



(1) Leading nearly 50 Percherons in the *Timeline* was turnout driving champion Tom Henfrey with his Percheron pair drawing Tony Drewitt's omnibus from the London Bus Museum, based at Brooklands, Surrey. (2) Percherons as far as the eye can see, as they gather in the main ring. (3) The Royal Armouries' 18 pounder gun and limber from Fort Nelson, Hampshire, was drawn by six Percherons from Robert Sampson's Harbridge Stud, in the *Letters from the Field* commemoration of the First World War Armistice. Three of his sons, Fred, Harry and Tom are riding postilion while Robert rides Virginia Kouyoumdjian's Vidock d'Alde. (4) John McDermott with his Percherons, Tzena and Malisse to a mower. (5) Driving the horse ambulance is Weald & Downland Living Museum horseman Mark Buxton, with the museum's four-year-old Percheron, Ollie, in the shafts. (6 & 7) Bob Black representing the Percheron breeders of Canada in the ring with the national flag, and the Irish contingent with their flag.

British Percheron Horse Society Centenary 1918-2018



Nearly 50 Percherons gathered in West Sussex in June to celebrate 100 years of the British Percheron Horse Society since the stud book was originally set up after the First World War.

Most were from the UK, with a number of prominent Percheron supporters with champion horses travelling from the east of England – the breed's traditional base – to the Weald & Downland Living Museum, Singleton, West Sussex.

The venue is not only close to the breed's vibrant second centre of activity, in Hampshire where the Sampson and McDermott families have been central to its development, but close enough to France to enable Percheron owners from the breed's home country to cross the Channel and be a part of the celebrations.

Some 15 members of the Société Hippique Percheronne de France joined in the demonstrations, including The Eure-Loir Syndicate riding horses to music in a 'Carousel', a black stallion, and Patrice Biget with his graceful pair to a beautiful 'brake rustique', fresh from its restoration and making its debut here in England.

The society – led by its chairman, Michael White, and secretary, Rowena McDermott – mounted a superb series of activities in the ring. They included a *Timeline* featuring the breed in a range



Mike Clarke and his daughter Alison are agricultural contractors & Suffolk Punch breeders in the West Midlands. Their annual open day in July is a hugely popular event with the public and helps spread the word about this iconic rare breed. Mike told Heavy Horse World how the whole thing came about.



Suffolks go tribal in Worcestershire!

Q The Holbeache Suffolks have produced another good batch of foals this year – can you tell us how you got into Suffolks in the first place, and the background to your farm at Trimpley?

As busy agricultural contractors the only holiday we used to get was a day at one of the agricultural shows where we always admired the heavy horses, mainly Shires back then. One day we came across Suffolks which we thought looked a better horse: it was a compact shorter animal that would suit us better if we were ever fortunate enough to own a heavy horse. Alison, my daughter, who works with me, always loved horses growing up and was surprised to finally get the birthday present of her dreams on her 21st birthday when we presented her with Gareth, a Welsh Cob which she adored and loved to ride.

Twenty-two years ago, we had the opportunity to apply for the tenancy of Holbeache Farm, which was one of the farms where we did major tractor and



Mike Clarke and his daughter, Alison, with Holbeache Ocean. This page and overleaf, their mares and foals enjoying the spring sunshine earlier this year. Photographs: Kevin Wright.



Royal Highland excels again in 2018

By Kate Stephen Photographs: Adrian Sinclair

The Royal Highland Show – always a good show – lifted itself to yet another level for 2018! There is no doubt that the wonderful weather helped – a great relief to the organisers, as the week before ‘Storm Hector’ had blown through demolishing a good number of their 600 temporary light horse stables and making mincemeat of one of the sheep marquees and numerous trade stands.

Clydesdale females were first into the ring, as ever. The males got something of a lie-in, as they were timetabled to follow the new section for miniature Shetlands. In the brood mares, judge Peter Tennant picked John & Margo McIntyre’s import Towerview Gisele. The foal class was led by Callum McPhail’s Garcal-Fra Sweet Iona by Dillars Ollie.

