

70th Horse of the Year Show winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the Shire Horse of the Year championship and the Philip Judge International British Ridden Heavy Horse of the Year final!

Edward Whittaker won the coveted SHOY title with six-year-old bay mare, St Giles Morgana, with Edward, at 25, one of the youngest competitors to have triumphed under the Horse of the Year Show spotlight. Edward found Morgana for sale on the internet, liked the look of her and bought her. She has only been to three shows this year and is by Acle Timelord and out of Daresbrook Charlotte. Reserve was William Bedford's Landcliffe Charlie.

Wendy Toomer-Harlow's eight-year-old Horsmans Ace Card ('Badger' at home) was the ridden champion, with Helen Cowley in the saddle. Tutored by Nigel Fuller for the past two months, he has qualified for all three years of the championship and was second and fifth in 2017 and 2016 respectively. Badger is the first Shire to take the championship and has also won the Kilmannan Ridden Heavy Horse Championship at Equifest. In second place was Brian Bisset's six-year-old Stobilee Zac, ridden by Isla Miller.

"The championship highlights the ability of heavy horses to perform on a world class stage, showcasing their potential as a true show horse under saddle" says a spokesman from HOYS, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

Shires took centre stage at the Cavalcade on the last night. **Rosemary Hart** writes: "As well as representatives from the Musical Drive, the spotlight fell on the Hook Norton Brewery dray, driven by Elizabeth Csak carrying Martin Clunes, president of the British Horse Society. Accompanied by Elgar's *Nimrod*, he read the *Ode to the Horse* so poignantly that it was, beyond doubt, the most moving Cavalcade I've ever known".

Read our full reports and see more photos on pages 39-41.

Heavy horses also demonstrated their versatility at HOYS with another stunning Musical Drive in the main arena. "It featured three pairs each of Shires and Clydesdales, harrowing the arena under spotlights and culminating in the spectacular cartwheel, which has the audience clapping to the beat", reports **Rosemary Hart**. Pictured right are the drivers, left to right, John Goodwin, Elaine Ramsay, Peter Tennant, David Lawless, Sarah McLellan and Ron Brewster. Standing centre, are from left, John Peacock, Household Cavalry drum horse, Mercury, and sponsor, John Bryant.



Kevin Wright



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Left and Above: Moments of joy for Shire Horse of the Year, Edward Whittaker's St Giles Morgana, and Ridden Heavy Horse champion, Wendy Toomer-Harlow's Horsmans Ace Card, ridden by Helen Cowley. Below: Hook Norton Brewery Shires, driven by Elizabeth Csak, with actor and horse enthusiast Martin Clunes, who read *Ode to the Horse* at the HOYS gala evening finale.



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SHOWS



Top-class teams at Great Yorkshire Show

By Rosemary Hart
Photographs: Carol Stevens



The Great Yorkshire's turnout line-up of nine top-class teams, eight trade and one agricultural, was the best I've seen this season. Ron Brewster triumphed with John & Margo McIntyre's unicorn. Lead horse Batman was a joy to watch, and two first-class wheelers, Connie and Vicki, made me wonder, as ever, why more people don't drive mares. Judge Matthew Bedford called out two entries for a second look, the other being John Goodwin's immaculate team of four.

With John McIntyre driving, Batman also won Tuesday's two-wheeled cart class. With team mate Vicki, he finished second to John Goodwin's Dizzy B and Oscar in the trade pairs. Gawin Holmes and Jake took the singles class.

Charlotte Young is almost invincible in Clydesdale classes, and her Doura Kingmaker filly, Clerkington Cassandra, won the in-hand championship, with 2016 champion, Darren Willey's Bencannon Duchess, in reserve. The champion Shire, Paul Bedford's big eight-year-old, Fellthorpe Esther Jane, had already qualified for SHOY (Shire Horse of the Year final) so qualification passed to the reserve champion, the Lockley Topsman filly Snelson Araminty, exhibited by Paul's brother Richard.

(1) Charlotte Young's three-year-old bay mare Clerkington Cassandra was Clydesdale champion. (2) Annette Noble's five-year-old bay gelding Peggyslea Buddy was placed third in his class. (3) Reserve Clydesdale champion, D Willey's seven-year-old Bencannon Duchess. (4) Robert Bedford with his three-year-old black filly Snelson Araminty was reserve champion Shire. (5) Paul Bedford took the Shire championship with his eight-year-old bay mare, Fellthorpe Esther Jane. (6) Clydesdale judge Pete Black. (7) Gawin Holmes won the single trade turnout with Clydesdale, Jake. (8) Maggie Smith with Shire Harry. (9) Single agricultural turnout winner Lis & Heath Darley's 12-year-old roan gelding Roadside Adam. (10) Winner of the two-wheeled cart class was J W McIntyre's Clydesdale Corby. (11) Ron Brewster drove JW & M McIntyre's unicorn to win the team turnouts.

RESULTS Clydesdale in-hand. Judge – Mr P Black.

