

Para Equestrian Team GBR prepares for Breda

14 August 2010

The Para Equestrian World Championship Team GB is now in its final throes of planning and preparation for the World Championships in Breda in September.

The team was selected during July and all members took part recently in their final training session at Ashfields Carriage Driving and Polo Club, by kind permission of Terry Chambers and with great support, as always, from Wilf and Zoe.

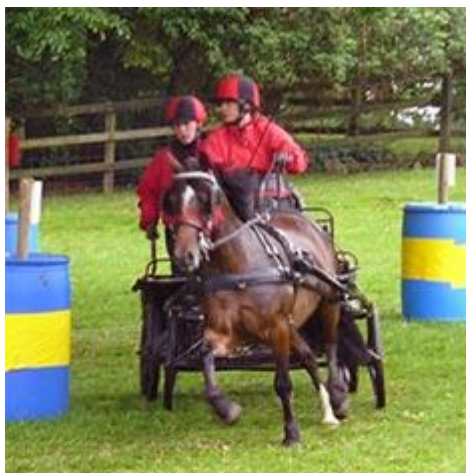
At this training, each horse had to pass the trot up and vetting carried out by Blaircourt Veterinary Clinic, as well as the drivers and their turnouts taking part in a full two day training session incorporating dressage, obstacle training and cones, plus physio sessions and classroom discussions.

Thanks to all who made this enjoyable two days possible including Wilf and Zoe, Lyn Winder, Chris Van Reen and Sue Richards as well as each team member's army of helpers.

This year has been a tricky selection year, to say the least, with many twists and turns en route. The generosity of people who have offered horses, ponies and help is always humbling and big thanks go in particular to Gary Brown, Chris Goodliffe and Margaret Brockie.

Team GB Squad: (clockwise from top left)

- Debs Daniel, driving Maesbrithdir Sparkling Jewel (pony) owned by Margaret Brockie
- Heather Clark, driving her own Barney II (pony)
- Lindsey Tyas driving her own London Flash Jack (horse)
- Margaret Lupton, driving Keelan (horse) owned by Christine Goodliffe



The Crew On-site, working away behind the scenes this year, will be:

- Jill Holah - Chef d'Equipe
- Chris van Reen - Assistant Chef d'Equipe
- Lyn Winder - Coach
- Sue Richards - Equine and Human Physio.

Jill Holah has taken over from Rachel Belliere-Wilson as Chef d'Equipe at short notice. Rachel has done a huge amount of work on organising the team already, but will now be spending some time at home, awaiting a new addition to her family.

The World Championship

This year, the event will take place in Breda, Holland, 1 – 5 September and is held alongside a CAI-O international horse/pony teams competition, where two of our own British drivers will also be competing (Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Pippa Bassett).

The Competition

Much the same as any World Championship, the event runs across 4 days of competition. The outline schedule for the Para Equestrian World Championship is:

- Tuesday 31 August: Stables open
- Wednesday 1 September: Vetting
- Thursday 2 September: Opening ceremony, Dressage competition, Nations evening
- Saturday 4 September: Marathon competition
- Sunday 5 September: Obstacle competition and Closing ceremony

Funding

The team is self funded. This year drivers have received generous support from a number of organisations including:

- Chester Horse Driving Trials Group
- East Anglian Carriage Driving Group
- British Gas
- Ride Alert
- Miff Hall Fund
- Curries European Heathhall.

Should you be interested in assisting with the fund raising effort, please get in touch with the CDSGdd secretary Lindsey Tyas by email on Tyas5@aol.com or with our treasurer, Terry Kirby on terry1.kirby@virgin.net

Our thanks also go to Terry who keeps us all numerically in order and who unfortunately this year will not be part of our team in Breda.