



HORSE SPORT
IRELAND

HSI

BREEDER

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HORSE SPORT IRELAND'S MAGAZINE FOR BREEDERS



FEATURES

- Comdt. John Ledingham – Expert advice
- David Bourke – Dream to Breed
- Brexit – Are you ready?
- Tim Bourke – Secret to Success



**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Let's give oxygen to hope for Irish breeding in 2021

We know that Irish Sport Horse breeders and producers are a resilient group. Not since Foot and Mouth in 2001, has our collective resilience been tested as much as in the year 2020, with the double whammy of Covid-19 and Brexit. However, many commentators suggest that it is in adversity that we pause and reflect on our key objectives, refocus and strive even harder to achieve our goals.

For the breeding and education teams in Horse Sport Ireland, there were many plans A, B, C, in 2020 then due to ever changing circumstances, we found ourselves inventively developing plans X, Y and Z to meet timescales and funding requirements. It is in these very challenging times, that the very best teamwork arises, and this was never more evident than in 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the team at HSI, for keeping their spirits and motivation high and the wheels moving to deliver considerable benefit to the industry during 2020. This could not have been achieved without the co-operation and assistance of SJI, EI and DI in facilitating the Development Autumn series for young horses. Thank you all involved.

We are very fortunate to have long established and strong relationship with DAFM, who also assisted by quickly approving enforced amendments to proposed breeding schemes, which ensured that every cent of our additional €1million allocation to HSI was fully drawn down and used for breed improvement and production schemes, despite Covid-19. Over 90% of that €1million was received by active Irish breeders in 2020. For the first time in many years, significant equine research and development work was also undertaken by HSI, which will improve the scientific basis for the programmes and decision-making in the future.

DAFM also actively collaborated with us to keep horses moving under "farming purposes" in the early part of the breeding season, even when certification was suspended in other countries, causing temporary disruption to our exports, it was restored quickly. Later in the year when the sport horse industry needed backing to keep horse production events and sales possible under Covid-19 guidelines, their officials were very supportive once again.

Despite the challenges, it was a year that witnessed significant number of Irish Sport Horses bred and produced in Ireland making the impressive breakthrough to winning at international level show jumping (the breeding goal of the studbook) in the early part of 2021 (remember these horses were bred 8-10 years ago). *Castlefield Vegas*, *HHS Burnchurch*, *HHS Javas Gucci*, *Kilkenny*, *BBS McGregor* and *Pacino Amiro* to name but a few, all produced through the ISH Studbook series and RDS events here in Ireland won classes at International GP Level. All contributing to Irish employment and the Irish economy during their production time. There are currently 11 Irish Sport Horses on the Olympic longlists for the Irish Show jumping team, impressive evidence of the use of selective performance, breeding and slow careful and correct production can yield impressive dividends.

Numerous national breeding initiatives have been established and maintained over the last 8-10 years by Horse Sport Ireland to develop the quality of Irish horses and production pathways available to breeders to improve their sustainability within the equine market. With the current success of ISH's bred and produced in Ireland, we hope that in 2021 we can build on these development pathways by extending established successful ones and develop exciting new initiatives in conjunction with breeders and all stakeholders.

Very best of luck to all breeders for the forthcoming breeding season, I look forward to meeting you all soon – let's continue to give oxygen to hope...

Alison



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Graduates of the ISH Studbook Showjumping Series

Ireland is known internationally as the 'Land of the horse'. We are all aware of the unprecedented record of the Irish Sport Horse being ranked number one 22 out of 25 years in the WBFSH world eventing rankings, but the records we have set in show jumping in the WBFSH Championships for young horses in Lanaken in recent years have left other nations admiring our young horse production classes available in Ireland. We are extremely proud of the graduates of this series, there are a number of successful horses such as:

Castlefield Vegas, the 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse gelding by *Cassino* (SWWB) out of *Clarkes Quiet Optimistic* (ISH) by *Lux Z* (HANN) bred by John Clarke, owned by Martin Egan and Ger O'Neill until January 2021 when he sold to Bertram Allen.

CastleField Vegas (ISH) was ridden firstly by Ger O'Neill who celebrated numerous wins such as the CSI3* Nations Cup in Drammen in 2019, and a CSI3* nations cup win in Denmark. The combination were league winners of the 7-year-old ISH SJ Series and the highest placed 7-year-old in the RDS international class in 2017. In 2018 Jason Foley won gold in the Longines FEI European Youth Championships in



Ger O'Neill and Castlefield Vegas (ISH) compete in Tattersalls ISH SJ Series
(Photo: Laurence Dunne jumpinaction.net)

By NADIA REA

Fontainebleau, France. The winning combination were crowned European Under 18 (Junior) Show Jumping Champions while also taking team Bronze at the same event. In 2020 Jason repeated the success of Ger being a member of the winning Nations Cup team in CSI3* Drammen.

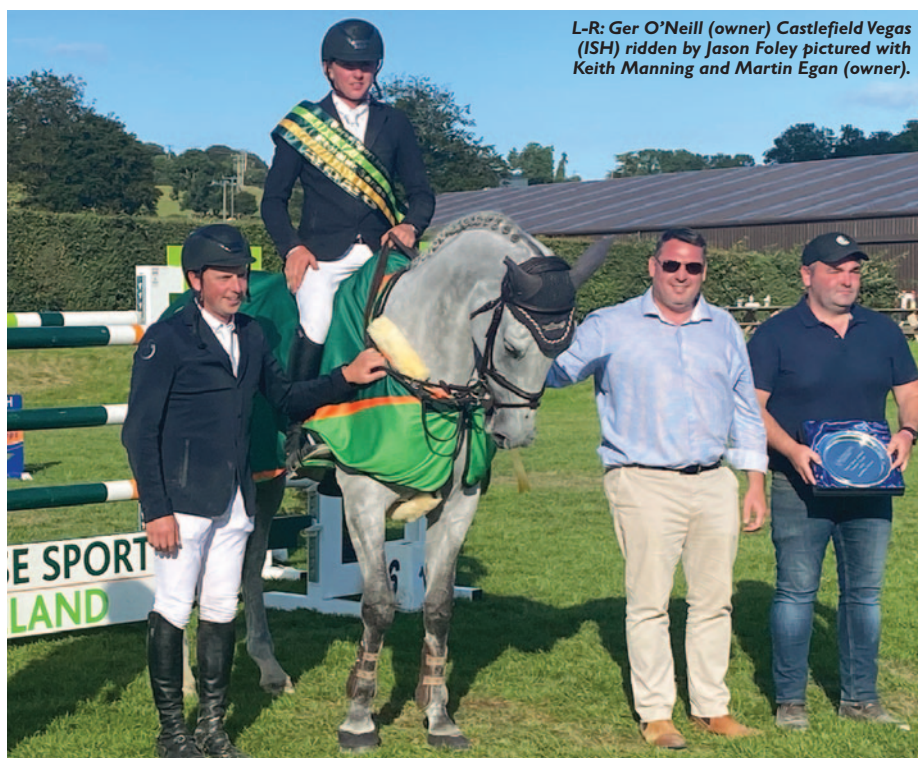
Martin Egan said 'I bought Vegas as a 3-year-old in Goresbridge. I really like a *Lux* dam line and I thought Vegas looked promising. I broke him as a 4-year-old,

and we took our time producing him to allow him to develop. We started competing him in a few training shows as a 5 and 6-year-old and took it to the next level in 2017 when we began to jump in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook Series. We were delighted when he won the league that year and then progressed to being the highest placed 7-year-old in the RDS.

When you have a horse competing in these classes successfully it shows that the horse has real potential and a positive future in the sport. The ISH classes instill confidence in both horse and rider and prepare them for the bigger competitive classes ahead. The ISH studbook series really brought him up to speed to compete in the RDS international class that year.

I am extremely grateful to this horse, he introduced me firstly to the best competitions in Ireland and then the biggest shows abroad. He has been my horse of a lifetime. Both Ger O'Neill and Jason Foley have been excellent partners with this horse and given that *Bertram* and Vegas won their first few competitions in Wellington I have no doubt they will have every success together in the future.'

Ger O'Neill advised 'All our Irish Sport Horses in Castlefield Stables are produced slowly through the Studbook Series. The venues offered are the best in the country with the best course builders. These competitions allow every opportunity for young horses to be



L-R: Ger O'Neill (owner) Castlefield Vegas (ISH) ridden by Jason Foley pictured with Keith Manning and Martin Egan (owner).



educated in the best available arenas. We have had many horses go through the ISH SJ Series over the years and we are delighted to have had such success at both national and international levels with *Castlefield Vegas*, *Columbcille Gypsy* and *Killossery Kaiden* to mention a few.

I believe that these classes build a great foundation for our horses and give them the confidence and ability to progress to international competitions. As riders we are grateful that the breeding departing in Horse Sport Ireland continuously seek our feedback and implement the useful suggestions we make. Their aim is to further develop these classes over the years, while always being mindful of appropriate young horse production. We will continue to produce our horses through these classes for years to come.'

Jason Foley concluded with 'I have been blessed to compete on *Castlefield* horses through the Studbook series and the RDS qualifiers, which in turn secured my place on the 5-year-old WBFSH team in Lanaken in 2019 where I won a gold medal riding *Rockwell RC*. Without these classes our horses would not be sufficiently educated for big days like the finals in Lanaken. We would not be in the running for these placings.

Castlefield Vegas was the horse who started off my winning streak, he was produced through these classes and he is still going strong now in the hands of Bertram Allen. I am confident he will continue to win as I know he had the best starting point with these Irish classes. I am extremely grateful to both Martin Egan and Ger O'Neill for the opportunities afforded to me and for the great achievements I have had with *Castlefield Vegas*.'

BBS McGregor (ISH) is a 2012 gelding

HHS Javas Gucci (ISH) ridden by Mikey Pender presented with rug and rosette by Alison Corbally Director of Breeding and Programmes in Horse Sport Ireland. (Photo: jumpinaction.net)



BBS McGregor (ISH) ridden by Jack Ryan presented with rug and rosette by Alison Corbally Director of Breeding and Programmes in Horse Sport Ireland. (Photo: jumpinaction.net)



by *Cardento (HOLST)* out of *Random Chance (ISH)* by *Mark Twain (TB)* bred and owned by Marguerite Ryan and ridden by her son Jack Ryan.

BBS McGregor was bred by Marguerite Ryan. Marguerite competed on his dam, *Random Chance (ISH)* up to 130 level. When the mare retired, they decided to put her in foal to *Cardento (HOLST)*.

Marguerite explained why his stable name is 'Lucky', 'As a 3-year-old *BBS McGregor* had an infection that was treated, but when he continued to disimprove it needed further investigation. After being x-rayed it showed that a tooth had formed in the roof of his mouth and caused an infection, this required an urgent operation to remove.

Following this *BBS McGregor* became known as 'Lucky'. He remained a stallion until he was 4 to allow him to recover from his operation and gain strength. We now have a 5-year-old gelding by him that was bred by my brother Seamus Drea, we hope that *DHS Lucky Junior*

(*ISH*) will follow in his footsteps.

My son Jack produced *Lucky* through the Irish Sport Horse Showjumping series. We were so impressed with how he continued to progress and develop through the series. He won at many of the legs and was league winner in the 5-year-old and the 7-year-old leagues and was placed second overall as a 6-year-old. They qualified for the RDS age classes as 5, 6- and 7-year olds. In 2019 they came third in the 7/8-year-old RDS international class. They also won the breeders classic championship that year.

The ISH SJ Series educated both Jack and *Lucky* to compete and be successful at the level they are now competing at today.'

Jack Ryan stated that '*BBS McGregor* is definitely a special horse for me. It adds an extra sense of achievement to compete at high levels of competition on a horse we bred ourselves and that I have produced the whole way through.

The ISH Studbook series is a great competition to begin any horse's production as it gives them the opportunity to compete over well-designed courses in the best facilities in Ireland. The courses are always fair and up to the standard that professional riders need to be jumping their young horses to.

I am currently based with Shane Breen and we are getting placed in the bigger international classes in Dubai. Days like these happen thanks to the excellent young horse production classes organised by Horse Sport Ireland's breeding and production team in Ireland.'

HHS Javas Gucci, **HHS Fortune**, **HHS Calais** and **HHS Burnchurch**

We all know of the successes of Hughes Horse Stud and Mikey Pender



Graduates of the ISH Studbook Showjumping Series contd...

over the past five years since Mikey joined the team in HHS. What we didn't know is that all of these Irish Sport Horses were produced and have competed through the Irish Sport Horse studbook series over the years. Some of these horses are now on the longlist for selection to compete in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Marion reflects 'We love to produce our horses through the studbook series every year. It is a great opportunity for our young stock to avail of two days jumping in the main arenas in Ireland's best shows. The education these classes offer young horses is invaluable.

One of the highlights of our year is Lanaken. I feel that these classes sufficiently prepare our horses for a few days jumping in a row. It gives them experience at travelling, being stabled in different places and longer show stays while also getting to jump courses designed by Ireland's top course builders such as Tom Holden, Alan Wade and John Doyle to name a few.

We have had great success with our string of horses, and we were delighted to learn that they are on the longlist for Olympic selection. I know it would be a dream come true for Mikey while also a huge achievement for me as a breeder, owner and rider to be in a position to retain these horses to compete at this level.'

HHS Fortune (ISH) is a 2011 mare by *Catoki* (HOLST) out of *HHS Daisy* (ISH) by *Ard Vdl Douglas* (KWPN) bred and owned by Marion Hughes.

Mikey Pender has had more success recently when he won the 140 class in Vilamoura while riding *HHS Fortune* (ISH). Mikey has celebrated numerous



Mikey Pender and HHS Vancouver (ISH) competing in the 6 Year Old ISH SJ Series at Flavours of Fingal. (Photo: Laurence Dunne/jumpinaction.net)

wins with this mare from 135 to 145 level classes in Abu Dhabi, Vilamoura and Oliva.

HHS Javass Gucci (ISH) is a 2012 gelding by *Luidam* (KWPN) out of *Javass Honey* (ISH) by *Cruising* (ISH) bred by Judy Murphy owned by Michael Pender & Bravo Hughes Ltd.

Mikey Pender has ridden *Javass Gucci* to numerous placing at international shows. In January 2021 the combination was second in the 145 Grand Prix in Vilamoura and they won the 145 Grand Prix in 2020 also in Vilamoura. They finished 4th overall in 2019 in the RDS international 7/8-year-old competition.

HHS Calais (ISH) is a 2011 gelding by *Cavalier Royale* (HOLST) out of *MHS OBOS Cruise* (ISH) by *OBOS Quality* (HOLST), bred by Ita Brennan, Co. Kilkenny and owned by Bravo Hughes Ltd.

Mikey has recently had very impressive results on board *HHS Calais*. In February 2021 they came second in the 150 3* Grand Prix in Vilamoura and then claimed 1st place in the 145 3* Grand Prix also in Vilamoura.

HHS Burnchurch (ISH) is a 11-year-

old gelding by *Heritage Fortunas* (HANN) out of *China Cavalier* (ISH) by *Cavalier Royale* (HOLST) bred by Marion Hughes and owned by Bravo Hughes Ltd.

Mikey and Burnchurch have recently enjoyed 3rd placings in 150 and 145 3* Grand Prix's in both Vilamoura and Vejer de la Fontera.

When asked about the success of all of these Irish Sport Horses Mikey said 'I am blessed to have such good horses to ride in Hughes Horse Stud. Marion likes the horses to progress at a slow pace to allow them to develop correctly.

We are very fortunate in Ireland that we have such a good working relationship with HSI and the breeding department in particular. We as riders, breeders and owners give our feedback at the end of each year and this allows the league to progress and develop while always having the horse's best production methods to the fore.

Having the Irish Sport Horse Studbook classes operating over two days is the best possible education for our horses and gives them every opportunity to learn from one day to the next. Ireland is streets ahead of our European counterparts with our young horse classes.

Every year in Lanaken the winners are asked what makes our young horses so competitive and capable in these classes, and every year we talk about the success of the ISH Studbook series and the RDS qualifiers.

This year I have my first crop of home bred horses from Madges Lane Stables. I am excited to produce these horses through the ISH Studbook series and hopefully have as much success with them as I have been having with the HHS horses.'

Please note: Article was completed 22nd February 2021. Additional results after this date not included.



Mikey Pender and HHS Burnchurch (ISH) competing at The RDS Grand Prix 2019 (Photo: Laurence Dunne/jumpinaction.net)

The Nine Ethical Principles of the True Horseman

First Published in 1994 by the German National Equestrian Federation

1

Anyone involved with a horse takes over responsibility for this living creature entrusted to him.

2

The horse must be kept in a way that is in keeping with his natural requirements.

3

Highest priority must be accorded to the physical as well as psychological health of the horse, irrespective of the purpose for which it is used.

4

Man must respect every horse alike, regardless of its breed, age and sex and its use for breeding, for recreation or in sporting competition.

5

Knowledge of the history of the horse, its needs and how to handle it are part of our historic-cultural heritage. This information must be cherished and safeguarded in order to be passed on to the next generations.

6

Contact and dealings with horses are character building experiences and of valuable significance to the development of the human being – in particular the young person. This aspect must be respected and promoted.

7

The human who participates in equestrian sport with his horse must subject himself as well as his horse to training. The goal of any training is to bring about the best possible harmony between horse and rider.

8

The use of the horse in competition as well as in general riding, driving and vaulting must be geared towards the horse's ability, temperament and willingness to perform. Manipulating a horse's capacity to work by means of medication or other "horse-unfriendly" influences should be rejected by all and people engaged in such practises should be prosecuted.

9

The responsibility a human has for the horse entrusted to him included the end of the horse's life. The human must always assume this responsibility and implement any decisions in the best interest of the horse.



Time is what the Young Horse needs most



By
COMDT. JOHN LEDINGHAM

“If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there!”
– **Lewis Carroll** (1832-1898)

While the above quote from Lewis Carroll might work for some, when training young horses, it is much better to have a plan! If I could misquote Lewis Carroll when training young horses, it would go as follows, ‘when you know where you are going, the shortest/quickest road might not be the best option!’

The modern sport horse is desired to be an athletic animal with very quick reflexes. Depending on which mare and stallion you have selected, it is probably wise to look back three or four generations to see what inherited traits the dominant ones are. Scientists have identified five temperament traits; these include shyness/boldness, exploration/avoidance, activity, sociability, and aggressive type behaviours. The reality is that, just as most experienced horse folk will verify,

between 70% and 98% of a horse's temperament is shaped by his or her experience. And recent behavioural research has shown that this process starts very early in life.

A Dutch study recently examined how the personality of riders interact with the temperament of the horse. Horses that were more emotionally reactive were more evasive when ridden, and cooperation between horse and rider was greatest with horses that were less emotionally reactive. Interestingly a rider's personality was not a significant factor in determining the relationship between horse and rider.

(The Scottish Farmer, 20th Aug 2012).

I will refer to the horse as he in this article, I have no preference between equally talented mares and geldings, however stallions need to be treated with extra respect and have professional handlers.

A healthy sound horse is essential for sport. Every horse has differing conformation, and this will dictate the style and shape of movement in all paces. We read and hear a lot about self-carriage, engagement, collection, balance – but what does it all mean?

In reality the horse will carry himself in the manner, which is comfortable and energy efficient, according to his conformation. When you add a rider to the equation, everything changes, and a young horse must learn a new way to carry themselves supporting this extra weight. I don't like the word breaking because we should not be “breaking” the horse – so in the early work we are educating and encouraging mutual respect with the young horse from the ground. This opens the lines of communication, to establish trust and make sure that the horse respects the human and understands what is required of them.

