

## **GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE NEW ROSS STEALS THE SHOW AT WEXFORD EQUESTIAN INTERSCHOOLS**

Over 120 riders ventured to Wexford Equestrian for the next leg of the interschools competitions on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Six competitions were held for the day in the superb facilities at the Wexford Venue with the large indoor arena hosting all the team events and the Huge Cross country arena hosting the Individual competitions. This Venue is proving increasingly popular with the interschools competitors as it offers not only competitions for secondary schools but also the primary schools in the area to show off their talented young riders. Of course the Indoor facility with cafe, and lounge areas were greatly appreciated on a cold January day for spectators and riders alike!

The sponsor at the venue the Day was IVOR YOUNG from Ivor young equestrian services who offers Thermal Imaging and Equissage for horses as well as many other services and the winning team had the benefit of receiving a complimentary Thermal imaging session with his company as part of the winning prizes!

The first competition of the day was the Open Teams Competition, part of the Interschools Equestrian league and once again Good Counsel New Ross Proved to be the best but only narrowly beating into second place Newbridge College by seconds. Of the 12 Open teams who started there were 9 through to the jump off on a zero score! A draw was made and first up were Gorey Community school where Money Boe Sunset (Doreann Ryan ) and Castlemore Cailin ( Rebecca Stacey) jumped off giving a combined score of 4 faults / 54.60 when Moneyboe sunset rattled the second fence , second the the arena was Good Counsel New ross and Coppengh Oliver Twist ( Oisin Aylward) & My little Lady ( Jack ryan) both has spectacular clear rounds giving them a winning 0/ 49.57 total, Third in the arena was Kilkenny college with Mr Richie ( Jessica Foley) & Knockavanagh Prince ( Iseult Cahill ) offering clear rounds in 51.37 just not fast enough for the top 2 spots placing them third overall. Fourth was the duo from Gaelcholaiste Cheatharlach , Followed by St Marys Knockbeg, Our ladys of Lourdes, Dominican College Wicklow, Newbridge College and finally Colaiste Bhríde Carnew. Eventually the top three rounds separated by seconds with Good Counsel winning on 0/ 49.57, Newbridge on 0/49.65 and third place with Kilkenny college on 0/51.37 ,fourth place to Colaiste Bhríde Carnew 0/ 29.17 , fifth Dominican College Wicklow 0/ 64.83 and sixth place to St Marys KnockBeg 4/ 51.44 . The winning best turned out team were St Marys New Ross who made a huge effort with Plaiting horses, Numnahs, Dress and overall presentation to claim a winning prize for their efforts.

Novice teams followed with 5 teams battling for a place with the overall winning teams being Newbridge College who finished on a team total of 4 faults, Kella Blue(sarah Buckley) Hp Chocolate Delight ( cara Sweeney) , Freddie ( Anna Kelly ) & Jacksy ( Alanna Kelly ) , second was to the local Loreto Wexford team with Diego Lad ( Ciara Banville) Rolly ( Rebecca Banville) Pepper Lass ( Sarah Whelan) Capaill Dubh ( Eimear jakman) who all offered super clear second rounds but had a pole down in each of the firsts to give a team total of 12 faults with a combined time of 119.72. Third place went to Colaiste Bhríde Enniscorthy who also only had a short distance to come to claim this spot with also having 12 faults but in a slightly slower overall time of 139.41 of combined time. Fourth place went to Ard Scoil Na Tríonoide with 20 faults and fifth place went to Colaiste Bhríde Carnew.

Primary teams were all out to show off how much talent we have in the young riders and gave every bit as good as their older siblings and friends in the Secondary schools teams! With 9 teams starting there were 7 into the jump off and this was a thrilling experience for spectators with the course of 70 cm jumped by the one rider from each team and then the 50cm rider jumping after! The winning teams were both from the local St Anne's primary schools in Rathangan only 15 mins from the venue! The winning team of Biscuits (Cathal Murphy), Rhodey (Faye Murphy), Ruby (Eoghan Staples) Star (Michael Cullen) were clear in a time of 69.11, with Michael Cullen & Cathal Murphy jumping the jump off course. Second team were St Anne's red who had Brownie (Conor stone) & Snowie Blue (Emily Roche) who jumped off at 70cm with Rhodey (Faye Murphy) & Star (Michael Cullen) who jumped off at 50cm to give a total of 0/ 74.97. Third place went to Benneskerry National School with Munny Koda (David Farrell) Hot ginger Chic (Mathew Kelly) Our Lilly (Avril Kelly) 0/ 77.64 fourth place went to the fastest 4 faults who were St Josephs & Holy Rosary NS, Lookout Sprinter (Sophie Orr) Lookout Bluebell (Casey Neville) Lookout Stone (Millie Mc bride) Lookout Lottie (Megan Neville) 4/ 58.61 fifth place was Scoil Mhuire Horsewood/ St Senan's Enniscorthy with Galway Gal (Antonia Rochowick) Paudi Browne (Chloe Hendrick) Tara Lady (Iwan Teague) 4/ 62.56 sixth place went to Dumphea NS Eamons Pet (Lauren Kavanagh) Good morning Major (Sophie Bolger) Coppenagh Bonnie (Aine Kavanagh) Marie's field Lass (James Browne) 4/ 65.64.

Individual derby competitions were taking place in the outdoor arena concurrently with the team events and there certainly was great excitement as the spectators watched with riders negotiating water, knockable with terrain up and down banks! Winning combinations were as follows, Open Individuals and picking up points for the overall league were first Bridgetown Voc School and Kevin (Aoife Goldsmith) 0/ 38.38 second Newbridge College (Jack Ross) 0/39.00 third Newbridge College Kippure steepleview Jack (Caoimhe Sweeney) 0/ 39.28

Novice derby saw Looney Tunes (Rebecca Rochowick) 0/ 40.59 and second Tily (Molly Jackson) 0/ 58.13

Primary schools individual Enfield Shadow (Sophie Carroll) 0/ 41.94 second Brownie (Conor Stone) 0/43.52 and third Paudie Browne (Chloe Hendrick) 0/ 56.84

Thanks to all who attended to make a great day and sponsors of the day Ivor young equine services!