

HORSE WEEK



A weekly round-up
of equestrian sport

Compiled by:

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HORSE SCENE



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

equestrian events

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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - North Down Point-to-point at Kirkistown. IPS Winter League Training Show at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 10am. East Down Pony Club Dengie Dressage Qualifier at Tullymurry, Clough, Downpatrick, 6pm - pre-entry. Registered Horse League (including Qualifiers for the Horse Sport Ireland Winter Tour) at Kernan Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen. Fermanagh Harriers Pony Club winter show jumping league at Necarne Castle Equestrian Centre, Irvinestown, 10.30am. SJI Pony Jumping at Portmore International Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 10am. East Antrim Hounds Autumn Dinner Dance in Ballyclare Golf Club. Ards Drag Hunt Club Dance at Scrabo Golf Club, Newtownards. North Down Pony Club Dengie Winter series Show jumping Qualifier at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor, 3pm. S.J.A.I Horse jumping at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 10am. Christmas League at Templemore Equestrian Centre, Derry City, 10am sharp. Muihill Riding Club Interclub Team Show Jumping at Lusk Equestrian Centre, Lisburn, 12 noon sharp. Welfare presentation at Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary, 7pm. Go As You Please at Tullymurry Equestrian Centre, Clough, Downpatrick, 10am - dark.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - Working Hunter League for Horses and Ponies at Laurel View Equestrian Centre, Templepatrick. Registered Pony League (including Qualifiers for the Horse Sport Ireland Winter Tour) at Kernan Equestrian Cen-

tre, Crossmaglen. Annual Winter Horse and Pony Show Jumping League Final at Lime Park Equestrian Centre, Magherry, 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 final at Cloncau Equestrian, Glaslough. Warrenpoint and District Riding Club Winter League at Millers Hill, Markethill, 11am. Dressage For All at Mill Yard Equestrian Centre, Anahilt, Hillsborough. Indoor Derby at Connell Hill Equestrian Centre, Randalstown, 10am - 60cm to 1m. An introduction to Natural Horsemanship - a hands-on clinic with Laura Domenica at In Touch Equestrian, Richhill. Greenacres Christmas Show Jumping League at Convo, Co. Donegal, 1.30pm. Go As You Please at Tullymurry Equestrian Centre, Clough, Downpatrick, 10am - dark.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 - Novice Horse jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. IDHS [NI] AGM at The Chestnut Lodge, Moira, 8pm.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 - SJI Ulster Region AGM at Dungannon Rugby Club, Moy Road, Dungannon, 8pm. Indoor Jumping at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor, 7pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 - Show jumping at Laurel View Equestrian Centre, Templepatrick - SJA Show, 11am; Evening training classes 60cm-1m, 6.00pm. Training show at Eglinton Equestrian Centre, 7pm. Christmas Horse League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 - Christmas Pony League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm. Show jumping league at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. Show Jumping at Lusk Equestrian, Carryduff - schooling from 2-6pm; show from 6.30pm, all classes.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - 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. Pony jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. Evening jumping competitions at Lessans Riding Stables, Saintfield, 6pm. East Down Hunt Quiz Night in the Ramble Inn, Downpatrick, 8pm - everyone welcome.

To include items in Horse Scene contact:

Bree Rutledge, Horse Week, Farm Week, 113-117 Donegal Street, Belfast, BT1 2GE. Tel: 028 9033 4493, Fax: 028 9033 4481, e-mail: horseweek@farmweek.com
This is a free service.

IN BRIEF

Pony missing: Markethill area

A pony has been missing from the Markethill area since Friday, November 7 - believed to have been taken between 10pm on Thursday, November 6 and 6am the following morning.

The pony is a chestnut coloured female Welsh Cob, approx. 12-13hh, with three white socks and markings on three of her legs. Please help to trace this much-loved family pet. If you have any further information on her whereabouts, please contact: 07724 488012.

A reward is being offered for her safe return.

AGM for SJA

THE AGM for the Ulster Region SJA will be held on Tuesday, December 2 at 8pm in Dungannon Rugby Club. Everyone is welcome.

Quiz for East Down

EAST Down Hunt are holding a Quiz Night on Friday, December 5 in the Ramble Inn, Downpatrick from 8pm. Everyone is welcome. Light Supper will be served.

For further details visit www.eastdownhunt.co.uk or Tel: 07803 832501.

North Down Dengie reminder

REMINDER to all those show jumping pony club hopefuls: the place to be if want to try to qualify for the Dengie show jumping final is Gransha Equestrian Centre. North Down Pony Club are holding the first of their qualifiers this Saturday, November 29. The first class of the day the Junior Dengie starts at 3pm, followed by the main Dengie. This will be a fun afternoon with an interesting course to test the skills of the riders and their animals.

