



Irish Pony Club

Wicklow Hunt Branch

Newsletter

April 2009

Hi All,

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2009. We have had a lot of activities since Christmas and we hope that you have been able to take part in some of them.

You will see details in the newsletter of our very successful Winter League and a great Mock Hunt in February. During March and April numerous Wicklow competitors featured prominently at various Hunter Trials including our own in Bel Air. We entered 11 teams in the Hunter Trial Championships in Ballon and 9 people passed their C test in Bel Air on Good Friday. As well as all of that we had training sessions in cross-country, games, swimming and shooting in preparation for Hunter Trials, Minimus, Tetrathlon and Pony Club Games.

Thank you to all the committee members and parents who helped to make these events possible. Nothing could happen in Pony Club without a huge amount of voluntary help from parents and families so please do get involved if you can and spread the load.

IMPORTANT

This is the last call for membership renewal. We have a very large membership this year so space at camp will be at a premium. Camp applications will only be considered from current paid-up members.

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.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Mock Hunt

During the mid-term break in February Noni organised a fantastic mock-hunt in Bel Air. The event started with an excellent talk from Henry Fleming, Master of Wicklow Hunt, on hunt etiquette then 3 groups were formed catering for all abilities from lead-rein up. Many members thought that this event would be too tame for them but judging by the reaction of those who took part we will probably have to take advance bookings next year.

Hunter Trials

Once again this year we were very lucky to be able to hold a club Hunter Trial on April 5th over the superb course in Bel Air. Noni and the team in Bel Air put in a huge amount of effort with the course and set up a very inviting Starter Stakes which was hugely popular. Many thanks to all the parents who helped out at fences and especially to Sylvaine Galligan who spent the entire day inspecting tack. Wicklow members also took part and many were placed in Pony Club hunter trials in Bray, Shillelagh, Boden Park and Stradbally and others organised by Bray, Wicklow and Carlow Hunt. Results and reports are on the website.

Hunter Trial Championships

Congratulations to all the Wicklow Teams who took part in the Hunter Trial championships in Ballon, Co. Carlow on 18th April. Three Senior teams Siún O'Donnell & Vicki Ried, JJ Donnelly & Christian Dodd and Lorcan Maule & Cayman Roe and eight Junior teams Darah & Conn Callan, Benjamin & James Kavanagh, Sarah O'Loughlin & Emily Kavanagh, Sarah Gelletlie & Emily Tebbitt, Shane Farrar & Jack Savage, Clare Savage & Laura Gallagher, Shane Gallagher & Jessica O'Brien and Daisy McKenzie & Heather Glover took part. The day was very enjoyable with bright sunshine, good ground conditions and a very nice course. Well done to JJ & Cayman who were placed 5th in the Senior consolation pairs. Unfortunately Heather ended up in hospital for a few days following a fall but delighted to say she is fine now.

CROSS –COUNTRY TRAINING

Even though the Hunter Trials are over there are still a number of events which have a cross-country element – Minimus, Horse Trials and Tetrathlon.

Minimus combines swimming, running and cross-country and is for teams of 4 all under 12 on 1st January. This year's event will be held in Kilkenny on June 13th and 14th with the cross-country riding on Saturday 13th which is a change to the usual format. If anybody is hoping to be on a team there is a Minimus practice day in Kells on June 1st which is well worth attending.

Horse Trials or One Day Events involve Dressage, Showjumping and Cross-Country. To qualify for the Horse Trial Championships, which will be held this year in Kildare on August 11th and 12th, you need to attend at least 2 pony club One Day Events and have 1 clear cross-country round and 1 with a maximum of 20 penalties.

Tetrathlon is similar to Minimus for the over 12s with the addition of rifle shooting for Juniors and pistol shooting for Seniors. The cross-country element of this competition was quite strong last year. This year's competition will be in Tattersal's on August 29th and 30th.

Further cross-country training will be arranged for people wanting to take part in these competitions and will be notified by text message so please reply to messages promptly if you want to be included.

