

Season's Greetings



I thought a snowman was quite appropriate considering the weather we have had this 'summer' in Canterbury. Only consolation is it has not been much better anywhere else! Hopefully the real summer is not far



away. This issue of the newsletter contains the results of the Performance competition, an article on the winner of the Ridden Section and a recount of a memorable trip to Ireland's Dublin Horse Show, by two of the society's members. If you have any Irish horse news or other interesting happenings you are most welcome to send it on to me for the newsletter. On behalf of the Council of the Irish Horse Society I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

2003/04 Performance Competition results

Ridden Section

- 1st Complete Kaos, 8yr old gelding by Kingsway Diamond - owner Karen Anderson, Whangarei. Gained all his points from Dressage, competing at Open Medium level.
- 2nd Summertime, 15yr old gelding by Laughtons Legend - owner Cassandra Smith, Blenheim. Gained points from Showing, SJ, Round the Ring jumping, Dressage – a very versatile horse
- 3rd Bossanova Phoenix, 6 yr old gelding by Ballycotton - owner Kay Stott, Darfield. Points were gained from dressage and showing.
- 4th Joe Bolido 12 yr old, gelding by Kingcroft Wicklow - owner Wendy Donaldson, Ashburton. Points were gained showing, specializing in Side Saddle events.
- 5th Tyro, 9 yr old gelding by Wynyard Agile – owner Adrienne Saunders, Rangiora. Points were gained at Eventing and Dressage- another versatile horse.

Competition in the Ridden section was very close between the first and second place-getters and very close between 3rd, 4th and 5th placings.

In Hand section

- 1st Sea Breeze Full Impact – chestnut colt by Kingsway Diamond, owned by Tracey Heaven of Motueka
- 2nd Eyreleigh Shenanigan, gelding by Coalmans Touch - owned by Lyn & Neville Turner of Ohoka
- 3rd Coleraine Coalstorm, filly by Coalmans Touch - owned by Lisa & Blue Clark of Oxford.

The winners of the two competitions have received lovely emerald green cotton show rugs trimmed in white, with the society logo embroidered across the side.

Shamrock Sash winners

Timaru A & P Association –

sash won by Sharn (x Laughtons Legend) owned by the Marriott family of Temuka.

Nelson A & P Association –

sash won by Liz Brown and her Kingsway Diamond mare Galtymore Ballyvestea.

Canterbury A & P Association In Hand Sash –

sash won by Kate Fisher and Eireann Banooka

Canterbury A & P Association Sport Horse Sash –

sash won by Thornlea (x Coalmans Touch), owned by Lesley Spence and ridden by Sarah Stone.



Kate Fisher's grey three year old **Eireann Banooka** – winner of the Shamrock Sash in the In-Hand section at Canterbury A & P Show.

Sashes will also be awarded at the following shows – remember to put your Irish Registration number on your entries: Southland A & P Royal Show (9-11 Dec), Kaikoura A & P show (26 Feb 2005), Maniototo A & P Show (5 March 2005), Royal Easter Show (23-28 March 2005), Masterton A & P (19-21 Feb 2005) and the Canty Foal Show (May 2005). Yet to be confirmed: Taranaki A & P, Horse of the Year.



Irish Horse Society Rug modeled by last years In-Hand winner Coleraine Coalstorm. "Rain" has since been sold to Jessica Fieldes of Oamaru

