



BREEDING

FEI World Breeding Championships, Lanaken, Belgium. An Irish Sport Horse takes a Silver Medal for Army Rider Capt. David O'Brien in World Breeding Final on 27th Sept, where over 700 horses competed. Capt. David O'Brien made it through to the 6 year-Old World Final with the Minister for Defence's bay gelding 'Drumiller Lough' & came home under 2 seconds behind the Gold Medal winner, Germany's Christian Ahlmann & 'Charles 56', in a 15-horse jump-off. The Irish Sport Horse, by 'Heartbreaker' (KWPN) out of 'Pearl Diver' (ISH), by 'Mountain Pearl' (RID) was bred by Paul Dillon of Markethill, Co. Armagh. And in the 5 Year-Old Final, Ireland's Stephen Egan came 14th of 178 starters in the overall class with Desmond & Seamus Judge's bay gelding 'Special Lux'.

On 26th Sept, John McGuinness took victory in the 5 Year-Old Consolation Class with Connie Boyle's bay gelding 'I'm One Cool Cookie'. With an international startlist of 153 taking part, John McGuinness was over 2 seconds clear of French runner-up Frederic Sangnier.

Irish show jumper Edward Doyle also had a top 10 place in the Consolation Class for 7 Year-Olds when he placed Catherine Doyle's 'Samgemjee' in 6th out of 110 starters. Olive Clarke & 'Mark Q' (ISH) finished in 15th place in the 7 Year Old Final.

DRIVING

Escrick Junior Championships 26th & 27th Sept. A full Irish squad of 7 drivers travelled over to compete at the 2009 UK Junior Driving Championships at Escrick Park, N. Yorkshire. Chef d'Equipe was Pauline Campbell & trainer Barry Capstick. Final Results, Lauren Robinson 1st in Class 1, Stephen Spillane 3rd in Class 2, David Sheehan 2nd in Class 5, Rachel Campbell 6th, Jeremy Cairns 7th & Edward Goodwin 9th in Class 3, Paudie O'Sullivan 5th in Class 6. Team Results: 1st-England, 2nd-Ireland, 3rd-Scotland, 4th-Wales.

Punchestown Hunt Festival 17th & 18th Oct. The competition format is yet to be agreed but it is a wonderful opportunity for drivers to compete at such a large event with an enthusiastic audience. Interested drivers should contact Sarah Mullins on 086-8180060.

EVENTING

FEI European Eventing Championships Fontainebleau, France, 23rd - 27th Sept. Patricia Ryan was best of the Irish riders on the final score sheet of the European Eventing Championships, finishing in 19th place after the show jumping phase on 'Fernhill Clover Mist'. Patricia finished just outside the prize money. 23 year old Clonmel competitor Sam Watson & 'Horseware Bushman' were next best of the team combinations in 24th place, with Individual riders Ciaran Glynn in 25th place on 'Killossery Kruisita' & Michael Ryan in 27th place on 'Old Road'.

Red Mills Super League Winners 27th Sept. With 3 horse & rider combinations finishing on 20 points, Sarah Ennis on 'The Underdog' claimed the Red Mills Super League title at Kilmanahan on the 27th Sept, in a final that had to be decided on advanced points.

Entry Reminders: Gurteen online entries close Tues. 6th Oct. at noon. Ballinaclough online entries close on Tues. 13th Oct. at noon.

Final leg of Tredstep Junior Rider League takes place at Gurteen College on 10th Oct. See www.eventingireland.com for more information.

JUMPING

CSI2* Athens Greece 25th - 27th Sept, Niall Talbot on 'Global It Onisha' wins the Athens Grand Prix with Alex Duffy on 'Tampa' coming 7th.

HSI confirms Selections for World Cup Qualifying Shows 22nd Sept. The following combinations have been selected for the first seven Rolex FEI World Cup shows: 'Oslo', Jessica Kurten; 'Helsinki', Cameron Hanley; 'Lyon', Cian O'Connor; 'Verona', Cian O'Connor; 'Stuttgart', Denis Lynch; 'Olympia', Billy Twomey; 'Mechelen', Cameron Hanley. The World Cup is the world's highest level of indoor jumping.

PONIES

Winter Foal Show & Seminar 2009 The IPS Winter Foal Show has been scheduled for November 29th 2009. Show commences at 10.30am and will be held in Roscrea Equestrian Centre. Entries close Thursday 19th November (no entries on the day).

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Assessment Day The venue for the next Assessment Day on Tues. 27th Oct. is Gurteen College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Cost €150. For more info www.aire.ie (under news & events).

Fáilte Ireland in association with AIRE is in the process of preparing environmental guidelines for riding establishments in Ireland. Headed up by the Environment Unit in Fáilte Ireland & supported by the inspection services of Certification Europe, the project in July. The main objectives are to undertake a baseline environmental audit of 6 equestrian centres with a view to identifying & evaluating all significant environmental impacts & issues associated with them. Based on the observations, as well as current environmental legislation & international best practice, Fáilte Ireland will produce & publish best practice guidelines for distribution to all AIRE members. It is hoped the recommendations in the report, due out later this year, will further an awareness & appreciation of environmental best practice in Irish equestrian centres & highlight cost-saving opportunities in the process.

IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL

HSI's Eventing High Performance Manager Ginny Elliot has been appointed to the Board of the Irish Sports Council by Minister Martin Cullen. Ms. Elliot was appointed along with 6 other appointees. The appointment is for a period of five years.

FACT FILE

Did you know a newborn foal can stand up within an hour of being born and can keep up with the rest of the herd within 24 hours!