

# HORSE WEEK



A weekly round-up  
of equestrian sport

Compiled by:

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## IN BRIEF

### Dance for Ards Drag Hunt Club

ARDS Drag Hunt Club has enjoyed a great start to the season, with a large turnout each week.

The club is holding a dance in Scrabo Golf Club on Saturday, November 29, and everyone is more than welcome to come along and have a good night out - just pay £10 at the door.

### Connemara reminder

JUST a reminder that the AGM of the Northern Ireland Connemara Pony Breeders Association will be held at The Chestnut Lodge, Moira, this Thursday (November 20) at 8pm. There will be a cover charge for refreshments and a raffle in aid of funds.

Welfare will be on the agenda and organisers will also be encouraging a good turnout for the annual dinner. The tables are booked for a meal at Quinn's Corner, Dungannon, on December 19. More details available soon.

### Christmas sale for Carrowdore

CARROWDORE Saddlery is having a Christmas sale on Friday, November 28, and Saturday, November 29. All stock is being reduced (except feed and bedding). There will be 'Bargain Baskets' with 50 per cent off; as well as Christmas Novelties, including socks, hat and scarf sets, sticks and stocking fillers!

Carrowdore Saddlery is located at 31 Carrowdore Road, Greyabbey, BT22 2LU. Telephone 028 4278 8763 for further details.

### Northern Region to hold AGM

EVENTING Ireland Northern Region will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Beechlaw House Hotel, Dunmurry on Monday, December 8, at 8pm.

Following the reports and election of the committee, guest speaker Mr Damian McDonald, CEO of Horse Sport Ireland, will address the audience and present the awards.

At the conclusion of business, supper will be served. Everyone is welcome.



■ **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD:** The Eventing Ireland Northern Region Committee recognised the tremendous achievement of two Junior members, Poppy de Courcy-Wheeler and Valerie McMillan, in being selected as part of the Junior European Championship Silver medal winning squad. The girls were presented with their awards at the Northern Region Awards Ball on Saturday night. (FW47-559JK)

PICTURE: Joe Kirkpatrick

Report and more pics

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## O'Connor looks set for Autumn league crown

**T**HE final leg of the ShowjumpingIreland Autumn Grand Prix league takes place this Sunday at Kill International, with Cian O' Connor looking set to claim the league title.

The Kildare-born rider has taken this league by storm, having competed in four events and winning and being placed second in all four. He recorded wins at Cavan and Kernan's and, in the most recent leg on Sunday, had a second place at Portmore to cement his place at the top.

He now needs a sixth place or higher finish to ensure the league victory with closest

rivals Lucy Buchanan and Richie Moloney both needing to win to claim the title. However, with O' Connor's horse power this is going to be a difficult task for both riders. With 'Complete', 'Marko-

paulo' and 'Irish Independent Echo Beach' making up his string for the Kill event, O' Connor will surely be close at hand at the finish.

Northern rider Lucy Buchanan has been going well of late, having recorded a win at Killossery and taking third place on Sunday at Portmore. She will go with the ever-reliable 'Cavalier Andy' at Kill on Sunday and will be sure to go there all guns blazing in a bid to blitz Cian O' Connor's raid on this Autumn League. They were also in the money at Kernan's and will definitely be one to be feared.

Northern riders are also prominent in the Young Riders table with John Joseph Higgins joint leader of that league after his impressive win at Eglinton. However, he faces strong opposition with any one of nine riders in line for a crack at this title with points and a half on offer. Also in the reckoning are Daniel Coyle, Conor Drain, Robert Frazer, Kirsty Chambers, Jordan Coyle, and Frank Curran.

These are all young riders who have already attained high places throughout the league and will be gunning to make to most of a lucrative young riders prize.

If O'Connor were not to record another victory, one of the most likely challengers will be from Conor Swail and his most likely mount 'Nepomuk'.

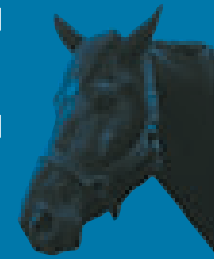
This pair have done well since both returned from injury in July and have attained some high places throughout their autumn campaign.

Having had a great season by winning the Premier Series title, Swail will be anxious to put himself back onto the leader board of this league.

This looks set to be a memorable finale to the league and will give all spectators a wonderful finish to the season. With a lot to play for, there will be a host of riders in line to grab the title.

However, it will be quite difficult to dismantle Cian O' Connor at the top of the table.