Initial work on the lead, on the lunge, and working with two lunge lines combined with the voice really helps the horse to understand the aids. It is

essential that we work with our young horses equally from both sides, a one-sided horse will never reach his true potential. It also establishes the fact that we want to work with the horse and not against his nature and encourages him to develop the posture and core strength required to carry the rider.

After the horse has the basic training in hand, it is time to get the rider on his back. This is the most stressful time in a horse's life! Horses are prey animals by nature and flight is their response to any predator or perceived threat so having a rider on their back whom they cannot see, requires a huge amount of trust from the horse. Time taken here is essential.

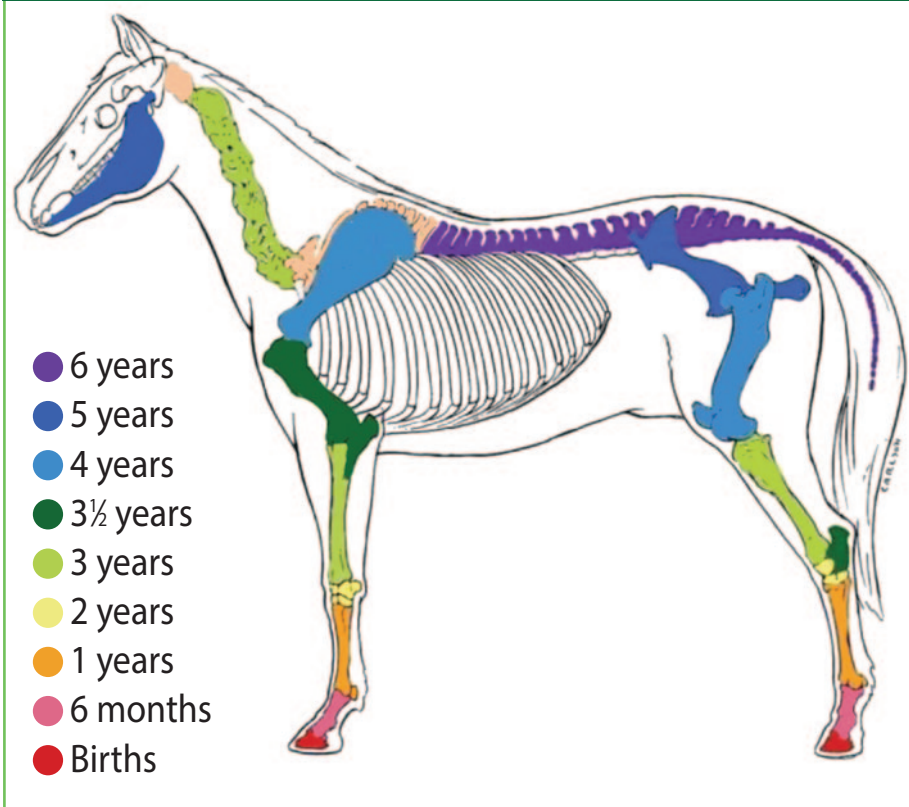
“Dressage is the art of teaching the horse to carry you, riding is the art of learning to be a good load to carry.”
– **Richard Weiss**

The horse has learned to carry himself in his preferred balance, now with a rider on top, his proprioception must be recalibrated. His core muscles, his back and his quarters need strength to carry the extra weight of the rider and be conditioned to work. Horses vary in their natural strength depending on conformation and physical maturity. Balance is also a natural variable and can be improved by building strength with appropriate work combined with periods of rest to allow the muscles to repair and grow.

The following diagram illustrates the stages of equine skeletal development and the ages at which the growth plates fuse and convert to bone.



THE STAGES OF EQUINE SKELETAL DEVELOPMENT



These timescales are minimal – male horses generally take 6 months longer than females, and larger horses an additional 6 months. It is clear to see that an underdeveloped horse is more vulnerable to the stresses of overtraining.

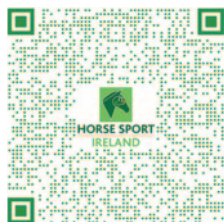
The above drawing helps us understand why we should take it slowly with our young horses, and the QR codes below further explain the stages of equine skeletal development and Training and Bone Development.

Under saddle we get to see the real potential of the horse, but we should be mindful of how strong and supple the horse is. Do not confuse a fat horse with a strong well-muscled horse or a horse

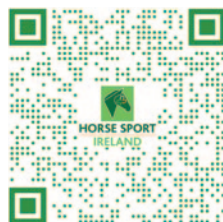
with little condition as being fit! Like any athlete, proprioception is vital, and the horse must be aware where every foot is being placed. It is essential that we introduce our horses to poles on the ground and have a plan to develop his timing and the ability to rebalance.

Lewis Carroll has another quote from Alice in Wonderland, 'I can't go back to yesterday, because I was a different person then!' This quote really sums up why we must be progressive in training our horses, reassess their needs constantly and adapt training methods accordingly. Speaking of Lewis Carroll, I am reminded of another writer that should have been training horses.

For more information on the stages of equine skeletal development scan here:



For more information on Training and Bone Development scan here:



'We do not remember days we remember moments!'
– Cesare Pavese
(1908-1950)

We need to create good memories in our horses, so that they work with us. When we realise that our horses learn and remember from repetition it is very important to listen to the words of Gustav Steinbrecht.

'Do not hurry any of the exercises and to let them follow one another in such a way that the preceding exercise always constitutes a secure basis for the next one. Violations of this rule will always exert payment later on; not only by a triple loss of time but frequently by resistances which, for a long time if not forever, interfere with the relationship between horse and rider and often jeopardise the success of the enterprise.'
– Gustav Steinbrecht
(1808-1885)

I like his simplistic approach, "ride your horse forward and straight."

A well-produced sound horse is a very valuable commodity. Do not be in a hurry to get your horse to competition. Very few young horses are strong enough in their core to carry a balanced canter for a length of time, so work the horse in walk and in trot with plenty of transitions.

continued next page



Times is what the Young Horse needs most contd...

Walking is the best pace for the horse to develop his proprioception, (see exercises with poles on the floor below). With young horses it is always essential to have at least one person on the ground to help the rider to "ride your horse forward and straight". The work that has been done from the ground is in the horse's memory, so the introduction of the rider's aids may need to be reinforced by the person on the ground.

It is much easier to develop the young horse's timing when jumping from trot. It is a natural progression from walk pole exercises to trot pole exercises. Then progress to little jumping exercises in trot (See Fig. 3&4) and eventually to jump from canter. It is important not to get the jump too forward. Power **not** speed is what allows the young horse to reach his potential. The ability of the horse to control the power of the jump is paramount!



*'The golden rule:
Time is what the
horse needs most,
and your patience is
the most precious
gift you can give.'*

– **Isabella Sonntag**
Publisher of the German
edition of *Tug of War*,
2006.

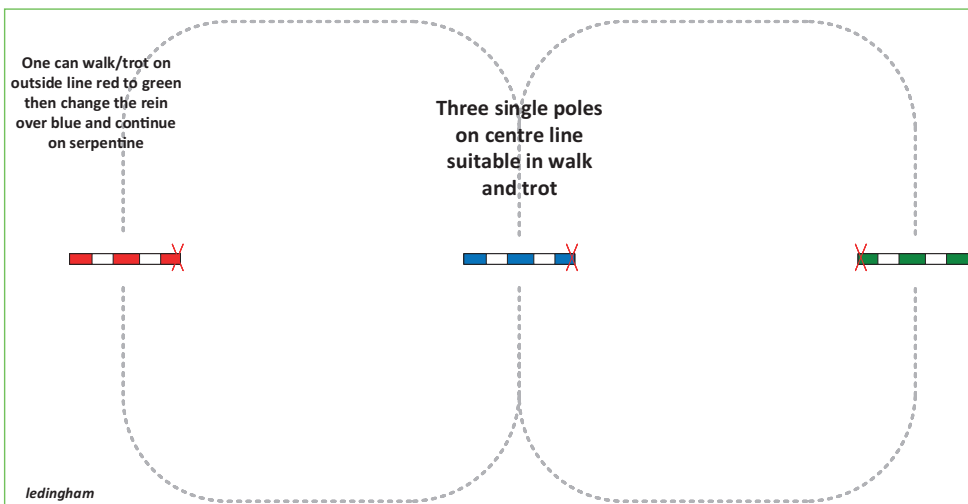


Fig. 1: Single poles on the centre line serpentine walk and trot

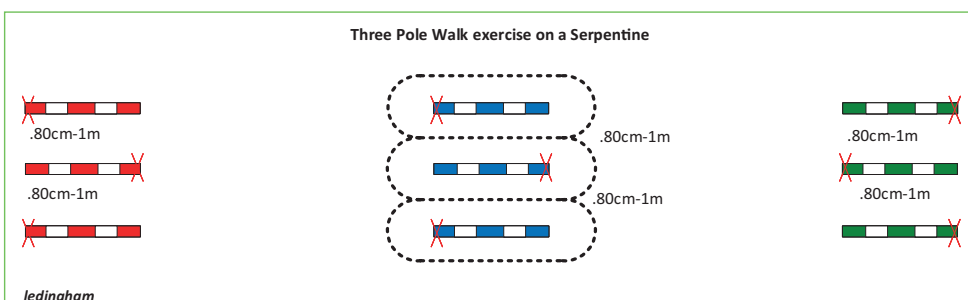


Fig. 2: Three walk poles on a serpentine supplying exercise

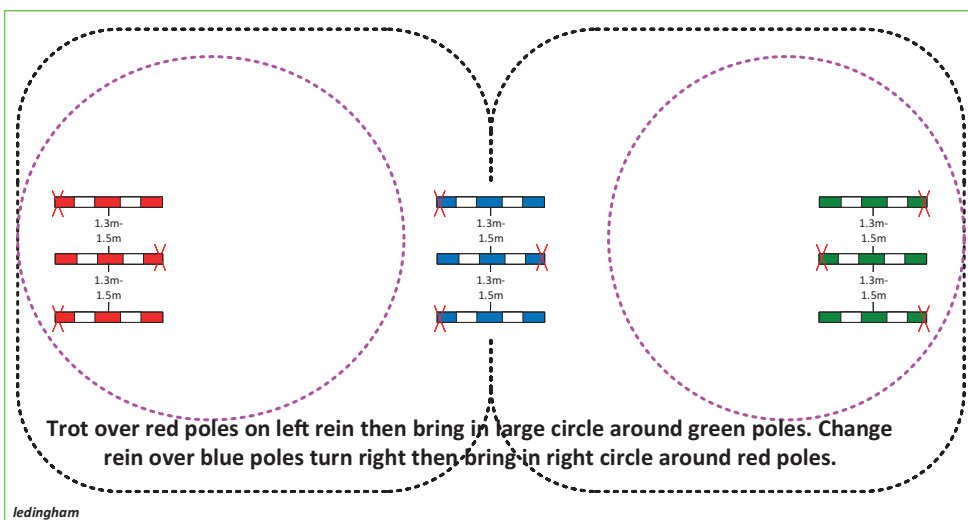


Fig. 3: Three trot poles on a serpentine including two large circles including text

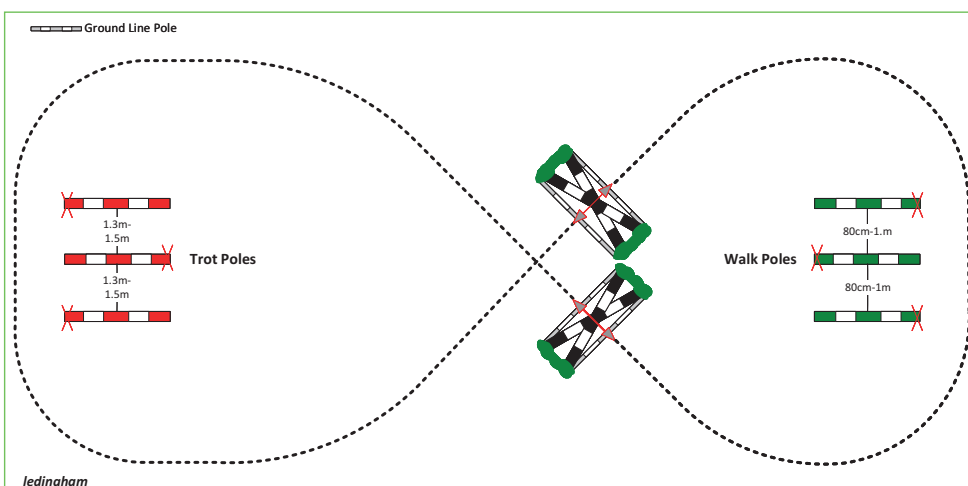


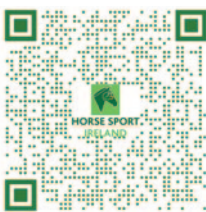
Fig. 4: Two Cross pole fences on the diagonal, with walk and trot poles



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2021

SPRING MARE SELECTIONS 2021

Horse Sport Ireland will be holding Irish Sport Horse and Irish Draught Horse mare inspections throughout the country in March and April. Mares that have identification documents (white books) currently, on inspection, may be eligible for studbook entry. Subject to meeting the criteria their progeny may be eligible for studbook entry.



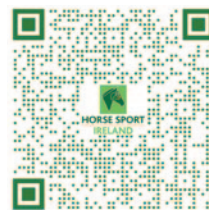
23rd March	Tubberbride Equestrian Centre, Co. Sligo
24th-25th March	Creagh Equestrian Centre, Co. Galway
29th March	Warrington Topflight Equestrian Centre, Co. Kilkenny
1st April	Ballybrack Equestrian Centre, Co. Cork
8th April	Kernans Equestrian Centre, Newry, Co. Down
13th April	Greenogue Equestrian Centre, Co. Dublin



Please see the HSI website for further information
<https://www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/mare-inspections/>

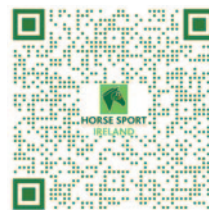
SPRING STALLION SELECTIONS 2021

Horse Sport Ireland will be holding Irish Sport Horse Stallion, Irish Draught Horse stallion, Thoroughbred Stallion, and Irish Sport Pony Stallion inspections in Cavan Equestrian Centre on the 9th and 10th of March 2021.




HORSE SPORT IRELAND BREEDING INITIATIVES

HSI is pleased to announce the terms and conditions for the 2021 breeding initiatives. Please scan the QR code for further details and the closing date for applications.



27th Aug 2021	Embryo Transfer Scheme
31st October 2021	X-Ray Scheme
31st October 2021	Mare Upgrade Scheme
31st October 2022	Thoroughbred Percentage Scheme

All application forms and criteria for these initiatives can be found on at www.horsesportireland.ie



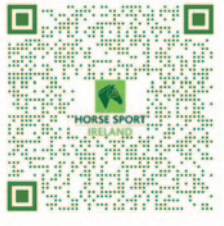

Kerry Bog Pony Studbook

Don't forget to register your Kerry Bog Pony with the KBP studbook. For information on registering, you KBP, please contact our registrations department on 045 854 500 or info@horsesportireland.ie.

Registering your Kerry Bog Pony in the KBP studbook ensures that your pony will be eligible for:

- Registration in the main section of the Kerry Bog Pony Studbook
- Kerry Bog Pony Studbook Passport
- Eligible to compete in Kerry Bog Pony competitions
- Kerry Bog Pony breeder prizes

To go directly to the Passports and Registration page, please scan the QR code below:



Irish Harness Racing Association Studbook

Don't forget to register your Irish Standardbred Trotter and Irish Standardbred Pacer with the Irish Harness Racing Association. For information on registering with the IHRA, please contact our registrations department on 045 854 500 or info@horsesportireland.ie.

Registering your Irish Standardbred Trotter and Irish Standardbred Pacer in the IHRA studbook ensures that your horse will be eligible for:

- Registration in the main section of the IHRA Studbook
- An IHRA Studbook Passport
- Eligible to compete in IHRA competitions

To go directly to the Passports and Registration page, please scan the QR code below:




Source: IHRA Facebook Page



QA

Questions & Answers

with 5*
EVENT
RIDER



Tim Bourke

HSI's NADIA REA recently caught up with Tim Bourke for a question and answer session about his love of the Irish Sport Horse in Eventing.

Q Can you tell me about the history of Luckaun Quality and Quality Time, how long you have had them and how were they produced?

A I think we need to start from the beginning. Luckaun Quality is the first horse that I had and helped shape me in the right direction. After working in the US for 2 years, I moved back to Ireland and worked for the Reapes riding show jumpers. Walter had bought this 3-year-old from Goresbridge by OBOS Quality out of a Cavalier Royale mare. He was a horse that was in the barn that I broke when I was working for them. When I moved back to the US, Walter was kind enough to let me take him with me, and that is where my partnership with the Reapes really began. He was the rankest, hardest horse to produce, but at that stage in my career, was exactly what I needed. The horse had brut scope and ability and thought it was all just a game. He never found it hard, even all the way at the top level. Looking back, I couldn't have had a better horse to bring me to the 5* level.

Moving forward, we have a phenomenal group of horses coming through the ranks. The top one

currently is a 10-year-old mare called Quality Time. She is an Irish Sport Horse by Guidam out of a High Roller mare. Quality Time is completely opposite to Luckaun Quality as she is incredibly trainable and quick footed. She has answered every question I have asked of her, and I hope is a team horse for the future.

Q How many Irish Sport Horses do you currently have in your stables?

A Right now we have a barn full of 25 horses in training. Out of those 25, 20 of them are Irish Sport Horses which we have brought over for ourselves, students, and clients alike.

Q Do you have a favourite pedigree for eventing and why?

A We currently have several horses by OBOS Quality, a couple by Womanizer, a couple by Future Trend, and a very exciting young horse by Chacoa. When looking at the pedigree of the horses, I personally like a traditional Irish bred horse on the mother side with enough thoroughbred and then some form of continental breeding on the father's side. French tends to be my go to.

Q What traits / qualities make the Irish Sport Horse so special in the eventing discipline?

A You can't beat results, and if you look at the way our sport is evolving on the world stage, the top horses have a tendency to have some form of Irish origins. I believe that a huge part of their athletic ability, conformation, brain, and rideability shines through on the world stage. I feel that Ireland has possibly the best horse men and women in the world and they are produced exceptionally well.

Q Do you come home to Ireland frequently to buy Irish horses and what do you look for?

A Being from Ireland, coming home works twofold. I get to see all my family and we can incorporate business into the trip. I am very fortunate with the relationship and trust that I have in one of my closest friends Jonathan Reape. He does all the groundwork and spends months on the road covering all parts of the country looking for horses. So, fortunately when I come, we have a good selection to choose from.



There has been a big change in how business is conducted with COVID-19 and the inability to travel. Having a good contact is so important as we are buying more and more off from good videos.

Q What is the best memory you have with one of your Irish Sport Horses?

A It is hard to put a single memory down but standing in the prize-giving at Kentucky in the 5* with *Obie (Luckan Quality)* was incredibly special.

Q What upcoming events do you have and how do you prepare for them?

A We have a busy spring of international events coming up. Luckily we have a lot of competition options to choose from in the US. I try to divide my string up so I can give each horse 100% concentration. The ultimate goal is always to produce these horses to the highest level in the hope that one day they will compete on an Irish team.



Tim pictured with his son Senan at Kentucky 5* Event

Q Finally, what do you think is the main factor that has aided your success over the years?

A Moving to the US has been a massive part of my success over the years. I met my wife Marley here, have bought a farm, built a business together, and

started a family. I think a massive part of our success has always been a desire to seek help from the best people and surrounding ourselves with a brilliant team and the best of Irish horses.



EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE NUTRITION



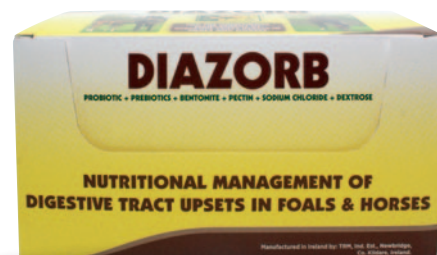
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National Breeding Initiatives 2020

After much progressive work to obtain additional funding, Horse Sport Ireland was very fortunate to receive a substantial uplift for its proposed Breeding & Production initiatives in 2020 of €1million from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Alison Corbally, Director of Breeding & Programmes said: 'I am happy to report that every cent of this allocation went back to the breeders and producers in Ireland, and 90% of the €1million was received by active breeders, who participated in quality improvement and production schemes. The funding reached all 32 counties in Ireland.' The feedback from the schemes is covered elsewhere in the magazine. Based on feedback and suggestions amendments have been made to schemes for 2021 (see Fig 1&2 on page 15 and Fig 3&4 on page 18).

The 2020 breeding year started off as expected with the first major event of the year, the Horse Sport Ireland Stallion Selections, taking place in Cavan Equestrian Centre on the 10th and 11th March. Two young stallions *Lithium V.S.* and *Kaiden Leva WD* both met the criteria to be classified as Preliminary Approved in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook. In addition, two sport horse stallions passed Stage 1: *Carneyhaugh Trojan* and *Kentucky LVP*. In the Irish Draught Studbook Selections, 7 stallions achieved Class 1 status: *Cappa Capone*, *Carraigstud Jack*, *Derrynasagurt Silver*, *Gweebarras Dreamtime Star*, *Liosderg Silver*, *Moylough Supremacy* and *WRS Sunshine*.

As the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded, the focus of national breeding initiatives was changed to mitigate its negative impact on breeders. Of particular concern was the risk that many horses were not going to be produced in 2020 and efforts focused on limiting the longer-term effects of this. All initiatives were carried out within the framework of the Covid-19 protocols for sport horse equestrian activity.

EMBRYO TRANSFER SCHEME

Embryo transfer has several



Lisa and Noel Cawley

advantages for potential breeders/owners of top performance mares. The donor mare can produce multiple foals per season while remaining in competition, thus the risk of foaling for the donor mare is eliminated.

Following the success of previous Embryo Transfer schemes, HSI decided to continue funding the initiative which seeks to maximise the genetic potential of quality mares. There were 51 donor mares and 91 embryo transfers that met all the eligibility requirements for funding this year.

'Embryo transfers are expensive, so the support from HSI is greatly appreciated. However, it would be great to see a bit more investment put into the scheme as it is so successful, that would make embryo transfers more accessible to breeders.'

– Linda Courtney

MARE UPGRADE SCHEME

The aim of this initiative was to incentivise Irish breeders to invest in performance damlines abroad as either filly foals, active performance mares or retired performance mares that may/or may not be already in foal. The scheme financed the veterinary screening and transport back to Ireland of qualifying purchased high genetic merit mares/fillies. There were 24 eligible applications under the mare upgrade scheme 2020.

This scheme will run in 2021 and can also facilitate the repatriation of successful top performance Irish bloodlines, following the competition career, which will support the breeding of TIH Irish Sport horses.

THOROUGHBRED PERCENTAGE SCHEME

Horse Sport Ireland launched the thoroughbred percentage (TB%) scheme in 2019 to incentivise the breeding of sport horse foals with greater than 70% thoroughbred blood. There were 73 eligible applications processed for this scheme for foals registered in 2020. We hope to see some of these foals being produced for eventing in years to come.



Fig. 1

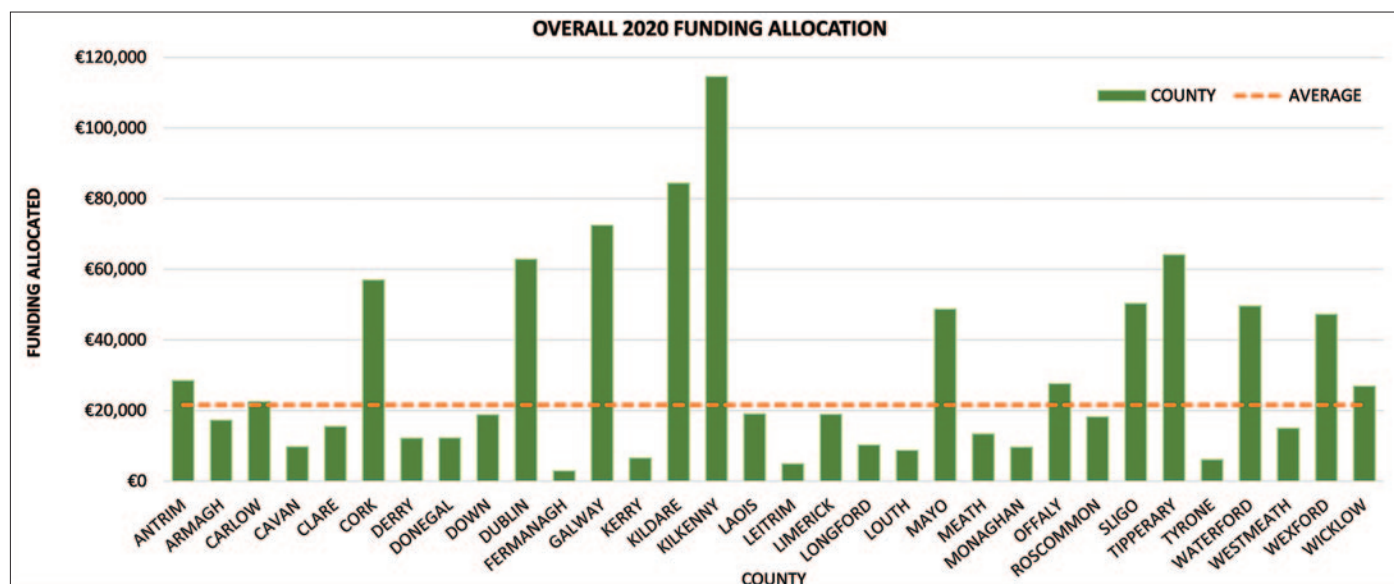
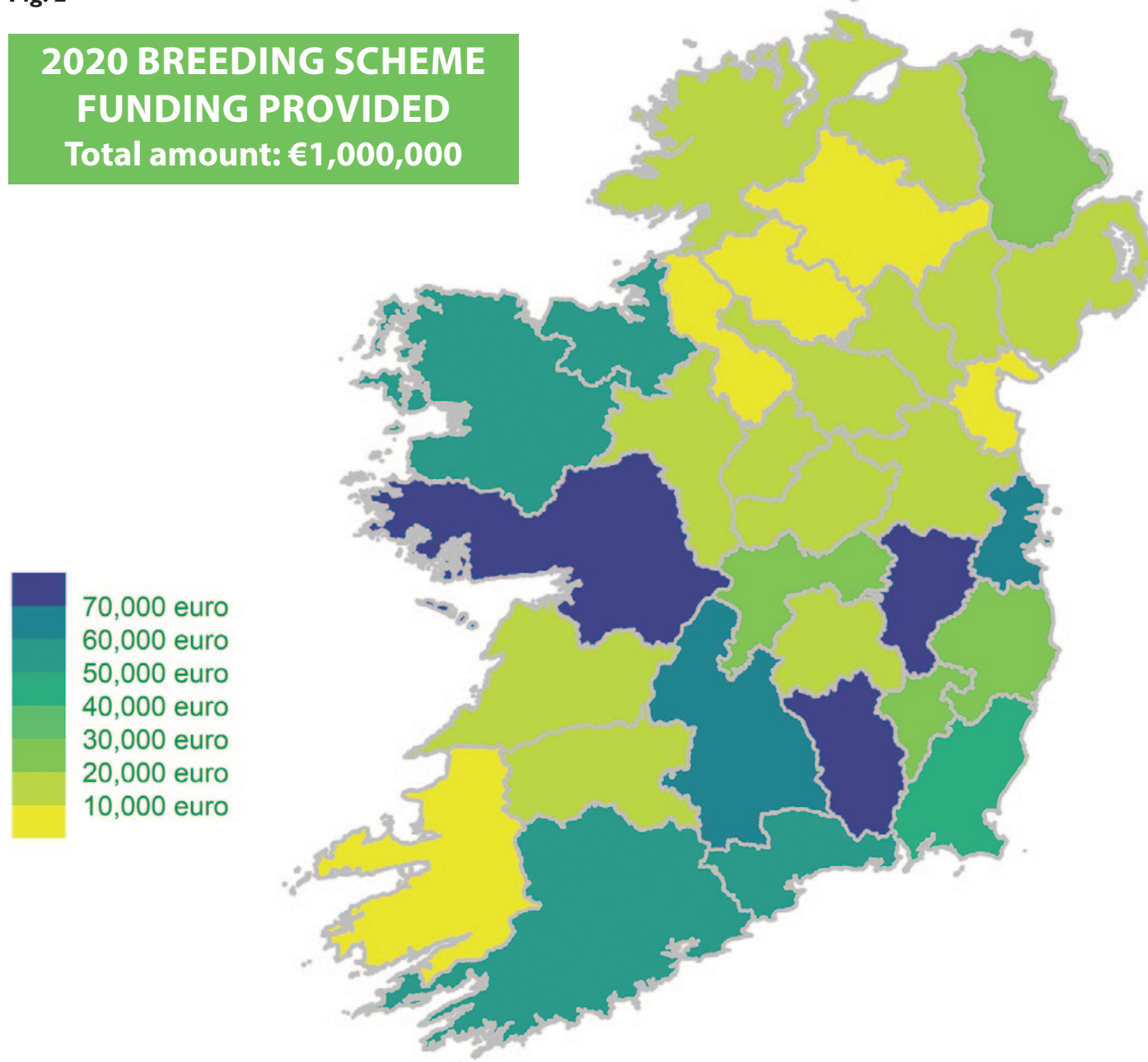


Fig. 2



Continued next page



“Eventers are looking for horses with more blood, and the only way to satisfy this is to incorporate thoroughbreds into the bloodline. However, thoroughbred stallions are hard to afford, so the grant offered through the TB% scheme provides breeders with a great incentive to incorporate thoroughbreds into their breeding.”

– PJ Lehane



PJ Lehane – with his winning broodmare PJs Delight at Barryroe show.

X-RAY SCHEME

This scheme provided breeders/owners with an accessible pathway to completing a full set of screening x-rays for benchmarking their breeding herd and incorporating the information into their breeding decisions and sire selections.

The scheme was open to fillies and mares who are registered in a WBFSH or DAFM approved studbook and met specific performance requirements.

HSI covered the cost of the screening in full. Each horse's images were scored by the HSI expert radiological review panel. The horse's images were provided back to applicants with a comprehensive report including their total 'score' and horse-specific clinical comments. These reports and images will support breeders with regards decision making.

There were 221 horses x-rayed as part of this scheme. This scheme will also be available in 2021.

“I only began breeding horses recently and the X-Ray scheme assisted with the financial burden of X-Raying. It was a super scheme as I established if my mares were suitable for breeding, it will encourage me to X-ray my potential brood mares in the future.”

– Caroline Chambers

“The X-Ray Scheme is brilliant. It's great to know that your mares are sound prior to starting their breeding career, and which stallions are producing good sound horses.”

– Lisa Cawley

“X-Rays are the way to go. When you sell a horse as a 4- or 5-year-old everyone wants X-Rays. They really are so important so I do place a lot of emphasis on them, as I know they will be scrutinised down the line. This is a great scheme as I was going to have to X-Ray anyway, so it was great to get this support.”

– Dara O'Malley, DPS Sport Horses

BREAKING AND SCHOOLING SCHEME

The aim of this scheme was to incentivise Irish breeders to produce young breeding stock and in so doing add value to them, provide additional information to their owners and breeders as to their positive and negative traits

and ultimately to ensure that more informed breeding decisions are made. By assisting breeders to have the mares started appropriately, there is a greater incentive to continue to produce the better stock into competition through Horse Sport Ireland's young horse pathway competitions.

This scheme also aimed to support breeders in producing their young horses despite the disruption to the 2020 competitive season. This scheme covered 181 breeders and 315 horses.

“The Breaking and Training Scheme is one of the best schemes ever run by HSI. This scheme made it possible for breeders to hold onto fillies for breaking and training to see if they were suitable for breeding and allowed them to be broken and started properly. Breaking and training is costly, especially for hobby breeders, and this grant was not a token gesture. It was a great boost for both breeders and producers and was really appreciated, especially for the year that was in it.”

– Liam Kennedy



“The Breaking and Training scheme put a lot of positivity back into the sector and was a real drive for people to continue to progress their breeding. Previously, breeders were not incentivised to break their fillies, but this scheme really gave breeders the opportunity to start their horses. I had a mare in the scheme this year that is now ready to do the 5-year-old classes – If the scheme wasn't in place she would still be in the field. I guarantee you that two or three mares who graduated from the scheme will go on to jump Grand Prix's that might never had been started had this scheme not been in place.”

– Jonathan Reape



“I had my mare entered in the Goresbridge sales as I didn't have time to break her, but the scheme came around at just the right time and I ended up keeping and entering her. By the end of the scheme, she was jumping around a small course of fences and is now ready for the four-year-olds this year. I am really impressed with her, and if it weren't for the scheme she would have been sold.”

– Edward Kelly



AUTUMN DEVELOPMENT SERIES

The Horse Sport Ireland Autumn Development Series provided development opportunities for breeders, owners and riders and extended the competitive season which had been curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Series was supported by Show jumping Ireland, Dressage Ireland and Eventing Ireland covering the three disciplines and providing significant prize money including breeder prizes in each discipline.

The Show Jumping schedule for the Series included classes from Grand Prix to young horse classes. The Eventing schedule included classes from EI 90 through to EI 110 and included a combination of eventing, arena eventing and young horse experience classes. The Dressage schedule included all levels from preliminary to Grand Prix including young horses classes. In total, the prize fund provided was over €150,000.

3- & 4-YEAR-OLD LOOSE JUMPING

Horse Sport Ireland held two loose jumping competitions for 3 & 4-year-old fillies in 2020, although more rounds had initially been envisaged. These competitions aimed to identify and show case young fillies that would be suitable

for use as top-class broodmares of the future. The competitions saw 40 animals competing over the two days.

FOAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Horse Sport Ireland Foal Championship aimed to identify, evaluate, and reward breeders who have bred a foal that has the potential to be competitive at the highest level in the disciplines of show jumping or eventing. The classes were open to any horse registered in a WBFISH studbook and any pony registered in an EU approved studbook. Five qualifiers took place at the following venues around the country (Bridestown Equestrian Centre, Wexford Equestrian Centre, Tubberbride Stables, Creagh Equestrian Centre, and Coilog Equestrian Centre) with the Champions and Reserve Champions announced based on the highest scores over all qualifiers. Overall, over 150 foals took part in the Championships.

IMPACT OF FUNDING

The national breeding initiatives delivered €1,000,000 of funding directly to sport horse breeders and owners across the 32 counties of Ireland with each county receiving on average of €21,000.

Continued next page...



Dara O'Malley with his winning horse DPS Revelry (ISH) by Hermes De Reve (Be) (SF) out of Celerina (AEAS) (AEAS) by Cento (HOLST) ridden by Shane Goggins.



Fig. 3

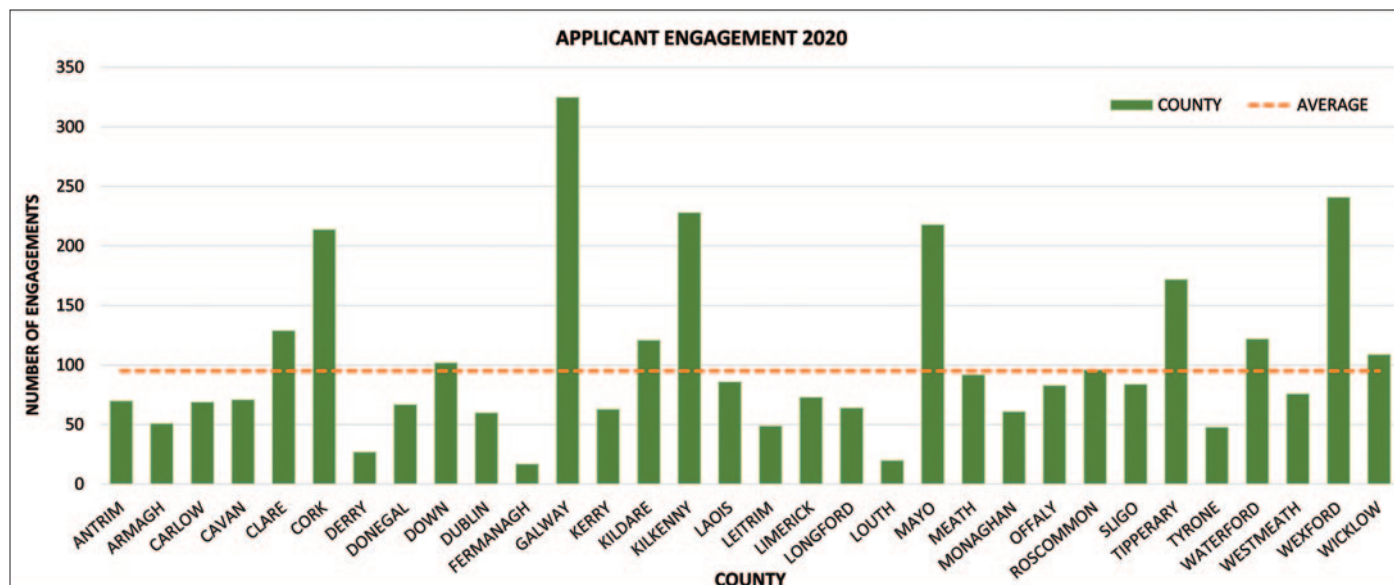
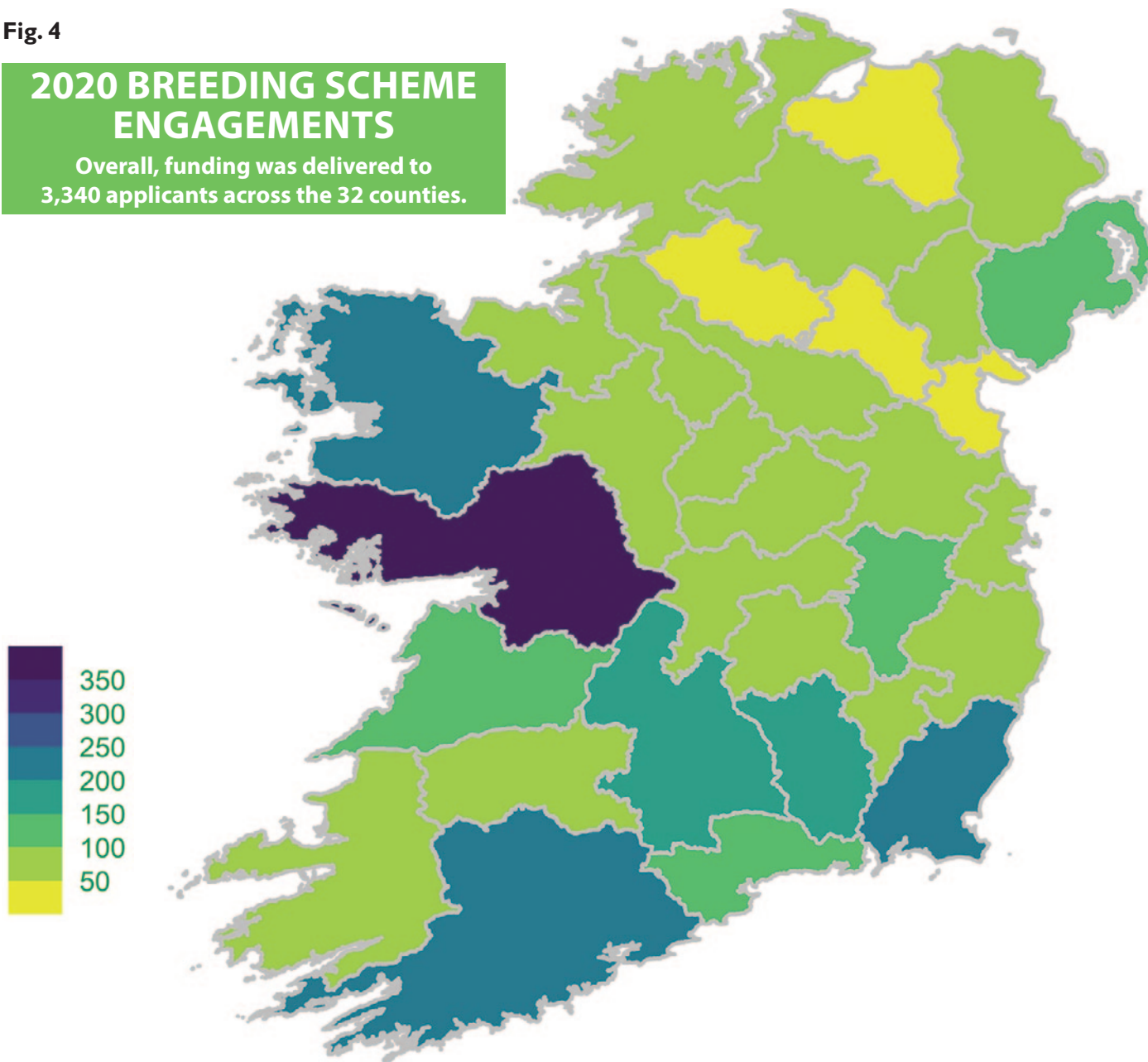


Fig. 4

2020 BREEDING SCHEME ENGAGEMENTS

Overall, funding was delivered to 3,340 applicants across the 32 counties.



BREEDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WARMBLOOD FRAGILE FOAL SYNDROME

Warmblood Fragile Foal Scheme (WFFS) is genetic condition, typically found in Warmblood horses, which affects connective tissue. WFFS is characterised by fragile skin and mucous membranes causing painful lesions; hyperflexible joints, floppy ears, excess fluid in the foetus and premature birth.

Horse Sport Ireland funded the WFFS screening of 2,200 foals born in 2020 in order to provide their breeders with information to support their breeding decisions, to document the prevalence of the carrier status in the Irish population.

The research is on-going, and results will be disseminated to breeders in 2021.

IRISH DRAUGHT GENETIC DIVERSITY – GENOMICS PROJECT

Routine monitoring of genetic diversity trends within the Irish Draught breed are carried out by Horse Sport Ireland who are approved by DAFM to

maintain the Irish Draught Horse Studbook. This project is investigating the feasibility of augmenting the current pedigree-based genetic diversity measures for Irish Draught stallions of concern with genomic measures in order to improve their effectiveness.

The research is on-going, and results will be disseminated to breeders in 2021.

IRISH SPORT HORSE GENETIC EVALUATION PROJECT

Horse Sport Ireland carries out a genetic evaluation for show jumping Irish Sport horses. Breeding values for show jumping ability at international level are produced which measure the difference between each horse's genetic ability for international level show jumping and the average genetic ability for show jumping for the Irish population.

Three sources of information are used in the evaluation: pedigree, own performance, and progeny performance and over three million records are included in the evaluation. As well as stallion breeding values which are published in the stallion book, breeding

values are available to Irish Sport horse breeders for their own horses on request. The results, data and expertise comprised in the project is also used to support national breeding initiatives.

For more information on Breeding Initiatives please scan over the QR code right.



HSI 2021 Irish Cob Studbook and Irish Cob Part-Bred Studbook Inspections

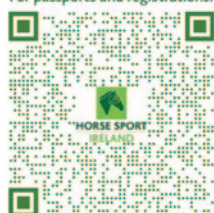
Stallion and Mare Inspections (for entry into the Supplementary Section of the studbook) will be facilitated by Horse Sport Ireland on the following dates:

- Creagh EC, Co. Galway on 24th March
- Ballybrack EC, Co. Cork on 1st April
- Devine Equestrian, Co. Longford (date tbc)

All animals presented for inspection must be registered with an Identification Document issued by a DAFM approved Passport Issuing Organisation.

To register your interest and request application forms or further information, please contact pobrien@horsesportireland.ie or 045 850800

For passports and registrations:



Irish Sport Pony Studbook

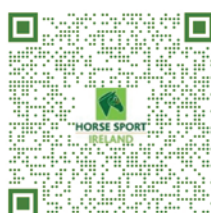


The Irish Sport Pony Studbook is continuing to offer a special rate for first time registrations. You can avail of this offer for €30 inclusive of DNA for a limited time. If you do not know the parentage of your pony you will need to contact Weatherbys directly and additional costs may occur. To receive a DNA kit contact our registrations department on 045 854 500 or info@horsesportireland.ie and please give details of the sire and dam of the pony you wish to register. They will arrange for a DNA kit to be sent to you.

Registering your pony in the ISP studbook ensures that your pony will be eligible for:

- Registration in the main section of the Irish Sport Pony Studbook
- Green Irish Sport Pony Studbook Passport
- Eligible to compete in pony studbook funded competitions
- Inclusion on the Irish Pony Register online database – IHR online
- Irish Sport Pony breeder prizes

To go directly to the Passports and Registration page, please scan the QR code below:



Max Watchman and Cuffesgrange Cavalidam European U16 Show Jumping Champion 2019. (Photo: Strzegom 2019)



Autumn Mare Selection Results 2020

IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE STUDBOOK 2020

Irish Draught Mares that achieved **CLASS 1 BRONZE MERIT** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

BRONZE MERIT for OWN SHOWJUMPING and DRESSAGE PERFORMANCE

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Cluide Mist	2011	Fancy Dan (IDC2)	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	John Shaughnessy	Karen Glendinning

Irish Draught Mares that achieved **CLASS 1 BRONZE MERIT** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

BRONZE MERIT for ATHLETICISM

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Alis First Edition	2015	Lislap Benedict (IDC2)	Cappa Cochise (IDC1)	Alison Smith	Alison Smith
Ballymac Holly Mae	2016	Gortfree Lakeside Lad (IDC1)	Carrabawn View (IDC1)	Stephen Adrienne Keeley	Frank & Paula Cullen
Bonnie Lady	2009	Gleneven Rebel (IDC1)	Welcome Flagmount (IDC1)	Denis McGrath	Denis McGrath
Clogher Cleopatra	2016	Castlegar Fin Grove (IDC1)	Finns Clover Inn (IDC1)	Pat McGrath	Denis McGrath
Dawn Mist	2016	Cappa Cassanova (IDC1)	Classic Vision (IDC1)	Vincent Curley	Vincent Curley
Dromore Emma	2017	Cappa Cochise (IDC1)	Rockrimmon Silver Diamond (IDC1)	Sean Kelly	Eamonn Griffin
Dunkerrins Quiet Lady	2016	Dunkerrin Grey Mist (IDC1)	Its The Quiet Man (IDC1)	Leonie Quigley	Leonie Quigley
Edenagor Pearl	2014	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Grange Bouncer (IDC1)	Patrick Hoare	Jim McNulty
Fairfield Choice	2017	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Clonakilty Hero (IDC1)	Peter Mchugh	Andrea Brogan
Fintans Girl	2016	Fintan Himself (IDC1)	Sir Rivie (IDC1)	Donal Reilly	Anne Rabbitte
Forans Hero	2014	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Crosstown Dancer (IDC1)	John Foran	John Foran
Forans Willow	2017	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Elm Hill (IDC1)	John Foran	John Foran
Granpas Grey Mist	2014	Cow Pasture Lad (IDC4)	Dunkerrin Grey Mist (IDC1)	Phil Deegan	Stacey Forsyth
Lackagh Lightfoot	2017	Western Blues (IDC1)	Carrabawn View (IDC1)	Kieran Fleming	Michael & Chris Mannion
Moylough Ivy	2017	Scrapman (IDC1)	Agherlow (IDC1)	Vincent Burns	Patrick Hoare
Nina Beechmore Crest	2017	Beechmore Silver Crest (IDC1)	Gortlea Ruler (IDC1)	Sally Diver	Martina Mulhern
Priory Rose	2017	Luke Skywalker (IDC1)	Holycross (IDC1)	Kieran Noonan	Frances Kealey
Red Fury	2016	Casnova (IDC1)	Carrickrock Close Shave (IDC1)	Kevin McGovern	Aoife Costello
Rivies Girl	2016	Carrickrock Close Shave (IDC1)	Sir Rivie (IDC1)	Dermot Shaughnessy	Dermot Shaughnessy

Irish Draught Mares that achieved **CLASS 1** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

CLASS 1

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Ahlmore Flora	2014	Luke Skywalker (IDC1)	Welcome Diamond (IDC1)	Daniel O'Callaghan	Clare Starrett
Alis Mystical Madam	2009	Cappa Cochise (IDC1)	Annaghdown Star (IDC1)	Mal McDonnell	Alison Smith
Anastasia Steele	2017	Young Carrabawn (IDC1)	Welcome Diamond (IDC1)	Kevin Bermingham	Sean Scannell
Ballineddin Miss Cloneshanon	2017	Bellews Mate (IDC2)	Grange Bouncer (IDC1)	John Pascal; Janette Rogers	Thomas Tutty
Ballycoolan Surprise	2017	Rosheen Yeats (IDC1)	Crosstown Dancer (IDC1)	Vivienne Bradley	Patricia Shortt
Ballyduff Cross Lady	2017	Carrabawn Cross (IDC1)	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Whiterock Farm	Vincent Egan
Ballygill Corona	2017	Carrickrock Close Shave (IDC1)	Merry Mate (IDC1)	Martin Donnellan	Martin Donnellan
Ballysheehan Lady	2015	Roadside True Blue (IDC2)	Star Kindom (IDC1)	John Burke	Martin Ruby
Bannvalley Silver Wind	2017	Silver Wind Twister (IDC1)	Moylough Bouncer (IDC1)	Pat & Miriam O'Sullivan	George Burrows
Barnview April Mist	2016	D.S. Ballagh Bouncer (IDC1)	Clonakilty Hero (IDC1)	Mary T Murphy	Laurence Hegarty
Beechhill Tess	2016	Ailys Bridge (IDC1)	Powerswood Purple (IDC1)	Brian Gallagher	Micheal Naughton
Beechwood Lady	2017	Cappa Cassanova (IDC1)	Elm Hill (IDC1)	Martin Kenirons	Martin Kenirons
Bluestone Shadow	2011	Rebel Mountain (IDC1)	Ard Grandpa (IDC1)	P.J. Murphy	Becky Ryan
Bonne Bridie	2015	Skiping Grange (IDC2)	All The Diamonds (IDC1)	Phil Deegan	Anita Ronan
Bonnie Noreen	2017	Rebel Mountain (IDC1)	Kilcotton Cross (IDC1)	Terence Keogh	Terence Keogh
Carrickcottage Bleu	2009	Windgap Blue (IDC1)	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Joan Bellew	Colin & Joan Coulter
Castles Lady	2017	Carrickrock Close Shave (IDC1)	Ard Grandpa (IDC1)	Dermot Shaughnessy	Dermot Shaughnessy
Castlevue Lady Georgina	2018	Castlevue Innisfree Farmer (IDC1)	Coolcronan Wood (IDC1)	Kenneth & Wendy Bell	Kenny & Wendy Bell
Chiomas Lady	2014	Heigh Ho Silver (IDC1)	Drumri (IDC1)	Padraig Naughton	Padraig Naughton
Cloonacauneen Rose Bud	2017	Tors Gentleman Farmer (IDC1)	Cloonacauneen Fourth Champ (IDC2)	Owen Griffin	Sean Foy
Cloonacauneen Tommy J	2017	Tors Gentleman Farmer (IDC1)	Carrabawn View (IDC1)	Thomas Coleman Joyce	Owen Griffin
Cloontrask Balty Doll	2016	Baltydaniel Silver Hero (IDC4)	Huntingfield Heathcliff (IDC1)	John A Cogan	Eddie Meehan
Crummy Dynamic Cruise	2013	Coolcronan Wood (IDC1)	Holycross (IDC1)	Sean Scanall	Cyril Meweeney
Crusheen Luna	2018	Tors Gentleman Farmer (IDC1)	Coolcronan Wood (IDC1)	Jimmy Noone	Jimmy Noone
Derrada Diamond	2009	Young Carrabawn (IDC1)	Diamond Lad (IDC1)	Michael Kelly	Margaret Kelly
Dinstown Country Girl	2015	Coolcronan Wood (IDC1)	Mountain View (IDC1)	Kevin Robinson	Grace Irwin
Dolly Herself	2016	Fintan Himself (IDC1)	Castana (IDC1)	Anne Rabbitte	Vincent Burns
Dowdstown Gabby	2017	Carrabawn Cross (IDC1)	Silver Granite (IDC1)	James Hoare	Thomas Ormond
Dream On	2017	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Creggan Emperor (IDC1)	Thomas McCann	Thomas McCann
Drumboy Joy	2011	Hillviewfarm Superstar (IDC1)	Drumhowan Gold (IDC1)	Padraig Bohan	Eddie Meehan
Ds Ballagh Princess	2017	Moylough Bouncer (IDC1)	Mount Diamond Flag (IDC1)	Brendan Duffy	Liam Lynskey
Dungar Big Star	2018	Carrickcottage Star (IDC1)	Upperchurch Breeze (IDC3)	John Corbett	John Corbett
Eoghans Princess	2018	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Echo King (IDC1)	Pat Mchugh	Pat Mchugh
Fastana Lady	2016	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Castana (IDC1)	Michael Healy	Brian Cogan
Feurty Welcome Mist	2017	Welcome Emperor (IDC1)	Ben Calverstown (IDC1)	Michael Bailey	Michael Bailey
Forans Breeze	2014	Crosstown Dancer (IDC1)	Shenandoah Prince Holly (IDC1)	John Foran	John Foran
Forans Day Out	2013	Mountain Diamond (IDC1)	Ard Grandpa (IDC1)	Eddie Burke	John Foran



Autumn Mare Selection Results 2020 contd.

Irish Draught Mares that achieved **CLASS 1** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

CLASS 1

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Forans Flame	2010	Holycross (IDC1)	Glidawn Diamond (IDC1)	Bridie Reidy	John Foran
Forans Quinlan	2011	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Sea Crest (IDC1)	John Quinlan	John Foran
Forans Silver Flag	2017	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Mount Diamond Flag (IDC1)	John Foran	John Foran
Forans Straight Up Gem	2017	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Rockrimmon Silver Diamond (IDC1)	John Foran	John Foran
Forans Stroller	2017	Millhollow Stroller (IDC1)	Clew Bay Bouncer (IDC1)	David O'Toole	John Foran
Friarsquarter Wood	2017	Cappa Cassanova (IDC1)	Coolcronan Wood (IDC1)	Adrian Burke	Adrian Burke
Fuerty Welcome Mist	2017	Welcome Emperor (IDC1)	Ben Calverstown (IDC1)	Michael Bailey	Michael Bailey
Glenveagh Waterfall	2018	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Coille Mor Hill (IDC1)	Gerard Sweeney	Gerard Sweeney
Good As Gold	2014	Moylough Bouncer (IDC1)	Clonakilty Hero (IDC1)	Paul Noel Murphy	Sean Culleton
Gortfadda Mrs Scrap	2016	Scrapman (IDC1)	Agherlow (IDC1)	Vincent Burns	Padraig Bohan
Gortfree Double O One	2016	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Grange Bouncer (IDC1)	Sean Barker	Mary Finn
Growhowdy Patricia	2017	Ceide Prince (IDC1)	Powerswood Purple (IDC1)	Martin O'Neill	Martin O'Neill
Gweebarra Lady Star	2017	Millhollow Real Mac Coy (IDC1)	Cloverhill (IDC1)	Enda Hamill	Enda Hamill
Gweebarra Realta	2018	Millhollow Real Mac Coy (IDC1)	Blue Rajah (IDC1)	Enda Hamill	Enda Hamill
Gweebarra Starlight	2016	Millhollow Real Mac Coy (IDC1)	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Charmaine Kee	Joe Rohan
Hollyhill Silver Lady	2018	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Cork Arthur (IDC1)	Henry Blackweir	Tom Fadden
Inisfree Grey Maiden	2018	Inisfree The Holy Grai (IDC1)	Annaghdown Star (IDC1)	Eddie Murphy	Eddie Murphy
Ivy A Cear	2018	Carrickcottage Star (IDC1)	Uibh Fhaili '81 (IDC1)	Kay Blackwell	Kay Blackwell
Ivy A Tri	2017	Carrickcottage Star (IDC1)	Uibh Fhaili '81 (IDC1)	Kay Blackwell	Michael Browne
Jenkinstown Beauty	2017	Dunsandle Diamond (IDC1)	Drumri (IDC1)	Paddy Kelly	Patrick Kelly
Jenkinstown Dolly	2017	Scrapman (IDC1)	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Robert Gilmore	Patrick Kelly
Jenkinstown Grace	2016	Scrapman (IDC1)	Mourne Mountain Star (IDC1)	Paddy Kelly	Patrick Kelly
Kilconnell Lady Shave	2010	Carrickrock Close Shave (IDC1)	Donovan (GB) (IDC1)	Noreen Kelly	Colin & Joan Coulter
Kilcooras Gentle Diamond	2016	Gentle Diamond (IDC1)	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Kieran Cunningham	Claudine Daly
Kilmovee Silver Hawk	2015	Harkaway Lionhawk (IDC1)	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Amanda Tarpey	Seamus Duffy
Lackaghbeg Rebel	2008	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Sea Crest (IDC1)	Paddy Joyce	Paddy Joyce
Lady Of Grace	2017	Scrapman (IDC1)	Rockrimmon Silver Diamond (IDC1)	James Steele	John Bracken
Lankill Lady In Blue	2015	Moylough Bouncer (IDC1)	Gortlea Ruler (IDC1)	Owen & Charles Hughes	Owen & Charles Hughes
Lisna Carols Diamond	2017	Grandpas Diamond (IDC1)	Oh Carol's Rebel (IDC1)	Dermot Shaughnessy	Dermot Shaughnessy
Lisnaclea Silver Savanagh	2010	Tullycommon Boy (IDC2)	Silver Glider (IDC1)	Claire McNally	Claire McNally
Merry Tara	2013	Lisatara Tom (IDC2)	Mourne Mountain Star (IDC1)	Vincent Burns	Eddie Meehan
My Caltra Rose	2016	Windgap Blue (IDC1)	Oh Carols Rebel (IDC1)	Padraig Naughton	Padraig Naughton
Oakland International	2016	Scrapman (IDC1)	Drumri (IDC1)	Paddy Kelly	Alan McNulty
Ougham Delight	2012	Castlegar Rebel (IDC2)	Dunkerrin Grey Mist (IDC1)	Tom Burke	Liam Kelly
Our Whitey	2015	Castlegar Fin Grove (IDC1)	Mountain Diamond (IDC1)	B T T Lynch	Noel Rabbitt
Oxview Jessey	2018	Inisfree The Holy Grail (IDC1)	Star Kingdom (IDC1)	Gerry Ferguson	Gerry Ferguson
Penanns Go Free	2014	Gortfree Hero (IDC1)	Silverstone (IDC1)	Pat Ruane	Penny McClean Campbell
Penanns Valley View Girl	2010	Fintan Himself (IDC1)	Carrabawn View (IDC1)	Pascal Claffey	Penny McClean Campbell
Rebeccas Pearl	2014	Mountain Pearl (IDC1)	Grosvenor Lad (IDC1)	Michael John Perry	Michael John Perry
Reese Rosa Angelito	2011	Mountain Pearl (IDC1)	Sir Rivie (IDC1)	John Smyth	Eddie Meehan
Rosie Kate	2016	Mountain Diamond (IDC1)	Clover Park (IDC2)	John Reilly	Gabriel Nohilly
Rosses Miss Emma	2018	Gentle Diamond (IDC1)	Its The Quiet Man (IDC1)	George Vivien Draper	George Draper
Rowels Sally	2010	Penmerrys Rhythm And Blues (IDC1)	Brown Lad Lara (IDC1)	Christopher O'Sullivan	John Breen
Ruffian	2012	Creggan Emperor (IDC1)	Castana (IDC1)	Martin Regan	Fergal Satchwell
Scrapmans Lady	2017	Scrapman (IDC1)	Grange Bouncer (IDC1)	Ann Philomena Duffy	John Bracken
Shenandoah Gerty	2006	The Bard (IDC1)	Crannagh Hero (IDC1)	Timothy Sullivan	Claire McNally
Shes Got Rhythm	2010	Penmerrys Rhythm And Blues (IDC1)	Irelands Pride (IDC1)	David Miley	David Miley
Silk To The Touch	2017	Rebel Flagmount (IDC1)	Gurraun Golden Eye (IDC1)	Patrick Dooley	Emma Hannon
Silver Appeal	2017	Fast Silver (IDC1)	Donovan (GB)(IDC1)	Paddy Dunning	L & J Gillivan
Silver Lady Luck	2017	Beechmore Silver Crest (IDC1)	Moylough Bouncer (IDC1)	William McGee	Ally McSorley
Stella The Rebel	2016	Geneven Rebel (IDC1)	King Henry (IDC1)	Michael Bird	Lisa Noble
Whitegate Evie	2014	Purple Son (IDC4)	Gurraun Zidane (IDC1)	John Jones	Pat Feehily
Windgap Queen Star	2017	Huntingfield Ruler (IDC1)	Windgap Blue (IDC1)	Michael & Chris Mannion	Michael & Chris Mannion
WRS Reel Macoy	2015	Maydean Almost Blue (IDC4)	Coille Mor Hill (IDC1)	John A Cogan	Donal Shine

