



Stepping Stones/Le Lion d'Angers

Objective

The objective of this programme is to ensure the best possible representation for Ireland at the world breeding championships for young horses at Le Lion d'Angers and to develop potential team horses for the future from amongst Ireland's 6 and 7 year old event horses.

Stepping Stones Programme

Applications for the Stepping Stones programme are open to all 6 and 7 year old horses. However, for non-Irish bred horses the cost of training will be double as these horses are not eligible for funding. Riders can put their horses forward for the Stepping Stones programme without putting them forward for Le Lions d'Angers.

Lions d'Angers Selection

All 6 and 7 year old horses ridden by Irish riders are eligible for selection for Le Lions regardless of where they are born. However, no funding will be provided for horses that are not in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook. Riders can also put their horses forward for selection for Le Lion d'Angers without putting themselves forward for the Stepping Stones Programme

Time line

Athletes are asked to complete the attached Expression of Interest form and return before Monday June 7th, 2010.

The selection committee will review all expression of interest forms and a number of combinations will be identified to participate in the 'Stepping Stones' training programme based on their results to date.

Combinations who are not included on the list for training will have the opportunity to attend an assessment day on Wed June 23rd with a view to being considered for the programme. The cost of attending this assessment day will be €60 per combination.

This list of combinations will be subject to continuous review. Combinations can be added or removed from the list based on their form and fitness.

Three two day training camps for invited combinations will take place on
July 13th and 14th with Ian Fearon & Heike Holstein
August 18th and 19th with Comdt. Tom Freyne & Heike Holstein
September 7th and 8th with Ian Fearon & Heike Holstein

The cost for these sessions will be €120 per combination with each horse getting a Dressage and Show Jumping lesson on each day i.e. a total of four lessons. The fee must be paid in advance and is non-refundable unless a combination withdraws prior to a deadline. Combinations must pay the full fee even if they opt not to take all four lessons.

In the week beginning September 20th, the selectors will meet and select the combinations and reserve combinations who will be listed and included on the nominated entries. Riders will be informed by the end of the week ending September 24th and the squad will be announced publicly once this is done.

One further training day for selected combinations will take place on October 12th. This day will be free for participants.

Selectors

The selection panel will be Chef d'Equipe Janet Murray, An EI nominee (currently Stephanie von Schilcher) and a nominee of Horse Sport Ireland who may be one of the coaches.

Minimum Qualification

Under FEI rules combinations must achieve the following minimum criteria:

All qualifying events must be achieved as a combination

The deadline for obtaining the Minimum Eligibility Requirements is 4 weeks before the 1st Dressage day of the Championships (21st September 2010) and must be obtained in the calendar year in question or the preceding calendar year.

6 yr old CCI*: 1 x CIC* with zero obstacle penalties on XC and max 4 penalties on obstacles (max one rail down) in the Jumping Test plus 1 x CNC*

In addition, the selection committee would like Irish Combinations to achieve a minimum Dressage Score of 65% in International Competition

7 yr old CCI**: 1 x CCI* or 1 x CIC** with zero obstacle penalties on XC
Plus
1 x CIC** or 2 x CNC** with zero obstacle penalties on XC and max 4 penalties on obstacles (max one rail down) in the Jumping Test

In addition, the selection committee would like Irish Combinations to achieve a minimum Dressage Score of 62% in International Competition

This FEI criteria must be achieved by September 24th in order for the combination to be eligible to compete at Le Lion regardless of their FEI points total.

FEI Points

The FEI will rank combinations based on their performances in international competition and these will be used to allocate places in the two competitions. It is not possible to determine what the cut off point will be but last year the cut off point was 11 in the six year old competition and 20 in the 7 year old competition. This year there will be three places for Ireland in the six year old competition and ten in the seven year old competition. **Definite Entry Date is 4th October 2010**

FEI Points are awarded as Follows:

CIC* : 11 , 9 , 8 , 7 , 6 , 5 , 4 , 3 , 2 , 1

CIC** : 21 , 19 , 18 , 17 , 16 , 15 , 14 , 13 , 12 , 11 & so on down in increments of 1

CCI* : as for CIC** above

CCI** : 41 , 38 , 36 , 34 , 32 , 30 , 28 , 26 , 24 , 22 & so on down in increments of 2

Prospective candidates should note that while the selection panel will have a mind to the points level of each combination with a view to them getting into their class it will not be the case that combinations with the most FEI points will be selected for Le Lion.

Selection

The selection panel will select the combinations that they believe will best represent Ireland at Le Lion d'Angers. Factors which they will take into account include:

- The main factor will be the overall form of the combination with particular emphasis on their international results.
- As Le Lion D'Angers takes place in France it will be an advantage for horses to have competed abroad to demonstrate that they can cope with travelling etc
- The current form and well being of the combination as demonstrated in national or international competition.
- The performances of the horses in training will also be taken into account.
- The experience of competence of the rider will be a factor in selection.

- Generally the committee would prefer if each rider rode only one horse at Le lion d' Angers but would look at this on a case by case basis.
- While the main goal of the programme is to have success at le Lion d' Angers; if the panel considers that the combination is likely to have a long term future in the sport and that it could be a future 'team' horse this may be a factor in the selection, particularly in the seven year old section.
- Horse Sport Ireland may request that horse attend for veterinary assessment at any time.

Funding

Irish sport Horses who are by a stallion approved on the Irish Horse Register will, subject to the availability of funding, receive a travel bursary and will have their entries paid. Irish Sport Horses who are not by approved stallions will have their entries paid but will not be eligible for a travel bursary.

British Young Event Horse Championships

An invitation has been received for Irish Horses & Riders to attend the British Young Event Horse Championships from 30th September to 3rd October to be held in Osberton, Notts. Classes are:

7 yr old Championship CCI**
 6 yr old Championship CCI*
 5 yr old Championship BE 100
 4 yr old Championship BE 90

This ensures all young horses will have the opportunity to compete in an Age Championship amongst other Nations as an end of year target.

ENDS

Revised May 18th 2010

For further information contact Louise Donnelly on Tel: 045 854 509 or Email: ldonnelly@horsesportireland.ie