



Irish Pony Club Wicklow Hunt Branch

Newsletter

January 2009

Hi All,

Welcome to our new look newsletter which we hope will provide you with all the information you need to keep up to date with news and upcoming events in Wicklow Pony Club. If you have any comments or suggestions to make or if you would be willing to write a piece about any pony-club related activity we would be delighted to hear from you.

As you will see from the review of 2008 we were very busy last year and we plan to be even busier this year. We will make a full calendar of events available as soon as all the dates are finalised.

We would like to extend a special welcome to all our new members and their families. We hope that you will have lots of fun and make many lifelong friends in Wicklow Pony Club.

IMPORTANT

If your family has not received any recent text messages from Wicklow Pony Club please either email or text a contact name (Parent/Guardian) and number to us so that we can update our phone list.

If you are interested in cross-country training and did not get a text message about it could you contact us immediately please.

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SHOWJUMPING

Hope you are all getting ready for the WPC Winter League which will take place on Sunday 1st February, Sunday 15th February and Sunday 1st March in Marlton Indoor Arena.

Lead-rein & Minus-Mini

30 cm Entry €8.00 1 round

Mini

40-50 cm. Entry €10.00. 2 rounds. Optimum time on second round.

Midi

60-70 cm. Entry €10.00. 2 rounds. Second round against the clock.

Maxi

80-90 cm. Entry €10.00. 2 rounds. Second round against the clock or jump-off if time allows

Super-Maxi

90-100 cm. Entry €10.00. 2 rounds. Jump-off.

Because of the large entry expected at this league the start time is **10.00 am** instead of 10.30. To be fair to the older classes and parents with children jumping in a number of classes we will have to start promptly at 10.00 and close entries for lead-rein and minus-mini at 10.30 so we would ask parents to please come along on time to avoid disappointment.

The competitions on the day are open to all pony club members and members from visiting clubs are very welcome. To declare for the mini, midi, maxi or super-maxi league you must be a member of Wicklow Pony Club and you must jump on either 1st Feb or 15th Feb and on the Final day 1st March. Your league points will be calculated from your best 2 scores with your lowest score discounted. If you

2008 Highlights

Introduction

For many people the abiding memory of 2008 is rain - cancelled events, more rain, lots of mud, the odd dry day or maybe two and then - more rain. You might think, therefore, that the year was a washout but you would be wrong. No matter how much rain fell or how bad the ground got our members ploughed (often literally) on and Wicklow was well represented at all the major Irish Pony Club activities throughout the country. Great fun was had by all and, even when they were drenched to the skin and covered in mud, the Wicklows gave the impression that there was nothing in the world they would rather be doing.

Christmas Show & Winter League

The year started as always in Marlton's indoor arena with the Christmas Show and the Winter League both of which were very well supported. The prize-winners included Vicki Reid, JJ Donnelly, Darah Callan, Sarah Gelletlie, Niamh Nolan, Clare Savage, Clare Foley, Jenny Hughes, James Kavanagh, Siún O'Donnell, Thomas Foley, Sarah O'Loughlin, Amy Sutton, Emily Kavanagh, James Conway, Kevin Law, Megan Clarke, Shona Callan, Mily O'Loughlin, Jesse Law, Rebecca Farrar, Darcy & Lucy Maule and Cormac Foley (apologies for any missing names).

Hunter Trials

Hunter Trials usually take place during March and early April culminating in the IPC Hunter Trial Championships on the first Saturday after Easter. Easter was exceptionally early in 2008 and unfortunately the planned cross-country training and hunter trials were severely curtailed by the terrible weather. Despite this Wicklow had one of its biggest contingents ever at the Championships in Boden Park, Co. Meath on 29th March. 2 Senior pairs (Grace Farrar & Siún O'Donnell and Vicki Reid & Aislinn Nolan) and 5 Junior pairs (Emily Tebbitt & Sarah Gelletlie, JJ Donnelly & Niamh Nolan, Shane Farrar & Shawnee Ryan, Christian Dodd & Laura Gallagher and Darah Callan & James Kavanagh) set off on a rapidly deteriorating course in torrential rain and, although not in the ribbons, all did themselves and the club proud. We can only hope that conditions this year in Ballon will be better. Wicklow's first ever hunter trial, planned for St. Patrick's Day, had to be postponed but was eventually held in Bel Air after Easter and a great day was had by all. We are all very grateful to Noni and all at Bel Air for allowing us to use

their wonderful course.