Irish Draught Mares that achieved **GRADE UP** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

GRADE UP

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Baileathanri	2009	Cappa Cochise (IDC1)	Kildalton Son (IDC1)	John Naughton	Tim & Bernie Boyle
Prescotts Blue Diamond	2010	Prescotts Diamond (IDC1)	Blue Champion (IDC1)	Robert Riordan	James Heery
Tommys Cruise On Diamond	2016	Mountain Diamond (IDC1)	Huntingfield Rebel (IDC1)	Eugene Laheen	Eugene Laheen

Every effort has been made to ensure that no inaccuracies have occurred in collating this data. If you would like your mare's passport updated to reflect her current classification, please send it in to the HSI Registrations Department. If your mare meets the criteria for 3 Star Level or above, please contact the HSI Breeding Department with the relevant performance information and your mare will be upgraded to SELECT, upon verification of her performance records.



Autumn Mare Selection Results 2020 contd.

IRISH SPORT HORSE STUDBOOK 2020

Mares that achieved **SELECT 3*** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Sport Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

SELECT 3*

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Annaghmore Valeeb (ISH)	2008	Ghareeb (TB)	Black Walter (ISH)	Aoife Healion	Sinead Healion
Dee Mac (ISH)	2009	Cruising Harry (ISH)	Rich Rebel (USA) (TB)	John O'Sullivan	Zahra Smyth

Mares that achieved **SELECT 1*** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Sport Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

SELECT 1*

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Feeling The Love (TB)	2013	Yeats (TB)	Moscow Society (USA) (TB)	Noreen McManus	Michelle Dooley
Kancruise (ISH)	2016	Kannan (KWPN)	Cruising (ISH) (TIH)	Tom Doyle	Deirdre Doyle

Mares that achieved **SELECT** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Sport Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
A Kept Woman (ISH)	2008	Pickwickian (TB)	Unrecorded	Rory O'Brien	Louise O'Brien
Annaghmore Lady Valier (ISH)	1997	Black Walter (ISH)	Santas Sleigh (TB)	Jerry Buckley	Sinead Healion
Ballinglen Cruise Girl (ISH) (TIH)	2016	Rebel Mountain (IDCI)	Cruising (ISH) (TIH)	Donal Goland	Donal Goland
Ballinglen Mountain Velvet (ISH) (TIH)	2010	Rebel Mountain (IDCI)	Master Imp (TB)	Donal Goland	Donal Goland
Bellevue Bird Of Paradise (ISH)	2008	Limerick (HOLST)	Slyguff Joker (WNTR)	Dorothea Wilson	Ruth Loney
Bvs Lancette (ISH)	2017	Castleforbes Lord Lancer (OLD)	O.B.O.S. Quality 004 (OLD)	Conor Sheridan	Conor Sheridan
Carneyhaugh Sonnet (ISH)	2017	Pollux De Muze (ZANG)	Ars Vivendi (HOLST)	Patrick Breen	Patrick Breen
Carrafarm Light Years (ISH) (TIH)	2016	Barely A Moment (TB)	Cruising (ISH) (TIH)	Thomas Duffy	Samantha Fitzsimons & Niamh Grimes
Clarehall Kannan Law (ISH)	2016	Kannan (KWPN)	Touchdown (ISH)	Shane Slattery	Shane Slattery
Clarehall Kannanball (ISH)	2016	Kannan (KWPN)	Master Imp (TB)	Enda Mulkere	Shane Slattery
Conors Clover (ISH) (TIH)	2017	Tajraasi (USA) (TB)	Puissance (ISH) (TIH)	James Hickey	Brendan Hickey
Coolturk Prestige (ISH)	2016	Bentley Van De Heffinck (BWP)	Lux Z (HANN)	Peter O'Neill	William McCloskey
Dermish Haillie (ISH)	2015	Harlequin Du Carel (SF)	Cruising (ISH) (TIH)	Brian Cleary	Shay Leacy
DMS Maximum Quality (ISH)	2014	Kec Maximum Joe (WESTF)	O.B.O.S. Quality 004 (OLD)	Bi Dunne	Bi Dunne
Done Cruising (ISH)	2005	Cruising (ISH) (TIH)	Flagmount Diamond (IDCI)	Derby Rankin	Tom Doyle
Eastern Rebel (ISH) (TIH)	2008	Rebel Mountain (IDCI)	Cult Hero (CAN)(TB)	John Fleming	Frank Redmond
Floating Hope (ISH)	2012	Brookfield Floating Lux (ISH)	Big Sink Hope (USA) (TB)	Kieran O'Gorman	Kieran O'Gorman
Gortermone Cougar Lady (ISH) (TIH)	2016	Cougar (ISH) (TIH)	Castle Crest (IDCI)	Patrick J Cooke	Aidan Cooke
Gortmore Ruby Red (ISH) (TIH)	2003	Chevalier Decoupees (TB)	Spring Diamond (ISH) (TIH)	Meike Biegel	Meike Biegel
Greenhall High Tide (ISH)	2016	Greenhall (ISH) (TIH)	Porsch (BWP)	Derry Rothwell	Derry Rothwell
Greenhall Wishing Well (ISH) (TIH)	2011	Crosstown Dancer (IDCI)	Cruising (ISH)	Derry Rothwell	Derry Rothwell
Killeenyarda Honey Girl (ISH)	2013	Harlequin Du Carel (SF)	Chippison (ISH)	Olive Casey	Olive Casey
Kingstead Royale (ISH)	2004	Lux Z (HANN)	Cavalier Royale (HOLST)	Jimmy Lawlor	Kieran O'Gorman
Markive (ISH)	2000	Maltstriker (KWPN)	Holycross (ID)	Dan Curtin	Joan Mahon
Millacruise (ISH) (TIH)	2011	Cruisings Ambassador (ISH)	Clover Man (ISH)	Maria O'Neill	Monica Cairns
Miss Marvellous (USA) (TB)	2004	Diesis (TB)	Forli (ARG) (TB)	Derry Meeting Farm	Timothy Holland
Oscardale (TB)	2013	Oscar (IRE)(TB)	Shardari (TB)	B Fitzpatrick	Gro Hylen
Pjs Delight (ISH)	2011	Lux Z (HANN)	Big Sink Hope (TB)	PJ Lehanne	PJ Lehanne
Ploverfield Gem (ISH)	2011	Cassino (SWWB)	Chacoa (HOLST)	Frank O'Connor	Pauraic Hayes
Polygala (ISH) (TIH)	2015	Golden Lariat (USA)(TB)	Star Kingdom (IDCI)	Gerard Keena	Gerard Keena
Rc Lady Viv (ISH)	2011	Ars Vivendi (HOLST)	Corrdino (SWWB)	Michael Ryan	Ross Cottage Livestock
Rc Viv Russel (ISH)	2014	Russel (Holst)	Ars Vivendi (HOLST)	Michael Ryan	Ross Cottage Livestock
Rocklodge Kimberly (ISH)	2009	Womanizer (KWPN)	Cavalier Royale (HOLST)	Pat Burke	Lynsey Rogers
Slatequarry Sasha (ISH) (TIH)	2006	Ghareeb (GB)(TB)	Coovers Diamond Boy (ISH)	M R Mckelvey	John Burchill
Slyguff Rubys Keep (ISH)	2009	Master Imp (TB)	Irco Mena (SWB)	Barbara Hatton	Barbara Hatton
Surfside (TB)	2014	Sixties (GB)(TB)	Altona (IRE)(TB)	MCB Ltd & R Bastian C/O Mike Channon Bloodstock	Lisa Gallagher
Windgap Wave (ISH) (TIH)	2014	Aristotle (IRE)(TB)	Gortlea Ruler (IDCI)	Michael & Chris Mannion	Michael & Chris Mannion

Mares that achieved **SUPPLEMENTARY** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Sport Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

SUPPLEMENTARY SELECT

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Blackgap Lass (ISH)	2008	S Creevagh Ferro Ex Siebe (KWPN)	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Adam Finnegan
Dunraven Magic Millie (URSJ)	2008	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Graham Manson
Dunsoughly Wilma (ISH)	2006	Ard Vdl Douglas (KWPN)	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Andrew Lyons
Sky High (LHI)	2011	Obos Quality 004 (OLD)	Not Recorded	Pat Connell	Clare Connell
Wivollets Girl (ISH)	2011	Wivollet Vanbeek (KWPN)	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	James Patrick Flood

Mares that achieved **SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRY** status at the Autumn 2020 Irish Sport Horse Studbook Mare Inspections

SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRY

Name	YOB	Sire	Damsire	Breeder	Owner
Clover Mystique (ISH)	1998	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Elizabeth Smith
Parkview Lass (ISH)	2008	Cyrano (HOLST)	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Norman Gordon
Tristar Sundance (ISH)	2002	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Charlotte Brown
Victorious (ISH)	2001	Notorious (KWPN)	Not Recorded	Breeder Not Recorded	Colin Marshall



UPDATE TO THE IRISH SPORT HORSE Genetic Evaluation for Show Jumping

Horse Sport Ireland has published the latest update to the Irish Sport Horse Studbook genetic evaluation for show jumping. Providing an insight into both broodmares and stallions actively breeding in Ireland, it provides a unique perspective on both Irish and international stallions and their success with Irish mares. It is a tool that is useful as part of a balanced approach to mating decisions. Whether assessing the breeding potential of a mare or choosing a stallion for 2021, it is a valuable additional source of information for breeders.

Genetic evaluation provides an objective, statistical measurement of a horse's ability to breed international level show jumpers. The results of the Genetic Evaluation are published as Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and the HSI report provides us with stallion and mare EBVs for show jumping ability at international level. For the first time, the report combines information on stallions and mares in the same publication.

These EBVs are predictions of the genetic advantage that the horse will pass on to its offspring for the trait of show jumping and are calculated using pedigree information and information on each horse's own performance and that of all of its relatives, including parents and progeny. Breeding values change every year as more data becomes available, for example, as the number of progeny competing increases. If you feel there is more data or show jumping results available for your mare please contact us and let us know and we will include all verified results for the next report.

Breeding Values are awarded a reliability value which reflects the amount and type of information used in the calculation of the EBV and can range from 0 to 100%. More information on a horse results in a higher reliability. EBVs with a low reliability are likely to change,



*MHS Jersey Girl (ISH) 2011 F Cardento (HOLST)
out of MHS Prime Time (ISH) by Quidam Junior I (KWPN),
bred and owned by Sinead Byrne, Kilkenny.*

By KATHERINE BRADY HSI Geneticist

either upwards or downwards, as more information becomes available. Mare EBVs with a reliability below 30% are not published.

WHAT DO BREEDING VALUES TELL BREEDERS ABOUT THEIR MARES?

For older mares, it measures the show jumping ability passed on to progeny taking all their show jumping progeny at all levels into account. Both good and bad progeny are included. Using a high breeding value mare increases the chances of producing an international level show jumper. The chances of a mare with a low breeding value producing an international level show jumper are slim.

The breeding values of older mares are mainly based on the show jumping results of their progeny. For younger mares, breeding values measure their potential to produce international level show jumpers in the future based on their own show jumping performances and their pedigree.

Breeding values based on own performances tell us if a horse is living up to the potential indicated by its pedigree.

WHAT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED?

The entire show jumping career of a horse and all their relatives are taken into account. Show jumping ability is measured by assessing the highest level in sport at which a horse has achieved two double clear rounds. This is termed the horse's lifetime performance rating and is assessed in a similar manner to Irish Sport Horse Studbook star ratings.

The levels used in the ISH genetic evaluation range from national SJ1 1.00m level to FEI Major Championships, e.g. Olympic Games, WEG, World Cup.

Commenting on the recent update of the ISH Genetic Evaluation Report, Alison Corbally, HSI Director of Breeding and Programmes, stated: 'This report provides breeders with valuable information on both mares and stallions. It provides breeders with a unique insight into choosing a stallion based on their success when crossed with Irish mares. I hope that breeders will find this report to be very informative for this breeding season.'

**For more
information on
Genetic Evaluation
please scan over the
QR code right.**



Preparing a Mare for the Breeding Season

As the breeding season approaches breeders have a lot to consider from stallion choices, breeding soundness and veterinary costs to name just a few. The end goal is to have a healthy foal.

You should make every effort to ensure the good health of your mares is maintained. This can be achieved by swabbing for specific equine diseases and regular vaccination against influenza and tetanus. It is also vital that your mare is correctly prepared to maximise her chances of conceiving and to avoid costly repeat or lengthy visits at stud. It is recommended to have your mare examined by a vet prior to covering and with this your mare should be handled and well behaved so that this is carried out safely. It is advised to only wash out mares that have been swabbed for infection with positive results. Over washing of the uterine environment could lead to problems with antibiotic resistance down the line.

Mares should be in good condition and this should be maintained all year round. Ideally, mares should be on a rising plane of nutrition in spring, which mimics the natural cycle of grass growth. This assists mares fertility and helps ensure the mares cycle correctly. Underweight or poor condition mares are unlikely to cycle correctly. Equally over weight fat mares often do not cycle correctly either.'

Overweight mares should be slimmed down before going to stud to ensure their nutrition is not being decreased at time of covering which can lead to fertility issues. If the mare is to be covered early in the season their optimum condition should be achieved.

Fortunately, a mare's cyclicity can be manipulated using light therapy and this will give her the best chance possible to conceive early. A combination of good vaccination and good management will help prevent disease and enhance the economic return from breeding.



Horse Sport Ireland spoke with some stud farms who provided some tips for breeders in preparation for the upcoming breeding season.

TOP TIPS FROM

Kieran Kennedy of Coolballyshan Stud

- Older mares should be swabbed for infection by their vet prior to the breeding season
- For mares that are in foal it is advisable for them to receive anti-herpes vaccinations to prevent miscarriages

TOP TIPS FROM

Olive Broderick of Kylemore Stud

- It is strongly advisable that mares have received their anti-tetanus and anti-influenza vaccinations
- Regular worming is advised to maintain the mare's optimum health for breeding

TOP TIPS FROM

Gladys McArdle of Drumhowan Stud

- Mares should not have back shoes, this will prevent injury to teasers or other stock if turned out in a group
- Please provide any negative breeding history, this is useful for the stud and vets going forward. Firstly, for the mare to get in foal and secondly, stay in foal



In 2019 we saw outbreaks of Influenza which demonstrated the detrimental impact a contagious condition can have on the equine sector. Regular Influenza vaccination of our broodmares, like we see with our performance animals, is vital to prevent the spread of this disease at home and while visiting a stud farm. Unfortunately, for mares that are in foal abortions from Equine Herpes (EHV 1 and 4) are common in horse populations worldwide, but they can be prevented with the regular use of the EHV – 1 and 4 vaccines through gestation.

Horse Sport Ireland spoke to **Prof. Ann Culliane**, Head of the Virology Unit at the Irish Equine Centre. Ann stated that 'Every year on Irish farms equine herpes viruses causes abortion in mares and equine rota viruses causes outbreaks of diarrhoea in foals. Equine influenza occurs periodically and in 2019 the virus was associated with a countrywide outbreak that affected all sectors of the industry.'

Although outbreaks of equine influenza have been reported in the recent past in the UK, France and Spain, no cases have been identified to-date this year in Ireland.

However, it is important that owners take precautionary measures to protect against equine influenza and other viruses.

To help prevent equine herpes virus abortion, mares should be vaccinated at five, seven and nine months of pregnancy. If the mare is more than five months pregnant and unvaccinated, seek veterinary advice re immediate vaccination.

All horses on stud farms should be vaccinated against equine influenza including teasers as they can play a major role in spreading this respiratory virus.

Pregnant mares should be vaccinated between six and four weeks before they are due to foal as this will ensure a high level of antibodies against influenza virus in their colostrum. Foals are particularly susceptible to influenza virus and maternal antibodies will provide them with protection against viral pneumonia.



Similarly, foals are much less likely to suffer rota virus diarrhoea if their dam is vaccinated against rota virus during pregnancy and they receive antibodies through the colostrum.

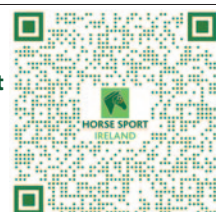
Equine infectious anaemia (EIA) and equine arteritis viruses (EAV) are exotic to Ireland but have occurred here in the past sometimes with devastating consequences. They are notifiable to the Department of Agriculture and the restrictions imposed on affected premises can be financially punitive. Equine arteritis virus can be spread by the venereal route and an infected stallion may become a long-term carrier of the virus, infecting every mare he covers. Owners are strongly advised to vaccinate their stallions against this virus and to insist that all mares are blood tested for EAV before arriving at the premises.

