

# BDS Wales Welsh Trec Championships

## Rules:

1. No equine under the age of four may participate in this competition.
2. Anyone wishing to compete who is under the age of 18 and over the age of 10 may do so provided that they are accompanied by a competent adult (over 18 years of age) at all times when driving.
3. Any turnout wishing to participate in this competition must have a competent groom throughout.
4. Grooms must be capable of assisting the driver to put to and be competent to assist in the skills section.
5. When seated in the vehicle the feet of the groom and the whip must be touching the floor of the carriage to ensure a safe seat. It is permissible to use a box or foot rest to enable this providing it is seated in a fixed position.
6. Any turnout that requires four rein handling must have two grooms at all times.
7. Disabled drivers are welcome to compete provided they are accompanied by an experienced/competent groom and able bodied whip if needed.
8. All competitors (whips only) must be fully paid up members of the BDS. Members may be asked to produce their membership card when booking in.
9. Horses are classed as 14hh and over, ponies as below 14hh and small ponies as 11hh and under.
10. All aspects of the turnout to be used must be deemed safe by the presentation judge and the judge can refuse entry to the competitor if any part is considered unfit for use.
11. If at any time, a turnout is deemed to be a danger to either themselves or other turnouts, they will be asked to retire by the event organiser.
12. Any complaints, if not dealt with satisfactorily on the day, should be directed to the BDS Wales Chairperson within 24 hours of the start time and be accompanied by a £20 returnable fee if the complaint is upheld.
13. Each section of the competition is scored separately and the marks amalgamated. Pre set marking schemes authorised by BDS Wales will be used for this. The winner is the person who scores the most overall and incurs the least amount of penalties.
14. There is no restriction as to what type of vehicle is used as long as it is fit for purpose.
15. There must be breeching on the equine(s), if the vehicle used does not have brakes.

## Competition Phases

### Presentation

This is when the judge will watch the competitor harness up their equine and put to using their groom (if singles/pair turnout) or grooms if a multiples (pair/tandem/team) turnout. Passengers are allowed, but may only get onto the vehicle after the turnout has put to safely and the judge has finished marking. This will occur in a designated area nominated by the organiser.

## **Marathon**

This section involves the turnout going out on a drive using a map for directions. This drive will vary in length and is judged based on the speed that your equine is travelling. The competitor is expected to judge at what speed they are travelling so that they cover the set mileage in the appropriate time. Time allowances are made based upon the height of your equine and split into horse, pony and small pony sections. Penalties are incurred by either travelling too slow or too fast. Penalties will also be incurred by trotting in the walk section if this is included. The turnout should report to the marathon judge to record their start time and finish time upon return. **Anyone found using a navigation system other than their own map reading skills or those of their groom/passenger will incur 100 penalty points.**

## **Cones**

This section involves the competitor negotiating a course of cones with accuracy. Each cone has a ball balanced upon it which if dislodged will incur the competitor a points penalty of 5. The course is expected to be completed at a trot. Each break in pace from a trot will incur the competitor a points penalty of one. The distance between each pair of cones should be set at 15cms wider than the widest part of the track width of the vehicle being used. For four wheelers this is usually the back axle width.

## **Skills**

This section, as the name implies, tests the skill of the turnout. Whip, equine and groom are all tested by various tasks of graded ability. Points are allocated based on completion of the task, willingness and obedience of the equine and completion within a reasonable time. There are a maximum of eight skills that will be tested and the choice of these is left to the discretion of the organiser. These tasks should emulate real life situations and skills which would be of benefit to the turnout to complete. Each skill should test the ability of the driver first and foremost with the assistance or involvement of the groom and the obedience of the equine.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

All sections have pre-set marking schemes to ensure standard marking and fairness throughout the competition.

Competitors should note that due to the closeness of the driving fraternity, it is impossible to 'employ' judges that do not know any of the competitors thereby ensuring no bias. However the marking schemes that are in place do not allow a personal opinion to colour the scores, and the stewards/judges that are appointed by event organisers are chosen with this in mind.