

Ashfields Training (Crinkly) Camp – 2-3 April

by kind invitation of Terry Chambers, Ashfields Carriage Driving Centre,
Great Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1LD www.ashfieldscarriageandpoloclub.com

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 scheduled throughout each day and everyone's welcome - newcomers, pre-novice, novice, open and multiples turnouts - with experienced trainers Wilf Bowman-Ripley, Anna Grayston and Pippa Bassett.

Full-size arenas will be available as well as the other event facilities. You have two training sessions each day with the same trainer throughout the course. Each session will help you with schooling and driving whatever your aspirations and level of expertise with the chance to learn useful tips, techniques and for feedback. Newcomers, please let us know if you want an assessment completed at the camp.

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 on Sunday. Non-members must provide proof of insurance to take part in training for horse driving trials: BDS membership does not cover this.

You can stay overnight, arriving on Friday evening or come on Saturday morning in time for your session. Hot showers are now available on site. If you wish to book a stable (at extra charge), please call Zoe Morgan as soon as possible - 07770 944868.

Closing date: Wednesday, 17 March. Places are limited so please book early!

Fees, all classes: £165 (members), £175 (non-members), includes lunch and an evening meal both days for one person, with a vegetarian choice. Extra meals, booked in advance, are £8 per person. If you are staying overnight on Saturday, you are welcome to book meals with your entry and extra meals may be available – it helps us if you tell us in advance. Choose your trainer, if you wish, or take pot-luck!

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

How to get the most out of your training

Not everyone has regular training so here are some tips to help you get the best results.

Be on time. Warm up and relax your horse or pony by walking around for ten minutes or more before your lesson.

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

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

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

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

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

Watch other people's training (with permission) to get a view from the ground of the different stages of training – and be prepared for others to watch you.

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