The same blood sample should be tested for EIA as an incursion of this virus in 2006 resulted in over 1,500 horses being

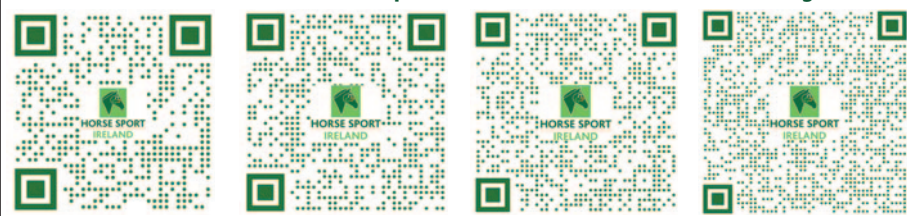
subjected to compulsory movement restrictions. Vaccination and pre-breeding tests serve as an insurance policy for the horse breeder and safeguard the health and welfare of the horses. The cost of the vaccines and the tests is minimal when compared to the potential stress and economic impact of a disease outbreak.'

The HSI voluntary code of practice for stallion and mare owners outlines voluntary recommendations to help breeders prevent and control the spread of specific equine diseases. These include Equine Arteritis Virus (EVA), Contagious equine metritis (CEM), Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) and Equine Herpes Virus (EHV 1 and 4).

For more information on our code of practice that was produced by the Irish Equine Centre please scan over the QR code



For further information on infectious equine disease worldwide scan the following QR codes



EIA, EVA, CEM NOTIFICATION

Horse Sport Ireland would like to remind breeders that it is essential to maintain an annual screening and vaccination regime to prevent EVA, EIA and CEM outbreaks in the Irish equine herd.

**These diseases are notifiable to the
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.**



**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Foal Championships Final 2020

Horse Sport Ireland ran the fourth edition of the foal championship 2020 with great success. This series provides breeders with a unique opportunity to showcase their foal's conformation, movement, and athleticism, as well as their pedigree to an expert panel of judges. Since its inception in 2016 Olive Clarke has been a great supporter of this championship and we caught up with her to get her feedback.

Olive stated 'My Colt Foal (ISH) by Plot Blue (KWPN) out of Cimenta C (SPH) by Orlando Van De Heffinck (BWP) won the final of the showjumping colt foal championship in 2016 and was immediately snapped up by Trevor and Jill Gaffney of Freestyle Farms in Batavia, Ohio. They liked this foal so much that they later came back and purchased the half-brother *FSS Knockout* (ISH) by Tyson (Z), cementing a good purchasing relationship with other horses since sold to them.

I intend to enter the foal championship every year and continue to use any prize money won for the covering fees the year after. I feel that in this competition you do not need to be a big breeder to enter. We currently have two brood mares, but this competition allows us the same opportunities with our progeny as is available for the bigger studs. Any breeder can now make an educated decision based on the information available online. All these



Dr Noel Cawley with winning showjumping foal. (Photo: Laurence Dunnelljumpinaction.net).

tools enable breeders to investigate performance and progeny by the stallions they are thinking of using.

You can now use the hypothetical mating feature from IHR online to help make those informed decisions. I believe that with these tools we can be on par with the bigger breeders in Ireland and Europe.'

For the 2020 championship there was 140 entries across the five regional qualifiers with 26 foals going forward to the final. Four foals from each of the five qualifiers were selected. These were held in five venues nationwide: Coilog Equestrian Center, Wexford Equestrian, Bridestown Towers Equestrian, Creagh Equestrian Center and Tubberbride Stables. Unfortunately, towards the end

of the year Covid-19 restrictions prevented the final in Cavan from taking place in the traditional manner.

A revised format was used for the 26 eligible finalists by reviewing the individual scores from the five qualifiers and the Champions/Reserve Champions were announced based on the highest scores. This year the competitions were judged by Janet Murray, Lindsay Graham and Comdt. Gerry Flynn.

Janet Murray is a successful breeder and producer of event horses. As a competitor Janet's eventing career brought her to 4* level with her biggest success coming on home soil winning the Gowran Grange Trophy Punchestown on the thoroughbred *Rushfield*.

Lindsay Graham is a successful event rider and instructor. She competed up to 4* level. Lindsay is the owner of Shanbeg Sport Horses in Rosenallis, Co. Laois where she operates a successful breaking, production and sales yard. Lindsay has produced young horses to compete to high levels in the sport, with one of her most recent graduates competing successfully in the Next Gen Championships in Hickstead.

Comdt. Gerry Flynn had a successful international eventing career in the early 90s before switching to showjumping in 1995 where he enjoyed plenty more international success for the Army Equestrian School. One of the highlights of his career came at The RDS Dublin Horse Show where he won the grand prix



PJ Hegarty with winning eventing foal. (Photo: Laurence Dunnelljumpinaction.net).





Winning SJ Colt foal in 2016 FSS Freestyle (ISH).
(Photo: Laurence Dunne/jumpinaction.net).



Winning SJ Colt foal from 2016 competing in 4-year-old classes in Ocala with rider Jill Gaffney. (Photo: ESI Horse Show Photography)

with *Mo Chroi* (ISH)(TIH) in 2007. Since his retirement from the Army Equitation school in 2008 he has concentrated on coaching management and production of young horse. A fund of almost €25,000 was available across the championship with €10,000 allocated for the final with an additional €1,000 awarded to the overall best Irish Sport Horse Traditional (ISH)(TIH) bred foal in the horse section. Foals were judged under the criteria of functional conformation, walk, trot, canter, overall athleticism, and balance as well as pedigree.

The National Show jumping Champion Foal of the year was awarded to *Tangerado* a colt by *Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve* (BWP) out of *Cruise Leaf* (ISH)(TIH) by *Cruising* (ISH)(TIH) bred and owned by Dr Noel Cawley.

Following the result Dr. Noel Cawley said: "I am delighted to win the show jumping section of the HSI foal championship. This is my second time to win this section. This dam is *Cruise Leaf* by *Cruising* out of *Ballinakill Clover* who has also bred horses who have competed up to 160 level. Such as *Cruise on Clover*, *Golden Exchange*, *Hybernia* and hopefully *Dowth Hall* will progress to that level in the Army Equitation School. *Cruise Leaf* herself has bred *Glimmering* who won the Irish Sport Horse Studbook series as a 7-year-old and *Ballypatrick Flamenco*

who won the Grand Prix in Valencia last year. I am hoping that this colt foal will follow in their footsteps."

The National Eventing Champion Foal was awarded to *Fenyas Allure* a filly by *Ramiro B* (BWP) out of *Fenya* (ISH) by *Good Thyne* (TB) bred and owned by PJ Hegarty.

PJ Hegarty said: "We are very grateful to HSI for giving us the opportunity to compete this year in the Foal Championship. We were thrilled to win the Eventing Foal section with our foal *Fenyas Allure* by *Ramiro B* out of our 24-year-old mare *Fenya*. She was an Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) foal born in mid-July. This filly is a half-sister to *Fenyas Elegance*, so she has big footsteps to follow. We are very happy with this foal's strength, step and conformation and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for her."

Following the championship, the judges stated:

Lindsay Graham: 'This is a great and well organised initiative by Horse Sport Ireland's breeding department. It offers opportunities to breeders to show their foal on a platform for sales and gives experience to the foal before entering a sale or indeed an arena. There was excellent prize money on offer for competing in these foal championships which is a huge incentive for the breeders

to continue in the right direction. I was particularly impressed by the emphasis that was put into performance pedigree lines. I think it bodes well for the future of Irish Sport Horse breeding. I would like to congratulate Alison Corbally and her breeding team for all the work that goes into organising and running a successful championship such as this one'.

Comdt. Gerry Flynn: 'Without a doubt the quality of foal and pedigree is improving year after year in Ireland. All mares, foals and handlers were exceptionally well turned out and the foals well handled. The pedigree bonus points played a major role in our scores and I think this encourages breeders to make informed decisions when choosing the correct sire for their mare. We are definitely progressing in the right direction with our performance pedigrees in Ireland and I feel we are on par with our European counterparts. All breeders are much more aware of the value in breeding from both performance mares and stallions. Well done to the breeding staff in Horse Sport Ireland for organising this championship, I am sure it was much appreciated by all breeders given the battle everyone in the industry has suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020'.

Results are as follows:

Horse Foal Champions and reserve champions are:

EVENTING HORSE SECTION

Champion: *Fenyas Allure* (ISH) by *Ramiro B* (BWP) out of *Fenya* (ISH) by *Good Thyne* (USA) (TB) bred by PJ Hegarty

Reserve Champion: *Newmarket Maverick* (ISH) by *Newmarket Venture* (HANN) out of *Touchdown Girl* (ISH) by *Touchdown* (ISH) bred by Brian Daly, Scarteen Stud.

SHOW JUMPING HORSE SECTION

Champion: *Tangerado* (ISH) by *Tangelo Van De Zuuthoeve* (BW) out of *Cruise Leaf* (ISH) by *Cruising* (ISH) bred by Noel Cawley.

Reserve Champion: *FSS Knockout* (ISH) by *Tyson* (KWPN) out of *Cimenta C* (SPH) by *Orlanda Van de Heffinck* (BWP) bred by Olive Clarke.

CHAMPION TRADITIONAL FOAL

Champion: *Kestrels Classic Clover* (ISH)(TIH) by *Rising Sun* (ISH) out of *Diamond Cloverfield* (ISH) by *Captain Clover* (ISH) bred by Rebecca Dunlea.

Reserve Champion: *Glenkeeran The Last Dance* (ISH)(TIH) by *Crosstown Dancer* (ID) out of *Glenkeeran In The Deep* (TB) by *Snurge* (TB) bred by Maria Melvin.

Pony foal champions and reserve champions are:

EVENTING PONY SECTION

Champion: *Avalon Ferrero* (ISP) by *Womanizer* (KWPN) out of *Curly Whirly* (CP) by *Inverin Rocky* (CP) bred by Helen Troughton.

Reserve Champion: *Silken Madam* (ISP) by *Masurenfuerst* (TRAK) out of *Honeyhill Lady* (CP) by *Robe Earl* (CP), bred by Helen Troughton.

SHOW JUMPING PONY SECTION

Champion: *Carnakilly Monarch* (CP) by *Carnakilly Mac Guire* (CP) out of *Carnakilly Coral* (CP) by *Westside Mirah* (CP) bred by Jackie Hockley.

Reserve Champion: *T.B.S. Fullmoon* (CP) by *Pumpkins Pondy* (CP) out of *Dandy Sparrow* (CP) by *Apollon Pondy* (CP) bred by Carol Henley.



David Bourke's Dream to Breed



Enniskerry Foxtrot (ISH)[TIH] by French Buffet (TB) out of Enniskerry Tigerlilly (ISH)[TIH] taken at Clyda event. (Photo: Louise O'Brien)

DAVID BOURKE'S breeding operation hails from the garden of Ireland in Wicklow. Based on his parent's property is Enniskerry Horse Farm which is located just minutes from Enniskerry village. David Bourke breeds sport horses alongside a successful livery business, as well as a herd of 150 sheep on roughly 95 acres.

David tells us the history of the farm.

By LISA KEANE

"My mother has always been interested in horses and she has been hunting since she was a kid. My sister and I started riding through the Pony Club and as we made friends, we converted a couple of barns into stables on the farm for a place for them to keep their ponies and that is how our livery business began.

Being close to Dublin, the livery is our main day-to-day business and the excellence of the location has allowed us to develop our facilities over the years. We have two outdoor arenas and this year we have built an indoor arena. The indoor arena, which is 50 X 80, is perfect for working my young horses on the days the weather is bad.

My interest in breeding grew as I started to compete in eventing and showjumping, as I realised, over time, I needed to upgrade the animals I was riding and that's when I got involved the with Young Breeders programme."

David competed in the first ever Young Breeders National Championships where he qualified for the Irish team which travelled to Germany. His visit to Holstein Verband was a real eyeopener for him as the programme provided him with great training on all aspects of judging stock critically. He set out to meet as many new contacts from Germany as possible and bring home to practice, what he observed over there, into his breeding programme.

David then went onto to qualify for the World Championships in Kildalton in 2009 where the Irish team won bronze and he placed individual fourth, the highest Irish individual place that day. 2009 was also the year David's first bred foal arrived *Enniskerry Foxtrot* (ISH) [TIH], a filly by *French Buffet* (TB). He explained the choice of stallion was inspired by his experience gained from his earlier trips with the Young Breeders and Teagasc to Germany.

David's foundation mare *Enniskerry Tigerlilly* (ISH) [TIH] was a brilliant



all-rounder. She was David's pony club mare, and they competed in a tetrathlon in Hartpury where she went clear around the Hartpury cross-country course. She moved well enough to do a good test, jumped bravely and was a machine cross-country.

David explained that he started breeding to breed a better horse to ride and that is still his philosophy to this day.

Following his trips to Europe he realised that *Tigerlilly* needed more blood and he used a thoroughbred stallion on her six times. He tried to pick thoroughbreds with a performance background, who had jumping ability themselves or produced progeny that jumped to a high level which is a philosophy he picked up from Germany.

The first foal *Enniskerry Fox Trot* (ISH) [TIH] evented up to now 3-star level. David explained: "She would have gone higher in eventing only that she used to completely blow-up in the dressage phase towards the end of her career. As she learned the sport more, she knew what was coming! However, she never had a cross-country fault in her life and like her mother she was as brave as they come."

David has two foals from *Enniskerry Fox Trot* (ISH) [TIH] via embryo transfer. *Enniskerry Freestyle* (ISH) and *Enniskerry Bolero* (ISH). She is in foal herself now to *Nixon van't Meelenhof* (BWP).

'*Enniskerry Freestyle* (ISH) is a filly by *Jenson Van Het Meulenhof* (SBS) that looks very nice and I will keep trying to improve this family in the hope of breeding a 5-star eventer.' David plans to x-ray the filly as a 3-year-old and providing she has clean x-rays he will keep breeding with this line.

Enniskerry Bolero (ISH) is a 3-year-old colt by *Balou Du Rouet* (OLD) who David says 'looks very nice, has good reactions and will be broken soon. He is very like the dam's brother *Enniskerry Nadal* (ISH) [TIH] by *French Buffet* (TB) who competes currently at 3-star level and jumps up to 1.30m.'

David has another sister of *Enniskerry Fox Trot* (ISH) [TIH] and *Enniskerry Nadal* (ISH) [TIH] by *Loughhoe Guy* (ISH) called *Enniskerry Quickstep* (ISH) [TIH] who is showing amazing movement in her early work. *Enniskerry Quickstep* (ISH) [TIH] ticked all the boxes and was therefore bred as a 3-year-old which resulted in a colt by *Balou Du Rouet* (OLD) called *Enniskerry Step Up* (ISH).

David's plan is to now ride *Enniskerry*



David and Casall ASK
at the Holsteiner Verband's
Elmshorn base.
(Photo: Susan Finnerty).

Quickstep (ISH) in all the young event classes. He will continue with the same plan where he will breed one foal from a filly at three that looks good enough and then compete them on after foaling.

David tries to breed two foals a year with some years ending up with less or more depending on how mares conceive or how many embryos are taken.

David also breeds from a second line which started with *Enniskerry More Joyous* (AES) by *Askoll Defi Platiere* out of a *Clover Hill* (ID) mare. He has since sold her on and will continue that line with two of her progenies, a colt called *Enniskerry More Rhythm* (ISH) by *Luidam* and a filly *Enniskerry More Coffee* (ISH) by *Vigo D'Arsouilles* (BWP). David will try and take embryos from *Enniskerry More Coffee* this year, as she is showing to be a real quality animal so far.

David enjoys seeing the results of his breeding through competing the offspring himself. He explains: 'Every horse has strengths and weaknesses, and as you breed to take the weaknesses out

to improve the animal its very interesting to ride their offspring, as you see so many traits that are like the dam or family as well as the traits you've improved and that's where I get my kick from.'

We asked David what advice he would give to younger breeders looking to start their own breeding programme and he advised: 'they need to study event dam lines in Ireland and Europe and try to buy into an already established performance bloodline, otherwise it can take a very long time and a lot of money to see the line develop. This initial investment is a safer strategy and speeds results up. I feel it is important not to commit to breeding from one line only'.

When asked what his main objective is for his future business David replied: 'My long-term goal is to remain consistent with my performance pedigrees. Just like any other breeders dream, I will aim to breed a horse that will compete to the highest level in the sport.'



The Young Event Horse Series



Bryan Bourke on Killea Quality Cruise (2016 (ISH) by OBOS Quality 004 x Cruising) competing in the 4-year-old class in Rincoola. Bred by Thomas Doyle and owned by Donal Bourke.

By **GILLIAN BOND**

The Future Event Horse League (FEHL) was designed to develop the talent and skill of both Irish event riders and Irish bred horses through a series of competitions specifically designed to educate, prepare, and test horse and rider in a constructive and progressive way.

Now renamed the Young Event Horse Series (YES!), I caught up with **ANGELA MCGAHERN** to chat all things YES!

So, Angela, tell me about the FEHL – How did it begin and what were the leagues main objectives?

First established in 1999, the FEHL was the brainchild of Ronnie McMahon, Lars Bjork and my dad, Harold McGahern, and it was built on four main objectives.

The first was to aid in establishing a basic standard of training and a systematic program for further education for Irish horses and riders in the skills required for success in national and international competitions.

The second was to contribute to our national breeding programme through the introduction of a specific form of performance testing which will demonstrate to the breeders in Ireland the modern-day requirements for potential international competition horses.

The third was to develop a platform whereby our future event horses are presented to potential buyers from home and abroad to the highest standard in the most professional manner, and the final objective was to accentuate the significance of the event horse to the Irish Sport Horse industry and promote the value of Irish thoroughbred blood in the pedigrees.

Ultimately, they wanted to create a platform through which Young Event Horses could be produced and presented.

When did the FEHL transition into the YES!?

The FEHL officially finished in the Autumn of 2014, as sadly, both Ronnie and the FEHL organiser, the late George Mernagh had passed away, and it was then when Lars officially called time on the series. However, and very fortunately, Horse Sport Ireland continued to believe in the importance of the series to event horse breeders and producers in Ireland, and recognised that many horses who came through the series went on to compete at an international level. Thus, rather than let the series vanish, he encouraged a revamp of the concept. After a full review by the remaining organisers, the format of the series was tweaked to make it more user friendly and it was at this stage that HSI came on board with the series. Through HSI, we could offer a prize fund of €20,000 and with that began the YES!.

What tweaks were made to the FEHL concept ahead of the inception of the YES!?

While the need for thoroughbred (TB) blood was recognised in the FEHL, its significance was really acknowledge in the YES!. In an effort to stress the significance of TB blood, the YES!, in collaboration with HSI began to test for the percentage of TB blood in horses, with additional marks being



allocated to those horses with a high percentage of TB blood. Additionally, the time allowed in the jumping phase was decreased, placing an increasing emphasis on the need for horses to have a good gallop and be able to cover ground.

Additionally, to compliment the YES! objectives, judges who are expertise in the sport were selected to score the competition. The expertise of these judges can then be used in a progressive way, as any dressage movement that is scored below six is accompanied by constructive criticism, allowing riders to build on and improve both their own techniques and their horses.

With eyes on the upcoming season – what can competitors expect at the YES!, what is the format of the competition?


The YES! is judged over three phases. The first phase is the ridden phase, and this requires horse and rider to complete a novice dressage test in a 60x20m arena. The dressage test is designed specifically for young animals and is suited to their level of development.

The jumping phase is comprised of eight knockable components followed by a derby style track. While the way in which the fences are dressed and the lines between fences are presented ask questions of the young horses, we still want to see the horses jumping around with a good attitude and openness to such. As there are qualifiers in every region, no two venues present the same fence, ensuring that the series is progressive and there are training opportunities for the horses too.

