



# Irish Horse Society

## Newsletter No. 26

AUGUST 2002



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Welcome to the Society's Spring newsletter, I hope the winter has been kind to all and everyone is looking forward what spring has to offer. My apologies if I have any addresses or information wrong, a power surge through the computer did not do much for the membership lists. I will keep up to date backing up my files from now on! If you know of anybody who has not received their newsletter please get them to contact me.

Enclosed are accounts for annual subscriptions and entry forms for the 2001/02 Performance Competition. It is very simple to enter the Performance Competition — just fill in your results for the year and post off with your entry fee - no secretary signatures are required. It is most interesting to see what Irish horses “do”, every year there seems to be another equestrian pursuit where Irish Horses are performing. Last year we had Irish endurance horses and a games horse - what will there be this year!

The Society AGM was held in June, a report is in the newsletter. Please note that the Society is now providing an appendix for horses of less than ¼ Irish blood. Pass the word around to anyone you know with unregistered Irish horses.

Debbie H

## Annual General Meeting

### OFFICE BEARERS

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 17th May in Christchurch. Your Council for the next 12 months is President—Colin Price, Secretary / Treasurer—Debbie Hewitt, Registrar—Lesley Spence, Vice President—Bevan Souness and Council members— Bruce Goldstone (Napier), Anna Andreassen-Humm (Rakaia), Bruce Green (Christchurch), Jan Hales Wells (Sheffield, Canterbury), Lyn Turner (Ohoka, Canterbury), Sheryl Gough (Christchurch). The Society also has four co-opted members—Lisa Clark (Oxford, Canterbury), Adrienne Saunders (Ashley, Canterbury), Barbara Dobson (Christchurch) and Mandy O'Donoghue (Auckland).

**MATTERS ARISING:** The Society's purebred filly has been leased by Lyn & Neville Turner, of Ohoka, Canterbury, for two years. She is now in foal to Coalmans Touch and her offspring will add to New Zealand's small number of purebreds.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Chairman:**

Our horses are continuing to be an integral part of the NZ equestrian scene. In my travels around horse events Irish Horses keep appearing and making their presence felt. This is equally true in the dressage arena, in the show jumping ring or on the hunt field. Only last week we heard of the success of Kate Lambie at the Badminton Horse Trials, finishing a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> in a very strong field of four star horses. It is likely that Kate and her mare will form part of the NZ team for the World Games in Spain later in the year. Alibi is by the TB stallion Aberlou out of a Kingsway Diamond mare, making her a ¼ ID. Not only is the mare a jumping machine cross country, she is very competitive in the dressage phase, and is not prone to “fizz” as we see with some TBs in this class of competition, who are presented at a very high level of fitness.

During the year your council discussed the possibility of keeping a register of ¼ bred stallions and their 1/8<sup>th</sup> progeny. It is my opinion that one of the strengths of the ID is its ability to make a significant contribution to temperament, soundness and athletic ability in a horse, even when only present in a minor way in the genetic equation. I would strongly suggest that we take the opportunity to include these horses on our database. The success of these ¼ and 1/8<sup>th</sup> breeds will have a direct spin off for our Society.

At the moment we have available to us our two foundation RID sires, Laughtons Legend and Kingsway Diamond, their two ½ bred sons Te Mania Blue Fable and Kings Ransom, as well as Coalmans Touch. Although small we have a sound base to grow our ½ and ¼ bred stock in the years to come. It is encouraging to see a number of breeders with Laughton mares putting them to Coalmans Touch to get ¾ bred progeny. It will be interesting to follow the progress of these individuals for upgrading in the future.

I would like to make mention of the literary efforts of our Patron, Thady Ryan. Some of you may not know that Thady has completed his memoirs and they are due to be published later this year, with the launch scheduled to be held at the Dublin Horse show in August. Congratulations to you Thady and the very best of Irish luck with the launch. In true Ryan style the book was a combined effort, involving many support people. From my understanding, Thady wrote the manuscript in long hand, faxed it to one of his sons who put it onto his computer, then sent it to dear Mairaid (cousin) in Ireland for editing, then back to Thady for his approval and finally it was sent to the publisher in the US. The book is truly international even before the launch.

Finally I would like to thank those people who put in the time necessary to ensure the smooth running of our Society. Any contribution is appreciated.

Colin Price

### **Registrar**

Since the last AGM there have been 34 new full registrations. Full registration means the horses have been branded and issued with registration certificates. Numbers are not as high as the late 80's and 90's but there continues to be a steady stream particularly from our younger stallions, Coalmans Touch and Te Mania Blue Fable. Laughtons Legend now 19 years old and Kingsway Diamond at 21 years may soon be reducing their stud duties so our younger stallions are now even more important in continuing the breed and providing out crosses for our C4 mares. It is important that some breeders begin the process of upgrading to purebred as it will be essential for the continuation of the breed in NZ to retain some purebred quality stock which is the only way the character of the breed is protected. To this end we were delighted that Lyn & Neville Turner agreed to breed from Scarteen Reagan, the society's purebred filly by Kings County. Reagan is out of Banrion who was brought to NZ by Thady and Anne Ryan in the late 80s.

