



NEWSLETTER

From Foal to Five Star

Northern Ireland
Horse Board



GOLD MEDALS AT GLORA MINORE

Northern Ireland's Niamh McEvoy was in action in the FEI Young Riders Jumping Championships at Glora Minore (ITA) with NI Bred Templepatrick Welcome Limerick (ISH). Full report on page 20



NIHB FOAL SHOW 2023

At the end of August we organised a very successful Foal Championship for our local breeders. We were well supported on the day with 35 entries over the 3 classes. For full details and results, please take a look at page 3.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

The Northern Ireland Horse Board would like to thank the following photographers for images used in this publication:

- Tori O'Connor Photography
- Laurence Dunne, JumpInAction.net
- Irish Eventing Times



**Northern Ireland
Horse Board**

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of our NIHB Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who downloaded and read our first copy, all 3000 of you!!! We hope you find this edition just as enjoyable.

It's been yet another busy quarter for the NI Horse Board with our Mares and Show Jumping Production Classes held in July at the Meadows. As well as our Foal Show in August also held at the home of the NIHB Office.

For this quarter we are reviewing the successes of Northern Ireland's athletes and NI bred horses and ponies. On the international scene, our athletes and horses have been adding to Ireland's medal haul in the FEI European Championships in both Showjumping and Eventing.

Thanks also to our Governing Body, Horse Sport Ireland for their editorial input into this edition.

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#performingonbaileys

NIHB FOAL SHOW 2023



NIHB runs Successful Foal Show at the Meadows EC

The Northern Ireland Horse Board (NIHB) hosted its highly anticipated annual Foal Show yesterday, captivating equestrian enthusiasts from across the region. Held at the prestigious Meadows Equestrian Centre in Lurgan, the event showcased a remarkable display of talent, beauty, and promising young horses.



With an unwavering commitment to promoting and advancing the equestrian industry in Northern Ireland, the NIHB organised the Foal Show as a platform to recognise and celebrate the exceptional breeding programs and remarkable foals bred within the region. The show attracted a diverse array of breeders, owners, trainers, and horse enthusiasts, all eager to witness the future stars of the equine world.



The Meadows Equestrian Centre, renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities and picturesque surroundings, provided the ideal backdrop for this prestigious event. Participants were treated to an impeccably organised show, complete with world-class judging by none other than Mr Tiernan Gill, hot of the back of his multiple successes at the 2023 Dublin Horse Show.



The Foal Show featured several categories, including show jumping, eventing and traditional foal classes. Judge, Tiernan Gill evaluated each foal based on conformation, movement, temperament, and potential for future success. The competition was fierce, as breeders proudly presented their finest young horses, highlighting the remarkable breeding programs within the region.



"This year's Foal Show has been an outstanding success," said Chris Bogle, spokesperson for the Northern Ireland Horse Board. "We were delighted by the high caliber of foals on display, which is testament to the dedication and expertise of our local breeders. The event not only showcased the exceptional talent within our region but also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among horse enthusiasts."

NIHB FOAL SHOW 2023

SHOWJUMPING FOAL

SPONSORED BY LOUGHERNE PERFORMANCE HORSES



The first class to take to the arena was the Showjumping foal class, with 23 mares and foals coming forward, Mr Gill had a tough choice to make with so much variety to choose from.

In the end, it was Donna Gillen's 'Orville Miss Heartbreaker', that collected the winner's rosette, leather headcollar, sponsored by Grace Irwin and 1st place prize of £250. The liver- chestnut filly by KWPN stallion 'Orville Van De Watermollen' and Irish Sport Horse Dam 'Oughterard OBOS' (Bosellwell Mr Heartbreaker x OBOS Quality 004), impressed in the arena, with bold movements and arena presence.



Donna, from Kilrea also went home with second place in the show jumping class, when her Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve (BWP) colt was pulled in second with only a few marks separating the Gillen duo. Third place in the class was resented to the Carol Armstrong bred 'Cornascribe for Emerald' by the Belgian warmblood stallion by Emerald Van't Ruytershof.

EVENTING

SPONSORED BY BAILEYS HORSE FEEDS

Janice Reddy, from Ardnacashel Equestrian Centre took the winners share of the Baileys Horse Feeds sponsored Eventing Foal Class. Showing her Vivant (KWPN) filly, 'Ardnacashel Lady Vivant' to its fullest potential, the young bay gave a show with great balance to ensure the winner's rosette was destined for Co. Down

Second place was awarded to 'Timpany Tiger Two', bred and owned by Paula Howard, the Tiger Attack (SHGB) colt was shown in the expert hands of Mr David Lyons, Ballynahinch. Rounding up the top 3 on the day was 'Lawana SL', bred and owned by Shane Belton. The grey filly Cormint (HOLST) out of a Fiero (KWPN) Dam, made the judging of the class very tough indeed with only a few marks separating the placings.



NIHB FOAL SHOW 2023

TRADITIONAL FOAL

SPONSORED BY MGM LOGISTICS IRELAND



The final class of the day was the Traditional Foal class, sponsored by MGM Logistics Ireland. Taking first place in the class was Shaunna McCotter with her stunning Mare and Foal. 'Pandora' the Liver Chestnut Filly, out of Irish Draught sire Moylough Legacy (ID) gave a foot perfect display along side dam Ballycann Marie who is out of local stallion Lislap Benedict (ID).



Second place went to 'Ardnacashel Rock 'N' Roll' the grey Ardnacashel Monarch (ID) colt bred and owned by Janice Reddy. With 3rd place going to Craigmores Rock N Roll, the Connemara bred filly (Galloon Rollover (CP)x Currachmore Cashel (CP)). Bred by Teresea O'Hagan, the grey roan filly also picked up the prize for the highest placed Connemara on the day also.

The NIHB extends its deepest gratitude to the Meadows Equestrian Centre for providing exceptional facilities and their invaluable support in making the Foal Show a resounding triumph. The event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of sponsors Lougherne Performance Horses, Baileys Horse Feeds and MGM Logistics Ireland, volunteers, and participants who all played a crucial role in its success.



