

Newbridge College claims victory.

There was a great day's sport at Mullingar Equestrian Centre on Sunday the 13th April where a large crowd lined out to take part in the many competitions on offer at the TRI Equestrian Interschools Final. The event was hosted jointly by Equestrian Interschools Ireland and the Fagan family of Mullingar Equestrian Centre. From 50cm primary classes up to the HSI sponsored Premier 110 final there was something for everyone.

The day started off in the International Arena with the Open Team Championships which incorporated the TRI Open Team League Final. Four of the starting schools made it through to the jump off round, including the top contenders in the league and one of the visiting Northern Ireland schools. Max Ross riding Ballydavid Sous set a blistering pace, which combined with his jump off partner Caragh Sweeney's (Kippure Steepleview Jack) equally fast time sealed the win for Newbridge College over close rivals Borris Vocational School. Newbridge College's other team members were Leah Heffernan (My Rockstown two) and Niamh Flinter on Classie Lass. Borris was represented by Garynadrug Turbo and Aoife Murphy, Clonagosse Daniel Dubh ridden by Claire Kavanagh, Boley Boy and Patrick Doyle and Catherine Kavanagh riding Coppenagh Blitz. Gorey Community College Castlemore Cailin (Emma Steacy) Bobbing Robin (Emma Carton) Curious Daisy (Michelle Hughes) Ashwood Bouncer (Jessica Murphy) also left all the jump off poles up to claim third place, while an unlucky pole on the ground pushed Down High School Ma Marcaigh Star (Charlotte Leslie) Rafa Smash (Alex Cleland) Derry Mac (Charis Vinaccia) Murphy (Jessica Nelson) into fourth place. Newbridge College' other team claimed fifth place with a qualifying round total of four faults and sixth place went to Maynooth Community School. The winning school was presented with a voucher for horse transport to the Hickstead Schools Championships to be held during the summer.

The jump off result sealed the league for Newbridge College with Borris in runner up position ahead of Gorey Community School in third. St Gerard's who did not place on the day had sufficient league points to claim fourth place in the league ahead of Maynooth in fifth. The five top placed teams all gain qualifying slots for the Bluegrass team showjumping Championships on the Saturday of the Balmoral show. The winning team was presented with a HSI training bursary as well as prizes supplied by chief sponsor TRI.

Action continued in the International Arena with the Open Individual Class. Again the result came down to a very exciting speed round. As in the team competition the two riders in pole position on the league table both featured. Max Ross (Newbridge College) riding Ballydavid Sous set a very fast time early in the competition, which was not bettered until his fellow team member Niamh Flinter riding Classie Lass entered the ring and left all the poles in place while shaving two all-important seconds off Ross's time to win both the competition and the league. Vivian Leslie claimed third place, whilst the final placings on the day all went to Northern Ireland visitors, Josh Mark, William Hamilton and Charis Vinaccia. The TRI Open Individual league final featured four Newbridge riders in the top four places, with Flinter in pole position, ahead of Ross in second. Niamh Behan claimed third place with Leah Ross in fourth. Fifth place went to Emma Carton. The final sixth place was claimed by Jasmine Arthur. The winning league individual was presented with a HSI training bursary as well as prizes supplied by chief sponsor TRI.

The final competition in the International Arena saw Newbridge's luck continue. Six combinations made it through to the jump off and last to go Jack Ross, riding Pembroke Flight and representing

Newbridge threw caution to the wind to win the class. Runner up in the class and just one second behind was Ana Somers representing Maynooth. Borris rider Aoife Murphy was third ahead of Edel Whyte, Emma Steacy and Eimear Jackman. The Inaugural Champions Team competition, whereby riders in this competition were randomly assigned places on a team was judged on faults and time in the qualifying round and was claimed on the day by The Lions-Jack Ross, Zara Herbert, Emma Steacy, Michelle Hughes. The winning individual was presented with a HSI training bursary and the top three were presented with team Ireland rugs by Alyssa O'Neill of HSI.

Mullingar's other arenas were equally busy with the Novice and Primary team Championships being decided. Local school St Finian's were delighted to win the Novice competition. St Finians was represented by Teddy (Isabelle Tunney), Nimbus (Laura Karoleweska), Jessie (Rebecca Cole) My Rebel Spirit (Ciara Skerry). Scoil Mhuire Greenhill Carrick on Shannon was second with Kilkenny College in third ahead of Down High School, Salerno and St Mary's Edenderry. Scoil Paraig Clane are the 2018 primary School Champions. The school was represented by Monty's Pass (John Flood) Ballycurraghans Mr Oscar (James Dempsey) Trendy Scott (Cain O Connor) and Sunflower (Jamie Hartigan).

There was a full range of novice jumping from 90cm down to 50cm.

The trip from the north paid off for Lucy Morton riding Callan's Lady from Killcomaine Junior High School when she posted the fastest round to win the novice/primary 90cm class ahead of Polar Light and Laura Mc Kidd from St David's Holy Faith in second and Launa McCann from Valleymount NS riding Rathkenny Snapdragon in third.

The Primary 80cm class went to Weydown Sunflower and Jamie Hargaden from Newbridge Educate Together and the Novice 80cm was won by Mysterious Mandy ridden by Ava Lynch representing Scoil Mhuire Carrick on Suir. Willow ridden by Sophie O'Neill from Newbridge College claimed the novice/primary 70cm. There was great excitement in the 60 and 50cm primary classes with the riders being presented with red rosettes and medals.

Laurence Dunne of Jump in Action was on hand to photograph the whole event.