The final phase is suitability and potential and this is where the judges look at the animals under three categories: suitability in ridden display and jumping and their presentation. Both suitability in ridden display and in jumping are assessed during the dressage and jumping phases, but the presentation phase occurs independently of both. Undertaken on a 20x20x30m triangle, the horses are walked and trotted in hand to assess their conformation and they are marked accordingly.

Tell me a bit about Dublin, and more

Further information on the YES! can be found by scanning the QR code.





John Bannon on Posh Quality competing in the 5yo class in Rincoola (2015 mare by OBOS Quality 004 x Porsch). Bred by Jill Carberry and owned by John Bannon.

importantly, how do you get there!

There are four qualifiers in each region which are run under the YES! format, and the top four horses with the highest combined total scores qualify for Dublin.

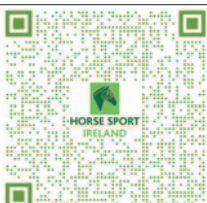
In Dublin, the format is slightly different, as it is run over two days. The ridden display and presentation are undertaken on the first day, with the horses completing their dressage tests, a series of the cavaletti and presentation on the triangle.

The second day is the jumping phase, and this occurs in the main arena over a derby style track. There are international judges in Dublin, so it is unbiased and brings a new perspective to the competition.

We are so delighted to have this collaboration and many of the animals who compete in the final in Dublin go on to perform very well on the international circuit.

How has the YES! benefitted Eventing

For more information on the format of Dublin, please scan the QR code.



in Ireland?

The YES! allows us to identify those animals who can go on to become elite sport horses, which dovetails in with HSI's breeding programme which aims to identify animals who will represent and promote the Irish Sport Horse.

Additionally, as the YES! is only looking at Irish bred horses with full recorded pedigrees, it acts as a marketing platform through which these Irish bred horses can be promoted and

sold. It also aims to address the need for TB blood, rather than international blood, ensuring that the traits the ISH is famous for, such as their attitude and temperament do not get lost.

So, what are the plans for the YES! going forward?

We have lots of plans for the YES!. Firstly, we would love to improve the traceability of the horses which go through the YES! system. Tracing eventing horses in Ireland is quite hard, so it would be great to create a platform which would allow breeders to not only follow their horses but would also allow breeders to see which stallions are producing top-competition animals.

During the early stage of the FEHL there used to be a training element involved, where international riders came to Ireland to train competitors on the flat, with the aim that they would continue to progress this training during the season with the help of the FEHL. Going forward we would like this to start again. Coupled with international judging, this would be hugely constructive for both the horse and rider and would result in a holistic approach to be taken overall.

Lastly, is there anything else you would like to say about the hugely successful YES!?

With the YES!, riders will see a huge difference in their horses from the beginning of the season to the end if it is done correctly. We are a stepping-stone to the next level, and while we are a small segment of a big picture, we are part of the big picture all the same.



Success in the west at HSI's Loose Jumping Filly Championships



Kannan CK (ISH) winning 4-year-old filly

The 2020 Horse Sport Ireland loose jumping filly championships enjoyed a great turn out for the two competitions held in October with over 40 fillies competing over the two days. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year Covid-19 restrictions impacted the other two competitions in Cavan and Warrington and they had to be cancelled.

The fillies were assessed by an expert panel of judges and the winner was determined by a score given based on the animal's performance and their pedigree. This competition was open to all fillies registered in a DAFM approved studbook, WBFSh studbook or EU Pony Studbook. Breeders/Producers also had the option to have their mare inspected for upgrade to "Select" status in the studbook should they meet the minimum requirements for conformation and movement.

On Monday 12th October over 20 ponies turned out in Creagh Equestrian to compete in the 2020 loose jumping championships. These fillies were judged by Philip Scott and Tiernan Gill.

Following the competition Philip had this to say: *'I was highly impressed with the turn out of the ponies here today, they were extremely well turned out and it is refreshing to see the quality and standard of pony become higher year after year. We saw ponies today with excellent conformation, movement, and ability. I have no doubt that these ponies will be produced to the highest standard and will*

be capable of reaching the highest levels in either eventing, showjumping or working hunter classes. I am excited to see so many pony breeders supporting HSI's breeding initiatives and I look forward to what the future holds for Irish ponies on the world stage.'

Following the competition Patrick Cafferty told us about his winning pony *Mountain Girl* and what he had in store for her.

'Mountain Girl was in the 3-year-old loose jumping competition last year and she was placed third. She is now broken and riding and has jumped in Cavan three times with 35 show jumping points to date. The experience from last year was good for her. We will show jump her again next year when things are back up and running. We

like to compete our ponies, as I think the performance route is the way to go and I think the Horse Sport Ireland initiatives have been a great incentive for the breeders to help identify these particular animals for performance.'

Fintan Cosgrove of Knockmoy Stud had this to say about the 3-year-old winner: *'She is a homebred filly out of a Bobby Sparrow Blue mare called Badger Hill Chica. Her half-brother was out of the same dam and was reserve champion in Clifden as a 3-year-old. She was broken before Christmas under the HSI breaking and training scheme and we hope to produce her for show jumping this year. I am not a big producer or breeder and have found the grants that HSI provide a great help. We are a small stud with just a couple of stallions and our aim is to produce top ponies. I have a mare who was reserve champion in Clifden in the loose jumping competition in 2019 and another filly due by Dexter in 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank HSI for the initiatives they provided in 2020 as they were a great help for the smaller breeder, and it enabled us to compete.'*

On Tuesday October 13th 17 fillies competed in the loose jumping championship in Tubberbride Equestrian. This competition was judged by Tiernan Gill and Gabriel Tunney.

Following the competition Gabriel said: *'It was great to see some of the 4-year-old fillies develop from last year. The pedigrees coming out this year are up there with the best in Europe, and the Irish*



Knockmoy Silver Sparrow (CP) winner of the 3-year-old Pony Section.



breeders are using more and more 5* stallions with our performance Irish mares which can only strengthen our brood mare herd for the future.'

Tiernan Gill concluded with 'The mares were an excellent type this year. It is fantastic to see the tremendous effort that breeders are putting in in order to meet the requirements for breeding and producing mares. There are 3 mares back this year competing in the 4-year-old class that were out loose jumping as 3-year-olds. It is great to see that they are being produced and kept by their owners with breeding in mind. The mares were all well-presented and I am confident that they have sufficient ability to be produced and be successful in their disciplines. Over the last three years I feel that Irish breeders are making more informed breeding decisions due to the guidance of HSI's breeding policies and supports. We are now just as good, if not better than our European counterparts.'

Padraic Corcoran owner of the winning 3-year-old Garryduffy Grey Misty (ISH) said: 'She is broken and riding with the intention to produce her for the 4-year-old classes this summer and is ready for her first show soon. She is showing great potential, is super easy and beautiful, and is ticking all the boxes. It is a shame the final could not go ahead but I was very happy with how the day went. The event was very well run, great staff who made sure the job was done properly and they knew how to get them through quickly and efficiently.'

Dermot Gormanly, winner of the 4-year-old section said: 'Kannan CK is a lovely type with a great temperament. She also won this competition as a 3-year-old and is now with Damien Griffith to produce for the 5-year-old show jumping classes this summer. She has an older sister coming six who is showing excellent potential and had qualified for Dublin as a 3-year-old. Kannan CK is really demonstrating the same ability and technique under saddle that she did when loose jumping and we are very pleased with how she is going. She had a break and will be going back in a weeks' time to be produced on, and hopefully qualify for, available suitable competitions. A shorter season for the younger horses will not be a bad thing. The loose jumping event was very well run given the difficult circumstances with Covid-19. The atmosphere obviously was not the same as the year before, however, the judges and staff were very professional, and the venue was looking great.'

Full results and pedigrees listed right.

PONY RESULTS - CREAGH EQUESTRIAN

4-YEAR-OLD

- 1st** Mountain Girl by Drummin Rebel (CP) out of Casstel Doreen (CP) by Castleside Carrig (CP) bred by Mary McGuinness and owned by Patrick Cafferty
- 2nd** Killowen Leah Bui by Templebready Fear Bui (CP) out of Emlagh Foxy Lady (CP) by Glenayre Silver Fox (CP) bred by Carmelia Scrivens owned by Patrick Cafferty
- 3rd** Knockillaree Leona by Aughnacore Leo out of Knockillaree Lady Carnute by Captain Carnute bred by Roger Joyce owned by Joshua Joyce
- 4th** Pollabrandy Mist by Tulira Robuck (CP) out of Hilltop Mist (CP) by Ardravinna Andy (CP) bred by Mr Peter O'Rourke owned by Kieran Egan
- 5th** Red Park Tina by Thorgal De L'Auber (CP) out of Curraghnakeely Tina (CP) by Arán Brown Bomber (CP) bred by Pat Mc Cathy owned by Kate Daly
- 6th** Dexter Beauty by Dexter Leam Pondi IS 15 (CP) out of Aghamore Beauty (CP) by Leam Finnegan (CP) bred and owned by Sean Carey

3-YEAR-OLD

- 1st** Knockmoy Silver Sparrow by Silver Shadow (CP) out of Badger Hill Chica (CP) by Bobby Sparrow Blue (CP) bred and owned by Fintan Cosgrove
- 2nd** Creganna Milady by Koro d'Or (SF) out of Prospect Suzy (CP) by Tulira Robuck (CP) bred and owned by Marjorie Hardiman.
- 3rd** Foxboro Little Lady Blue by Ansiei (TB) out of Foxboro Stardust bred and owned by Mr. Michael Leahy
- 4th** Sleauna Aurora by Manninard Abel (CP) out of Rosscon Annabell (CP) by Ashfield Blue Rock (CP) bred and owned by Gerry Whyte
- 5th** Numero Blue by Numero Cruise (ISH) out of Knock Blue (ISH) by Blue Champion (ID) bred by Mr John Gardiner owned by Laura Geraghty
- 6th** Knockillaree Diamond by Cullane Comet (CP) out of Star of the Valley (CP) by Westside Mirah (CP) bred and owned by Emma Joyce

FILLY RESULTS - TUBBERBRIDE

3-YEAR-OLD

- 1st** Garryduffy Grey Misty by Garryduffy Jar of Hearts (ISH) out of Gurraun Carraview (RID) by Carrabawn View (ISH) bred by John Joyce owned by Padraic Corcoran
- 2nd** Miss Cavalier Candy by Sligo Candy Boy (ISH) out of Miss Cavalier Royal (ISH) by Castletallagh Royale (ISH) bred by Tom Fleming owned by Francis & Noeleen Kerins
- 3rd** Unnamed by Pollux de Muze (Zang) out of Drumgoland Hermes (ISH) by Hermes de Reve (SF) bred by Peter G Brady owned by David Williams & Keith Boland
- 4th** Kingsborough Samira by Sandro K (OLD) out of Kingsborough Flamingo (ISH) by Je Taime Flamenco (BWP) bred by David Gray owned by Gemma Fitzgerald

4-YEAR-OLD

- 1st** Kannan CK by Kannan (KWPN) out of Roadstown Equality CK (AES) by Quality Time (HOLST) bred and owned by Dermot Gormanly
- 2nd** Candy Tip Toe by Sligo Candy Boy (ISH) out of Coastal Cruz (ISH) by Cruising (ISH)(TIH) bred and owned by Padraic Corcoran
- 3rd** Clarehall Kannan Law by Kannan (KWPN) out of Clare Conclave (ISH) by Touchdown (ISH) bred and owned by Shane Slattery
- 4th** Rushfield Diamantina by Diamant De Semilly (SF) out of Frieda (OLD) bred and owned by Donnacha Anhold
- 5th** Cherry Wine by Stetter (KWPN) out of Roadstown Cruise (ISH)(TIH) by Cruising (ISH)(TIH) bred by Michael Doherty and owned by Louise Craig
- 6th** Unnamed by Sligo Candy Boy (ISH) out of Rathlee Lady Vendi (ISH) by Ars Vivendi (HOLST) bred and owned by Michael Hanley



Brexit – Are you ready?

By **GILLIAN BOND**

Since the 1st of January 2021, Great Britain (GB) is no longer part of the European Union. Now viewed as a third country in terms of trade, the requirements to import and export Sport Horses to, from and through GB have changed.

To make this transition as smooth as possible, Horse Sport Ireland have created the following guide to help you transport your equine animals as efficiently and effectively as possible. **Please note**, this information is correct as of the 22nd of February 2021.



KEY REQUIREMENTS: IRELAND TO GREAT BRITAIN



1. The Irish exporter must register with DAFM and TRACES and register as an importer/exporter.
2. The exporter must also obtain an EORI number.
3. Contact local DAFM Regional Veterinary Office (RVO) 5 days in advance of travel to arrange completion of Export Health Certificate (EHC).
4. Pre-Notify GB through IPAFFS:
 - A GB based importer must be secured by the Irish exporter to register and submit documentation through IPAFFS.
 - This must be submitted a minimum of 24 hours in advance and a maximum of 30 days in advance of the equine/s arrival in GB.
5. A Unique Notification Number (UNN) is generated by IPAFFS and will be included on the EHC.
6. The Irish exporter completes consignment details of the EHC online on TRACES with the inclusion of the UNN.
7. The exporter should submit notification to the RVO when completed, including a TRACES-generated certificate and reference number.
8. The EHC will be generated, printed, signed and stamped by the RVO Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter collects the EHC from the RVO.
9. The IE exporter should email a scanned copy of the EHC to the GB importer who will upload it to IPAFFS.
10. GB import control documentary checks will occur remotely with identity and physical checks being undertaken at the final destination on a risk determined basis.
11. From 1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021, live equines may enter GB via any point of entry.
 - After this date it is advised that individuals liaise with each BCP to ensure they are equipped to process live equine animals.
12. All equines permanently exported to GB will be subject to 20% VAT.





KEY REQUIREMENTS: GREAT BRITAIN TO IRELAND



Temporary Entry: Less than 30 days	Temporary Entry: Less than 90 Days	Permanent Entry
1. EHC signed by OV in GB before departure required.	1. EHC signed by OV in GB before departure required.	1. EHC signed by OV in GB before departure required.
2. Pre-movement notification not required.	2. Pre-notify BCP 24 hours in advance by generating a CHED-A document for each consignment.	2. Pre-Notify BCP 24 hours in advance by generating a CHED-A document for each consignment.
3. Blood testing not required.	3. Blood test undertaken by OV in advance of travel.	3. Blood test undertaken by OV in advance of travel.
4. Isolation and residency not required.	4. Must meet isolation and residency requirements: Equine must be kept on a holding in GB for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 days • Since its entry into GB (if the animal was imported or directly moved from the EU, NI, or a country with similar health status to GB less than 40 days before export) 	4. Must meet isolation and residency requirements: Equines must be kept on a holding in GB under veterinary supervision for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 days • Since birth (animals younger than 90 days) • Since its entry into GB (if the animal was imported or moved directly from the EU less than 90 days before export) • Equines must be kept away from equines with a different health status
5. Disease testing not required.	5. Disease tested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equine Infectious Anaemia: 90 days before travel • Equine Viral Arteritis: Within 21 days of travel for uncastrated males over 180 days old 	5. Disease tested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equine Infectious Anaemia: 30 days before travel • Equine Viral Arteritis: Within 21 days of travel for uncastrated males over 180 days old
6. Ensure correct equine ID is with the animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unregistered animals require supplementary ID. 	6. Ensure correct equine ID is with the animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unregistered animals require supplementary ID. 	6. Ensure correct equine ID is with the animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unregistered animals require supplementary ID.
7. Complete a customs declaration form before the equine arrives at the EU boarder.	7. Complete a customs declaration form before the equine arrives at the EU boarder.	7. Complete a customs declaration form before the equine arrives at the EU boarder.
8. All temporary equine exports to GB will have to provide a financial guarantee to HMRC before arriving at Dublin Port for processing.	8. All temporary equine exports to GB will have to provide a financial guarantee to HMRC before arriving at Dublin Port for processing.	8. All equines being imported to Ireland will be subject to 13.5% VAT.

Continued next page



Photo: Maura Kelly



Photo: Lisa Keane





KEY REQUIREMENTS: IRELAND TO FRANCE VIA THE UK LAND BRIDGE




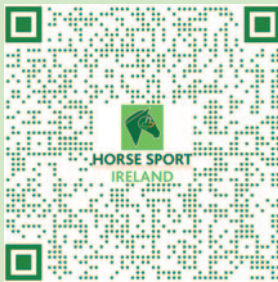
Ireland to Great Britain	In Great Britain	Great Britain to France
1. Live equines accompanied by intra-EU trade Certificate.	1. If all is in order, the driver does not have to interact with Border Force as the office of transit function will be completed digitally using the GVMS information.	1. An entry summary declaration (ENS) must be lodged to the French ICS system.
2. Pre-Notify French authorities 24 hours in advance of consignment arrival by submitting part 1 of CHED on TRACES-NT.	2. The requirement for an exit summary declaration at exit from the UK, where the goods are moving on a RoRo service has been waived until 31 March 2021.	2. Prior to check in at port of departure/Eurotunnel in Great Britain, driver enters the MRNs for all consignments in the vehicle on SI Brexit which creates a unique identifier for the vehicle.
3. Submit combined exit summary declaration and transit declaration onto the NCTS system.	3. If transiting through a port in Kent or the Eurotunnel, trucks over 7.5 tonnes must complete checks on the UK 'check an HGV is ready for the border' service to confirm that the haulier has the relevant declarations to proceed to France.	3. Driver provides the unique identifier to the Ferry Operator at check in who pairs it with the vehicle registration number.
4. CHED reference number must be included on transit declaration.	4. If a 'Kent Access Pass' is issued, the lorry can move to their chosen port or the Eurotunnel. If a Pass is not issued, the haulier will be advised to obtain the required documentation and resubmit the application.	4. Driver provides the unique identifier to the Ferry Operator at check in who pairs it with the vehicle registration number.
5. S(TAD) generated which contains a Unique Movement Reference Number (MNR).	5. Drivers should not enter Kent without this permit as they will be subject to a £300 on the spot fine if they cannot produce the permit.	5. Once no issues are noted by the French authorities and the responsible operator(s) have completed all the stages correctly, the driver should be given a 'green' routing and will be allowed to leave the port without interacting with French customs and proceed to close the transit.
6. Pre-boarding notification (PBN) on Customs RoRo service created including the MNR. If the vehicle contains several consignments MNRs of all declarations must be included in the PBN.	For Further information on registering to import and export and EORI numbers please scan the QR codes below: Register to Import and Export  Applying for an EORI Number 	6. If the goods are being delivered to an Authorised Consignee, the goods can proceed directly to the traders' premises.
7. Upon PBN completion the driver can see if they can proceed to Dublin/Rosslare port.		7. The Driver hands over the TAD with the delivery to allow closure of the Transit.
8. Hard copy of S(TAD) must travel with goods.		8. If the customer is not an authorised consignee, the Driver must call at an inland Office of Destination to complete the transit formalities.
9. PBN details given to operator at ferry and if all in order the vehicle can board the ferry.		9. Once all of the steps are performed, the transit is closed on the NCTS system and the financial guarantee is automatically released.
10. The haulage company also must lodge the details of all the (S)TADs on the vehicle onto the UK's Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS). This will require a UK EORI number to access the GVMS system.		





Photo: Ballaghmor Class (ISH), 2007 gelding by Courage II (HOLST) out of Kilderry Place (ISH). Breeder Noel Hickey (Limerick). Rider Oliver Townend.