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NIHB FOAL SHOW 2023

RESULTS

Show Jumping Foal Sponsored by Lougherne Performance Horses:

1st- Orville Miss Heartbreaker- Liver Chestnut Filly by Orville Van De Watermolen (KWPN), Dam: Oughterard OBOS (ISH) by Boswell Mr Heartbreaker (ISH). Owner/ Breeder- Donna Gillen

2nd- Diamond Tangelo – Bay Colt by Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve (BWP). Dam: Chacoa Diamond (ISH) by Chacoa (HOLST). Owner/ Breeder- Donna Gillen

3rd- Cornascribe For Emerald – Bay Colt by Emerald Van't Ruytershof (BWP). Dam: Cornascribe Fortuna (ISH) by Numero Uno (KWPN). Owner/ Breeder- Carol Armstrong

4th- Castamir JSB- Grey Colt by Emir R (HOLST). Dam: Castakko (HANN) by Cassini II (KWPN). Owner/ Breeder- Jackie Short.

5th- Ballyginnif Rocket Man – Bay Colt by Kingdom (SF). Dam: Ballyginniff Chilli Filly (ISH) by Diamond Chin (ISH). Owner/ Breeder- Linda Buchanan.

6th- Bella Miracolo – Chestnut/ Grey Filly by Singulaer Della Cassia (HOLST). Dam: Beechburn (IRE) [TB] BY Tikkanen (USA) [TB]. Owner/ Breeder- Alistair McDonald.

Eventing Foal Sponsored by Baileys Horse Feeds:

1st – Ardnacashel Lady Vivant Bay Filly by Vivant (KWPN). Dam: Ardnacashel Lady Luidam (ISH) by Luidam (KWPN). Owner/ Breeder – Janice Reddy

2nd- Timpany Tiger Two, Bay Colt by Tiger Attack (SHGB). Dam: Dernahatten Out of Touch (ISH) by Bienamado (TB). Owner/ Breeder – Paula Howard.

3rd- Lawana SL, Grey Filly by Cormint (HOLST). Dam: Carrigshawn Blue Imp (ISH) by Fiero (KWPN). Owner/ Breeder- Shane Belton.

4th- Cushlas Notanotherone, Bay Filly by Another Pleasure (KWPN). Dam: Cushlas Skyimp (ISH) by Master Imp (TB). Owner/ Breeder- Roundabout Stud.

5th- Fargo, Bay Colt by Bernhard (KWPN).
Dam: Big Old Unit (GB) [TB] by Royal Academy.
Owner/ Breeder- Carole Abram.

6th – Ashhollow Candy Beach, Bay Filly by
Beachball (ISH).
Dam: Tawnmore Imp by Master Imp (TB)
.Owned/ Breeder- James and Allison Callion.



RESULTS

Traditional Foal Sponsored by MGM Logistics Ireland:

1st – Pandora, Liver Chestnut Filly by Moylough Legacy (ID). Dam: Ballycann Marie (NIHB) by Lislap Bendict (ISH). Owner/ Breeder- Shauna McCotter.

2nd- Ardnacashel Rock 'N' Roll, Grey Colt by Ardnacashel Monarch (ID). Dam: My Mountain Lady (ISH) by Sir Rivie (ID). Owner/Breeder- Janice Reddy.

3rd- Craigmores Rock n Roll, Grey Roan Filly by Galloon Rollover (CP). Dam: Ballydoolagh Dreamer (CP) BY Currachmore Cashel (CP). Owner/ Breeder- Teresa O'Hagan.

4th- Shannaghmore Morning Mist, Dun Colt by Dunbeggan Lightening (CP). Dam Slievedarragh (ID) by Supreme Ginger (ID). Owner/ Breeder- Victoria Teuton.



The advertisement features a teal background with a decorative border of Christmas decorations including pine branches, gold and red stars, a candy cane, a gift box with a red bow, and a grey Christmas tree. The text is centered and reads:

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VETERINARY CORNER

HAPPY WEANLING, HAPPY HORSE

Local Vet, Caroline (Cally) Berry shares her wisdom in successfully weaning your foal.

Having been a vet for many years, Cally is a specialist reproduction vet based in Co. Down. Having been noted herself as a breeder of top class National Hunt (NH) horses such as Battleover Doyenne. Her daughter Susie, now based in England is a regular on the UK and Irish International eventing scene.



Weaning, after foaling is a very stressful time for foals and owners alike and every mare owner has their own way of managing the situation. After many years of practice I have found the programme laid out below.

Foals are generally ready for weaning at about six months of age. They should be vaccinated, wormed and be established on hard feed and forage that you intend to feed once separated from the mother.

Mares and foals are brought home to the yard where they can be observed and supervised. They spend the day together in the field but at night are separated into adjacent stables, where they can see each other and keep calm.

The foal should be well fed with ad lib good quality hay- Mum gets less!! After 4 or 5 days of partial separation, when the mare no longer produces milk and her udder has slacked, she is taken to a field, out of earshot, with a suitable friend.

The foal then tends to happily graze with their buddies or a quiet companion pony or older mare.

If the above is not possible in practice removing the mare at a time can be a reasonable alternative. Foals which are weaned 'cold turkey' and closed in a stable alone, I have found tend to go on hunger strike, get very stressed, which in time tends to lead to gastric ulcers, weight loss and the dreaded stable vices!

I wish you all stress-free and successful weaning of your lovely foals which we all dream will develop into the beautiful, healthy athletes of the future.

Cally

HORSE SPORT IRELAND NEWS

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2023 HSI SHOW JUMPING AND EVENTING STUDBOOK SERIES

2023 saw an increase in the overall prize fund available to the show jumping series and the return of the eventing series for the first time since 2019.



Running from May through to September, Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) Studbook Series include a show jumping and eventing series. These series provide a platform for young horses as they develop towards elite level with a particular focus on representing Irish Studbooks at the WBFSH World Breeding Championships in Show Jumping and Eventing.

Speaking about the series, Head of Breeding, Development and Innovation with HSI, Dr Sonja Egan said: "I wish to congratulate all breeders, riders, and owners on their success throughout the Horse Sport Ireland Studbook Series 2023. It is notable that many of our league and leg winners were homebred Irish horses, it is brilliant to see".

