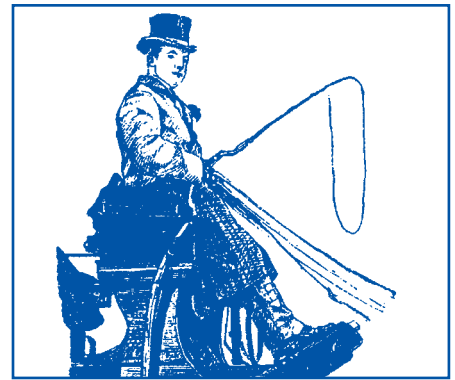


Contents



A couple of the gendarmerie's horses fascinated by Erica Maillard's four-in-hand of donkeys at the Cuts event in France (more pictures page 34).



From the Box Seat

I was heartened to read in the National press that Lord Young had been appointed as the Prime Minister's personal advisor to take a look at and overhaul



Britain's health and safety regulations and review the current "compensation culture".

On occasions I have questioned, as have others, some of the illogical and erratic guidelines that have followed "for health and safety reasons" as far as carriage driving is concerned. In a number of cases, it seems to me, that the difficulties have arisen in the interpretation of the regulations and not necessarily the regulations themselves. Committees seem to be scared of the outcome that possible lawsuits may have if something goes wrong - ie the "compensation culture syndrome" irrespective of the effect on our sport.

I believe that common-sense is the best guide to activities but it is not necessarily recognised. All of us have a duty of care to our fellow carriage-drivers and the unsuspecting general public and that should always be uppermost in our minds.

Equestrian activities, and particularly carriage-driving, are high-risk sports but it would be nice not to always be looking over our shoulders and be able to make our own decisions depending on the circumstances without the "nanny state" influence. It is more important, in my view, to have the benefit of good basic carriage-driving training by competent and experienced coaches than be dictated to by health and safety fanatics, often with no driving experience.

Let us hope that the insurance companies too realise the value of good training with experience and reflect as such in the premiums they charge rather than the necessity for illogical health and safety rules to govern us. Drivers' hours being a good example.

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Front Cover: A Spanish "potencia", three Andalusian horses driven abreast with two poles in English style harness by Jacinto Planas Ros, sometimes referred to as a Winchester or trandem.

Photo: Dicky Jim

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