

Colaiste Bhríde Carnew, Barnadown 13/10/2012

Carlow School scoops top place in Equestrian Interschools Ireland League hosted by Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew

Saturday, October 13th saw a packed schools show jumping day at Barnadown Equestrian Centre where 37 open teams battled it out to win the top prize in the fifth leg of the Equestrian Interschools Ireland League. The competition, hosted by Coláiste Bhríde Carnew, also featured a novice team section in which 19 teams competed. The action packed day included a derby competition and individual competition for young riders or green horses. Results of the novice competition saw 1st place going to Grennan College. Team members were Niamh Sheehy, Abby Mahon and Rebecca Nevin. Our Lady of Lourdes, New Ross laid claim to second place and third position was taken by Colaiste Lorcaín Castledermot, 4th Newbridge College, 5th Dominican College and 6th St. Kevins Community College Dunlavin.

After jumping two technical courses, in the open competition ten teams were accounted for in the jump off. The winning team, Gaelcholaiste Ceatharlach, demonstrated precision and speed to clock up a 60.39 seconds total from Nadia Blanchfield riding Shannon Bay Star and Ruth Ní Chearnaigh riding Cruaghs DJ Romeo. The quartet, who accepted the Matt Burke perpetual trophy, was made up by Holly Ní Bholgair riding Good Morning Major and Clíodhna Ní Chonroí on Avondale Royale.

Less than 3 seconds behind their Carlow rivals, Cormac Foley, riding My Little Lady and Sophie Bove Geraghty on Ms Arielle secured second place for St. Gerard's College, Bray. They were supported by team members, Aislinn Byrne, riding Shergar Rose and Sarah Bloor on Penure Princess. Third place went to a team of four from St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny. James Callahan, riding Ruthstown Sally Charlton joined forces in the jump off with Victor Costello on Barretstown Rascal completing the jump off in a time of 64.99 seconds. They were joined by Cian Drennan on Glencar April Love and Hugh McOwen riding Class Action. A proud team from Abbey Community College, Waterford was placed fourth. Fifth place went to Good Counsel College, New Ross and the host school, Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew took 6th position.

The derby competition was won by Meadhbh Brassil, riding St. James' Gate, in a very fast time of 94.93 seconds. Second place in a time of 95.54 seconds went to Laura Hadden, Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew on Phoebe. Sophie Cairns, Kilkenny College took 3rd place while Fraser Andrews completed the course in 97.80 seconds to give him 4th place. Shona Callan from St. Gerards Bray, riding Strider, made a definite impression in taking 5th and Claire Redmond, Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew was placed 6th in a time of 100.21.

Mary Rothwell, the school's equestrian officer, was especially pleased about the novice competition. "For new riders or pupils with green horses, this is a super way to join the

competition and represent their school at the same time. Especially early in the season, it can give pupils confidence and help them migrate to the open competition over time."

Linda Dunne, principal of Coláiste Bhríde praised the school's active equestrian club, teachers, parents and pupils (even past pupils). She also thanked sponsors, patrons and Barnadown Equestrian Centre. "Hosting such a great day," she said, "takes a huge collective effort as indeed does the time given each week by the students and parents who travel to different schools competitions all over the country. It was especially rewarding to witness students who represented their school last year in the novice competition compete so confidently this year in the open competition"

Next weekend sees the action move to Mullingar Equestrian Centre.

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