"On review of last year's HSI Studbook Series we worked to include aspects which aided the progressive development of these horses and producers. An increase in prize fund to €95,000 which included greater breeder recognition and the introduction of a young riders' prize, rewarding and good breeding decisions and young producers."

The HSI Studbook Series is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and HSI's coverage of both series is in association with Redmond Property Maintenance.

Show Jumping Series

Beginning in Galway Equestrian Centre, Gerard Clarke and Castleforbes Gillian (ISH), won the seven-year-old class, jumping double clear and to pip Monbeg Ruby (ISH) and Tomas Doyle to top spot on the podium. Shane Moloney completed the podium with Galilee Des Flagues (ISH), and also claimed fourth place with HHS Disney (ISH).

The series moved to Barnadown Equestrian Centre, Co Wexford for the second leg in early May, with World Champion Ethen Ahearne proving victorious LVS Goldrush (ISH) in the seven-year-old class.

One of nine combinations to progress to a second round, including last year's six-year-old winners Brendan Murphy and Shirsheen Calensky (ISH) and runners-up from leg one Doyle and Monbeg Ruby, Ahearne had a time to beat of 38.94 seconds, set by the latter. A clear round in 37.55 seconds saw Ahearne come out on top.

Cavan Equestrian Centre hosted the third leg. Victory for Jonathan Smyth and Mr Kannan Ball (ISH) saw this combination move into second place in the seven-year-old league at the half-way point.

HORSE SPORT IRELAND NEWS

Having finished fourth in Barnadown, Smyth and the Kannan-sired gelding jumped double clear to pick up 10 league points, putting the pressure on Doyle and Monbeg Ruby. Mikey Pender put points on the league table claiming second place with HHS Cyprus (ISH).

In the six-year-old category, Shane O'Reilly and Francis Derwin Jr both added double clears to their efforts at Barnadown and they sit on top of the table on 14 points. Molly Hughes Bravo and HHS Mercedes (ISH), the combination who, as a five-year-old won the final leg last year at Tattersalls, were runners-up in Cavan.

In the five-year-old class, Young Rider Annie Courtney-Cadam, riding LCC Dunard Lady Dominator (ISH), and Tholm Keane, riding Nairobi, shared joint first place on the league table. Linda Moloney maintained third place, just two points behind on 15, with Sir Escobar (ISH).

As the sun shone down on Mullingar International the competition heated up, Doyle and Monbeg Ruby extended their lead, winning the seven-year-old division. Having claimed points at every leg of the league thus far.

In the six-year-olds, nine horses jumped clear in the first round, with three horse and rider combinations jumping clear in the second round to share the prize fund Clarke with Drishoge Creed (ISH), Kevin Gallagher with BP Casablanca (ISH), and Mikey Pender with Madgeslane Diva (ISH).

Topping the league leaderboard at this stage of the series was Shane O'Reilly and BWE Special Rose (ISH), with Clarke and the homebred Drishoge Creed close behind in second.

A very competitive five-year-old class saw 17 horses jumping double clear in the final to divide the prize fund, with Moloney and Sir Escobar once again adding to their points tally to bolster their position on top of the league. Post Mullingar Tholm Keane and Nairobi, Brendan Murphy and OKE Dixieland Rock (ISH), shared second place in the league.

Taking place at Cork Summer Show, leg five saw Doyle claim yet another round of the seven-year-old division, however, this time it was on board the O.B.O.S Quality 004 (OLD)-sired gelding Monbeg Conspiracy (ISH).

This was the first leg that the six-year-old horses jumped against the clock in the final round. Seven horses jumped clear to progress to the jump-off, victory went to Paul Beecher and Brogagh Darcy (ISH). Junior rider Cian Byrne slotted into second place with Lunasa Cruise (ISH)[TIH] and Marti Rudd completed the podium with Monbeg Sapphire (ISH), with that result moving her into the top spot in the six-year-old Studbook Series League on 22 points.

Seven combinations jumped double clear in the five-year-old class to divide the winnings, with Keane and Nairobi moving ahead of Moloney and Sir Escobar (ISH) in the league standings.

The penultimate leg of the series was in Balmoral Park on the second weekend of July for the National Balmoral Showjumping Championships. Smyth and Mr Kannan Ball topped the podium once again in the seven-year-old class. Claiming second place was event rider Clare Abbott with Caltra Classic (ISH), with Molly Hughes-Bravo completing the podium riding HHS Tokyo (ISH).

he overall league leader, Doyle and homebred Monbeg Ruby continued their run of excellent form. The duo took fifth place on the day, and to further bolster their position on top of the league on 31 points.

The win put Smyth in second place on a total of 24 points, ahead of Clarke and Castleforbes Gillian in third place with 19 points with a single leg of the series remaining.

In the six-year-old division Shane O'Reilly's double clear on board BWE Vain Hero (ISH) in a time of 45.91 seconds saw them claim victory. Second place went to Patrick Hickey with Silverteal Indigo (WSI), pipping Molly Hughes-Bravo into third place with HHS Mercedes.

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League leader Rudd's double clear in 52.30 seconds with Monbeg Sapphire, was good enough for a sixth-place finish and further extended her lead in the league.

As happened in the previous leg, the five-year-old final saw seven horses jumping double clear to share the top spot. There was plenty of change in the league leaderboard with Courtney-Cadam and LCC Dunard Lady Dominator taking over the lead and Murphy with OKE Dixieland Rock moving into second place, pushing Keane and Nairobi and Moloney and Sir Escobar into third and fourth place in the league standings respectively.

Show Jumping Studbook Series Final:

Husband and wife combination Marti Rudd and Tomas Doyle proved unbeatable in the series final at Tattersalls, Co Meath. Doyle build up a sizeable lead over the course of the series and a third place finish in the final leg saw him finish on 37 points with Monbeg Ruby. Smith finished second with Mr Kannan Ball and Gerard Clarke was third with Castleforbes Gillian.

