

# **2016 RDA NSW CARRIAGE DRIVING COMPETITION**

This competition is aimed at involving as many RDA NSW Drivers as possible across the state. Competitors are able to complete the events at their own centres when it is convenient to do so, before results are forwarded to the Event Convenor and awards are made and ribbons distributed.

Several Centres have taken part in the competition over the years – including Young, Raymond Terrace/Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter, Manning/Great Lakes and Tall Timbers, with between 16 - 30 drivers competing each year. **It would be really good to see all Centres which have carriage driving taking part this year.**

**WHEN:** To be completed and results sent to Event Convenor by **December 5, 2016**

***TIP:** Best to start doing these activities immediately. Leaving them till 'later' often results in 'no time left' to do them*

**WHERE:** All competition may be conducted **at the Centre venue** or at suitable grounds selected by the Centre Committee. The usual RDA NSW regulations apply if using a different venue. Competitors will not be required to travel to a central venue.

**HOW:** Dressage tests are to be video taped with the DVDs sent to the Event Convenor (who will pass them on to a driven dressage judge for marking). Other classes will need to be timed and judged accurately and the results sent to the Event Convenor on the Result Sheets provided. Photographs are to be hard copies and need to be forwarded to the Event Convenor who will pass them on to an outside judge.

**CLASSES** Plenty to choose from – **Do all the events if possible, or just do the classes which are best suited to your Drivers and Centre resources.**

1. Photo Class - 'best on parade'. Competitors should be dressed as if for a show driving event. This is judged on a single photograph of the whole turnout taken at the halt.
2. Photo class – 'carriage driving in action' – photograph of a driver at the walk or trot in a typical driving session during the year
3. Preliminary Square Bending Race – for drivers who may require rein assistance from the Whip **Note: new course**
4. Open Square Bending Race **Note: new course**
5. Preliminary Precision Cones Course – for drivers who may require rein assistance from the Whip
6. Open Precision Cones Course
7. Preliminary Cones Course - for drivers who may require rein assistance from the Whip
8. Open Cones Course
9. Preliminary Dressage Test (ACDS AA) for drivers who may require rein assistance from the Whip.
10. Open Dressage Test (ACDS CC)

**AWARDS:** Ribbons awarded to sixth place in each event. Participation ribbons also to be awarded to drivers who finish out of the placings.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$3 per class

## **REGULATIONS**

### General

- At all times an accredited RDA NSW CD Whip, with a second set of reins, must be in the carriage. These reins should appear a little slack.
- The driver's reins may be attached to the headstall or the bit.
- The driver must have current registration with an RDA NSW Centre.
- The CD Whip, horse, harness and carriage must be currently RDA NSW accredited.
- Approved safety helmets must be worn by both driver and CD Whip.
- A whip must be held by either the driver or the CD Whip whilst in the carriage
- Judged using ACDS rules, with RDA NSW variations
- CD Whip may give voice instructions or point out the course to the driver

### Dressage

- CD Whip assisting with reins in Open classes – 2 penalties each time.
- Knee rug or aprons should be worn
- Salute according to driver's ability.

### Cones

- Fastest clear round wins
- To be done at trot or walk only
- 3 sec penalty for each ball knocked down (includes gates which have already been completed and are accidentally knocked later)
- CD Whip assisting with reins in Open class – 10 sec penalty

## Bending Race

- To be done at trot or walk only
- Fastest correctly completed ( with no faults) course wins
- CD Whip assisting with reins in Open class – 10 sec penalty

## HOW TO RUN THIS COMPETITION

1. **Dressage:** Centres will need to organise for a competent person to video tape/dvd the dressage tests, from the position of the judge at C. Some practice sessions at doing this are recommended. Purchase of video tapes/dvds will be the responsibility of the Centres. They will be returned after judging.

### **Some points to remember when videoing, as advised by previous judges:**

- Have corners (particularly the two furthest from the camera) clearly marked so they can be picked up by the camera, eg with white drums or corner boards/fences
- Letter markers also need to be clearly visible, even if the letters on them are not so clear. Uprturned plastic kitchen tidies without their lids make good letter markers. X and G should be marked with sawdust or lime. A mown strip down the centreline is helpful.
- Video needs to be done from behind letter C and back a little way. It is best if from some height eg standing on a truck and with C visible in front of camera when the centerline is being driven.
- The video operator should read the dressage test and what the judge is looking for, beforehand, and try to home in on these aspects whilst filming.
- Drivers must be identified before they start their tests eg voice on video says 'This is John Smith'. Alternatively drivers can wear body numbers which are noted on the entry form.
- Make sure the video sound is not picking up voices from spectators during and between the tests
- The video should do a sweep of the arena before the tests start to show where the corners and letters are.
- As required in RDANSW Carriage Driving, three ground helpers should be discretely placed around the outside of the arena, back from the arena edge by a few metres.

Note: Alan Ongley, a volunteer with Tall Timbers, is an expert on videoing carriage driving and is willing to visit centres to do their videoing if required. He can be contacted on 02 9626 1373 or [alsong.au@gmail.com](mailto:alsong.au@gmail.com)

2. **Photo Classes – Photos need to be approx 15cm x 10cm (6" x 4") please**

### **Class 1 'Best on Parade'.** Some hints for competitors:

Stand turnout on even ground so that horse is not sitting back in breeching and tugs are not being pushed forward.

Horse – brushed, clean, hooves blackened etc Standing square.

Harness: matching, neat, well fitting, breastplate and breeching in correct positions, strap points in keepers

Vehicle: clean, suited to horse

Driver and CD Whip neat and tidy, matching or complementary outfits, gloves, knee rugs etc Driver preferably holding his/her reins.

Overall appearance of turnout – does it look elegant ?

Driver, CD Whip and horse need to *look happy* !

**Class 2 Photo class 'Carriage driving in action'** – showing Driver and CD Whip participating in a typical RDA carriage driving activity at the walk or trot

Hints: Photo should include whole turnout

Have someone taking photos at driving sessions throughout the year so that there are plenty of photos to choose from when the time comes to send in entries.

3. **Entry forms, result sheets, photos and dvds** together with **entry fees** to be completed and forwarded to the Event Convenor by **December 5, 2016**. Results and ribbons will be sent to participating Centres before RDA commences next year.
4. Events may be completed during normal carriage driving sessions or the Centre may like to hold a special competition day or days.
5. Drivers **may practice** the dressage, cones and bending courses before the competition.
6. The competition may start immediately.
7. The sheets attached include the dressage tests (ACDS AA and ACDS CC), the cones courses and the bending course. It is very important that the cones and bending courses are **set out accurately** according to measurements so that all competitors participate on an even basis.

**IS THIS COMPETITION SUITABLE FOR YOUR CENTRE ?** There is something in the Competition for **all drivers** no matter what their level of ability. It is not necessary to have entries in all of the classes. Centres might choose just to do the Photo class/es for example. **It would be wonderful if all carriage driving centres were able to enter someone in this competition.** The Photo classes are surely within the reach of all centres.

**NEED HELP ?** Not enough cones ? Not sure about how to set out the courses ? **Contact me.** **It may be possible for some personnel with experience in setting up the courses to visit your centre with the necessary equipment and to run the events.**

Janet Muspratt  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016  
EVENT CONVENOR

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