It is with some regret I report to the Society that Kingcroft Wicklow has been gelded. He has made an enormous mark in the sport horse world and at a rough count we have 100 registered by him. There will be numerous others unregistered. Although we will miss his foals, those of you who have seen him hunting recently will agree he is a very happy horse. I also understand the registered ½ bred stallion Laughtons Southern Pride has also been gelded.

Branding has gone more smoothly and I am most grateful to those of you who return brands so promptly. One member however has had a set of our precious freeze brands for 6 months and phone calls and letters have failed to retrieve them. There is a fairly even mix of heat and freeze brands chosen and at this stage we have not had any pressure just to freeze brand as they do in the TB & SB industry. We do have a number of horses in NZ which have been freeze branded and the papers have not been returned. Members need to be wary about accepting brands as meaning registration because if the paperwork is not returned no certificate will be issued. Debbie has recently developed a licence for our approved stallions and inspected mares. Those of you who have these horses will receive a licence as soon as Debbie gets a glitch out of the computer.

We have had several requests from members to register horses which are a ¼ Irish or less or of Irish breeding which would not be suitable for upgrading – an appendix has been suggested and we plan to discuss this with you at this meeting.

Certificates are up to date except a few which have not paid fees, we are awaiting some stallion returns still. There are three unregistered stallions known to the society who are producing nice progeny. We regret that we are unable to register their progeny. There are at present 676 horses registered with the society Category 1 – 7 (LL, KD, Kings County, Banrion, Reagann, Grania and Coalmans Touch), Category 3 – 3 , Category 4 - 306 (RID x Reg. TB), Category 6 – 46, Category 7 – 88 and Category Q – 163.

Lesley Spence

## GENERAL BUSINESS

**Appendix to Register** – The meeting agreed to provide an appendix to the Irish Register. The appendix will record horses of less than ¼ Irish blood and those not otherwise able to be registered. There will be no upgrading from the appendix, it will be solely a record of horses with Irish blood.  
**Promotions Officer** – Adrienne Saunders was appointed South Island Promotions officer. We are looking for North Island volunteers!!

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## Book Launch

Thady Ryan is at present promoting his book in the USA and in Ireland at the Dublin Horse Show. In November Thady will be at Canterbury A & P Show promoting the Irish Horse and his memoirs, he will be sited in the Mitavite tent– please call in and say hello if you are at the show.



## Performance Competition

The Society's annual performance competition closes on 30 September 2002. Competition points are gained from events that were held between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2001 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2002. Points can be gained in any equestrian discipline and no signatures are required from the event concerned. Mitavite has again kindly donated feed prizes to the competition – so be in to win! The winners of the both the In Hand and Ridden sections will receive a Shamrock Sash and a Society medal. The Ridden winner also holds the Performance Competition Trophy for one year.

## Tally Ho!

Thady Ryan - horseman, master of the Scarteen hunt

Extract from an article in *The Timaru Herald* - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2002.

Feature writer Jill Worrall

When Thady was a boy, and his father was the master of the hunt, the hounds hunted after hares. "But then Dad and my uncle decided that was a bit tame so they began hunting "carted stags" (which was, literally, a stag taken in a cart to the chosen hunting area). The stags were given a head start, hunted but then returned home alive and uninjured. As a young boy Thady remembers exercising the deer with his terriers.

Thady can't recall when he first began to ride but says he was probably popped up on a donkey when he was about 18 months old. "It was a big day when I got my first pony when I was about 10". His father taught him to ride, using the lure of sixpence between the knees to encourage him to grip harder. Before he was allowed to join the hunt he used to follow its progress on his pony, or sometimes even on his bicycle.

"I think I went on my first hunt when I was about 12. I was so excited I lost my breakfast". On being sent to boarding school at Ampleforth in England, Thady was able to keep his passion for hunting alive. The school had its own pack of beagles that Thady was soon involved in caring for. "I did a certain amount of school work too but it was the beagles that were my first love". The school principal suggested to Thady's father that his son should consider a career in the diplomatic service. "But my father said 'No way - he has to come home and run the farm and the hounds'." When his father developed heart trouble, he "handed over the horn", (the Scarteen hunting horn that is the badge of office for the master of the hunt), to his son.