Ahearne and LVS Goldrush H finished second in the series final and shared equal third place in the league with Hughes Bravo and HHS Tokyo. Putting points on the board for the first time this series, Gemma Phelan won the final leg with Curraghraigue Jack Bro (ISH)



Victory in the final leg of the six-year-olds went to Shane O'Reilly and BWE Vain Hero (ISH), with Max O'Reilly Hyland in second riding Rock Warrior (ISH) and Jason Higgins and MBF Maxwill in third. Rudd and Monbeg Sapphire held onto their lead to win the league on 33 points, Shane O'Reilly was second on 30 points with BWE Special Rose and Higgins and MBF Maxwill finished third.

Having scored league points in all bar one leg of the series it was no surprise that Brendan Murphy came out victorious in the five-year-old class with OKE Dixieland Rock (ISH). Young rider Annie Courtney-Cadam claimed second with LLC Dunard Lady Dominator and Tholm Keane and Nairobi were second.

Murphy and OKE Dixieland Rock were third in the final leg, with Vicent Byrne and Gone Girl VB (ISH) topping the podium and Loughatousa Flamenco and Tadhg Beecher in second.

Eventing Series

The eventing series opened at the inaugural one-day event in Clonmahon House, Co Meath in early June. In the seven-year-old division it was Sara Glynn with Granny Jean's Unicorn (ISH) who took the honours, owned in partnership between Glynn and her mother Laura. Dressage leaders Patrick Whelan and Dermish Chill (ISH) finished second, The Chillout (ISH)-sired gelding is owned by Paul Donovan.

The six-year-old class attracted high entries and proved highly competitive with only three combinations completing on their dressage score. It was a one-two for Steven Smith who won the class with Terry Johnston's Strangford (ISH) on a score of 31.3 and was second with CJO Kann Surprise (ISH) on 31.8, owned by Caroline Overend and Carla Leitch. Fellow Northern Irish rider Joseph Murphy completed the podium with his own Dstud Flirtation (ISH).

Adam Haugh won the five-year-old class with his own Chrome (ISH) on a score of 28, Elaine O'Connor claimed second place with Tullymurry Grace (ISH), owned by David O'Connor.

The second leg of the series took place in Rosanna, Co Wicklow and saw traditional Irish-bred horses dominate, especially in the five-year-old class. Caitie Slater had a one-two leading from the dressage phase onwards. Slater won on board Richard Ames' Belline Imperial Diamond (ISH)[TIH] and finished second with JFH Golden Spear (ISH)[TIH], following a fifth-place finish in the opening leg. Completing the podium was Georgina Pettit and BCL Belletastic (ISH)[TIH], owned by Marguerite Pettit.

Smith recorded his second victory in the six-year-old division, riding CJO Kann Surprise, who was the runner-up at Clonmahon House. Following the first two legs Smith held first and second place in the overall series.

Whelan and Dermish Chill added valuable league points when winning the seven-year-old class. Alyssa O'Neill and her own Danos Lola (ISH) finished in second place.

The third leg of series moved to Ballindenisk, Co Cork. In the seven-year-old class all bar one combination successfully finished on their dressage score, finishing one second over the time allowed in the show jumping meant Sarah Ennis ad Silken Icon (ISH) added 0.4 penalties to their dressage score, however, this did not impact the overall standings.

Victory went to Suzanne Hagan with her own Loughview Commander (ISH), on a score of 27.5. Close on her heels was Joseph Murphy riding his own My Foxhall Kit (ISH) on 28.2. Completing the top three was Michael Ryan, riding Tom and Carol Henry's Tullibards Bennys Rainbow (ISH).

Daniel Alderson won the six-year-old class with the Margaret G Moore-owned and bred mare Annestown Royal Blue (ISH). This result catapulted this combination up the league leaderboard.

Victory in the five-year-old division went to Nicola Ennis, riding her sister Suzanne Ennis' CBI Joker (WSI), finishing on a score of 26.0, ahead of Pettit and BCL Belletastic in second. Third place went to Slater and JFH Golden Spear. This podium finish for Slater proved very valuable moving this combination four points clear at the top of the league.

Unfortunately, the fourth leg of the series due to take place in Tattersalls was cancelled due to heavy rainfall.

Eventing Stud Book Series Final

Going into the final of the series Whelan and Dermish Chill held their lead in the seven-year-old division. Smith was in equal first place in the league with two of his rides – Strangford and CJO Kann Surprise, and Elaine O'Connor had a two-point advantage in the five-year-old class with Tullymurry Grace (ISH).

The series final took place at the Eventing Ireland National Championships in Kilguilkey House, Co Cork.

Irish Olympian Clare Abbott and Drumnaconnell Kobie (ISH), owned and bred by Lawrence Patterson, won the final leg of the seven-year-old class, coming home six marks clear of her nearest rival – Daniel Alderson and Tullibards You Make Me Feel (ISH). Michael Ryan was third with JVK Eclipse (ISH) [TIH].



Smith once again dominated in the final of the six-year-old division, claiming the top two places with Tulleher Paudie (ISH) and Strangford (ISH) respectively. Daniel Alderson completed the podium with Annestown Royal Blue (ISH).

The final leg of the five-year-olds attracted the largest entries. Abbott made it two from two, winning on board her own MT Luxaan (ISH). Isabella Gogan finished second with Ardeo Copperton Kryptonite (ISH) and O'Connor was third with Tullymurry Grace (ISH).

In the final league standing Whelan held on his lead to claim the seven-year-old class with Dermish Chill. Hagan and Loughview Commander (ISH) were second and Glynn and Granny Jean's Unicorn completed the podium following their victory in the opening leg of the series.

Smith proved unstoppable in the six-year-olds – claiming the top three places in the league. He was victorious with Strangford, completing on an impressive 35 points. Smith finished second with CJO Kann Surprise on 25 points and third with Tullaheer Paudie on 23 points.

The five-year-old leagued proved fiercely competitive with very little separating the top three. The traditionally bred Belline JFH Golden Spear ridden by Slater won the league on 22 points following excellent performances in the first three legs of the series. O'Connor and Tullymurry Grace claimed valuable points in the final to finish second and Pettit and BCL Belletastic were third.

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2023 REVIEW

RDS DUBLIN HORSE SHOW



The 2023 Dublin Horse Show, one of the most prestigious equestrian events in the world, recently concluded with resounding success. This year's edition of the show showcased the incredible achievements of Northern Irish bred horses and athletes, highlighting their exceptional talent and contribution to the equestrian world.