SHOWJUMPING TRAINING

The lessons with Peter O'Toole have started and anybody who expressed an interest has already been informed. Texts have also been sent out regarding show-jumping training with Eddie on Tuesday nights in Boswell in preparation for the Robbie Bailey and John Ledingham leagues and in addition there will be team-training and the traditional show-jumping training in June so please get in touch if you want to be included.

PONY CLUB GAMES TRAINING

Games training has begun so contact Dervla immediately on 086 8131645 if you want to take part.

SHOWJUMPING

Robbie Bailey & John Ledingham Teams

The Robbie Bailey competition is for teams of 4 all under 14 on 1st January. The jumps are 90cm in height and no Grade A or B ponies are allowed. Riders do not have to have their C test but must be C test standard and capable of jumping a 90cm round. The John Ledingham competition is for older riders who must have passed their C test and be able to jump a 1m round. One graded pony is allowed per team. Our club is hosting the Area 1 qualifier for the Robbie Bailey and John Ledingham trophies on 21st July in Boswell and we would like to get the teams together in good time so that we can arrange team training for them. As June is so busy we plan to hold team selection leagues in Boswell at 4.00pm on Saturday May 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Points will be calculated as for the Winter League but your total points will be calculated from your best 3 of the 4 so you can drop your lowest score or miss any one of the days.

Club Gymkhana

This year's Gymkhana will be in Boswell on Saturday September 5th and there will be a Summer League during August which will have to be fitted in around the Horse Show, One Day Event Championships and Tetrathlon so it will be another busy month.

Winter League

Thank you to everybody who came along and supported our Winter League held in Marlton in February and March. It was very enjoyable and very special thanks are due to Michael O'Connor who not only designed the courses each Sunday but also set up the sound system and music which added greatly to the enjoyment. We were all very grateful to Sharon who kept us supplied with tea and coffee and to the parents and committee members especially Dermot, Gerry, Scarlett, Dara, Alan, Mary, Aislinn, Pam and Dervla who gave so freely of their time to help make the days enjoyable for everybody. Congratulations to everybody who took part.

CAMP

Camp this year will be from 13th to 17th July and the rally dates will be New Members Rally on June 5th then Friday night Rallies on 12th, 19th and 26th June and 3rd July. To take part in the Camp you must have participated in pony club activities during the year or attend the rallies. Application forms for camp and rallies are included. Please return them as quickly as possible as we have a record membership this year and places will be allocated to current members only on a first-come first-served basis.

C TEST

Congratulations to Cayman Roe, Daisy McKenzie, Hannah Cadden, Helena Carlyle, James Conway, Laura Finnerty, Leah Benson, Luca Vickers and Lynn Duffy who all those who passed their C test in Bel Air on April 10th, Good Friday. We will hold another test later in the year for those who missed out on this one. We are also hoping to encourage those who have their C test to work towards taking their C+ test. There will be a road safety test before camp so if you were born in 1994 or earlier, have your C test and you are interested in working towards your C+ contact Dervla on 086 8131645.

BOSWELL EQUESTRIAN

For those wanting to get themselves and their ponies into shape for the team selections in May Boswell Equestrian has reintroduced their Thursday night Mini, Midi, Maxi competition. Thanks to Gerry Gorman from Boswell who kindly sponsored digital watches for all double-clear rounds on the final day of the Winter League and for all the clear rounds in the starter stakes in Bel Air.

WEBSITE & PHOTOS

We are still looking for photos for the website so if you have any photos which you would be willing to have published contact us please.

Winter League Results

Mini 1st Cormac Foley 2nd Rebecca Farrar 3rd Julie O'Hare
4th Megan Clarke 5th Shona Callan 6th Ronja Steinbach

Midi 1st Thomas Foley 2nd Amy Sutton 3rd Elena Tice 4th
Kevin Law 5th James Conway 6th Michaela Murphy

Maxi 1st Conn Callan 2nd Darah Callan 3rd Sarah
O'Loughlin 4th Benjamin Kavanagh 5th Mark Finnerty 6th
Jenny Hughes

Super-Maxi 1st Emily Tebbitt 2nd Laura Finnerty 3rd
Niamh Nolan 4th Clare Foley 5th Sarah Gelletlie 6th Emily
Kavanagh

Contact Us

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