Pony Club Games

The 2008 games campaign kicked off in February in Newtownmountkennedy with under 10s including Roisin Belton, Mily O'Loughlin, Cormac Foley, Lucy Gelletlie, Shona Callan & Robbie Savage, Juniors including Claire and Thomas Foley, James Kavanagh, Sarah O'Loughlin, Con Callan, Amy Sutton, Jack Savage, Jessica O'Brien, Emily Kavanagh and Sarah Gelletlie and we were delighted to welcome Brian & Katie Lawless. Great excitement was caused by the arrival of new games equipment and by June we were training once a week. While we were down to only 1 under 10 team the 2 junior teams were looking very hot after a friendly with the Shillelaghs and two further competitions which really helped to smarten us up. The qualifiers this year were the Sunday after camp at Ballon. After a near disaster with Thomas Foley being injured in the first game of the qualifiers Dervla's team of Claire, Thomas, James, Sarah (O'Loughlin) and Conn pulled together and came second with Jenny's junior team of Amy, Jack, Jessica, Emily and Sarah (Gelletlie) coming a close third. The under tens (Roisin, Mily, Cormac, Lucy and Shona with Robbie as sub) trained by Jenny also did very well which meant we were all off to the Championships which is always so nice after all the hard work.

The Championships have become the "Summer Holidays" for the games gang as we are so well supported by Grannies, Grandads, Uncles, Aunts, Godparents and an army of little brothers and sisters. Almost everyone stays the night in a nearby hotel and there is a real party atmosphere. This year the rain did its best to dampen morale but we still had a blast. We came to win and the first day, with both Junior teams through to the afternoon's finals, our hopes were high. Not all the luck went our way however and we ended up with Dervla's team coming third and Jenny's coming 8th. The second day was the under tens and as they were a very young team Jenny didn't put them under any pressure. By keeping their heads and not going too mad they also got through to the final six which was such a credit to them all. The final was very fast and furious with the Wicklows ending up 6th much to the delight of all the supporters.

The standard in games goes up every year and in 2009 we hope to build on this. We look forward to welcoming all newcomers to our introduction day on Thursday 19th February. Please contact Dervla on 086 8131645 if you would like to get involved. We need children, ponies,

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CROSS –COUNTRY TRAINING

Cross-country is possibly the most exciting pony club discipline and is integral to the Hunter Trials, Minimus, Tetrathlon and Horse Trials (One Day Events) however we must be aware that it is a potentially dangerous sport and presents significant challenges to the pony and rider. This year the Hunter Trial Championships will be held in Ballon, Co. Carlow on April 18th. To be eligible to represent the club at the Championships you must hold your C test and you must have taken part in a number of local hunter trials (dates will be on the website). To prepare members who would like to compete at Hunter Trials the club has organised x-country training in Bel Air. The first session will take place on Saturday 24th January starting at 1.00pm and further dates will be arranged during February (weather permitting). This training is essential if you have not hunted regularly or have not competed in Hunter Trials previously and is strongly advised especially if you are moving up from Junior to Intermediate or have moved to a new pony / horse. Demand is high so please contact Gerry at 087 2559906 or text the pony club if you have not already done so. Cross-country training for Minimus will be organised soon.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not already done so please return your membership renewal form as you will need your membership card to take part in Hunter Trials in March.

Please note that sisters or brothers of existing members who are joining Wicklow Pony Club for the first time need to fill up the NEW MEMBERS application form which is available from the membership secretary Dara Hughes 086 8294034.

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jump and don't have any clear round you will get 1 point, if you have 1 clear round you will get another 2 points and if you have a double clear round you will get another 4 points with additional points for being placed on the day. You may only declare for one of the leagues and you must do this before you jump on the final day. At the final there will be a prize for each double-clear round, kindly sponsored by Boswell Equestrian, as well as trophies for the competition and the league.