## HORSE SCENE



It is always advisable to ring the venue before setting off, to ensure the event is taking place

### equestrian events

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20** - Show jumping league at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. National Registered Irish Draught Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. Christmas Pony League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm. Show Jumping at Lusk Equestrian, Carryduff - schooling from 2-6pm; show from 6.30pm, all classes.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21** - Autumn/Winter Horse and Pony League at Ravensdale Lodge, 6pm sharp. Show Jumping League at Connell Hill Stud Equestrian Centre, 6.30pm. Autumn Show Jumping League Final at Ballyskeagh Stables, Artigarvan, Strabane, 6.30pm sharp. Indoor League at Moy Riding School Ltd, ponies 6.30pm, horses 8pm. Young Stock Sport Horse Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. Seven-week Training League for horses and ponies at CTG Equestrian, Ecclesville Centre, Fintona, 6.30pm. Autumn Pony Show Jumping League Final at Portmore International Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 7.30pm. Pony jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. East Antrim Pony Club Dengie show jumping qualifier at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. Evening jumping competitions at Lessans Riding Stables, Saintfield, 6pm. S.J.A.I Pony jumping at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 6pm.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22** - East Antrim Hounds Autumn Point-To-Point at Loughanmore, Dunadry, First Race 11.30am. Baileys Inter schools team show jumping league at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. East Down Hunt Night at the Races in Dundrum Inn, 9pm. Winter show jumping league at Castle Leslie Equestrian Centre, 5pm. Three-year-old loose jumping for fillies grand final at Moneydig Showjumping Centre, Kilrea, 1pm. Registered Horse League (including Ulster Region High Performance Training Finals) at Kernan Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen. Fermanagh Harriers Pony Club winter show jumping league at Nearn Castle Equestrian Centre, Irvinestown, 10.30am. SJI Pony Jumping at Portmore International Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 10am. Jump Cross Competition at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor, 10.30am. S.J.A.I Horse jumping at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 10am. Christmas League at Templemore Equestrian Centre, Derry City, 10am sharp.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23** - Indoor Jumping Derby at Tullymurry Equestrian Centre, Clough, Downpatrick. Dressage League at Connell Hill Stud Equestrian Centre - tests for beginners through to Novice. Registered Pony League (including Ulster Region High Performance Training Finals) at Kernan Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen. Annual Winter Horse and Pony Show Jumping League at Lime Park Equestrian

Centre, Maghaberry, ponies 10.30am, horses 2.30pm approx. Citroen Show jumping Challenge at Eglinton Equestrian Centre - Ponies 11am; Horses 3pm. SJI Horse Jumping at Portmore International Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 10am. Christmas Pony League at Danescroft Equestrian Centre, Lisburn, 10am sharp. Show jumping league at Cloncau Equestrian, Glaslough. Warrenpoint and District Riding Club Winter League at Millers Hill, Markethill, 11am. North Down Pony Club Dengie Winter series Dressage Qualifier at Lessans Riding School, Saintfield, 2.30pm. Riders Working Hunter League at Lusk Equestrian, Carryduff, 11am. Greenacres Christmas Show Jumping League at Convoys, Co. Donegal, 1.30pm.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24** - Novice Horse jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25** - HBHBS Three-Year-Old Loose Jumping Qualifier at Mossvale Riding Centre, Dromara. Registered Connemara Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. Show jumping league at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor, 7pm. Autumn Horse Show Jumping League Final at Portmore International Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 7.30pm.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26** - Show jumping at Laurel View Equestrian Centre, Templepatrick - SJA.I Show, 11am; Evening training classes 60cm-1m, 6.00pm. East Down Pony Club Dengie Show Jumping Qualifier at Mossvale, Dromara, 7pm (juniors followed by seniors). International Performance Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. Training show at Eglinton Equestrian Centre, 7pm. Christmas Horse League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27** - Show jumping league at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. International Performance Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. Christmas Pony League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm. Show Jumping at Lusk Equestrian, Carryduff - schooling from 2-6pm; show from 6.30pm, all classes.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28** - Autumn/Winter Horse and Pony League at Ravensdale Lodge, 6pm sharp. Show Jumping League at Connell Hill Stud Equestrian Centre, 6.30pm. Indoor League at Moy Riding School Ltd, ponies 6.30pm, horses 8pm. Seven-week Training League for horses and ponies at CTG Equestrian, Ecclesville Centre, Fintona, 6.30pm. SJI Ulster Region Awards Dinner dance at Halls Mill Inn, Laurencetown (between Banbridge and Portadown). Pony jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. Evening jumping competitions at Lessans Riding Stables, Saintfield, 6pm. S.J.A.I Pony jumping at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 6pm.

To include items in Horse Scene contact:

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