



FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Para Equestrian Driving World Championships take place every two years and plans are now taking place for future Championships.

In 2009 the first FEI International Event for Para-Equestrian Drivers was held in France at Les Ateliers du Val de Selle, Conty and ran alongside the FEI International Heavy Horse Championships. It proved to be a great success and France is now looking to host further International events.

The 2010 World Championships have been allocated to the Netherlands where the prestigious event will be in the capable hands of the international equestrian event Breda Hippique at the Prinsenhoeve Estate in Breda and will run from 2 to 5 September 2010. The Championships will not only be an opportunity to see the best World Class Para drivers compete against each other but will also provide nations world wide with a real showcase of Para Driving. All International Para drivers will be working hard to encourage more nations to participate in the sport.

WHAT DOES THE CHAMPIONSHIP CONSIST OF?

Each phase of driving trials tests the skill and nerve of the driver and the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horse, but above all it tests the bond of complete trust between them both.

Dressage involves performing a sequence of compulsory figures within a 100 x 40 metres rectangle. Movements include speed and gait transitions, circles of different sizes and halts. The smoothness of the manoeuvres, the obedience of the horses,



The Marathon, a truly spectacular trial, is a course over a maximum of 15 km, including natural hazards such as sharp turns and water as well as artificial obstacles such as labyrinths. It is aimed to test the fitness and stamina of the horses and the judgement of pace and horse control by the driver.

The Obstacle Driving or "Cones", tests the fitness and suppleness of the horses after the Marathon. To successfully negotiate the cones course, drivers must weave cleanly through a narrow track outlined by cones with balls balanced on top.



For further details please contact:



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WHAT IS PARA-EQUESTRIAN SPORT?

Para-Equestrian sport in both Dressage and Driving has been steadily developing for the past 25 years and is available and practiced by equestrians with a wide variety of disabilities. Para-Equestrian Dressage has been a regular fixture at the Paralympic Games since 1996 and although a relatively new sport Para Equestrian Driving has held six World Championships and there are now 10-15 countries widely practising the sport. Even though this number is not yet enough for the sport to be included at the Paralympics it is hoped that it will not be too long before many more countries are entering their disabled drivers in both national and international competitions enabling it to be a sport held at the Paralympics.

WHAT IS CLASSIFICATION?



In the vein of creating opportunities for all people with disabilities to compete and achieve their goals in equestrian sport, athletes are classified according to the level of their disability/impairment so as to provide for meaningful competition. Riders are divided into five grades whilst drivers are separated into two grades. All countries putting forward a team have to include at least one member who is a Grade 1. (Grade 1 being the more severe disabilities) When competing internationally each team has to include one member who is a grade 1. Drivers are profiled according to the limbs that work and are used whilst driving. Thus depending on their profile they are graded 1 or 2.

THE SPORT OF CARRIAGE DRIVING

Since the introduction of driving trials into Great Britain in 1969, combined driving has grown rapidly in popularity. It is a sport that has “No Limits”, catering for everyone at all levels. Many able-bodied and disabled people receive a tremendous amount of enjoyment from their contact with horses and ponies and now the sport of driving trials have become an increasingly popular sport for people challenged by disability with competition between all abilities on a level playing field. As seen in national competition the number of drivers with disabilities is on the increase. Not only does driving trials encourage equal competition it also provides a great adrenaline rush.



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