

# Blandings Farm Training Day - Saturday, 5 April

*by kind invitation of Louise Garget and family  
Blandings Farm, Badlingham, Chippenham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5QQ*

Flatwork training is important if you and your horse or pony are to make progress and do well in all phases of horse driving trials. Training sessions are taking place all day on Saturday and are open to everyone - newcomers, pre-novice, novice, open and multiples turnouts - with local trainers Wilf Bowman-Ripley and Mike Daniell. Between them they offer many years of first-hand experience in almost every possible activity involving horses and carriage driving, from the county show-ring and commercial work through breaking horses and ponies to harness in all configurations, ridden dressage, competitive driving at all levels including Wilf's silver and gold medals for Great Britain. They are both patient and experienced trainers who want to help you to get the most out of your driving, whatever your level of expertise – from pre-pre-novice (or newcomer!) to the national competitor.

Full-size 100 x 40 and 80 x 40 arenas will be available. Each training session lasts 45 minutes and will help you with your schooling and driving, whatever your aspirations, with useful tips, techniques and feedback.

If you wish to bring a young horse or pony or to drive a new turnout, you are very welcome to come to the training sessions, even if you are not competing the next day.

Closing date: Friday, 14 March

Entries by post to: Mike Watts, Ivy Cottage, Boot Street, Great Bealings, Woodbridge, IP13 6PB (*or enter and pay securely online – see [www.eacdg.co.uk](http://www.eacdg.co.uk). Save time, paper and postage – it's easier for us, too!*)

Training fees, all classes: £45 (members); £55 (non-members)

Although we will make every endeavour to run the event as advertised, it may be affected by weather conditions and other events outside our control.

Event paperwork: start times and the event committee's letter to participants will be posted on the EACDG website, [www.eacdg.co.uk](http://www.eacdg.co.uk), as soon as possible after the closing date. Directions and a map are also to be found on the website. If you wish to have this information sent to you in the post, please enclose a sae with your entry.



Note: the BDS is holding a drive on Saturday morning from 10am, following our marathon route and then using their own cones course. The charge for this is £15. If you are a BDS member, you are, of course, very welcome to take part in this drive – and also to stay for the on-foot training. Please call Eunice Binder to let her know you are coming, 01473 830326.

## On-foot training – Saturday, 5 April, Blandings Farm – 1:30pm

If you would like to learn about driving outdoor obstacles from the perspective of steward, driver and/or groom, this is a “must-have” training session. We are planning this to be a practical and highly interactive activity with people taking different roles and getting to know the rules for driving and the ins-and-outs of stewarding an obstacle. We'll be using a real, flagged obstacle. David Taylor has also offered to give an obstacle walk – on a different obstacle – for those who want an experienced competitor's thoughts, too. Come and join in one or both activities – there is no charge – and enjoy free refreshments afterwards, at approximately 3:15pm.



Please let us know if you are interested in coming to this by returning the following form (or call 01473 735732 if you aren't attending the training) so we can cater for all – by or before 20 March.