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Photo: Dicky Jim
A mother and daughter enjoying a peaceful drive in the countryside at the Windsor Sponsored Drive last year. It has been decided that there will not be a sponsored drive in Windsor Great Park in 2008.

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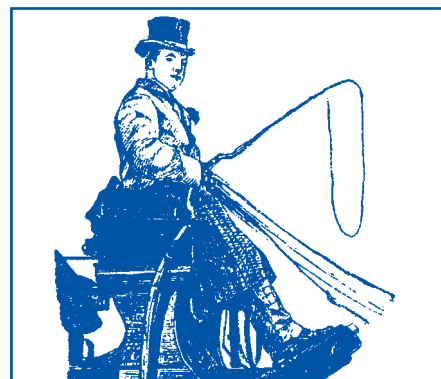
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Front Cover: Haydn Webb driving Cribb & Sons Friesians, to a Shanks stable brake at the 30th BDS Tandem Club Meet, with Peter Gibson on the box seat. Haydn has been seen recently driving a milk float in a Harry Potter film!

Photo: Dicky Jim

The opinions expressed in Carriage Driving are not necessarily those of the Editor

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From the Box Seat

After reading Jasper Winn's article on page 33, I was somewhat concerned and saddened to hear that a member country of the European Union, Romania, is to ban horse-drawn vehicles on some of its roads, including country lanes – for road safety reasons – a disaster as numerous country folk and farmers still use horse transport there. I sincerely hope that our government does not follow suit.



We in the UK, as well as other Europeans, must now be particularly vigilant to watch out for any similar proposals in the future, as such action would have a devastating effect on all sectors of carriage driving. I am certain that should this scenario develop, the British Driving Society, the British Horse Driving Trials Association, The Coaching Club, and all the driving clubs, would present a united front, strongly opposing any similar suggestions.

On a more positive note, it is excellent that carriage driving is leading the way for sporting disciplines in taking advantage of the government's introduction of a National Coaching Certificate UKCC (see page 41). This has entailed an enormous amount of work, principally undertaken by Anne Varley, to create the necessary structure and assessment criteria required to enable carriage driving to be ahead of the other 21 sports involved.

It has been clearly demonstrated by the number of whips (in excess of 170) who have taken the BDS Road Driving Assessment tests during 2007 that carriage drivers are keen to improve their skills on a formal basis for the good of themselves, their equines and the general public. The ongoing development of well-qualified coaches to help in this progress is therefore excellent news.

Happy driving in 2008.