has thrown down the gauntlet in the Open Pony Class, having won ALL the events in the region! Open Pony competitors you have been warned..... Another Junior, Ben Edmed has qualified along with Sandy Punyer for the Novice pony class, neither can be caught with only one competition to go. Tina Graham driving one of Dick Carey's ponies looks all set to represent the juniors, getting higher up the placings at every event. Seasoned outdoor competitor, Joanna Beazley – Richards in her first season indoors cannot be caught in the Open Horse. There is a very close call in the Pairs class with Barry Marshall and his great pair of Shetlands and Trevor Kimber with his Welsh pair running neck to neck, it could well be a draw at the last event!

Going South – Junior Sarah Grose cannot be caught in the Novice Pony but it is wide open for the second Novice Pony to qualify with just one more event to go. Just 3 points separate the Open Pony class, either Jo Percival or Claire Hichisson will qualify Jackie Ellis and Bev Huntington are battling out the Open Horse, Averina Snow and Malcolm Ladell are in the same state in the Novice Horse. Sarah Jane Cook cannot be caught in the Multiples. The last event on March 14 will decide who qualifies in the South.

Over a bit to Wessex. Cathy Willis, Rachel Hayes and Sue Martin are fighting out the Novice Pony, just 1 point in it, but with 2 more events it could go anywhere. Claire Hichisson is ahead of Judi Ralls in the Open Pony, but this could change. Bev Huntington, Jackie Ellis and David Matthews Snr are fighting out the Open Horse. Jo Sore looks in a good position for the Multiples. The region is wide open with still more events to come, so who will represent the Wessex region at the Finals. Go along and watch the events at Sparsholt College on 14 – 27 March to find out.



*Lizzie Ball – Christmas Naff Fairies*

Over to the South West. Janet Macdonald is well away for the Open Pony as is Roger Warren, Open Horse. Novice Horse has a battle going on, Kate Fincham-Powell and Junior Rachel Ball have only 2 points separating them. Jacqui Pillinger is way ahead in the Multiples. Novice Ponies, Maggie Saunders and Kate Adams are just 4 points apart and un-catchable so both will qualify. One more event left here on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Hand EC to settle the qualifiers.

Down a bit more to Devon and Cornwall. Maxine Philips is well in the lead in the Open Pony, the Horse classes could go anywhere in the last event on 14<sup>th</sup> March at Coombe Park, Roger Warren is way ahead of Helen Cobbold, but Roger has qualified in the South West, Novice Horse driver Helen Fincham –Powell has a second bite of the cherry being well ahead of other competitors in this class. Junior and Novice Pony driver, Roseanne Walter-Simmons is un-catchable, so has qualified. Nell Beale and Jill Etherington are battling out the second novice pony qualification place with 3 points separating them. Ann Briggs looks set to take the Multiples

Up to Midlands West. Joan Smith and William Fisher are just a point apart in Novice Pony, while Dave Bowman and Karen Harvey are very close in Open Pony. Open Horse Paul Chambers is uncatchable. Fay Taylor is well away in Multiples class.

Up further to the North West. Julie Tomasik is 8 points ahead of Dawn Firbank in Open Pony. Amy Broom a good 10 points ahead of Ruth Lancaster in Novice Pony, looks as if both will qualify. Pam Neil qualifies as Open Horse and Margaret Minshall Novice Horse. Sarah Clough is away with the Pair class as is Lesley Cox with the Tandem class. One more event on 14 March in this region.

Even further up to Scotland. Three more events in Scotland makes it difficult to predict who will qualify, at the moment Audrey Barron and Ollie Dearnie are going well in Open Pony. Sam Weir and junior Hazel Caruthers are fighting out the Novice Pony with equal points. Ian Bertram and Eileen Cornish are equal in Open Horse, Jim Johnstone is just 2 points ahead of Helen Rae in Novice Horse, while Amanda Saville has a good lead in the Multiples.

Down country to the North East. Jackie Herd and Liz Greensmith are head to head in Open Pony, Alan Beverley looks to be well away in Open Pony, Karen Bassett is chasing Angela Flanagan in Open Horse. The Nuttall's are taking charge of the Multiples with Dave leading at the moment with his Tandem but wife, Stephanie and her pair very close behind.

It is hotting up in Midlands East. Dave Bowman is well in the lead for Open Pony, Novice Pony sees Brian Nicholls and Junior Claire Varley on equal points. Mike Marsden and Chris van Reen are battling the Open Horse class, Novice Barbara McLaughian looks to be away from Helen Ballard. Chris Pay and Sally Mawer are equal in multiples.

Back down to the home counties and East Anglia, to find once again that Fiona Powell is well in command of the Open Pony having won every event, Jill Wood is trying hard for a catch up. Nina Snow and Leonie Marshall are fighting out the Novice Pony. Open Horse sees Heather Logsdon ahead after five events in this region and Gary Snow leading the Novice Horse. Boyd Coote is un-catchable in the Multiples class.

There are still events going on up and down the country, battles still to be lost or won. There is one thing for sure, with the calibre of indoor drivers coming through to the National Finals, a strong Juniors class plus the defending Champions, the 2003 – 2004 Finals will be hotly contested for the crown of Indoor Horse Driving Trials.

Hope every one has enjoyed this Winter season.

See you at the National Finals - The College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe, Bedfordshire, April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

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