



MUSICAL SHOW: Trevarth Black Jack performing with Rachael Grylls and Kayleigh Blight at the Barguse Arena in St Austell

Picture: Kathryn Pearn

DRIVING BACK TO HIS ROOTS

AN action-packed programme thrilled a capacity crowd at the Cornish Branch of the British Driving Society's (BDS) 'Extravaganza' at the Barguse Arena, St Austell.

Gary Docking, one of the country's top show producers of driving horses, took time out from his busy schedule to top the bill and this charismatic showman didn't disappoint with his witty and informative displays.

Now based in West Sussex, the high-profile horseman is no stranger to the county, having grown up at Trewoon, near St Austell, where his parents still live.

For the third consecutive season, Docking returned to his roots to take centre stage at this popular event and there was no doubt that his charm, combined with an innovative style of presentation, proved a resounding hit.

'Gary is a natural when it comes to entertaining an audience,' said Brian Ball, the BDS commissioner for Cornwall.

'We're very fortunate that a horseman of his calibre is willing to return each year.

'Gary enjoys a huge following all over the country and is one of the most popular and high-profile characters of the driving world.'

Another highlight was the jazzy and spectacular displays by the performing horses of the Rexion Stud, from Okehampton.

The matinee performance threw the spotlight on the Rexion Stud's Welsh Section D stallion Trevarth Black Jack and his trainer Rachael Grylls, who wowed the crowd with a theatrical display to the musical *Grease*.

In perfect harmony, 27-



year-old Grylls and her stunning black stallion performed a series of spectacular movements for the captivated crowd.

The performing duo were then joined by Kayleigh Blight in a rock 'n' roll rendition, featuring a 60s-style motorbike and guitar.

The tone changed for their finale. Featuring the heart-rendering song *One Moment in Time*, Grylls and Trevarth Black Jack conjured a classical perfor-

mance focusing on the trust, camaraderie and friendship between horse and handler.

Trevarth Black Jack was bred by Jo and Tony Lutey of the Trevarth Stud, Newlyn East, who proudly watched from the grandstand.

Earlier in the day, the Rexion Stud opened their portfolio with a performance to the upbeat chart topper *Reach for the Stars*.

It starred seven-year-old Jason Grylls and six-year-old Angelina Grylls with two of the stud's American miniature horses.

'We're totally a family concern,' said Rexion stud owner and commentator Patsy Grylls.

'It all started when my daughter-in-law Rachael decided she wanted to show what can be achieved with kindness and patience. We've been performing and perfecting our art for two years.'

The Rexion Stud and their stallion Trevarth Black

Jack, who featured on the programme *Britain Has Talent*, have also been booked to perform at this year's Devon County Show in the Lady Clinton and Countryside rings at Westpoint, near Exeter.

Also on the programme at the Driving Extravaganza was an interesting demonstration of riding the driving horse under saddle with Roche-based Sophie Tredigo, who put the spotlight on the riding section of the ride and drive classes.

● **REGIONAL law firm Stephens and Scown has joined the Clydesdale Bank in signing a three-year sponsorship deal for the prestigious Powderham Castle Horse Trials.**

Stephens and Scown – which has offices in Exeter, St Austell and Truro – has joined the bank as joint title sponsors of the three-day event which returns to Powderham next month following a nine-year absence.



HOME ON THE RANGE: A packed crowd enjoyed a skilful display by Gary Docking, making another welcome return to his home county, at the Cornish Branch of the British Driving Society's (BDS) Driving Extravaganza at Barguse Arena, St Austell

Picture: Kathryn Pearn