

Good Counsel proves dominant.

The 6th leg of the www.equestrianinterschools.com league moved to the fantastic facilities of Barnadown in Co. Wexford where Coláiste Bhríde Carnew hosted yet another action packed day, with two new additional classes added to their schedule; a primary school team class and the HSI 1.10m qualifier.

Defying the forecast the sun shone over Barnadown where 50 teams competed in hotly contested classes. The John Doyle built courses were top class as usual and got plenty of answers, making for very exciting jumps off for both spectators and schools that got through. Luck followed Wexford's Jack Ryan throughout the day as he proved almost unstoppable in all open classes. A member of the Good Counsel New Ross team Jack provided the fastest jump-off time of the day on his mount 'My Little Lady', assisting his team to land the pole position, over the nine other schools that had got through to the jump off, in the extremely competitive open team class. The New Ross team made up of Oisín Aylward (Coppengh Oliver), Ruairi Aylward (Coppengh Celtic), Jack Ryan (My Little Lady) and Noel Dunne (Warship) were clear winners with zero faults in a time of 80.09. Putting up a good challenge, to try making it two in a row, last year's winners Kilkenny College secured second place. Newbridge College took third place and also the award for best turned out team on the day. It was noted by the best turned out judge that there was a good standard of turnout and the decision wasn't easy. Over in the open individual derby class, a fast clear round was required to gain victory but despite many challenges to the breathtaking time of 77.01 with zero faults set by Good Counsel's Jack Ryan, this time riding his chestnut pony "Costello's Boy", it couldn't be passed. Another person experiencing success on the interschool showjumping circuit, after his team win in Boswell, was Knockbeg's Michael Pender who proved the only person able to stop Ryan's winning ways. After "My Little Lady" was steered by rider Jack Ryan, in the HSI 1.10m qualifier class, to a clear round in what seemed an unbeatable time of 24.36, it looked like Good Counsel would take a treble. Not seeming fazed by the pressure to produce a fast clear round, Michael Pender eased his mount 'Lily' to victory with a clear round in 21.75 seconds, with Jack Ryan having to settle this time for second place.

16 teams took part in the novice team class, with 5 teams finishing on zero faults to make it through to the jump off. St. Kevin's College Dunlavin was in winning form for the second year in a row. The combined team of Borris Vocational School and Our Lady of Lourdes Rosbercon took second place. The newly introduced primary school class saw victory on the day go to the Waterford school, St. John of God's. The early morning proved worthwhile for the riders from St. John of God's when they were announced closest to the time in the

optimum-timed jump off. The enthusiasm evident in and around the ring of the primary school class certainly shows that the future is bright for interschool's show jumping.

Linda Dunne, principal, would like to thank all sponsors, volunteers and supporters of the Coláiste Bhríde Interschools and in particular, once again, Ms. Mary Rothwell who always organises a wonderful day of schools jumping in the ever popular Barnadown.