Newer parents may not be aware of the rule regarding outside assistance. In the interests of fairness to everybody competitors in Midi, Maxi and Super-Maxi should not receive outside assistance from parents or coaches unless they are going Hors Concours (HC) ie not in the competition. For younger children competing in the Mini class it can provide great reassurance just to have a parent standing close by and available to help if they get into difficulty and of course you are most welcome to do that but giving help when it is not needed could put your child out of the running for a prize.

Parents should also be aware that there are rules restricting the use of ponies graded A or B in some competitions. If your pony is, or has been, graded A or B during the past 2 years please let us know and we can check the relevant rules.

Robbie Bailey & John Leddingham Teams

Our club is hosting the Area 1 qualifier for the Robbie Bailey and John Leddingham trophies in July so we want to get teams together in good time. As June is so busy we plan to hold team selection competitions at 4.00pm on Saturday afternoons during May. Please keep those days free if you want to be on a team. Full details will be on the website and in the next newsletter.

Christmas Show



Thank you to everybody who came along and supported our annual Christmas show held in Marlton on 29th December. Very special thanks to Michael O'Connor and Dermot Daly who designed and set up a lovely flowing course and set up the sound system and festive music which added greatly to the fun

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parents, trainers and supporters. Anyone with a sense of humour please apply.

Minimus

Minimus is for club members aged 12 and under on 1st January. It is huge fun and combines swimming, running and cross-country riding. The 2008 championship was held on 21st and 22nd June in Waterford and a large Wicklow contingent travelled down for the weekend including four teams The Wicklow Ladies: Lydia Dodd, Elena Tice, Daisy McKenzie & Jenny Hughes, The Wicklow Belles: Emily Kavanagh, Sarah O'Loughlin, Amy Sutton and Shawnee Ryan, The Wicklow Boys: Jack Savage, Conn Callan, Kevin Law and Thomas Foley and Wicklow Mixed: Jessica O'Brien, Ciara Torpey, Lucy Gelletlie and Shane Gallagher. The gate on the cross-country course presented great difficulties for many competitors but not for the well-trained Wicklows and all of the teams did the club proud - The Wicklow Boys came 5th the Wicklow Mixed 6th and the Wicklow Belles 8th. The best individual Wicklow competitor was Jack Savage who was placed 15th with a fantastic run and swim and close behind in 17th place was Sarah O'Loughlin. Everyone stayed in Waterford celebrating and all in all it was a weekend not to be missed. Following this great success we decided to start training as early as possible for the 2009 championships and we are already well on the way with swimming training in Greystones swimming-pool. Running and cross-country will start soon so if you are interested in taking part please keep checking your text messages or contact Pam on 086 8258826.

Rallies & Camp

The first rally of 2008 was held on a lovely sunny evening in the camp field in Glenealy and all the members and parents greeting each other after the long break were looking forward to a good Summer and hoping that camp would go ahead in Glenealy. By week 3, however, the weather had changed and it quickly became apparent that the field would not be suitable for camp. Things looked bad but with a bit of cajoling and a few arm-twists Anne-Claire managed to persuade the owners of Ballinteskinn and Marlton to allow the Pony Club to use their facilities. This was not ideal, especially for those with children in both camps, and everybody wished we could be back in the field but in such a wet year we were very lucky to have a camp and a very enjoyable camp at that. Some activities had to be

curtailed but we hope that this year will be 3rd time lucky and we will be back on our home turf. The camp ended with the prize-giving ceremony and presentation of test certificates to all those who passed their D and D+ tests. A number of cups are presented each year also the Ingrid Kane cup was won by Marcus Dodd, the O'Brien cups for the best turned out went to Morgan Freeley and Sean O'Gara and a special cup was presented to Jack Savage who got the highest individual Wicklow score at the Minimus Championships. The winner of the Constance O'Reilly-Hyland Memorial cup is selected each year from members in the Senior rides by their instructors. The 2008 winner was Aislinn Nolan. Congratulations to everybody who took part and thanks to all the parents and instructors who helped to make this a very enjoyable week.