Komplete Kaos & Karen Anderson- winners 2003/04 Performance Competition

Komplete Kaos or Ammo as he is known at home was born here in Northland in 1996, he is by Kingsway Diamond out of an Imperial Seal (TB) mare. I bought him as an unbroken rising 3 yo and set about the task of breaking him in and teaching him how to do dressage (being as that I don't jump anymore!!) When I first took him to lessons I was advised to sell him on as while he was a "trainable little horse" he really had no future as a dressage horse.....Well I ignored that advice and continued on my merry way and in his first season we went from Preliminary to Medium winning two Northland dressage circuits and taking out Elementary reserve champion at the North Island Dressage Champs. The grading system was changed so I took advantage and re graded him back to elementary so he could have time to come consolidate things and take him along more quietly. We campaigned last season at Medium level winning Champion titles at Northland and Auckland & gained 2nd 3rd & 8th placings at the horse of the year where we finished in 6th overall at medium level. This season we are starting out at Open Medium and have had some success winning the Zilco freestyle qualifier at Waikato recently, also scoring a win in our other test of the day scoring over 67% in both tests .At Northland champs we placed in every start which is really encouraging, we will continue at Open Medium this season and are heading off to Palmerston North in the new year to contest the North Island Champs. All things going to plan I intend to give us an advanced start or two to see how we get on. Ammo has inherited a lot of the Thoroughbred 'hotness' and albeit through tension does show a natural talent for piaffe & passage which is great so Grand Prix here we come! We are working towards this at home and I would like to think that in a couple of years we will be having a GP start. In all seriousness for a horse that I was told probably wouldn't cut the mustard he's certainly proven the critics wrong many times over. While he doesn't have the natural flamboyance of a warmblood as he has learnt and strengthened is now able to hold himself with a fair amount of cadence. I feel so very luck to have a special horse in Ammo, who tries so hard to please every time we work.



Visit to the Dublin Horse Show

Part 1 – Geoff Evans.

Having attended the 2004 Dublin Horse Show, we thought members of the IDHS(NZ) might be interested in some of our experiences.

The Irish Draught Society had a stall at the Show. We introduced ourselves and when they heard we were from New Zealand and had Irish horses, their traditional Irish hospitality was immediately on display. They invited us to their dinner held at the Jury's Hotel in Ballsbridge. There we met some of the breeders including David and Eileen Thompson and Vincent Faughnan. We were also very pleased to be introduced to John Alexander , who bred Touch of the Blues, and John McCartney. Everyone knew Thady Ryan!

At the show, we watched the ID stallion judging and the mares and young stock. The winning stallion was Crosstown Dancer (liver chestnut) and mare, Moylough Countess (also liver chestnut). Also at the show was the Aga Khan Cup and other international competitions including the puissance which went to the height of 7ft 5 and a half inches with three riders clear – the great John Whittaker, Cian O'Connor and Captain David O'Brien.

A wonderful experience – we would recommend to any of you. I learned a huge amount.

Part 2 – Liz Evans

I'm the first to admit that my involvement with horses and shows has traditionally been in the areas of sending in the entry forms, doing the laundry, the odd bit of grooming (if no-one better available) and writing the cheques. So how was I going to cope with five days at the international Dublin Horse Show in suburban Balls Bridge? In the end, I didn't want to leave.

Before even starting to describe the wonderful displays by the horses, for a non-rider like me, there were the shops to consider – hundreds of them selling everything from beds to ball gowns. In fact, even for those interested only in the riding, we all had to go through the market hall of the Royal Dublin Society just to get to the ring areas. Two or three saddlery outlets did a roaring trade. Their stock was fairly basic. I saw little new or different that couldn't be found here at half the price taking into account the exchange rate between our dollar and the Euro. But it seemed just about every young rider had made a pilgrimage to the RDS to visit the show and buy ordinary items such as saddle cloths and pony club polo shirts to take home in a label carrier bag. Perhaps the Irish countryside is not so royally served with well equipped saddlers as we are here in NZ.

After fighting through these throngs of shoppers buying jewellery, clothes, sweets, books, antiques, art work, equine products and so on, we braved the food halls to emerge at the two showing rings in the middle of the complex between the hall and the show jumping stadium.

Most mornings we watched the showing classes, the parades of stallions, mares and young stock, and, of course, the Irish Draught classes, which were not as large as we had expected. Apparently, unknown to us, the Irish Draught Society holds its own specialist show just before the Royal Dublin.

As a very amateur steward at our local A&P Show, it was interesting to see that the stewards at the RDS were invariably men wearing pin- striped suits and bowler hats. Every class under saddle was presided over by two judges, impeccably turned out, who both rode every horse themselves, this included the large side-saddle section. It

all took a long time to get through and we had to admire these judges for their dedication and professional approach. We felt real sympathy for the immaculate, bowler hatted man who was thrown during the course of judging a hunter class and broke his pelvis.

The standards in the showing classes seemed to be comparable with what we see here, although our current trend for elaborate and colourful turn-out clothing and gear (especially for children) was not nearly so much in evidence.

