

Triumph for Tim in first year as ridden horse

A Percheron triumphed in this year's Barber Family British Ridden Heavy Horse of the Year Championship at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), when David Curtis' 10-year-old gelding, Hales Hector, rounded off his first year as a ridden horse with utter style.



Ridden to success by Household Cavalry Corporal of Horse, Jamie Bradbury, the horse known as Tim at home, has previously been driven in pairs and tandems by his owner David, and was only broken to ride at the beginning of January this year.

"It means the world," said Jamie, who has ridden him from the start. "He's very quick to learn and the ridden showing



Hales Hector on his way to taking the second British Ridden Heavy Horse Championship at HOYS, and left, with ride judge, John Conifey, left and right, John Peacock. In the background is the reserve champion, Wendy Toomer-Harlow's Horsman's Ace Card, ridden by Helen Cowley. Photographs: Kevin Wright

has given him another string to his bow."

HOYS was only their second indoor outing, having competed at Suffolk, Norfolk, Equifest and a few smaller shows during the year, but this did not deter them. Ride judge John Conifey said the horse "rode absolutely beautifully".

Jamie, a HOYS first timer himself, said: "It was great to ride in the arena – especially that last bit (the lap of honour)!" He continued: "I was a bit nervous before we went in, making sure he would get the right canter lead."

Wendy Toomer-Harlow's Horsman's Ace Card flew the flag for Shires coming in second with a delighted Helen Cowley

in the saddle. Five-year-old Clydesdale mare Westbank Jessie J took the third place rosette, owned by Jonathon Wilkie and ridden by Kirsty Aird.

In only its second year, the British Ridden Heavy Horse of the Year Championship highlights the very best of the heavy breeds and their ability to perform on a world class stage, showcasing their potential as a true show horse under saddle. It is for purebreds registered with British Studbooks of the Shire, Clydesdale, Suffolk or Percheron Societies.

See our reports on the two HOYS championships on pages 38-41.

Second SHOY championship for Fountains – but which horse?

Martin Fountain claimed his second Shire Horse of the Year (SHOY) championship in a row at the Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), not with Calendar Girl this time, but her stablemate Woodhouse Miss Dynamite.

Supported by the Shire Horse Society and Field Equine Vets, the championship went Miss Dynamite's way after Calendar Girl, who had also qualified, went lame earlier in the week.

"She really came into her own today," said Martin, who explained that the mare had been "the bridesmaid" to Woodhouse Calendar Girl on occasion.

This was the eight-year-old home-bred bay mare's third visit to HOYS, having finished ninth last year and qualifying in 2014 and 2013 as well. She is by Moorfield Manor Mac out of Woodhouse Dewdrop.

Second place went to William Bedford's three-year-old stallion Landcliffe Charlie by Martonian Norman out of Landcliffe Wendy.



Martin Fountain accepting the prestigious Shire Horse of the Year trophy from Shire Horse Society president Mark Woodhouse. Photograph: Kevin Wright

Another of Martin's Shires – and daughter to Woodhouse Miss Dynamite – Woodhouse Miss Phenomenon, finished

sixth. She is by the late Metherington Upton Hamlet who was a three-times SHOY champion.



