

3 Wins on the Trot for Good Counsel Boys!

The sun shone in the sunny south east as over 200 competitors made their way to Wexford Equestrian Centre for Good Counsel College's inaugural interschools show jumping event. Proceeds from the day were in aid of one of the school's past pupils Darryl Murphy. Darryl was an avid member of all school equestrian activities and a member of the winning All Ireland Interschools show jumping team two years ago. He attended R.A.C.E. and was awarded student of the year before embarking on his racing career last summer which he has had to put on hold due to illness.

The open team competition had a huge entry with twenty four teams eagerly pursuing precious league points. Fourteen teams made it through to the jump off. Despite a stiff jump off course the high standard of riding continued as the first riders from each team posted ten clear rounds. After the first round Eva Boland (Mylo 11) pushed Our Lady of Lourdes New Ross into the lead in 32.02 just ahead of Oisín Aylward (Coppernagh Oliver Twist) who was riding for the host school in 32.52. They were closely followed by Christine O' Donnell in 33.37 riding for the joined forces of Loreto and CBS Kilkenny. Heading into the second round it became evident that two fast double clears were going to be necessary to clinch the title. Seamus Ermody (Christina's Diamond) sent Knockbeg College into the lead with a great round in 30.52 giving his team a combined total of 69.27. Rising to the challenge Andy O' Donnell (Dexter's Lad) edged his team into the lead with 67.04 now being the new target. Good Counsel's Jack Ryan and Costello's Boy were next to take it on and they did so in a breathtaking 29.42sec making it the fastest jump off time of the day and giving Good Counsel College victory in 61.94. Though it was their third win in a row it was by far the sweetest as the Good Counsel boys pulled out all the stops to win their school's first ever show jumping event for their past pupil Darryl Murphy. It was with great pride that Darryl presented the J. Ryan Cup to the Good Counsel blue team of Oisín Aylward (Coppernagh Oliver Twist), Ruairí Aylward (Coppernagh Celtic

Rebel), Jack Ryan ((Costello's Boy)and Noel Dunne (Warship). 2nd place went to Loreto / CBS Kilkenny Christine O Donnell (Blessington Prince Royal) 0 33.37 , Andy O' Donnell (Dexter's Lad)33.67 , David Lawlor (Tynagh Sam) Team total 0 67.04 . The Knockbeg College trio of Shea Byrne, Shane Byrne and Seamus Dermody claimed 3rd spot. Our Lady of Lourdes NewRoss, Borris Vocational School and Gorey Community School took 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

The novice team competition also took place in the indoor arena with Loreto Wexford and Kilkenny College making it through to the jump off. Just over a half second separated these two schools with the Loreto riders of Rebecca Banville (Rolly) (33.74) and Ciara Banville (Diago Lad) 31.72 , Sarah Whelan (An Capall Dubh) and Emer Jackman (Pepper Lass) taking the win over Kilkenny College's Annie Finn (Romeo) 34.20 and Alex Symes (Doddle Doo) 31.94 Ross Jacob (Ballyboy Falcon) and Alanna Starnes (Captain Elvis) .

Not to be outdone by the excitement of the indoor arena fourteen primary school teams eagerly contested Michael Doyle's course in the outdoor sand arena. The jump off was an exciting affair with double clear rounds the order of the day and the honours eventually going to Gowran N.S. with brothers Sean and Conor Fitzpatrick (Ballinavella Polly), Ciarán Byrne (Kilmoylan Joey) and Sarah O' Donnell (Knockmenagh Rocco) on board finishing in a time of 59.44 . St John Of God's from Waterford took second place with Emma Walsh (Appelisious) Georgia Morrisey (Dieago) and Alice Walsh (The Raggle Taggle Gypsy) finishing their jump off in 63.62 . Local show jumpers from St Anne's Rathangan took the 3rd spot with Mikey Cullen(Hot Chocolate) ,(Faye Murphy(Rhodey),Emily Roche(Snowie Blue) and Cathal Murphy (Brighter Day Biscuits) in a time of 67.08 .

This was followed in turn by two primary individual classes.

Matching his older brother Jack's exploits in the open class young Conor Ryan (Dessie) took the red rosette in the 50cm class. Emily Moloney (Castletown Cyril) pipped Faye Murphy (Rhodey) by four hundredths of a second for second place with Heather Byrne, Doireann Killoran and Amber Bassett picking up 4th, 5th and 6th respectively.

In the primary individual 70 cm Tara Fogarty and Battlestown Twister stormed home in 24.75 just ahead of Conor Fitzpatrick (Ballinavella Polly)and Millie Coin (Catman) . Eamon Byrne picked up 4th slot while Tara Fogarty took home another rosette in 5th place while Aoife Drea finished in 6th. Great riding and fun was had by all in the primary school arena

Both the novice individual and open individual classes provided plenty of challenges in the derby arena. Following on their success in the primary school team event Ciarán Byrne and Sarah O' Donnell claimed 1st and 2nd respectively in the novice derby while Dylan Moore slotted into 3rd place.

In the open individual Christine O' Donnell took the honours completing the track in 32.25. Jack Ross and Joanne Corish finished in 2nd and 3rd place.

The HSI 1m 10 class attracted over 30 entries .The Good Counsel College jump off pair featured again with Jack Ryan (My Little Lady) taking the honours in 32.33 just ahead of Oisín Aylward (Coppennagh Tom Sparrow) in 32.87. Third place went to Joanne Dillon (Kilmanac Lux) who finished in 35.82.

The day was hailed a resounding success .Though competitive show jumping was the order of the day goodwill, enthusiasm and friendly banter prevailed. Parents, competitors and supporters alike enjoyed the wonderful facilities and attention to detail provided by Orla and Pat Roche of Wexford Equestrian Centre. Special thanks to the local riding club, judges, course builders, starters and all the volunteers who were so generous with their time and expertise.Wonderful sponsorship was obtained from all

over the southeast sending many young competitors home with a smile on their face. A sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to this wonderful fundraiser. Interschool showjumping action moves next to Warrington Equestrian Centre hosted by St. Kieran's College Kilkenny.