

## **Box Office for Olympia, The London International Horse Show, opens as organisers announce new programme**

Tickets for the 2011 Olympia, The London International Horse Show, go on sale on Monday 27 June and this year's show has some surprises in store.

Organisers have introduced a new equestrian competition to the line up; 'Extreme Driving'. This indoor carriage driving competition is about speed, accuracy and immense skill, as demonstrated by the World's top drivers who will negotiate a course of cones and obstacles. It has a large following on the continent and is expected to attract similar interest here. Extreme Driving will take place during Thursday 16 December's evening performance and Friday 17 December's afternoon performance.

"We are very excited by the introduction of driving to the Olympia programme" said Event Director Simon Brooks-Ward, "and are even more excited by the fact that we have the World's No 1 and No 2 Carriage Drivers competing; Boyd Exell (AUS) and Ijsbrand Chardon (NED). Some of our audience will not have seen indoor carriage driving before and they are in for a treat".

Joining the top two in the world are British driver Pippa Bassett and top Dutch driver, Koos de Ronde.

Olympia kicks off with the Reem Acra FEI World Cup™ Dressage Qualifier on the evenings of Tuesday 13 December (Grand Prix) and Wednesday 14 December (Freestyle to Music). With Britain, and particularly Laura Bechtolsheimer, winning recent top dressage competitions, this will provide a good indication of Britain's ability to go for gold in 2012.

Jumping classes start on Thursday 15 December and highlights include the Alltech Puissance (Friday 16 December's evening performance), The Rolex FEI World Cup™ Qualifier presented by H&M on Sunday 18 December's afternoon performance and The Olympia Grand Prix on the evening of Monday 19 December.

Olympia favourites, The Kennel Club Dog Agility, The Shetland Pony Grand National and the Christmas Finale will feature in all performance (apart from Tuesday dressage). The line up of displays includes the return of the magnificent Lorenzo, the Flying Frenchman and the Lusitano Quadrille from Portugal. This is the first time that this high school display has been seen at Olympia.

### **Ticket Information:**

Tickets for Olympia, The London International Horse Show, are priced between £21 and £55 with various discounts available for groups, seniors and children. Tickets include entrance to the Shopping Village but these can also be purchased separately without a show ticket for only £10. For further information and a confirmed programme of events please visit [www.olympiahorseshow.com](http://www.olympiahorseshow.com). For tickets, call the box office on **0871 230 5580**.

-ENDS-

**Notes to Editors:**

For further information and images please contact Jo Peck or Kellie Walker on 01753 847900 or email [jo.peck@hpower.co.uk](mailto:jo.peck@hpower.co.uk) or [kelliew@hpower.co.uk](mailto:kelliew@hpower.co.uk).

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