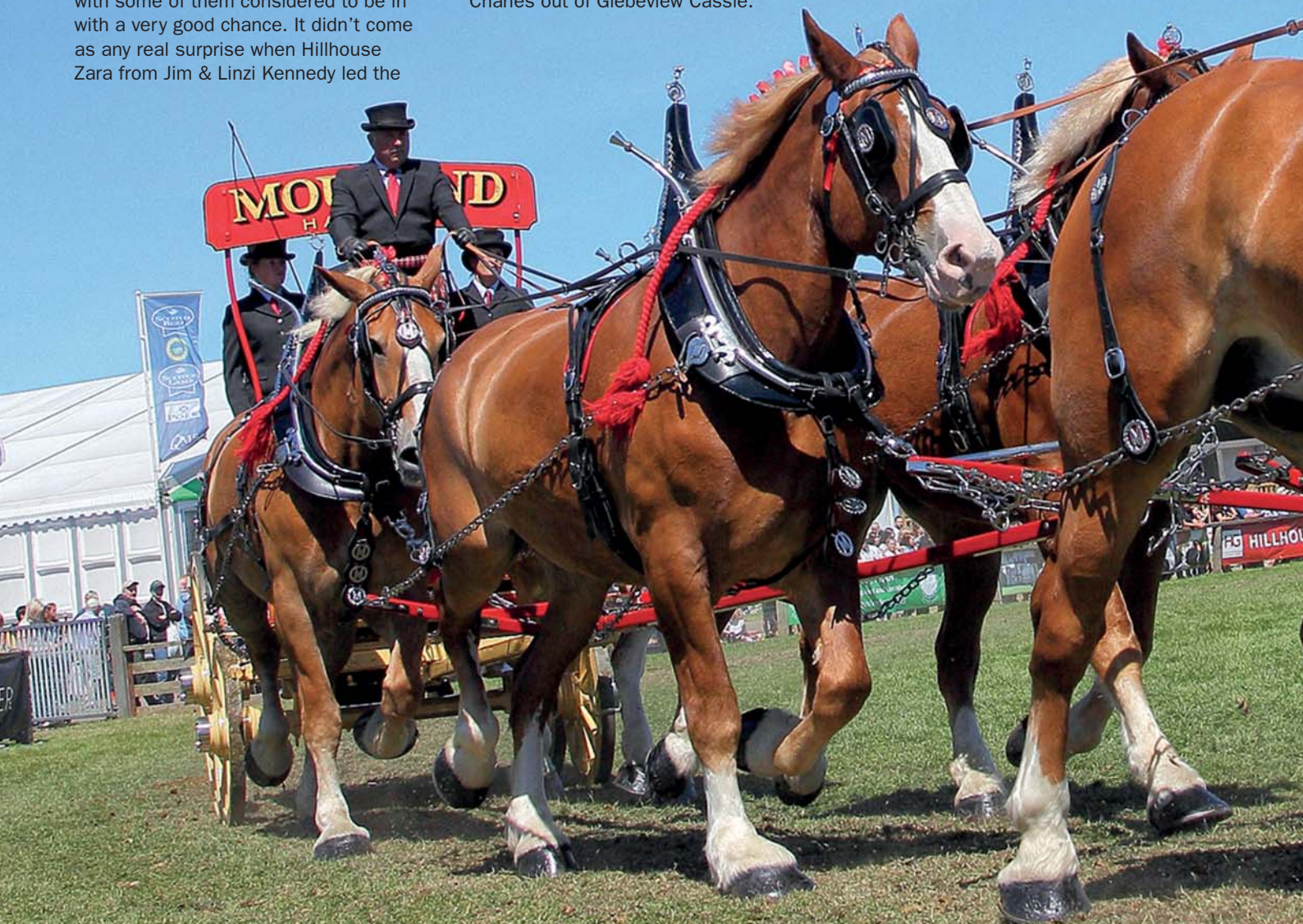
Six four-year-old and over yield mares (out of 16 entered) then came forward with some of them considered to be in with a very good chance. It didn’t come as any real surprise when Hillhouse Zara from Jim & Linzi Kennedy led the

class. A Collessie Cut Above daughter, she is out of Hillhouse Millie. She edged the class over John Adamson’s Barlauchlan Linda by Arradoul Balvenie.