Brood mare – 1, Ms K M Smith's Holmhead Amber. Foal – 1, Ms K M Smith's Birchwood Bob. Filly or gldng, yrlng or 2-y-o – 1 & jnr ch, Ms C Hodge's Stanleyfields Florence Nightingale; 2, Ms K M Smith's Birchwood Bramble; 3, W & L Hitchen's Birchwood Betsy. Stln – 1, P Bedford's Thorpe Hill Monarch. Mare, 3-y-o & over – 1 & ch, Miss C I Young's Clerkington Cassandra; 2 & res ch, D Willey's Bencannon Duchess; 3, W & L Hitchen's Newmill Puzzle. Gldng, 3-y-o & over – 1, J Taylor's Uppercoote King's Chance; 2, J W McIntyre's Corby; 3, Mrs A Noble's Peggyslea Andy. Shire in-hand. Judge – Malson Phillips. Yrlng – 1, R Bedford's Hartcliff Madelana; 2, Mrs D M Eastwood's Fellview Invictus. Brood mare – 1 & res SHOY qualifier, R Bedford's Toc Hill Lady Victoria. Foal – 1, R Bedford's Hartcliff colt. Barren mare, 4-y-o & over – 1 & ch, P Bedford's Fellthorpe Esther Jane; 2, P A Dodgson's Ribston Ivy; 3, Ms S Cockcroft's Springwell Phoebe. 3-y-o filly or gldng – 1 SHOYS qualifier & res ch, R Bedford's Snelson Araminty; 2, T J Yates' Cowerslane Melodie; 3, W J Bedford's Deighton Lucy. 2-y-o filly or gldng – 1, T J Yates' Cowerslane Edwina; 2, F W Richardson & Sons' Bewholme Hamelia. Gldng, 4-y-o & over – 1, Mrs A Noble's Woodhouse Hussar. Turnouts. Judge – Matthew Bedford. Trade singles – 1, G I Holmes; 2, J H Goodwin; 3, J M McMillan. Pairs – 1, J H Goodwin; 2, J W McIntyre; 3, J M McMillan. Teams (inc agricultural) – 1, J W McIntyre; 2, J H Goodwin; 3, J M McMillan. 2-wheeled carts – 1, J W McIntyre; 2, J M McMillan; 3, Miss C I Young. Agricultural singles – 1, S H Darley.





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Heavy horse extravaganza in the New Forest

Heavy horses put on a great show at this year's New Forest & Hampshire Country Show. (1) Stuart Mellor's Newmill Loch Maree topped the yearling or two-year-old class. (2) First in the team turnouts was David Mouland with his team of Belgians. (3) Charlotte Webb took first place in the pairs agricultural implement class. (4) Ron Brewster drove the pairs trade turnout

winner. (5) Michael Harry's Brickell King Bear is usually seen with harness, but he won the gelding, three-years-old and over class. (6) Champion and first in the barren mares class was J W & M McIntyre's Vicky. (7) Zoe Meek riding Glenn Cass' Kentwell Paigale was the Ridden Heavy Horse of the Year qualifier. (8) John Goodwin acknowledging judge Roger Clark

after winning the single trade turnout class. (9 & 10) The New Forest Show attracted enough turnouts to provide 16 teams, with all the main heavy horse breeds represented, for the musical drive. (11) J Bower's Brickell Doreen was first in the mare with foal at foot class, and took reserve championship. Photographs: **Kevin Wright**



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Left, Natascha and her sister Krista climb up among the Dartmoor tors. Below, Natascha Relf, HHW's subscriptions assistant enjoying her ride on Clydesdale, Solo.

worried, but Tim was quick to reassure us and encouraged us to relax and trust the horses, which we did and they did not let us down!

I can honestly say that our ride with Tim was one of the most exhilarating experiences we have ever had. The rugged beauty of Dartmoor, together with the company of such magnificent animals was truly astonishing. It is indeed as Tim had hoped, a perfect escape from the stresses of modern life; it left us feeling that we had experienced something very special indeed.

Tim and Aileen's promotion of the Clydesdale is born out of a genuine love

and passion for the breed, together with their awareness of the need to diversify. Their concept of the Clydesdale as a trail horse on Dartmoor proves to be a stroke of genius; it absolutely works. I wish Tim and Aileen the best of luck for the future and their ongoing plans to offer an educational approach to working with Clydesdales, both modern and traditional.

Further information on Adventure Clydesdales at www.adventureclydesdale.com

Natascha Relf is Heavy Horse World's subscriptions assistant, and in summer she took the opportunity to get up high for a stunning riding experience!

Wet and windy adventure shows Clydesdales at their best

My sister Krista (Mckerrell) and I have been horse-crazy since we were very young! We have been riding for over 30 years and are now passing our love of horses and riding on to our daughters. Over the years I have developed a special love and admiration for heavy horses; I am currently very privileged to care for and ride a beautiful Percheron mare alongside my daughter and her fantastic New Forest pony.

Following the article on Adventure Clydesdales in Heavy Horse World's Spring 2018 issue, I contacted Tim and Aileen who run the business. I was planning a family holiday in Devon so a tour of Dartmoor on horseback fitted in perfectly! Having been to Dartmoor several times, I was keen to see how well the horses dealt with the somewhat wild terrain, and as Tim had said in the article, discover what the ridden Clydesdale had to offer.

On the morning of our trip the beautiful summer of 2018 had taken a turn for the worse, and offered up instead a day of wind and rain! However, undeterred and very excited, Krista and I headed for Brimpts Farm. We were warmly welcomed by Tim and Aileen, shown around the big barn and introduced to the horses that we would be riding. Krista was paired up with Midge, a smaller Clydesdale at 16.1hh, whilst I chose to ride Solo, a larger Clydesdale standing at over 17hh. We were taken through all the safety procedures and given long waterproof riding coats to wear over our inadequate cagoules, for which we were very grateful! Then, we were off up the lane and straight out onto Dartmoor.

Very quickly the Clydesdales demonstrated their quiet strength, power and versatility. The terrain was rugged and challenging, especially in the wet conditions, yet the horses didn't make a single wrong move. They took us on breath-taking canters, steady climbs to the top of tors, down steep descents and over slippery and boggy ground. Their abilities over such a challenging landscape was astonishing. At times we were



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