The Dublin Horse Show, held annually at the RDS (Royal Dublin Society) Showgrounds, brought together thousands of equestrian enthusiasts, riders, breeders, and industry professionals from around the globe. This iconic event, steeped in history and tradition, provided a captivating platform for the Northern Irish equestrian community to shine.

Northern Ireland, renowned for its rich equestrian heritage, made a resounding impact at the 2023 Dublin Horse Show. The region's exceptional breeding programs and talented athletes demonstrated their prowess across various disciplines, leaving an indelible mark on the event.

The successes of Northern Irish bred horses are particularly noteworthy. These magnificent creatures, testament to the expertise and dedication of Northern Irish breeders, showcased their exceptional talent, agility, and grace throughout the competition. They captivated audiences with their breathtaking performances in showjumping, Showing, Young Event Horse classes, and more.

Northern Ireland's athletes also displayed their exceptional skill and determination, solidifying their reputation as some of the finest equestrians in the world. Their remarkable performances and unwavering commitment to excellence were evident in every stride, jump, and manoeuvre. Their hard work and dedication paid off, earning them well-deserved accolades and recognition.

WEDNESDAY

In the opening class of the 2023 RDS Dublin Horse Show, the 6-Year-Old Horses took place in the Main Arena. Placing in 5th was the NI Bred horse Carneyhaugh Unison. This grey mare by Cornet Obolensky x Don Juan De La Bouverie was bred by Patrick Breen and ridden by Clem McMahon.



Northern Irish riders took 4 of the top 6 placings in the opening 4-year-old qualifier, with Co. Tyrone cousins Michael Roche (1st) with the Ennisnag Stud bred BP Othello and Niamh McEvoy (2nd) with the Greg Broderick Bloodstock's 'Bp Lady Masterpiece'. Placing 3rd in the class was William Greene's Edentrillick Special Edition, bred in Co. Down the I'm Special De Muze Z sired gelding is now owned and ridden by Vincent Byrne.

Niamh McEvoy enjoyed further success on the opening day, with a win in the international class for 7 and 8-year-old horses. Having qualified at the Meadows Equestrian Centre, the Austin Broderick bred 'Bp Limitless' came out victorious in a class of 40 starters from 8 different nations.



The Hunter and showing rings were also in full swing, outside the Angelsea stand side of the RDS, James Smyth had a particularly successful day, with wins in both the Small Riding Horse (Lulu De Beau) and in the Small Hunters (Highview Overado). Smyth went on to win the RDS Perpetual Challenge Cup for Champion Riding Horse and the Champion Small Hunter Challenge Cup presented by the RDS.

In the Small Riding Horse Helen Troughton's Randalstown Speculation Small placed 3rd in a competitive class. The 4-year-old Masurenfuerst (TRAK) x Sir Rivie (ID) chestnut mare was ridden under saddle by Ciaran Feldman.

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In the Small Riding Horse Helen Troughton's Randalstown Speculation Small placed 3rd in a competitive class. The 4-year-old Masurenfuerst (TRAK) x Sir Rivie (ID) chestnut mare was ridden under saddle by Ciaran Feldman.

Hannah Agnew's Edentrillick Casandra placed 5th in the 3-Year-Old Potential Young Event Horse class. In charge of the bay gelding sired by Dutch Warmblood 'Jorado' was Carolyn Green. Success was also had by Ryan Anderson, winning the 4- and 5-Year-Old Small Hunter class with his own Highthyme Overado.

After day 1 of the 4-Year-Old Young Event Horse, Emma Jackson led the way with Rockrimmon Legacy with a score of 30.1. Hot on her heels was Steven Smith with the NI bred 'Callen Valley Cruise'.

In the 5-Year-Old Young Event Horse, Armagh's Steven Smith took a commanding lead on Day 1. Just 0.7 penalties separated his mounts after the phase, with the NI Bred Carrickview Calvani in pole position.

THURSDAY

As the sun rose on day 2 of the RDS Dublin Horse Show, the main arena was set for the young event horse classes. Up first was the final phase of the Junior and Young Rider Event Horse Class. Following her first day score of 25.5, Sadie McMahon with the late Ronnie Hollinger bred 'Creevagh Hilfiger' climbed up the placings to finish in 3rd place with the gelding by Camiro de Harr Z



The jumping phase of the Young Event Horses, saw a close finish in the 4-Year-Old Championship with less than 1 penalty separating 1st to 5th placings. After holding pole position overnight, Emma Jackson slipped to eventual 5th place with Rockrimmon Legacy, a bay mare by AES Stallion Rockrimmon Senator.

In the 5-Year-Old Young Event Horse Championship, competition on the second day saw several big swings in the leaderboard. An unfortunate round from overnight leader Steven Smith and Carrickview Calvani, saw them drop out of contention.

Nonetheless, 'Greenhall Gold Dust', Smith's second mount put in a good round to finish in 3rd place overall.



The last class of the day in the Ballsbridge main arena was the 2nd qualifier for the 6-Year-Old Championship. Placing 3rd in a very competitive class was Co. Down's Dermott Lennon, with the bay Irish Sport Horse Gelding 'Kinmar Right on Time'.



TORI O'CONNELL
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EQUINE PHOTO SHOTS
EVENTS PHOTOGRAPHER
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In the Granville Nugent Arena in Simmonscourt, the 138 6 & 7 Year old judged class kicked off the day. Northern Ireland's Medb Kinney made it into the rosettes placing in 5th place with Sparkling Equine's 'Sparkling Taylor Maid'.

In the 148A qualifier, Lily Tunney and Zara Jane Kelly, were in the winner's line up, Tunney placing 5th with the Aldatus Z gelding 'Fireman' and Kelly taking 6th place with the Romanov gelding 'Romabout'. Placings in this class also meant that these two talented young ladies also now qualify for the 148A National Championship on Friday Morning.

Medb Kinney was back in the rosettes for the 128A qualifier on Thursday Afternoon, riding the Welsh mare 'Leiaish Lady Penelope'. Kinney was also joined in the line up by fellow NI rider, Juliana Nelson with the Connemara 'Knockmenagh Rocco'.

