

# Blandings Farm Training Day - Saturday, 28 March

*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, the latest ideas in ridden dressage, competitive driving at all levels including Wilf's silver and gold medals for Great Britain, he's also the National Horse Pairs Champion, for the fourth time. 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: Saturday, 14 March

Training fees, all classes: £45 (members), £55 (non-members) Non-members must be insured to take part in training for horse driving trials: BDS membership does not cover this.

Enter online or by post to: Mike Watts, Ivy Cottage, Boot Street, Great Bealings, Woodbridge, IP13 6PB

## How to get the most out of your training

Be on time and warm up your horse or pony for a few minutes before your lesson.

Don't expect instant results; you have to practise, practise, practise.

Think about your aims before you come: it helps your trainer if you have clear and realistic goals in mind.

Ask questions when there is an opportunity to do so: listen; absorb the information and try to apply it.

Be prepared to try what your trainer suggests even if you've tried it before: this time, the results could be different.

Flatwork training produces benefits which improve your cones and obstacles results, too.

Listen to what your trainer suggests: he or she is there to help you, not to criticise.

Come back for regular training!