

AMATEUR DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Q&A



Colleen Negus

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? Seven years.

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? My husband Bruce Negus.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Getting to go out and race with happy, like-minded people.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? Family.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Everyone has an equal footing.



Frank Phelan

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? A good 15 years.

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? Telfer and Cullen.

I got involved when I was 16 - helping Peter McClelland at Hutt Park and I just gradually got more involved.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? I really enjoy the comradery and competitiveness, I also enjoy the race driving.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Hardest to beat is Neil Munro because hes always either in my way, or knocking me down.



Jo-ann Buckland-Stevens

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? This is my 3rd season.

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? I help out Bruce Negus when I can.

What is your day job? I work for the Brewers Guild of NZ

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Just being out there, nothing quite like it!

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? Bruce Negus and his way of pulling people into the sport, we had shares in Zulu Courage.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Cheree Wigg



Michelle Northcott

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? About 13 Years.

Do you work in a stable? Yes, but I do more with gallopers than the harness horses.

If so, for who? Graeme Rogerson.

What is your day job? I also have an agistment farm, a block that we run cattle on, drive the truck to the races and trials on a regular basis.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Giving the lower grade horses the opportunity to be competitive in races and of course winning!!

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? Through Graeme when he started training them.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Everyone! There is a lot of well-rounded knowledgeable people out there.



Barry White

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? I was involved in the Amateur Races right from the start, way back in the day when they were non tote races and we raced for petrol vouchers, maybe before 2009?

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? I help out at Matty Williamson's stable and also his farrier, so spend quite a lot of time there.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Amateur driving gives me a chance to compete in an industry that I love, when that mobile pulls away, that feeling is hard to beat.....

I was a jockey as a young fellow, so I have always been around horses, but when I got a chance to drive work, I was hooked!

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? I think Colleen Negus will be the hardest to beat for sure.



John Kriechbaumer

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? 14 Years.

Do you work in a stable? Yes

If so, for who? Abernethy Stables Part-time coffee guy, ha!

What is your day job? Self Employed, Part time – Retired

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Competing on race day with my fellow drivers. I am passionate for the sport and enjoy working with the horses.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? Through a close friend 45 years ago, breeding and training horses.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Everyone! It's the luck of the draw which makes it exciting.



Kevin McClintock

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? Two seasons.

Do you work in a stable? Yes

If so, for who? Jim Curtin. I have had horses there for over 20 years.

What is your day job? Assistant to John Denton at Addington Raceway track/grounds.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Owners and trainers know that their horses aren't superstars and expectations aren't full of pressure.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? My parents were in racing so I was born into it. Had my first drive when was 11 years old at Colin Berkett's and Mike DeFilippi taught me how to hold the reins. He was a great mentor to me right up until he passed. I've been extremely lucky to have worked with so many great horsemen in USA and Australia.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? In these series you have to expect the unexpected.



Warren Rich

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? About 12 years

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? Todd Mitchell.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? The social side.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? I was born into the industry, Dad working for George Noble is the first thing I remember about being around horses.

Who's the biggest threat in the Champs? Everybody else.



Cheree Wigg

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? Six years.

Do you work in a stable? Yes.

If so, for who? Alan Edge and for myself.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Possibility of qualifying to compete at the World Champs.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? Dad trained and drove in the 70s/early 80s.



Neil Munro

How many years have you been an Amateur Driver? Five years.

Do you work in a stable? I work at Spreydon Lodge after being at Stonewall Stud in the North for two years.

If so, for who? Spreydon Lodge.

What is the best part of being an Amateur Driver? Having a beer afterwards.

How did you get involved in Harness Racing? My Grandfather many moons ago got me a job working for Ted Lowe.