Closing the Simmonscourt Arena for day 2 of the Show was the Three-Year-Old Loose sponsored by Horse Sport Ireland. In the B Section, placing 4th was the 3-Year-Old 'Mt Diacontina' bred by Gareth Carlisle, and owned jointly with Clare Abbott.



It was a busy day once again in the showing rings, in Ring 1 the 2-Year-Old Gelding or Colt Class was won by local equine physiotherapist Sharon Kelly-Murphy with her Aoife Healion bred 'Annaghmore Dunkirk'. In the 3-year-old gelding class a highly commended rosette was presented to David Kirkpatrick for his Cougar (TIH) gelding 'Redwood Sky'. The Northern Irish bred 'Tattygare Me Me Me' owned and bred by Shirley Hurst from Co. Fermanagh, placed a very credible 4th in a strong 3 year old Filly class.

In the Light-weight hunters, Dr Karen King's (Crossgar) 'Diamond Breeze' placed 4th in a strong class of 12 entries. The 5-Year-Old Grey mare by Balief Guy (ISH) was ridden by Victoria Mullen.

In a class of poise and elegance, The Ladies Side Saddle Championship saw a total of 14 entries, taking equal 6th place was Julie Donaghy Simpson with her own Bay Gelding 'He's the Lad'. Also placing 6th was Rachel Moore with 'Ballymacbrennan Merdios' bred by Dora and Nixon Beacom.

In Ring 2, Declan Rafferty placed 4th with Samuel Smyth (Randalstown) bred gelding, 'Bannside Dancer' (Legaland Darci II (ISH) x Crosstown Dancer (ID)).

FRIDAY



The 4-Year-old Qualifier on Friday morning was once again dominated by Northern Irish riders and horses, with NI athletes claiming 4 of the top 6 placings in this judged competition. Also in the line up was the Northern Irish bred Edentrillick Special Edition, bred in Hillsborough the I'm Special de Muze Z (BEWB) gelding was ridden by Vincent Byrne.

In the 1.25-1.30m Young Riders class, Co. Antrim's Charlotte Harding was unfortunate to miss out on a top 6 placing, when the Irish Draught sired King Diamond (by Echo King (ID) placed 7th in a very fast jump off. Again, just missing out on a top 6 placing was Alex Finney and MHS Style in the 1.35- 1.40m Young Riders.

The 5-Year-Old Cazaan (HOLST) mare 'Cazadee' owned and bred by Co. Tyrone's Michelle McElhatton placed a very credible 4th place to secure their spot in Sundays National Championship. Ridden by Barry McCormack, the talented bay was less than 1.5 seconds of the leader and only 0.02 seconds from 3rd place.



Lisa Talbot Mitchell from Ballinderry Equestrian, had a very successful day when taking 2nd place with her and her mum Alison, Be Colour Bue, bred by Megan Rodgers from Ballymena, the striking blue and white gelding by Irish Draught Cappa Casanova, went on to receive the Reserve Champion sash for Coloured Horses.

The Thoroughbred gelding 'About a Master' by Golden Master (TB) took second place in the Middle Weight Hunter Class, ridden by Rachel Moore. James Smyth was back to his winning ways of day 3 of the 5 Star International horse show, with wins in both the Middle Weight Hunters (3), with the Northern Ireland bred My Diamond Solitaire, bred by Dr K King and the Heavy Weight Hunters with Endeavour R, bred by Simon McCarthy.

Sam McAteer made it 7 wins in the Champion Cob Class. 'Randalstown Rigby' bred by Mr Sam McAteer from Co. Antrim clinched the title once more when this stunning 4-year-old gelding, that dazzled the judges, well done is also extended to Leslie Webb Jones who professionally rode this cob to his full potential.

'Tattygare Me Me Me' owned and bred by Shirley Hurst from Co. Fermanagh was placed 3rd in the Irish Field sponsored Breeders Championship.

SATURDAY

An early start saw the final qualifying opportunity for the Amateur Showjumpers to qualify for their prestigious Championship that takes place later in the Main Arena. With an early draw it was Omagh's Lisa Patterson that threw down the gauntlet with 20 other combinations following. Whilst many tried, Patterson's clear round held her in good stead finishing in 4th place and qualifying with the Hugh Trainor bred 'Miss Shutterfly'.

In the 148 6/7-Year-old Championship sponsored by North Star, it was Tyrone's Zara Jane Kelly who made it into a 12 man jump off. Riding the 7-year-old Bay Gelding, Drumacon Mo Chara, Kelly fell afoul of the second part on an early double to leave her outside of the placings on this occasion.

A full audience settled into their seats and the standing areas around the Simmonscourt Arena on Saturday Afternoon for the 4 Year Old 'Mo Chroi' Championship, of the 6 4-year-old horses that made it through the 2 pre-final qualifiers, 5 of the 6 horses were either ridden by Northern Ireland athletes or bred in Northern Ireland.



Following their first jumping round, all 6 finalists were put through their paces by Great Britain's international rider, Robert Whittaker. In the end it was a Co. Tyrone 1-2 with cousins Niamh McEvoy (BP Lady Masterpiece) and Michael Roche (BP Othello) placing first and second respectively. As Champion 4-Year-Old for 2023, McEvoy and the Diamant de Semilly mare were also recipients of the Seamus Hughes Perpetual Trophy. The Northern Ireland bred 'Edentrillick Special Edition' bred by William Greene was placed in 6th place after an unfortunate pole down in the showjumping phase. To get to this prestigious final is a huge accolade for any breeder, from the hundreds of horses that attended the 3 qualifiers that took place in Barnadown, Mullingar and the Meadows.



There was much excitement in the Main Arena as the Horseware Ireland sponsored 128 Pairs Relay took place to a capacity audience. Placing second on the day was 9-year-old Alice Steele onboard Zulu's dream, paired with British international Robert Whittaker.

Following the speed and excitement of the 128 Pairs Relay, it was time for the Landrover Defender Puissance. With the great red wall starting at 2m high, 12 combinations made it through the first round, two of these were Northern Ireland athletes Jordan Coyle and Jonathan Smyth. Smyth, who qualified for the Puissance earlier in the year at Mullingar, unfortunately knocked a block in the second round to finish in equal 9th place. Coyle made it all the way to the 5th and final round, where the wall reached a massive 2.25m! An unfortunate brick out of the wall meant that the Derry native had to settle for 2nd place.