3



4



6



7



8



10

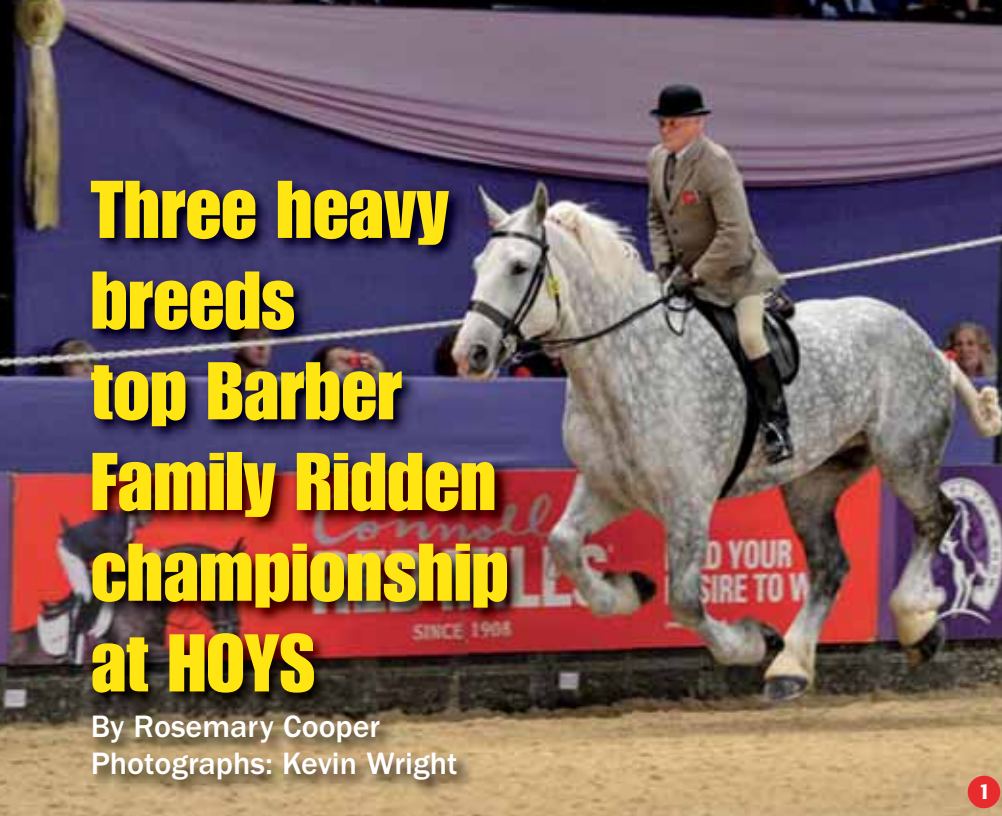


9

(1 & 2) Jane Muntz-Torres' champion single agricultural turnout, from the side and the back. (3) The implement class was won by Barry Coffen's Jedward pulling a seed drill driven by Kate Waterfield. (4) Agricultural pairs winner was John Cocks with Richard and George to a USA Deering Ideal sail reaper built in 1895. (5) Decorated harness class winner was Barry Coffen's Jedward, shown by Erica Macey-Bracken with Marion and Don Heap's decorated harness now owned by Charlotte Webb. (6) Peter Young with his family's team of four Shires ably demonstrates his driving trials skills on a course set up in the main ring. (7) David Lawless and two of his Waldburg Shires entered the Robinson's dray in the pairs. (8) John Goodwin's unicorn won the trade turnouts. (9) Mike & Faye Bottomer's Fifield Admiral shown by Charlie Lloyd won the brass section. (10) Judge Jim Yates presented the award for the best dressed groom to Julie Jones, who grooms for John Goodwin.

Three heavy breeds top Barber Family Ridden Championship at HOYS

By Rosemary Cooper
Photographs: Kevin Wright



1



2



3



4



5



6

Now in its second year, the spectacular Barber Family Ridden Heavy Horse Championship at the Horse of the Year Show attracted 10 qualifiers representing all four breeds. The winner was David Curtis' beautiful grey Percheron, Hales Hector (Tim), still dappled at the age of 10. Bred by Owen Garner, Tim is by Canadian-bred Ryans Day Stewart out of Hales Venus, a descendant of the great Ryans Day Granitdier.

David Curtis bought Tim as a three-year-old to drive, in recent years as a tandem leader with David's older horse Hales Creon (Ron), or as a single, but after Ron retired at the end of 2016, David sold his dray. David describes Tim as the best horse he's had in his 40 years with Percherons; he has such an easy nature that he'll do anything that is asked of him, winning everywhere from the Royal Highland to the South of England. Shown in-hand, he's frequently been crowned breed champion, and he's also won ploughing competitions, working as the furrow horse, which is harder than being the land horse. His popularity is reflected in his facebook page with over 400 members.

David had no plans for Tim until last February, when he invited Jamie Bradbury to school him as a riding horse. Corporal of Horse Jamie Bradbury learned to ride when he joined the Household Cavalry 18 years ago. David met him though a friend who keeps Shires; Jamie, who has his own Shire, has helped at times with David's turnout. He travelled by train every night from London to Littleport in Cambridgeshire to ride Tim, whose new career began with victory in the ridden class at Soham last May. They qualified for the championship at Royal Norfolk.