All roads lead to Kernan's...

KERNAN Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen is hosting a qualifier for the Horse Sport Ireland Winter Tour this weekend, with horses on Saturday, November 29 and ponies on Sunday, November 30. The classes will be incorporated into the centre's usual league classes - except for the Amateur A/AA class, which will take place before the metre class on Sunday. There is a total of €4,000 prize money over the two days - with €700 up for grabs in each of the Amateur (in kind), 1m, 1.10m and 1.20m horse classes and €400 on offer in each of the CD pony classes.



■ **RODNEY RECEIVES MBE:** Top Ulster hotelier, Rodney Watson, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list was at Buckingham Palace last weekend with his wife, Leigh to collect the honour. Pictured at Mount Top Stud, County Antrim with Kevin Ross and Eyssen Ross and 'Killy Fryer', the owner of the Killyhevin Hotel in County Fermanagh nominated the Irish Horse Welfare Trust based in County Wicklow as a charity he intends to support in the coming year. (FW48-548NN)

PICTURE: Brian Morrison Photography

Ballygraffan International Horse Trials 2009 cancelled

BALLYGRAFFAN International Horse Trials has been cancelled for 2009. It is with great regret that the Burgess family, hosts of the event, have to announce that the competition will not take place in 2009, due to insufficient financial support and unfortunate damage to the land.

"We have tried everything we can to close the significant shortfall in funding for the event, but are unable to do so within the current timescale. Also, with the unexpected damage which has occurred to the fields, we are left with no choice but to cancel the event for 2009. We will not run an event below the standard of previous years," said June Burgess, Event Host.

In these times of considerable financial constraint, it has been necessary to re-evaluate the investment in this non-profit making event and, even with the substantial support of Ards Borough Council, who came on board for the 2008 event as a premium sponsor; the shortfall on staging this high quality International event is still too significant to carry.

In addition, unapproved work, recently undertaken on the fields at Ballygraffan has left them unfit for the event within the timescale for preparation. This has seriously quashed the considerable efforts to overcome the financial issues, and left the hosts with no choice but to cancel for 2009.

"We want to thank all our sponsors, market village traders, visitors, the Organising Committee, and of course the participants, for

the fantastic support they have given to the event as it has moved from strength to strength over the last five years. But this is not the end of Ballygraffan; we hope it will be possible to reform for 2010, if we can deal with the outstanding issues," commented Jim Burgess, Event President and Host.

This is certainly not the end of Ballygraffan International Horse Trials, event hosts Jim and June Burgess are committed to doing everything possible to bring the event back in 2010. To stay updated with news on the event, please check out the website: www.ballygraffan.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT HORSE TRIALS WITH EVENTING IRELAND

ARE you interested in Horse Trials? Perhaps you want to find out more about what is needed to compete? Would you like to ask officials what role they cover at events? Come along and learn more about this ultimate test of horse and rider - ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Eventing Ireland Northern Region's Training Committee has organised an information evening aimed at all Pony, Junior and Young Riders, and their parents - but this will also be of interest to anyone interested in or even competing at One-Day Events. The evening will deal with various topics, including making sure your horse's level of fitness is appropriate to compete at this level; identifying what your own fitness levels are and what safety issues are presented through poor preparation of horse and rider.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Eric Smiley FBHS, will explain and discuss how the preparation of YOUR horse and YOU affects the outcome of competition at Horse Trial and helps keep both safe.

There is a great need for true understanding of the horse - the only way to know your horse is to spend time studying them as a species and spending time with them as individuals. Looking and learning how they behave and how we as humans are accepted and can interact with them. The trend to impose a system of magical levers, ropes and mouthpieces on the horse that gets strong in the cross-country has a detrimental and dangerous effect. The effect of having these bits very soon becomes the cause of knocking poles and more serious cross-country incidents.

Hugh Suffern MRCVS will discuss the veterinarian care of event horses both pre- and post-event. Hugh is a well-known FEI vet, breeder and rider. His extensive knowledge of caring for horses across many equestrian disciplines, along with all types of care from foaling to competition offers a great opportunity for all to learn more from him.

These experienced speakers will explain various aspects of the sport and hopefully everyone may learn more about the sport, and safety measures engaged by event organisers to ensure competitors have fun as safely possible.

■ This information evening is being held at the Meadows Equestrian Centre, Lurgan, Craigavon on Wednesday, December 10 at 7.30pm. Light refreshments will be provided. For directions or more information contact NR office on 028 9146 3246.

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