In the final class of the day and under the RDS Main Arena Floodlights, Amateur National Championship took place after the excitement of the Defender Puissance. 12 athletes qualified for the classes earlier in the week. Clear rounds from Omagh's Lisa Patterson and Fermanagh's Caitriona Cody seen the duo move into the jump off. In the end, with clear rounds as a premium Fermanagh's Caitriona Cody, had a foot perfect round to end in 2nd place to finish a reserve amateur champion for 2023, whereas an unfortunate 4 faults saw Lisa finish in 5th place



Over in the Showing Rings, the Mare and Foal (class 31) took place under the early morning sunshine, placing a credible 3rd place overall was Paula Howard's 'Dernahatten Out of Touch' handled by Mr David Lyon's from Ballynahinch. The same combination also placed 2nd in Class 33 for Mares and Foals. The Co, Fermanagh bred Tattygare Me Me Me was also in the showing ring once again, this time placing 3rd in Class 36. Also competing a mare and foal class was in a separate competition, Claire Shearer of Oakley Sport Horses received the Highly commended rosette with her bay mare GHS Cavalier Claire, bred by Leanne Paul.

The Cavalier Royale gelding, Endeavour R was once again back in the show ring with James Smyth on Saturday for the Heavy Weight Hunter Championship, where Smyth was awarded the Frances Cash Perpetual Challenge Cup, presented in memory of the late Ms Frances Cash for the Best Heavy-Weight Hunter.

SUNDAY

The final day of the show brought yet more rosettes and stellar performances from Northern Ireland athletes and horses.

In the Flexible 5-Year-Old Championship, held in the early morning sunshine, 16 athletes made it through to the final, making it through to the jump off was Omagh's Niamh McEvoy with the Ronan Rothwell bred and owned stallion 'Boleybawn Alvaro'. The Northern Ireland bred 'Cazedee' also made it through to the prestigious final, however luck was not on the side of the Cazann (HOLST) sired mare, bred and owned by Michelle McElhatton, with faults in the opening round preventing them from progressing to the jump off.



RDS REVIEW 2023

McEvoy was once again in a podium placing in the 'Cruising' 6-Year-Old National Championship. This time with the Sarah Tredennick bred 'BP Tiny Dancer', this talented plot Blue (KWPN) mare, came withing 0.25 seconds of the win, only to be pipped to the post by last years winner Leah Stack and Laurina. An uncharacteristic pole down in the first round, kept the Northern Ireland bred, 'Carneyhaugh Unison' out of the jump off. The stunning grey mare by Belgian Warmblood sire (BWP), Cornet Obolensky was bred by Mr Patrick Breen and campaigned at the RDS by Irish International Clem McMahon.

In the second of the International Classes on the final day, Derry's Jordan Coyle took the honours in the Linsey Speed Championships. Riding the Swedish warmblood 'Ariso', Coyle kept a cool head to take the lions' share of the prize fund, ahead of fellow Irishman Cian O'Connor.

To bring the showjumping to a close in the Main Arena was the Longines Grand Prix of Ireland, boasting a prize fund of €350,000, 3 athletes from Northern Ireland lined out in the 38 strong start list. Riding his and Ariel Grange's 13-year-old mare 'Legacy', Daniel Coyle finished up just outside the top 12, following his unlucky four fault score at the final fence. Victoria Bridge rider, Jonathan Smyth made his 5* debut in the Grand Prix with the Irish Sport Horse 'Mulvin Lui' and completing the trio was Jordan Coyle with the Falkirk Farms' 'For Gold'.



The Northern Ireland bred 'Knockaleery Pilgrim' placed 4th in a strong class of 12 in the Leight weight Working Hunter class for 5- and 6-Year-old Horses. The 5-year-old Cappa Casanova sired gelding, bred by Jane and Robert Huey went under saddle with Sammy Weston to lift the 4th place ribbon in the competition.

Winning the Show Hunter Starter Stakes was Casey Lee Millar from Fermanagh and 'Bunbury Suarez' (WELSH). Bunbury Suarez or Jenson as he is known at home, is quiet at home in the RDS show ring having won the class successfully for 4 years!!



Rachel Moore (Ballymacbrennan Merdios) was once again in the ring, this time in the Middle/Heavy Weight Working Hunter. With breeder Dora Beacom, busy with the presidential duties in Simonscourt, the 7-Year-Old Bay Gelding by Mermus R (KWPN) placed first in a hotly contested class to also be crowned Working Hunter Champion for 2023!

The poster features a background image of a white horse's head in profile. In the foreground, there are several smaller images of horses: a grey horse being led by a person, a dark brown horse running, and two foals (one light brown, one darker brown) running together. The text is overlaid on this background. In the top left is the Horse Sport Ireland logo, a green square with a white horse head silhouette. In the top right is the Irish harp logo. The text 'An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara' and 'Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine' is positioned to the right of the harp. The main title 'Horse Sport Ireland Foal Championships 2023' is in large, bold, green font. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'Applications online' in green. There are decorative green splatters and circles scattered across the poster.

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The key to successful weaning lies in good preparation and correct nutrition is one aspect of that preparation which can start whilst the foal is still suckling.

At around 3 to 4 months of age the foal's digestive system will have developed to be able to digest cereal grains and legumes (soya beans and peas) more efficiently, as levels of amylase and protease enzymes are increasing. This is the time to introduce the foal to concentrate feeds, encouraging the gradual adaptation of the system and helping reduce the risk of digestive upsets, and associated drop of condition, when the milk supply is removed.

There is often a reluctance to feed foals, particularly those who are naturally good-doers, for fear of causing growth problems, with protein wrongly labelled as the culprit. It is now recognised that it is a high energy (calorie) intake, with insufficient minerals, which can lead to these problems, as this creates an increased rate of growth without the nutrients required to build the tissues to support the growth.

Maintaining a steady rate of growth is, therefore, essential to try to avoid of growth problems, which could ultimately affect a foal's soundness and ability to perform as an adult. For foals who hold their condition well, both before and during the weaning process, Baileys' low calorie Stud Balancer is ideal, as this will provide essential protein, vitamins and minerals to support growth but with a negligible calorie content.



