



## Locals miss out

NEXT weekend's Maxavita Little Downham International Event has received over 1,000 entries.

Organisers deeply regret that so many local riders, who are the grassroots of the sport, have been denied a chance to compete at the lower levels, but due to the compact nature of the venue, numbers are limited each day.

There is a wonderful international entry with competitors from 12 countries competing.

Saturday has a strong advanced class running in support of the CIC2\*, and will include British team riders Piggy French, Pippa Funnell, Tina Cook, Daisy Berkeley, Sharon Hunt and Francis Whittington in addition to Lucinda Fredericks and Andrew Hoy from Australia, and Frank and Andreas Ostholt from Germany.

There are also riders from Thailand, Sweden, New Zealand, Portugal and Ireland who have chosen to include Little Downham in their preparation for London 2012.

Dogs are welcome, but only on a short lead to ensure the safety of the competitors. Parking costs £10 per car and includes all occupants.



NOT BEATEN BY THE WEATHER: Wilf Bowman Ripley driving his team of four

Photo: ANGELA TUCK

# Superstars out in force at Ashfields

**EQUESTRIAN:** First national driving event of the season

ASHFIELDS Carriage Driving Centre at Great Canfield in Essex held its first national driving event of the season over the bank holiday weekend, with some of the country's top drivers taking part.

The event catered for a range of classes, from Novice Pony to Horse Fours. Katie Cooper kicked off with a Novice Pony win, while for the Intermediate Pony class it was Sara Clough and young

driver Emily Ham who took first and second, with Sara finishing 12 points ahead of her nearest rival.

In the Open Pony Susan Skeggs pulled up from fourth place after the dressage to drive the fastest marathon and pick up just three time faults in the cones to draw ahead of second placed Tracey Fletcher.

In the Pony Fours it was World Championship driver Sara Howe

from Sevenoaks who led all the way to pick up first place, finishing more than 30 points ahead of her nearest rival.

It was a closer finish in the Open Horse Class, as current Intermediate Champion Matt Were battled it out with Sonny Hillier, with Matt triumphing.

In the team sections the superstars were out in force with Georgina Hunt (nee Frith) leading the horse fours on 146.18, ahead of

an all star line up of Pippa Bassett, Dick Lane and George Bowman IV. Wilf Bowman Ripley had the lead from the dressage but a less than favourable marathon dropped him nine places, whilst Pippa Bassett's excellent marathon saw her rise seven places to finish in second. The event was a great success despite the weather and conditions held out for the competitors, although some had to be towed out at the end of the day.



## Showtime for South Suffolk

THE 2012 South Suffolk Show will be taking place at its usual location – Ampton Racecourse (near Ingham, Bury St Edmunds, on the A134) this Sunday.

However, it will have a totally new layout with more free parking space.

The show is a one-day

agricultural show regarded by many as one of the leading shows of its type in the eastern region.

There will be a revised ring layout this year as well as revised conditions for local novice, working hunter and ridden hunter classes.

There is also a qualifier (the only one

in Suffolk) for the Equifest Supreme Ridden Hunter Championship is addition to RIHS Qualifiers for BSHA Lightweight, Heavyweight and Maxi Cob classes, SHB (GB) Ridden Hunters, B.S.P.A., B.S.P.S SP, SHP & Heritage M&M and for the second year P (UK)

Young Riders Qualifiers.

Classes 25 – 27, P (UK) Shearwater M&M WHP, Class 31, The BSPS Mixed Height Novice WHP/intermediate WH and Class 37, The Local Novice WH, are qualifiers for the EQ Life Working Hunter Championships to be held on August

5 at the Wayland Show.

The first two places will qualify and qualification cards will be issued in the ring and must be signed by the judge.

In the event of the first placed competitor having already qualified, qualification will go down to fourth place.

**Newton Hall** 50  
Equitation Centre

Friday 11th May 10am - 11am  
**Tiny Tots Riding & Pony Fun**  
weekly until summer holidays

Sunday 13th May 7pm  
**Demonstration - Horses Inside Out**  
with Gillian Higgins  
For details please visit [www.poisequestrian.co.uk](http://www.poisequestrian.co.uk)

Tuesday 15th May between 8am - 10pm  
**FREE RIDING**  
'BHS Taster/ Get Back to Riding.'  
- ½ hour or one hour sessions

Wednesday 16th May 2pm - 4pm  
**BHS Stage 4 Training**  
Week commencing Mon 21st May  
**BHS Access Week /**  
**Reduced Hacking fees**

Tuesday 29th May 9.30am - 4pm  
**BHS Int. Teaching Training Day**

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