Combined Training

The combined training competition combines dressage and equitation jumping and is traditionally not that well attended by Wicklow but, as in other competitions, the numbers are slowly rising. This year Sarah Gelletlie, Clare Savage, Benjamin Kavanagh, James Kavanagh, Emily Kavanagh and Darah Callan represented the club at the area qualifier in Bunclody. Congratulations to Sarah who came 4th and qualified for the final, James who came 5th and Darah and Clare who were placed 6th and Benjamin who did particularly well in the equitation jumping. Sarah had a hectic day at the IPC festival in Stradbally as she was also competing on the games team so she had to go from her (very early) dressage test to her games heat and back to jump in the combined training showjumping where she had a clear round. Great credit is due to her and her mum Joan for all the hard work preparing the pony and rider for both events. Combined training is a good competition and we would hope to see a few more Wicklow members competing in 2009.

Robbie Bailey & John Leddingham

There was a huge turnout for the team try-outs for the Robbie Bailey (U14) and John Leddingham showjumping competitions which were held over 3 nights in June in Sandra McCracken's in Newcastle. Following fierce competition for team places Wicklow entered 4 teams into the Robbie Bailey competition and 2 teams into the John Leddingham competition. The U14 team of Shane Farrar, Shane Gallagher, Darah Callan and Conn Callan went on to qualify in Tinahely for the final at the Pony Club Festival in Stradbally where, despite truly appalling conditions, the team all jumped well. The senior teams unfortunately ended up short 1 rider due to an injured pony and although Christian Dodd, JJ Donnelly, Niamh Nolan & James Kavanagh and Grace Farrar, Siún O'Donnell & Laura Gallagher jumped well in the qualifier

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BOSWELL EQUESTRIAN

For those wanting to get themselves and their ponies back into shape for the Winter League Boswell Equestrian has started a Lead Rein, Mini, Midi, Maxi competition on Sundays starting at 10.00am. Gerry Gorman from Boswell has kindly sponsored digital watches for all double-clear rounds on the final day of the Winter League.

WEBSITE & PHOTOS

We are hoping to give our website a new look and we are looking for new ideas and particularly photos. If you have any photos which you would be willing to have published on the website can you contact us please.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Throughout the course of the year we hope to see record numbers of Wicklow riders at the Hunter Trials, Minimus, Pony Club Games, Robbie Bailey and John Leddingham Showjumping, Horse Trials and Combined Training Championships. In the past the Club paid the full entry fee for all these events but because of the increase in the numbers taking part the committee has decided that the club will this year pay half of the entry fee. More information on training and requirements will be available on the website and in the next few issues.

CAMP DATES

Please note that the dates for camp posted on the website and advised in the Christmas Newsletter have had to be changed. Camp this year will be from 13th to 17th July and the rally dates will also have to be revised. A full calendar will be sent to each family when all dates are finalised.

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and friendly atmosphere. We were all very grateful to Sharon who kept us supplied with tea and coffee and to the parents and committee members who gave so freely of their time to help make the day enjoyable for everybody. There was a large entry in all classes and it was particularly good to see so many competing in the bigger classes with 30 in both Midi and Maxi and 15 in Super-Maxi. Hopefully this bodes well for the future of our show-jumping teams.

Congratulations to everybody who took part.

Results

Mini 1st Darcy Maule 2nd Megan Clarke 3rd Ciara Torpey 4th Amy Sutton 5th Rebecca Farrar 6th Mily O'Loughlin

Midi 1st Jack Savage 2nd Thomas Foley 3rd Sarah O'Loughlin 4th Clare Foley 5th Amy Sutton 6th Lydia Dodd

Maxi 1st Shane Gallagher 2nd James Kavanagh 3rd Clare Savage 4th Niamh Nolan & Darah Callan 5th Emily Tebbitt & Vicki Reid 6th Thomas Foley

Super-Maxi 1st Darah Callan 2nd Thomas Foley 3rd Shane Gallagher 4th Darah Callan 5th Aislinn Nolan 6th Emily Kavanagh

Contact Us

DC	Rosanna Nolan	087 6793291
Secretary	Scarlett Tice	087 6533124
Treasurer / Membership	Dara Hughes	086 8294034
Child Officer	Jenny Kavanagh	086 8429283
Minimus Games	Pam O'Loughlin Dervla Callan	086 8258826 086 8131645
X-Country	Gerry Reid Eoin Gallagher Vincent Dodd Dermot Daly Alan O'Brien Myles Donnelly	087 2559906
	Club Mobile	085 1643060
Email	admin@wicklowponyclub.com	

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they did not advance to the final. This year Wicklow will host the qualifier and we hope to have even more teams competing and getting to the IPC Festival.