For those who require some help maintaining condition, Baileys Stud & Youngstock Mix or Cubes will provide additional calories as well as the necessary supporting nutrients to support growth. Baileys Prep Mix is an oat-free alternative designed to promote condition, while Prep-Ease is a reduced starch option aimed at those prone to excitability and both are ideal for the foal or weanling being prepped for the sales or showing.

Whichever feed you feel is most appropriate, it must be fed at recommended rates to supply the necessary nutrients to support growth. Introduce it slowly, say a handful at a time, and build up the manufacturer's recommended levels for the foal's age and estimated mature bodyweight. Before the foal is finally separated from its dam, it should therefore be well established on its own concentrate diet and eating grass and any other forage source, which it will remain on after weaning.

The fibre-digesting, and other hind gut bacteria, of any horse can be disrupted by stressful situations with associated reductions in gut efficiency and potential digestive upsets like loose droppings. Feeding a digestive enhancer, such as Digest Plus prebiotic, before, during and after the weaning process can help the foal through the stressful time by supporting the beneficial bacterial populations and helping maintain a healthy balance in the gut.

NI RIDERS AND HORSES SHINE

AT FEI EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The summer of 2023 proved to be a tremendous success for Northern Ireland riders and their equine partners at the prestigious FEI European Championships. From eventing to jumping, the athletes showcased their skill, determination, and the remarkable talent of their horses and ponies.

At the FEI Pony European Eventing Championships held in Le Mans, France, NI athlete Molly O'Connor delivered an outstanding performance. Riding the NI Bred Coolnaleen Rebel, O'Connor secured a remarkable bronze team medal, representing Northern Ireland with pride and distinction. Coolnalee Rebel is a Irish Sport Horse with TIH (Traditional Irish Horse) breed. The grey gelding by Rebel Mountain (ID) was bred by Noeleen Redmond and now owned by Paul O'Connor.



In another impressive feat, Joseph Murphy, based in Killyleagh, played a crucial role as a member of the Senior Eventing team at the FEI European Eventing Championships in Haras du Pin. The team's collective efforts rewarded them with an admirable 4th place finish. Individually, Murphy showcased his exceptional skills, finishing in 12th place with his trusted partner, the 12-year-old gelding, Camaro. Additionally, fellow team member Susie Berry demonstrated her talent, securing a commendable 16th place individually with her mare Clever Trick, by Thoroughbred stallion, Financial Reward.



Meanwhile, in Gorla Minore, Italy, the Young Rider Jumping European Championships captivated audiences. The Irish team emerged victorious, claiming the coveted gold in the team competition. Among the talented riders contributing to this triumph was Omagh's own Niamh McEvoy, who exhibited exceptional skill and harmony with Robin Bingham's mare, Templepatrick Welcome Limerick.

At the time of writing, Co. Down's Abigail Lyle is taking to the arena at the FEI Senior European Dressage Championships in Riensbeck, Germany with her hannovarian, 'Farrell'.

These remarkable achievements at the FEI European Championships underscore the depth of talent and dedication within the Northern Ireland equestrian community. The performances of Molly O'Connor, Joseph Murphy, Suzie Berry, and Niamh McEvoy exemplify the unwavering commitment, countless hours of training, and the special bond between horse and rider.

Northern Ireland Horse Board's Chairman, Mr Hugh McCusker expressed his pride and admiration for the riders and their horses, stating, "These remarkable achievements are a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and passion of our athletes."

STORIES FROM THE NIHB OFFICE

Willie McPherson, a weathered and wise old horseman, shuffled into our office one morning. His stooped posture and worn leather boots were a testament to a lifetime spent working with horses. Intrigued by his presence, we invited him to share his stories and wisdom about old traditional horse remedies.



"Y'see," Willie began, his voice gravelly but full of warmth, "back in my day, we didn't have fancy veterinary clinics or high-tech medicines. We relied on the knowledge passed down from our forefathers, the time-tested remedies that kept our horses strong and healthy."

He launched into an anecdote about a spirited stallion named Thunder, who had fallen ill during a harsh winter. The locals were concerned, fearing the worst. But Willie, armed with his inherited wisdom, concocted a special herbal blend to help Thunder regain his strength.

"I gathered yarrow, echinacea, and chamomile," he explained, his hands mimicking the act of foraging. "Combined with some honey and apple cider vinegar, it made a powerful tonic that boosted Thunder's immune system and helped him overcome his illness."

Captivated by Willie's storytelling abilities he went on to share many such tales, each one filled with humour whilst presenting a uniquely different from the last.

One such story that Willie regaled us with was the night he left Murphy's pub to find his donkey, Jill on one side of the railings and the cart on the other! The strange thing was that Jill was still attached to the shafts of the cart. For a week Willie attended to Jill, bringing her hay and water, whilst scratching his head as to how his donkey mare had done this. For him the mystery continues for that one!!

Sipping on his mug of tea, Willie went on to tell us how he used a poultice made from comfrey leaves and clay to treat hoof abscesses, soothing the pain and promoting healing. He spoke of a simple mixture of rosemary, lavender, and witch hazel that kept flies at bay during the hot summer months.

We are pleased to share with you some of Willie other remedies that were of help in the past... of course we do not recommend you use these,

HEALING OF WOUNDS

Sitting back in the chair in the office, Willie began to list of numerous remedies that were once used to aid the recovery from wounds. "Blue Stone and Sulphur was a handy remedy for the removal of proud flesh (granulated tissue)"

To help keep a wound clean and infection free, Willie advised that Honey was a useful addition to any yard, due to its antibacterial effect

REDUCE SWELLING

Arnica Powder was used to reduce swelling and bruising.

If our horse was shown to have a swollen tendon, cabbage leaves were used to bring the swelling down.

BRITTLE HOOVES

For brittle hoof's mix equal lard, goose fat and turpentine and mix together. Smear this mixture on the hoof.

Willie's stories transported us back in time, where the bond between humans and horses was forged through trust and understanding. He emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to horse care, incorporating natural remedies alongside proper nutrition, ample exercise, and a loving touch.



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