

## **AN ASSESSMENT TO BECOME A CD COACH**

1. CD Coaches should have appropriate paperwork, i.e. Log book. Log books can be requested from your Regional Rep. who will contact National Office.
2. Any qualified Assessor is eligible to assess any Group in any Region if invited.
3. This assessment is obligatory for all CD Coaches. Candidates should drive the horse/pony in the Group to which they are attached. An assistant should be available.
4. Leather or webbing harness may be used. A recognised RDA carriage must be used.
5. **Taking the BDS Test 1** should be considered a bonus, not a requirement.

### **Syllabus**

#### **a. Driving Element**

- (1) Assemble and Discuss a Single Set of Harness - Name parts of the harness, and assemble. Discuss care and cleaning of all types of harness. Be aware of the importance of checking the stitching and condition. Know the most vulnerable parts e.g. rein-billets, girth, hame or neck straps.
- (2) Harness Pony - Leave a suitable head-collar on. Put harness on, in correct order, and demonstrate adjustment to ensure a correct fit.
- (3) Put To and Discuss Balance - Put to, in a safe place (i.e. not in an open field or on a slope) in the correct manner ensuring a good fit. Be able to instruct a helper how to assist. Particular emphasis on understanding balance, and how to adjust for it. Discuss types of carriages built for RDA work, with reference to ramps, types and size of wheels, ease of entry. Know whether or not a vehicle is suitable. Discuss vehicle care and storage. Take out using same procedure (may be done at end of test).
- (4) Mount from off-side or near-side and go for Short Drive - Demonstrate correct mounting procedure and taking up of reins and whip. Short drive through halt/walk/trot and rein-back transition. Use of aids identified. An ability to hold reins coachman style. Ability to drive circles and between cones. Demonstrate good rein handling, e.g. lengthening, shortening, turns, emergency stops and hand-signals.

(5) Prepare for Loading Disabled. Mount from off-side or near-side, Simulate Loading - Attach dual reins and discuss position on bit or headcollar. Two helpers to load disabled driver. Discuss numbers of helpers required. Recognise suitable areas for loading. Recognise importance of efficient loading of wheelchairs. Discuss all aspects of loading both ambulant and non ambulant disabled.

(6) Preparation to Carriage Drive - Discuss rein adjustments, balance, security of wheelchairs, e.g. clamps, use of lap-belts. Identify various aids which may be used e.g. rein bars, loops, headrests.

(7) Demonstrate Instruction of Disabled Driver - Demonstrate instruction in holding and use of reins, voice and whip. Particular attention to manner and attitude towards disabled person.

(8) Discuss use of Helpers - Number of helpers required. Position and role of helpers when on a drive, doing dressage or cones etc. Use of helper on a bicycle.

(9) Discuss Activities to be enjoyed by Disabled Carriage Drivers – Basic knowledge of dressage arena (size and letters), cone driving, marathon driving. One day events, picnic drives, instructional sessions, etc. Discuss safe places to drive, e.g. flat ground, roads, tracks and fields. Recognise how much to help disabled, and understand it is essential to **let them drive as much as possible themselves.**

(10) Safety - Use of hard hats, gloves, correct size of whip, etc. Recognise signs of impending trouble.

(a) Pony: Ears: Agitation, sudden change of pace.

(b) Disabled: Signs of stress, discomfort, slipping, getting cold, etc.

(11) Accident Procedure - Must know how to react correctly and efficiently. Know how to restrain or release a pony quickly. Identify role of each helper in such a situation. Be aware of Group Policy on Safety.

(12) First Aid - Know your First Aid card holders in your Group. Basic techniques identified and discussed e.g. resuscitation, moving of casualty, stopping bleeding.

b. **Horse Care**

(1) Basic Handling

(a) Put on a headcollar and lead in hand.

(b) Tie up safely using a quick release knot.

- (2) Grooming and Foot Care
  - (a) Identify all items of a grooming kit.
  - (b) Discuss and demonstrate their use.
  - (c) Demonstrate foot care.
  - (d) Discuss shoeing, and know when to call a farrier.
  
- (3) Grass Kept Pony - Care and Feeding
  - (a) Discuss the requirements of a grass kept pony e.g. water, fencing, area requirements, poisonous plants.
  - (b) Supplementary feeding requirements, e.g. use of hay, silage, pony nuts and oats.
  - (c) Know how to tie up a hay-net.
  
- (4) Travelling
  - (a) Prepare horse for travelling.
  - (b) Put on rugs and tail guard.
  - (c) Load and unload from a trailer.
  
- (5) Care: Minor Accidents and Injuries
  - (a) Know when influenza and tetanus injections should be given.
  - (b) Recognise the symptoms of when a pony is unwell, e.g. coat, ears, runny eyes. Know the normal temperature, and how to take it.
  - (c) Recognise lameness.
  - (d) Discuss possible injuries associated with a harness horse or pony.
  - (e) Discuss basic First-aid (e.g. bathing, bandaging, when to call a vet).

**Note:** Any part of the Assessment considered unacceptable may be re-assessed by an Assessor not less than four weeks from the assessment date.