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FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Eventing Championships for Young Horses – Le Mondial du Lion d'Angers, France

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Irish Draught Horse Studbook

Registering your Irish Draught in the Id studbook ensures that your horse will be eligible for:

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- Green Irish Draught Horse Studbook Passport
- Eligible to compete in Irish Draught Competitions
- Inclusion on the Irish Draught Horse Register online database – IHR online
- Irish Draught Horse breeder prizes

Before registering with the Irish Draught Horse Studbook, both the sire and the dam of the animal must be registered in the Irish Horse Register and the animal must be eligible to be included in the Studbook. Both the sire and the dam must have been DNA tested to confirm parentage of your horse. Horse Sport Ireland must have received a covering certificate from the stallion owner.

To receive a DNA kit contact our registrations department on +353 45 854 500 or email info@horsesportireland.ie, with the details of the sire and dam of the horse you wish to register. They will arrange for a DNA kit to be sent to you.



To go directly to the Passports and Registration page, please scan the QR code below:



BEHIND THE SCENES with Hugh Fitzpatrick

Based on the River Erne in Belturbet Co. Cavan, **HUGH FITZPATRICK** has been running a successful breeding enterprise for over fifty years. Growing up with horses meant Hugh developed his love for them at a young age and this love was further fostered and encouraged by his wife Mary, who is described as the 'back-bone' of the breeding enterprise. As Chief Whip for the Fermanagh Harriers for many years, Hugh enjoyed his days out hunting with his good friend Willie McGee and won many hunter trials with his daughter, Aisling Fitzpatrick, who I chatted to on behalf of Hugh about his spectacular breeding achievements.

'Dad lives and breathes horses. He reads all the time and always keeps an eye on which horses are good for breeding. He researches several stallions before he brings them to a mare, and that is what makes him so successful.' Hugh's natural love for horses led him to buy his first breeding mare, *Drumhilla Dolly*, with whom he began the first steps of his breeding journey. As told by Aisling, 'born in 1969, Dad's first mare, *Drumhilla Dolly* began breeding at a very young age as she never show jumped and had her first foal in 1973. This is when Dad really started to get serious about breeding, as she laid the foundation for the first of Dad's three breeding lines.'

Drumhilla Dolly went on to foal three excellent horses, *Celica* (1981 mare by *First Consul*), *Corolla* (1982 gelding by *Bob's Vision*), and *Erne Diamond* (1980 mare by *King of Diamonds*), and while all three horses had successful show jumping careers, it was *Erne Diamond* who caught Hugh's attention and thus, was used to carry on *Drumhilla Dolly*'s

Erne Lady Goldielocks (ISH) winning Galway County RNH and TRM Grand Prix in 2019, ridden by Francis Connors. Left to right - Hugh Fitzpatrick, Mary Fitzpatrick, Nadia Rea HSI and Sinead Barnacle TRM. Photo: Rachel Burke.

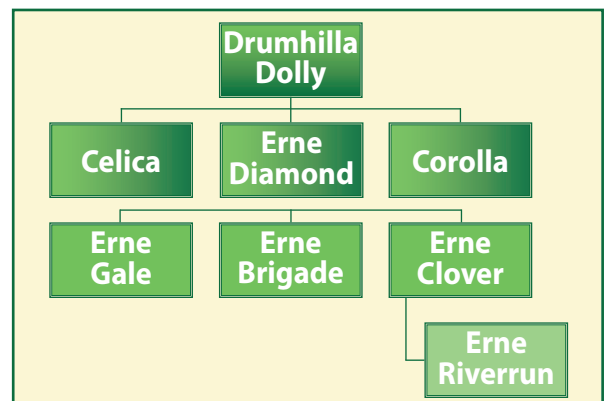


By **GILLIAN BOND**

bloodline. '*Erne Diamond* was a super horse, she competed in Grade A classes, Boomerangs and in the RDS all under Richard Smyth with great success and as a result she was the main progeny that Dad went on to breed from.'

She bred ten horses that all excelled, and a lot of those went on to breed 1.50m show jumpers, but the most noteworthy horses bred by *Erne Diamond* were *Erne Gale* (1992 gelding by *Euphemism*), *Erne Brigade* (1999 gelding by *Clover Brigade*), and *Erne Clover* (1995 mare by *Clover Hill*). Both *Erne Gale* and *Erne Brigade* were competitive show jumpers at 1.30m and 1.40m respectively, but it was *Erne Clover* who went on to breed one of the most competitive horses on today's national show jumping circuit, *Erne Riverrun* (2013

gelding by *Antaeus*). '*Erne Clover* never show jumped, she hunted,' said Aisling, 'but she has bred a super show jumping horse, *Erne Riverrun*, who is now successfully competing at 1.40m with Francis Connors.'



Hugh's breeding achievements did not stop with *Drumhilla Dolly*, as his second breeding line, which began with a 1983 mare called *Sprinter* demonstrates. 'This breeding line came about by



chance, as Dad was out visiting a farmer and came across a little mare that wasn't really doing anything. He bought the mare, now known as *Sprinter*, and began to hunt her. It was soon clear that she was made for show jumping, as she was so careful out hunting, she used to jump Dad out of the saddle,' laughs Aisling. *Sprinter* went on to compete at the RDS with Richard Smyth, and showjump to 1.40m with Francis Connors, before being retired for breeding. 'Later in her years we retired *Sprinter* and bred from her, with two of her notable progeny being *Erne Touch* (2003 mare by *Out of Touch*) and *Erne Blaze* (2000 mare by *Aldato*). *Sprinter* was also the first horse Francis ever competed for Dad, competing her in Millstreet in the August of 2001. Dad had watched Francis over the years and really admired his riding style and seat, how sympathetic he was towards his horses and how he always treated them with respect and kindness. That was the beginning of not only Dad and Francis' partnership, but also their friendship.'

Erne Touch, who competed at 1.40m with Francis, was retired early due to injury, however this small competitive setback kick-started her lucrative breeding career, as *Erne Touch* bred three very significant horses, *Ernedelux* (2005 gelding by *Lux Z*), *Erne Luxetta* (2009 mare by *Lux Z*) and *Erne Ladygoldilocks* (2007 mare by *Ard VDL Douglas*).

Ernedelux show jumped to 1.30m before being sold to Italy, where he continued his career as a young riders Grand Prix horse, with *Erne Luxetta* also jumping to 1.30m before being retired for breeding.

However, speaking with Aisling it was clear that *Erne Ladygoldilocks* is the star of this breeding line. 'I used to start all of the horses before I eased off and Charlie O'Hanlon took over, so I started *Erne Ladygoldilocks* (*Goldie*) and jumped her to 1.20m myself. She then went to Francis and it all took off from there. She was selected to compete in the 7-year-olds in Lanaken in 2014 and qualified for Dublin as a 9-year-old in 2016 where she went on to qualify for the Grand Prix on Sunday. However, on the advice of Francis, we did not compete her in the Grand Prix, as he felt it may have been too much too soon for her.

Goldie was also the champion of the New Heights Championship Series in 2019 and competed in Oliva in Spain in March 2020. She qualified for the final in Oliva on the day it was announced the

show was closing due to the pandemic, so unfortunately, she didn't get the chance to compete. She is a really special mare.'

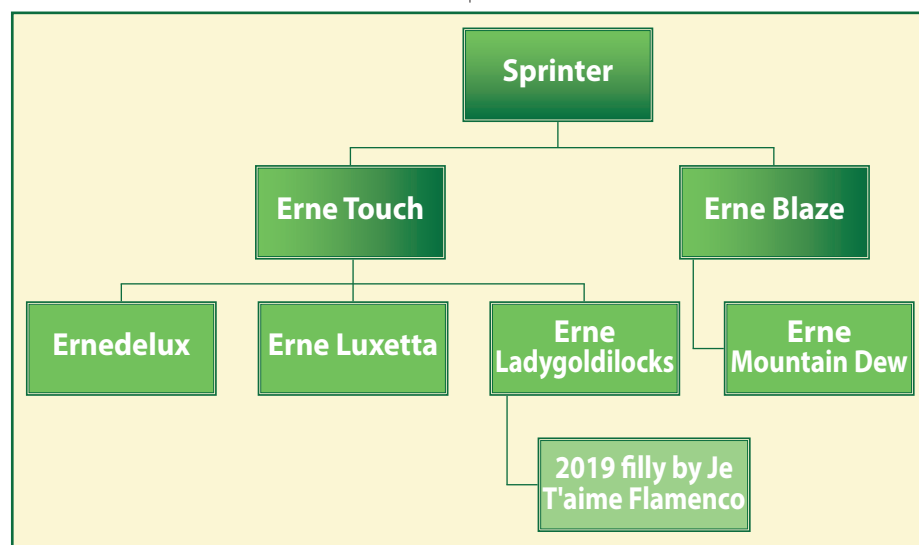
Eager to carry on the bloodline of *Erne Touch* who has unfortunately passed away, and to see *Goldie's* progeny, Hugh decided to undertake two Embryo Transfers on *Goldie*. 'While Dad prefers traditional breeding methods, he was eager to see *Goldie's* progeny. This suited *Goldie*, as she still has so much jumping in her and is too young to be retired. She is now the mother of a 2019 filly by *Je T'aime Flamenco* and another foal by *Cascari*.'

Erne Blaze, the second progeny of *Sprinter* went on to breed another very competitive horse on today's national show jumping circuit, *Erne Mountain Dew* (2012 gelding by *Lux Z*). '*Erne Blaze* actually jumped to 1.50m with Francis herself, but she has since retired and has begun breeding. She bred another very competitive show jumper, *Erne Mountain Dew*, who Francis currently competes at 1.40m. She has also bred a 3-year-old by *Tangelo* and a 2-year-old by *Emerald*, and another mare by *Lux* whom Jonathan Smyth is now jumping.'

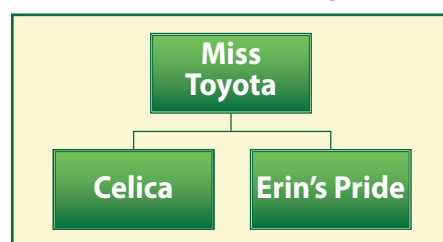
At this point, it is hard not to be in awe of Hugh's breeding accomplishments, and with so many it must be impossible to narrow down a lifetime of such into one stand-out moment. 'Watching all of our young stock grow and develop has been very rewarding for Dad. Seeing them broken, to starting over a fence, and then to go on and jump bigger tracks is an achievement in itself.

However, if it had to be narrowed down, *Goldie* is one of the horses that Dad is really proud of. He took great pride in her the year she went to Dublin and has loved travelling to see her compete. Everybody dreams of seeing their horse get to premier level and beyond. To see your horse jump 1.60m is a huge accomplishment, and *Goldie* has done just that,' Aisling says through a smile.

Hugh's love and passion for breeding does not stop there, as he already has future breeding plans in place. '*Erne Ladygoldilocks*, *Erne Luxetta* and *Erne Blaze* will breed on, along with the *Tangelo* and *Emerald* mares. While Dad is planning to sell some of the young horses rather than break them, those



Hugh also has a third breeding line which begins with a 1973 mare called *Miss Toyota*. '*Miss Toyota* breed two lovely horses. *Liteace* (1979 mare by *First Consul*), who show jumped at 1.30m with Richard Smyth and *Erin's Pride* (1986 gelding by *Touch Stone*), who competed in Grade A classes,' said Aisling.



with good breeding and significant success on the mother's side will be kept for breeding.' Smiling, she proceeds 'However, it can be quite hard to let them go.'

Horse Sport Ireland would like to extend their sincerest thanks to Hugh and his family for their contribution to the sport of show jumping and wish them every success in the future.



Competitive Advantage: Ireland's Superior Young Horse Production



Horses out on grass in the Wicklow hills (Photo: Lisa Keane, HSI).

While it is no secret that Ireland is home to many of the world's best competition riders, breeders and producers, the way in which our young horses are produced is somewhat still in the dark. With the Sport Horse sector becoming increasingly competitive, it is time to showcase the unique production capabilities Ireland has to offer, and why these capabilities make horses bred, produced and competed here in Ireland some of the best in the world.

By **GILLIAN BOND**

1. IRELAND'S GRASS BASED SYSTEM

Synonymous with Ireland are its rolling hills and green landscape stretching as far as the eye can see. This is not only a marvellous beauty, but is also the perfect environment for breeding, rearing, and producing top-class competition horses. From foaling, Irish bred horses are granted with a luxury that is not found in all countries, they can go out on grass. Mares and foals, yearlings and 2- and 3-year-olds have the freedom to grow and develop in a natural environment.

Young horses in training can go out during the day, to blow off steam and unwind, while also allowing them to socialise. This not only positively impacts a horse's attitude towards work, but also increases their rideability, a quality which has become increasingly desired by breeders, producers, and competitors alike.

"Ireland's grass land means our horses enjoy the freedom of being out, allowing them to grow up and develop well – A lot of continental horses don't have this opportunity."

– **Francis Connors**

"Everyone is looking for rideability – It is important that the horse has a good mind."

– **Marguerite Ryan**



2. VARIETY OF PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

Ireland's natural landscape offers a second competitive edge, as it allows horses to experience a variety of different activities during their production. From hacking through fields and forestry, to cantering up the beach, horses bred and produced in Ireland are exposed to many different landscapes. This not only allows for horses to be trained in a less formal and competition focused way, but also provides them with a versatile and well-rounded education.

In addition to the country's natural amenities, the hunting scene and world-class cross-country facilities allow horses to become familiar with both natural and man-made fences, resulting in the production of brave, versatile and scopey animals.

'Horses can be exposed to a wide variety of activities such as hunting, which is not possible in other countries and we have a good eventing scene too – being able to do different activities with young horses really stands to them.'
– Francis Connors

3. TALENT OF RIDERS AND PRODUCERS

Ireland's third core competency is not a secret, as it is generated by the talented riders and producers based in Ireland. Despite being a small country, Ireland holds its own on the international stage both in terms of young horse production and overall success at high level competitions.

'Ireland punches way above its weight when it comes to producing and riding horses.'
– Niall Hughes



Francis Connors winning the TYO ISH SJ Series in Wexford equestrian in October 2020 riding CSF James Kann Cruz (ISH) (Photo: Sagittarian Photography).

The number of Irish Show Jumping riders within the top 100 has grown year on year since 2016, with only a minor decline being seen in 2021 as Ireland's 13th rider slips down the rankings by a mere two places (FEI, 2021). Additionally, with only 178 competitors representing Ireland in international competition, Ireland was still the fifth ranked show jumping country by performance in international competition in 2020, with total winnings amounting to just over €3.5 million (Hippomundo, 2021). Moreover, the number of Eventing riders within the top 100 has remained constant over the last five years, demonstrating consistent performance at an international level (FEI, 2021).

'We have so much talent in riders, and that gives us a huge advantage.'
– Francis Connors

4. PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES GRANTED TO YOUNG HORSES

The production of young horses is further facilitated by the running of young horse competitions within the country coupled with innovative breeding schemes. The Irish Sport Horse Show Jumping, Eventing and Dressage

Development series not only facilitate young horse training by exposing them to different venues, complementing the previous point made about the variety of production activities, but also build on their overall competition experience.

'The HSI Show Jumping development series was great – To have that support from Horse Sport Ireland was fantastic. As a competitor I really enjoyed it and the fact that the competitions are live streamed is also great, people who could not be at the shows were still able to follow the series.'
– Philip Gaw

'The HSI Eventing Development Series was a huge success given the restrictions we were operating under at the time. The popularity of the young horse classes continues to increase, and we are very grateful to HSI for giving our members the opportunity to take part in these high-profile classes.'
– Alison Packman, Eventing Ireland



'The Eventing Development series is an ideal shop window for the smartest young horses in the country. Run at good venues, it gives the horses invaluable experience, and it is extra special as the classes themselves are most definitely worth winning, making for a great competition.'

– **Elizabeth Power**
5-year-old winner at
Scarteen and Punchestown

'The first HSI dressage development series was run during 2020, and it was a huge success. The young horse classes for Irish bred horses, were very popular with owners and breeders and the prize fund was very generous and greatly appreciated. Hopefully, this Series can be run again in the future to help showcase Irish bred dressage horses.'

– **Heike Holstein**

Additionally, breeding schemes, such as the breaking and training scheme, x-ray scheme, embryo transfer scheme and thoroughbred percentage scheme have helped to further increase the quality of horses being bred and produced in Ireland.

'The Breaking and Training Scheme allows you to establish if your fillies will be good enough and viable for breeding early on.'

– **Liam Kennedy**



HSI Stallion inspections 2020
Niall Hughes with his preliminary
approved stallion Lithium VS
(Photo: Laurence Dunnelljumpinaction.net).

These schemes, coupled with mare, stallion and foal inspections, not only aid in breeding decisions, as the potential of these young horses is identified at an early stage, but also improves the countries overall breeding pool, ensuring that Ireland remains a strong contender on the global stage.

'The foal qualifiers are great – It is super to get your foals out and the prize money can be reinvested in the business.'

– **Dara O'Malley, DPS Sport Horses**

5. SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Passed down from generations is the knowledge that earned Ireland its title 'The Land of the Horse' and is a competitive advantage that can be found nowhere but the Emerald Isle. A natural affinity for horses coupled with innovative breeding programmes has allowed the Irish sport horse sector to progress forward and adapt to ever changing consumer and industry demands, while also retaining the initial values upon which the industry was built.

'Those within the industry are knowledgeable. Everybody is willing and wants to continue to strengthen the sector. People are out learning, watching, and seeing what's needed to be done to make that happen.'

– **Francis Connors**

'Breeders are breeding the right type of horses for top-level competition and strive to breed these types of horses. This is allowing Ireland to make huge strides internationally and I have no doubt that we will begin to climb the WBFSH rankings over the next few years.'

– **Niall Hughes**

With an increasingly competitive and ever saturated Sport Horse market, it is imperative that the Irish Sport Horse industry differentiate themselves from competitor studbooks by leveraging these core competencies in a way which creates competitive advantage. The sectors unique grass-based system and variety of activities offered to young horses throughout the early stages of their production must become universally recognised, as they are some of the key building blocks when it comes to producing a top-class competition animal. These core competencies, coupled with the support provided to young horses and talent and knowledge of those within the industry can be utilised in a way which makes the Irish Sport Horse sector stand out from the rest, ensuring that horses bred and produced in Ireland are recognised as some of the best in the world.

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Photo: Brian Geib



Thomas O'Brien with his homebred Colui (ISH) by Luidam (KWPN) out of Vreedom G (KWPN) by Orame (KWPN)



Alison Corbally, HSI, with Jason Foley and GCS Ita (ISH) by O.B.O.S. Quality 004(OLD) out of MHS Attraction (ISH) by Numero Uno (KWPN), winner 5/6-year-old HSI Mares Studbook Final in Cavan in December



Jason Higgins Creevyquinn Pearl (ISH) by Cardento (HOLST) out of Fragonda (KWPN) by Corland (HOLST), winners of his 6-yr-old at Barnadown



Photo from Le Lion from FEI WBFSH World Breeding Eventing Championships for Young Horses

Ger O'Neill with wife Ali and children Ava, Taylor and baby Shay



Nadia Rea with Francis Connors and CSF James Kann Cruz (ISH) by Kannan (KWPN) out of CSF Telly Cruz (ISH) by Cruising (ISH), winner of the Irish Sport Horse 7-year-old final in Wexford in October



Liam O'Meara and Curraghraigue Jack Take Flight (ISH) out of Curraghraigue Errigal by Errigal Flight (ISH) joint winner of the Horse Sport Ireland Development Autumn Grand Prix in Tipperary



HSI - foal championship Coilog - Showjumping Horse Foal Colt by Sligo Candy Boy (ISH) out of Contend Heraldik (HOLST) by Contender (HOLST) owned by John Buttimer. Photo: Brian Geib





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