His father once told him that if he did get to Heaven one of the things he most looked forward to was finding what had happened to all the foxes he had lost. Thady became master when he was 23 - he was the youngest master in Ireland. "I had never wanted to do anything else, but I was dead scared on my first hunt as master. However, I had no qualms about taking over the role". Not so some of the hunting people in the area. Some believed Thady was too inexperienced. But his father stood firm. "He made it quite clear 'Thady will hunt his own hounds'" Thady did have the support of a professional first whip, Mick McGrath. His role was to help control the hounds and provide a back-up for the master. "He had the uncanny knack of telling me what I had to do in such a way that I thought it was my own idea. And slowly the dissenters began to drift back to the hunt".

Hunting is an integral part of Irish life, says Thady, and it belongs very much to the people of the land. "I think that's where England went wrong. Unfortunately, in England hunting is perceived as a sport for the elite". Taking part in an Irish hunt is the dream of many a tourist to Ireland, especially Americans. Thady has travelled extensively in the United States for the Irish Tourist Board promoting hunting and many of the visiting hunters stayed with them at Scarteen. "So we had all these visitors wanting to join the Irish to risk their necks over some of our appalling dangerous fences! After that initial publicity we never had to advertise again and had to turn people away. Other masters of the hunt were appalled and thought we were selling off Ireland's heritage. But these visitors had to hire horses from farmers, stay with families and thus contributed to the well-being of the area".

It is not surprising that a man as passionate about hunting as Thady, has no time at all for the anti-blood sport lobby, which although not so strong in Ireland has almost succeeded in having hunting banned in Britain.

“It’s a nonsense to say hunting is desperately cruel. If I thought foxes suffered any undue cruelty I wouldn’t hunt. When the hounds catch up with a fox he does not get up again to limp off wounded. It’s over very quickly”.

He believes controlling foxes is necessary and hunting is the humane way of doing so. Shooting often leaves animals half-dead, and poison and traps are horrible deaths, he says.

“It’s a primeval ambition to challenge animals. I love foxes. There is the thrill of signing a contract with a big dog fox at the start of the hunt. That’s one reason why I love hunting but it’s very difficult to explain to someone who has never done so. You really have to hunt and find out for yourself about the thrill.”

Thady does not think anti-blood sport protesters will ever have the same political clout in Ireland as they do in Britain. “Most Irish people are in favour of hunting and it provides a huge income for the country.”

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### **North & South Island Championships**

The Irish Horse Society North Island Championship will be held at the North Island All Breeds Show early next year. North Island members will be contacted shortly with details. The South Island Championship will be held at the Canterbury Horse & Pony Breeders Show on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at Canterbury Park - details are enclosed for South Island members.

The Championship winner at each venue will be awarded an Irish Horse Society Medal and Shamrock Sash. The condition of entry for the Championship is that the horse is registered with the IDHS(NZ). We would like to make these championships annual fixtures but to do so we need breeders and Irish Horse owners to show their support by entering.

### **Promotional Items**



The Society is investigating having Irish Horse Society hats / badges for saddlecloths / polo shirts / sweatshirts etc printed in the near future. Any one who would like to purchase such items, please email or phone or fax the Secretary or South Island Promotions Officer (addresses on back page) with your requirements.



#### **Murphys Law**

- \*No one ever notices how you ride, until you fall off
- \*A horses misbehavior will be in direct proportion to the number of people who are watching
- \*Clipper blades will become dull when your horse is half clipped
- \*If you approach within 50 feet of your horse in clean clothes, you will get dirty
- \*If you fall off, you will land on the site of your most recent injury
- \*If you are winning, quit, there is only one way to go, down!



## Irish Horses Overseas

### North of England Summer Horse Show

Extending his winning run still further with Beamish (by Touch of the Blues), David Bartram again sported the broadest smile as the pair literally walked away with the Mystic Minstrel supreme ridden championship at the North of England Summer Horse Show. While the full gallop provoked most response from spectators, it was his entry into the ring that caught the eye of judge Fred McKie.

“I was always taught that if a horse or pony had a good walk, you knew you were going somewhere, and this lad was definitely on a mission”, he declared. David Bartram would be the first to agree that Beamish has a purposeful and active walk. “After a long day’s hunting, I dread being five miles from the meet. While a nice, sedate hack back would do me nicely, Beamish has other ideas and walks home just like this, at record pace”



David Bartram and Beamish receive their Hunter tricolour from judge Fred McKie

### WANTED:

Laughton's Legend mare or gelding, must be correct and have excellent jumping technique, 16hh +, no objection to a younger horse.  
Contact Richard Meredith (03) 349 7434

### WANTED:

Half Bred mares for breeding, either Laughtons Legend or Kingway Diamond.  
Prefer un-broken. Contact Gerard Bradley (07) 322 8216

Deadline for Summer Newsletter -  
**1st December 2002**

Show / competition results, horse profiles, stud reports, photographs etc most welcome by email, post, or fax to Secretary.  
December newsletter will feature - 2001/02 performance competition