One Day Event Championships

The Horse Trial or One Day Event combines dressage, showjumping and cross-country riding. To qualify for the IPC championships each competitor must take part in at least 2 qualifiers and must have a minimum of 1 clear cross-country round and 1 with a maximum of 20 penalties. Qualifiers are held from late June to early August all around the country and this year Wicklow members competed at Stradbally, Tattersalls, Glandoran, Bunclody, Shillelagh and Wexford. Despite many cancelled and postponed events we had a record number of qualifiers travelling to the Championships in Watergrasshill, Co. Cork. The rain thundered down and the ground was atrocious and we all feared a repeat of 2007 when the cross-country section had to be abandoned but the event went ahead and again our Wicklow riders did us all proud. Vicki Reid made the huge step up to Intermediate on a mixed team which did very well and the Junior teams of JJ Donnelly, Clare Savage, Niamh Nolan & Laura Gallagher and Shane Farrar, Emily Tebbitt & Shawnee Ryan also did very well on a challenging course. We look forward to having even more qualifiers this year and maybe someone will try to arrange for a few dry days for the water-logged parents.

Tetrathlon Championships

Having missed a few years it was great to see the Wicklows get involved in the Tetrathlon competition again which in 2008 was held in Mallow on 23rd and 24th August. A boys team of Lorcan Maule, Christian Dodd, Darah and Con Callan and 2 girls teams of Shawnee Ryan, Niamh Nolan, JJ Donnelly, Clare Savage, Chloe Daly and Heather Glover started training in July. Wesley Armstrong very kindly took on the shooting training and his hard work paid off with a great start by all. Darah Callan shot a personal best and was lying 8th after shooting. The swimming and running went well with plenty of encouragement from team mates and supporters and then it was off to the cross-country course which was very strong. We were delighted to get clears for Clare Savage, Niamh Nolan, Darah Callan and Conn Callan. This event is great fun both for competitors and families. It is wonderful to see all the supporters charging around the course shouting on the club members. There are rumours that the 2009 Tetrathlon may be in Mullingar so we look forward to

having more participants and improving on last year's good start.

Summer League & Gymkhana

The showjumping year ended with the Summer League in Marlton and the finals of the league held at the club Gymkhana in Boswell on 30th August, one of the nicest days of the Summer. There was a large turnout and fierce competition for a very impressive array of trophies. The Dodd Cup for the Mini Plus League went to Rebecca Farrar, the Tonto Cup for the U12 Mini League went to Shawnee Ryan, the Collier Cup for the Midi League went to Rebecca Reid, the Hillside Cup for the Maxi League went to Con Callan, the Maxi Grand Prix Cup was won by Laura Gallagher and the Super Maxi Grand Prix went to Christian Dodd. The day ended with a very exciting Galligan Shield team competition which was won by Christian Dodd, Sarah O'Loughlin, Laura Gallagher & Shane Gallagher. Congratulations to all the prizewinners and everybody who took part.

C and C+ Tests

With all the competitions over and everybody back at school it was time for the serious business of the C and C+ tests. Thanks to the hard work of Noni and Sandra at the stable management rallies in Bel Air a large number of members went forward for these tests. Congratulations to JJ Donnelly, Siún O'Donnell, Colette Byrne, Aislinn Nolan and Niamh Nolan who passed their C+ test and to all who got their C test. In order to get your C+ certificate you must have a Road Safety test and we will be holding a Road Safety test and further C+ test during the year. It would be great to see some of the senior riders staying on to take their B and B+ tests.

Finally

As most of you know our former DC Anne-Claire Dunne and Secretary Peter Winckworth stepped down at the end of 2008 after many years of dedicated service to Wicklow Pony Club. We would like to thank them both for all their efforts over the years and look forward to seeing them at future events when they have had a well-deserved rest. Thanks to the hard-working members of the committee, all the instructors, trainers, parents and special thanks to Dervla, Jenny, Pam, Noni, Gini and Wesley for all their hard work with the Games, Minimus and Tetrathlon. Congratulations to all our members for taking such an active part in club activities. We hope that you all enjoyed 2008 and will be back with us for even more fun in 2009.