

**THE BDS TREC** – a carriage driving event from the British Driving Society in the UK. It could be a good way of reinforcing safe practices for all drivers, whether experienced or new to the game. It is a 'Three Phase Event' with a difference. The general idea is as follows:

#### Phase One The Safety Presentation

Suggested maximum of 50 points (10 pts per section) to be awarded by an experienced judge for:

- \* Safe harnessing procedure
- \* Fitting of harness and balance of vehicle
- \* Safe putting to
- \* Driver's and groom's attire – suitability for the task
- \* Any additional safety features eg fluro wear / mobile phone / quick release clips / safety helmets

#### Phase Two The Drive - a Test of Timed Distance

- \* Turnouts to be given section distances and times to complete sections
- \* Excessive speed is not desirable
- \* Turnouts to leave at intervals with their score cards, instructions and maps.
- \* Quiet roads or off road tracks are ideal.
- \* Turnouts must keep on the move at whatever pace. If stationary anywhere other than at a checkpoint, points will be deducted.
- \* One or two checkpoints should be included en route, at which a steward marks the score card with the time the checkpoint is reached.
- \* Points awarded for arriving at each checkpoint at the correct time, allowing a small leeway each side of the time..
- \* A compulsory walk section might be included with points deducted for any break of pace.

#### Phase Three The Skills

Turnouts attempt a minimum of 6 'untimed' skills, with points awarded for the level of proficiency in the completion of each. For example:

- \* reversing alongside a straight line painted on the ground
- \* trotting a 20m circle, perhaps one handed
- \* negotiating a cone slalom
- \* walking a straight line between two markers
- \* complete standstill, groom dismounts and walks around turnout, gets back in

- \* trot between 3 – 4 pairs of offset cones with balls on top
- \* groom to dismount, open 'gate', turnout drives through, groom to remount after closing 'gate'.
- \* drive through an L shape of ground poles
- \* one minute motionless halt
- \* whilst in vehicle, groom to move flag from one cone to another.
- \* safe negotiation of any available uphill or downhill slope.

Some Suggestions:

- \* Do not be over ambitious with speed and distance or types of skills
- \* All entrants should have a note of the organiser's mobile phone number when out on the drive.
- \* It is a good idea to give ribbons to the grooms as well as the drivers.
- \* Could be adapted to allow for turnouts without grooms

*Thank you to Pat Hughes from the Hills Club for supplying information on this type of activity.*

*Note- this is the intellectual property of the British Driving Society.*