

Report on Newbridge College Interschools held at Coilog, Saturday 28th of September.

Newbridge College took advantage of the beautiful sunshine on Saturday in Coilog with spectators and riders sporting short sleeve shirts and wandering around with their dogs and cool drinks. With 55 teams competing on the day including 14 Primary Teams and the 1.10m qualifier there was superb action in every arena.

The young primary school riders started the day in the new Hawthorn arena, with the judges commenting on the excellent standard of riding and the attention to detail that had gone into the turnout for all the teams. With 7 teams in the jump off, there was only .3 of a second between 1st place St Kavans, Camross (Paddy Sheeran, John Nolan, Brian Kuehne, & Daragh Phelan) and 2nd place Killashee NS & St Patrick's NS, (Lottie Ross, Leah Heffernan, Jodie Zebadee & Ruth Sargeant). In the Primary Individual there was spirited rivalry between siblings Alice and Emma Walsh from St John of Gods, Waterford with Emma beating her sister Alice by .08 seconds.

The Novice Teams started the day in the lime arena with a particularly tough track designed by George. The track proved very difficult for most of the teams with only two teams on a zero score going into the jump off. The Newbridge team of Caragh Sweeney, Ruby Maher, Anna Kelly and Daniel Fitzgerald, won by just 1.3 seconds to Amy Byrne, Riona Madden, Ben Gaffney & Rhiannon Maher from Pipers Hill College a new team to the Interschools circuit.

The big competition of the day was the Open Teams with 23 teams competing. Yet again another great track had all the teams working hard to get clear rounds. 7 teams made it to the jump off. Declan Deegan and James Kavanagh of Borris Vocational School had a clear victory of 2.69 seconds over David Browne and Eimear Jackman of Gaelcholaiste Chearthlach & Tullow Community School

The Open Individual title went to Ellen Radford Dodd from Holy Child Killiney riding Real Cool Cruise beating Jack Ross of Newbridge College riding Ballydavid Souza by less than 2 seconds.

The 1.10 m qualifier was a new addition to the interschools calendar last year and had over 40 competitors. This was a very hotly contested class with riders travelling from Cork and Galway schools to compete. It was won again by Ellen Radford Dodd riding Real Cool Cruise with 2nd place given to Jack Ryan on Costellos Boy from Good Counsel.

The Next interschools competition "The White Cup" will be held at Warrington EC and hosted by Kilkenny College.