In the afternoons we went over to the show jumping. The arena was flanked by two large grandstands that could hold about 20,000 people. I had booked season tickets for one of the stands off the internet, not knowing anything about the venue at all. But we were fortunate to have very good seats opposite the judges box and in front of the presentation area. Great value for money. The next bay of seats to ours was for the invited guests and officials and every day there were red carpeted arrivals of ambassadors and others associated with the 8 international show jumping teams competing.

On the grand Samsung Super League of Ireland day for the awarding of the Aga Khan Challenge Trophy, the President of Ireland arrived with great ceremony. The stewards and other ring officials had abandoned their bowlers and pin stripes this time for grey morning suits and top hats. Soldiers marched in as flag bearers for the teams and three bands (two bag pipe and one brass) played the national anthems. As for the jumping, it was impressive to say the least. Who could forget the Irish team riders winning the Aga Khan Trophy to the delirious reception of grandstands packed to capacity with their countrymen and women?

Included in that team, which shared first prize of 47,000 euro out of a total prize fund of 142,000 euro, was the popular Cian O'Connor riding Irish Independent Annabella. The Irish Independent newspaper had earlier in the week published an article on Cian that outlined his humble beginnings. He started his career with horses by riding his bike as a boy to a local stable and asking if he could help out and learn at the same time. A non-smoker and non-drinker, his dedication and professionalism (which was to take him to a gold show jumping medal at the Athens Olympics) seemed to be admired by all.

Another local hero was young Billy Twomey, who earlier in the week had captured the public's imagination by winning an international speed event for Ireland. On that occasion he rode out of the arena like a cowboy and tossed his "skunk" riding hat into the crowd, Unfortunately, not on our side of the ground. We admired the immaculately uniformed Irish Army riders, Captains David O'Brien, Shane Carey and Gerry Flynn and their mounts listed in the catalogues as being owned by the "Ministry for Defence". Great PR for the armed forces.

Other highlights:

To be within three metres of the legendary John Whitaker as he coaxed his mount Exploit Du Roulard higher and higher over the Puissance wall, until retiring in first equal place at the height of 2m 270cm (7ft 5 and a half inches). The two others to reach that improbable height were Cian O'Connor on Ortwin de Laubry and Capt David O'Brien on the Min. of Defence horse, Cruisehill.

Then there was the excited Belgian rider who won the six-bar. Like many others, he was apparently unable to be separated from his cell phone even to ride a show jumping round at an international competition, and could be seen calling and sending photographs of the six bar while waiting his turn. When he won, this inspired more calls and photos to be sent of the last jump, the presentation, the flag going up the

pole etc. The seemingly unshakeable, if balding, Whitaker was second in this event, although no cell phone in evidence.

The USA was well represented by the only all female team of riders, including Molly Ashe and Sheila Burke – the latter winning the Samsung International Grand Prix for the Irish Trophy. She appeased the crowd by announcing over the ground sound system that her parents were Irish!

Others to make an impact included the English riders Nick Skelton (riding the talented Arko III), Scott Smith, Robert Smith and Richard Davenport and the European contingent including Patrice Delaveau (France), Alois Pollman-Schweckhorst (Germany) and Emile Tacken (Netherlands).

As with all events involving people and horses, I imagine that this one had its share of behind the scenes dramas, disasters and disputes, but we didn't see any of it.

To quote an attractive young blonde Irishwoman we met inspecting the showing ring, who turned out to be a successful and astute breeder and owner of Irish Draughts, the Dublin Horse Show of 2004 was, for us, "grand altogether".

Show results



Irish Hunters in the line-up for the **Working Hunter class** Canterbury A & P Show (R to L) 1st Galtymore Three Swallows (Kelly Evans), 2nd Summertime (Cassandra Smith/Peters p/s), 4th Z'Irish (Ian Ferguson), 5th Thornfield Irish Impressions (Zoe Shore)

Irish Horses had success at the Canterbury A & P show in November, these are some of the placegetters and winners that I noticed in the results:

Joe Bolido (Wendy Donaldson) – Reserve Champion Side Saddle, 3rd Mannered Saddle Hunter

Summertime (Cassandra Smith) – 1st Paced Saddle Hunter, 2nd Mannered Saddle Hunter, 2nd Heavyweight hunter, 2nd Ladies Saddle Hunter, Champion Working Hunter

Thornfield Irish Impressions (Zoe Shore) – 3rd Paced Saddle Hunter, 2nd Lightweight Hunter, 5th Working hunter