"He's proved himself an all-rounder. He's a nice clean-limbed horse, very well put together, and he moved like a Percheron should," said conformation

(1) Ride judge John Conifey on David Curtis' Hales Hector – the horse "rode absolutely beautifully" he said. (2) Reserve champion was Wendy Toomer-Harlow's Horsman's Ace Card, ridden by Helen Cowley. (3) Third was Joanthan Wilkie's Westbank Jessie J, ridden by Kirsty Aird. (4) Fourth was last year's champion, John Anderson's Gautby Arclid Flashman, ridden by Morag Snow. (5) Fifth was Kurt Manders' Llangwm Hill Monty, ridden by Zoe Jones, pictured here with the ride judge. (6) Marie Parr's Melindwr Lady Olwen, ridden by Jodie Fletcher Swift. (7) Seventh was Annette Noble's Peggyslea Andy, ridden by Ailsa Noble.



Two stallions dominate in Midland foal winners

By Rosemary Cooper Photographs: Kevin Wright



Since the Midland Shire Foal Society moved to its new venue at Wetley Rocks last year, the show goes from strength to strength, and its extremely hard-working officials have made it a real success.

The foal championship went to the winning senior colt, the Whittaker family's Knutsford Bruce, by Moorfield Edward's son Leverton King Edward out of Metheringham Upton Cilla. Reserve was the winning junior, Tony Bull's Arclid Minshull Major, by Marieth Major out of Arclid Michaela. On his day, Major has beaten senior horses to take the overall championship.

The same two stallions sired the winning fillies. Leverton King Edward's daughter, Walton Black Beauty, won the senior class for David Worthington, while

Marieth Major's daughter, Arclid Jayne Chapman, won the junior class for breeder and exhibitor Tony Bull.

In 2008 Philip Moss' Hillmoor Angelina won the junior championship as a two-year-old, and this year her daughter by Hillmoor Diamond King, Hillmoor Angelica, repeated this achievement. Reserve was John Etches' spirited yearling by Milnerfield Sir William, Royston Katie.

A daughter of Moorfield Edward, the Richardson family's Bewholme Moonlight Serenade, took the championship, giving such a splendid show she nearly trotted out of the ring. Her full sister, Bewholme Moonlight Sensation, was the family's 2012 Spring Show champion.

"She came out in good form," said Walt Bedford. Reserve was Jim Yates'



Cowerslane Lady Helen, by Acle Fearless out of Jim's very successful mare, Cowerslane Angie's Surprise.

The final of the Shire Young Handler of the Year Championship was contested by 14 of the best young handlers in the country. Sixteen-year-old Marcus Callwood and 17-year-old Oliver Chaffey repeated last year's successes, finishing champion and reserve. It was Marcus' third back-to-back championship; his partner was Hillmoor Brickell Annie (who later came under the hammer) while Oliver, showing in young handlers' classes for the last time, handled Barnsbridge Prince Pegasus.

Former champion young handler, Ceri Pleavin, was judging. "It was hard to choose between Marcus and Oliver," she commented. "They were both so



Shires at Sandringham

The Shire Horse Society (SHS) put on a special display at Sandringham Game & Country Show this year in a scaled-down version of its spectacular performance at Countryfile Live earlier in the summer.

Pictured by *Kevin Wright* are: (1) N & J Heavy Horses' display of ridden Shires to music; (2) Stephen Ledsham with his Shire, Casey, to a newly restored farm wagon; (3) David Lawless driving the Waldburg Shires team of six; (4) Helen Preece with Robinson's Brewery's single horse turnout; (5) Tom Badger and Lucy Froggatt with Bickerscourt Marina and her foal Bickerscourt Sally Joy, and (6) Lucy Flint with her grandfather's grey Shire, Metheringham Upton Isabella.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Suffolk Horse Society's new president

Sue Wager is the Suffolk Horse Society's new president for 2017/18. Sue is a Suffolk horse judge and a former society stallion inspector, and says she has been fortunate to have grown up with horses, spending times with the pony club, competing at eventing, and show jumping – before her love affair with Suffolks. Over the years a variety of horses, and stallions, were kept, Thoroughbreds, Warm Bloods and Hunters. Then in 1985 her parents returned from a day out with a filly, Blaxhall Blossom, who very soon won the affections of everyone in the yard and became a firm favourite. "We started showing her," says Sue, "and it wasn't long before our yard started filling up with Suffolk horses, and now I couldn't imagine life without them." Sue is pictured running up Lagan Oswald at the Royal Norfolk Show this year – he took a first and was champion Suffolk gelding.