Five three-year-olds, with considerable show pedigrees, were led by Iain & Alana Johnston’s Roughlands Alana, another Arradoul Balvenie daughter, out of Barlauchlan Jubilee Princess. The Clark family took second with Muirton Melba, Muirton-bred through and through by Muirton Sabre, out of Megan. The two-year-old class result again threw up no surprises, being headed by Eric & Miranda Johnstone’s very mature Ord Tinkerbell. By Eskechranggan Ernest (who Eric stood north of Inverness) she is out of Ord Envy and follows in her mother’s pattern. Charlotte Young played bridesmaid here with Glebeview Lady Izzy, bred by the Scotts from Northern Ireland by Glebeview Sir Charles out of Glebeview Cassie.

The yearling class was the biggest of the day seeing 12 forward with the winner undoubtedly being an odds-on favourite to lift the red rosette, given her run of foal show titles. Fairview Queen of Hearts is owned by a granny and grandson partnership, Moyra Stewart & Robert Barr. By Redcastle Brelee Majestic she is out of Fordelhill Lucinda, and the Blacks at Collessie help in her production. Fordelhill breeding also took second place, with Scott Greenhill showing his own Fordelhill Hannah, another by Eskechranggan Ernest, out of Fordelhill Heather. This was a morale boost for Scott who had tragically lost several horses a short while before due to contaminated haylage.

In the championship, the smart money was certainly on the big Ord filly, as she absolutely looked the part, having been



Open event in Hampshire for driving trials enthusiasts

The British Heavy Horse Driving Trials Club held another enjoyable Driving Trials Event in May at its regular venue, Tenantry Farm, Rockbourne, Hampshire, hosted by Rob McLeod, writes Karen Piercy.

This time it was an 'Open' event for all comers, with pairs and single horse teams comprising a variety of breeds – Percheron, Comtois, Normandy Cob and Spanish Norman (Percheron X Andalusian).

The first day focused on dressage tests followed by a barbecue in the evening, with the obstacles and timed drive on the morning of the second day, and finishing with a very complex cones course inspired by a recent Dutch event.

Anyone who thinks they might be interested in 'having a go' in the future would be very welcome to attend a future Driving Trials weekend. All it would cost is membership (£15 for driving member, £5 for non-driving), which includes insurance. Visit the BHHDTTC Facebook page or for more information contact Rowena McDermott at 01725 511951, email info@heavyhorsesdrivingtrials.co.uk. Website: www.heavyhorsesdrivingtrials.co.uk

(1) Karen Scippio takes the high bank for joint fourth place; (2) First placed in the pairs was Martin Kerswell; (3) Michelle Beck was first in the singles with her Spanish Norman horse; (4) Second in the pairs was Robert Sampson; (5) Richard Branscombe in the water with his Normandy Cob/Cob pair; (6) Jane Stanley takes the plunge; (7) David Shering emerges from the trees with his Comtois horses, and (8) Karen Piercy with a pair of Percherons against the backdrop of the Hampshire countryside.



1

Paul Edwards



Karen Piercy

2



Karen Piercy

5



6

Karen Piercy



Karen Piercy

3



Karen Piercy

7



8

Paul Edwards



Karen Piercy

4

Name	Heavy Horse Breed	Dressage	Obstacles	Drive	Cones	OVERALL
Martin Kerswell	Percheron (Pair)	1	1	1	1	1
Robert Sampson	Percheron (Pair)	4	2	2	2	2
Richard Branscombe	Normandy Cob + Cob (Pair)	6	3	3	3	3
Karen Scippio	Percheron (Pair)	3	4	6	5	4
Jane Stanley	Percheron (Pair)	5	5	4	4	4
Karen Piercy	Percheron (Pair)	7	7	7	7	6
David Shering	Comtois (Pair)	8	6	7	6	7
Michelle Beck	Spanish Norman (Single – Percheron X)	1	1	1	1	1