Galtymore Three Swallows (Kelly Evans) – Reserve Working Hunter, 1st Round the Ring

Thornlea (Lesley Spence) – 2nd Sport Horse Performance class

Eireann Banooka (Kate Fisher) – 1st 3yo Sport Horse or Hunter

Denniston (S Lamond) – 2nd 3yo Sport Horse or Hunter

The Coal (J Adamson) – 1st Sport Horse or Hunter yearling

Goodness Gracious (Alysha Hutton) – 2 wins in SJ

Reminders

Unpaid subscriptions are now overdue – an account will be enclosed if your sub is owing

Canterbury Horse & Pony Breeders Show – entries close 10 January 2005.

Secretary, Debbie Hewitt, Bush Road, Oxford for schedule debbie.hewitt@xtra.co.nz

North Island All Breeds In Hand Show – 4 & 5 January 2005 -

www.horseshow.co.nz

Note: shamrock sashes are on offer at both of these shows with winners being named North and South Island Champions

Classifieds

Irishmadar Stud, Hawkes Bay

For sale or lease Blood of Man, 16.2hh, ½ ID x ½ TB (by Kingcroft Wicklow x Laughtons Legend x Super Stud mare) 7 year old gelding. Sire of ten foals, all in dressage homes. "Manny" is available due to creating a family of my own. With his stunning looks and magic dark liver colour in spring he turns heads where ever he goes. With limited outings since being gelding at 5 years (due to my family making), he is wonderfully handled and very well schooled in the paddock. Jumping on the lunge up to 1.10m with ease.

He has had 5 dressage outings this year only in Prelim for experience more than competition. Manny was hacked as a standing colt so is excellent on the road, also to clip/shoe/float etc. He has gelding beautifully and is no problem to paddock / float or tie with mares or babies of any age.

A special home is required as he is sitting idle and bored. For sale at \$4000. Please call Tess 021 473 626 Napier



In Hand home required for **Ire 'm' Immortal**. I'm looking for a show home for my rising 2 yr old Gelding. Phoenix is by Blood of Man out of Divas Envy, a ¼ ID mare by Kingcroft Wicklow. He is a stunning liver chestnut with four mis-matched socks and blaze. This very laid back chap was gelding only last month to make it easier in the hope of finding him an in-hand home for 12 months only.

He is wonderful to float, cover, trim etc and is simply stunning to look at with beautiful floating paces. Due to the fact that I want him to have a fair go and be up against his own kind I am wanting him to go southward, as the north has little to offer. All expenses paid of course, so please contact me if you have room at home for one friendly little man. Please phone Tess 021 473 626 Napier

For Sale Ire 'm' Leafy T. 3 year old brown filly, with star by Blood of Man out of Light Spirits mare. This filly is bred to jump the moon and has her sire's fabulous laid-back disposition. Fully geared and lightly backed. Wonderful to float, trim etc. Lovely straight paces. Will mature approx 16.1hh. Photos and video available. \$2000 phone Tess 021 473 626 Napier

Farm Stay Accommodation

High Country farm stay accommodation available: fully contained, modern unit, sleeps 5-6, near the banks of the Waihopai River, Marlborough. View on www.baches.co.nz/bhh/listing/0/1296 or ph/fax Liz and Geoff Evans, 03 5724 809. Three Irish hunters in next paddock!

Contact Details

Chairman
Bevan Souness
Sandy Knolls Road
RD1
Christchurch
Ph 03 318 1615

Registrar / Registration enquiries
Lesley Spence
Weedons Ross Road
RD6 West Melton
Christchurch
Ph 03 347 8131 Fax 03 347 8136
Email: info@thornfieldhorses.com

Secretary / Treasurer / Newsletter
Debbie Hewitt
465 Bush Road
Oxford
North Canterbury
Ph 03 312 4243
Fax 03 312 4243
Email : debbie.hewitt@xtra.co.nz

Next newsletter deadline:
1st March 2005

North Island Promotions Officer
Kim Rhind
136 Rapids Road
RD2
Taupo
Ph 07 374 8443

South Island Promotions Officer
Adrienne Saunders
52 Upper Sefton Road
Rangiora North Canterbury
Ph 03 313 5777
Fax 03 313 4621

www.irishhorse.org.nz