

HORSE WEEK



A weekly round-up of equestrian sport

Compiled by:
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IN BRIEF

Lusk's set for Working Hunter

THE next round of the Riders Working Hunter League is being held at Lusk Equestrian Centre, Carr, Lisburn this Saturday, November 28 starting at 10am. All usual horse classes. For further details, please contact 07831 661428.

Reminder

EAST Antrim Pony Club is holding their first Dengie show jumping qualifier on Saturday, November 28 at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland. Starting at 2.30pm with warm up, this will be followed by Junior Dengie, Dengie and Open. Non-members can compete, but must join to compete at the final. All welcome. Enquiries to 028 9443 2904.

Meadows' schools announcement

FOLLOWING on from the success of the first ever Meadows Equestrian Centre (MEC) Inter-Schools competition in November, the MEC is hosting its second competition on Saturday, December 5. Entries close for all schools on Monday, November 30, so please hurry to get forms sent off to the MEC asap! For all enquiries regarding this event, please call 07711 815267 or email aaron@themedowsequesriancentre.com

Please note

THE Beeches Riding Club would like to point out that, despite rumours, they do have insurance to run events.

SIES update

FOLLOWING the announcement that the Studbook for Irish and European Sport Horses (SIES) is up and running, they wish to confirm that in the interim that all passports will be issued through their mother studbook the AES. This means that all horses registered will be eligible to compete in World Federation of Sport Horse Breeders WFSHB organised events, including Lanaken. There has been considerable interest from Irish breeders and the SIES looks forward to meeting current and future needs of Sport Horse Breeders in Ireland.

Place your bid

EVENTING Ireland Northern Region is holding their annual ball this Saturday at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast and, as usual, they will be holding an auction on the night, with proceeds going towards Northern Region funds. This year, organisers would like to invite people to make their bids by email for the auction items listed on the website: www.eventingireland.com If you are unable to be present at the ball, you may email your offers (and a contact number) to eventingireland@btconnect.com before 6pm on Friday, November 27.



■ Hanna Patterson and 'Crindle Bella' go double clear for Limavady Grammar School in the novice team competition at the Ulster Schools Championships at Knockagh View. (FW47-574JK)

PICTURE: Joe Kirkpatrick

Report, results and more pics

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Attention all Santas - Saintfield Charity Ride is approaching

SAINTFIELD Christmas Charity Ride on Saturday, December 5 is just around the corner and great excitement is building by the day.

Organiser Joan Cunningham is all prepared for the arrival of the Mwamba Children's Choir to Saintfield that morning.

The day begins with riders and friends arriving at 50 Lisburn Road, Saintfield for a reception of mulled wine and mince pies at 12 noon. The ride, which leaves the yard at 12.45pm, is strictly a hack suitable for all riders.

Everyone is being encouraged to dress as Santa and there will be exciting prizes for all age groups for the best turned out Santas. There will also be prizes for those who have made the effort to get themselves sponsored and again there will be prizes for all age categories.

The judges' names are being kept under wraps at this stage to avoid any bribery!

One of the most exciting things about this year's event is that the children, who have made the journey from Kampala in Uganda, will be on board George Fawcett's horse-drawn carriages, pulled by his magnificent black Freisian horses and will be accompanied by the "real" Santa.

They are scheduled to come up the Main Street in Saintfield at approximately 2.15pm and what a spectacular sight this will be.

It is hoped that the children along with Santa Claus will alight from the carriages at the Christmas tree to meet and greet the locals, who no doubt will come out to join in the festive fun and, hopefully, Santa will have some surprises in his sack!

The ride will then make its way back to the yard at Lisburn



■ LEFT: Launching the 2009 Saintfield Christmas Charity Ride are organiser, Joan Cunningham (centre), Alastair McIlveen (left) of North Down Marquees; Neil Gordon, Senior Partner, Gordons Chemists and Hafusa and Garby, two members of the Mwamba Children's Choir from Uganda, which will benefit from the ride. (FW47-530JG)

Road, where lunch will be served in a huge marquee, very generously sponsored by North Down Marquees. Alastair McIlveen of North Down Marquees this week said: "We are really delighted to partner Joan Cunningham and Gordons Chemists in supporting this wonderful event at Saintfield and contribute towards a very worthwhile charity. Joan has worked extremely hard for this charity over the past few years and it is such an exciting event, especially with the Mwamba Choir being in Saintfield this year. I am looking forward to it immensely."

Joan is ecstatic to have the support of two such prestigious companies as North Down Marquees and Gordons Chemists and is extremely grateful for their kindness and generosity.

This week Neil Gordon, Senior Partner of Gordons Chemists, said: "We are delighted to be associated with such a worthwhile cause. The work of Rock Ministries is inspirational and we are sure that the people of Saintfield will help ensure that the children have an enjoyable stay."

During the lunch, everyone will be entertained by the magnificent singing and dancing of the Mwamba Choir. Most of these children, who are all orphans, have either lost their parents through AIDS or have been murdered and are being cared for in an orphanage in Kampala, funded by Rock Ministries.

Last year, Joan organised a very successful ride when around 100 Santas on horseback took part, which raised money to build a bore hole in their village to provide fresh water.

The ride and lunch will be £20 for adults and £10 for children.

For a donation of \$5, non-riders are very welcome to come along and enjoy lunch and join in the festivities and meet Santa Claus, so don't forget to have your lists ready!

Any riders interested in getting themselves sponsored, can either obtain sponsorship forms by downloading from the website www.saintfieldchristmascharityride.webs.com or anyone having difficulty obtaining a form, should contact Joan on 028 9751 9030 or mobile 07775 860744.

HORSE SCENE

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

equestrian events

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - Registered Connemara Sale at Cavan Horse Marketing Centre. 9-week Registered Indoor Horse League (80cm to 1.30m) at Ravensdale Lodge, 11am. Pony Loose Jumping League final at Connell Hill, Randalstown, 7.30pm. Christmas league for horses and ponies at Mackenzie's Equestrian Centre, Randalstown, 6.30pm. Show jumping league at Lusk Equestrian, Lisburn / Carryduff, 7pm (schooling as usual 2pm-6pm). Show Jumping (70cm - 1.10m) at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. Newcastle and District Riding Club AGM in Newcastle Centre at 7.30pm sharp, open to members and non-members.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 - 12-week Indoor Horse and Pony Training Show (70cm to 1.20m) at Ravensdale Lodge, 6pm. Indoor Winter Show jumping League at Moy Riding School Ltd, 6.30pm. Training Show (30cm - 90cm) at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm. Christmas Pony League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7.30pm. North Antrim Riding Club show jumping league at RDA Arena, Coleraine. Christmas Show Jumping League (50cm - 1.10m) at Connell Hill, Randalstown, 6.30pm sharp. Beginners pony jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. Ecclesville Centre Show jumping League at Fintona, 6pm sharp. North Derry Pony Club Dengie Show Jumping Qualifier at Eglinton Equestrian Centre, 6.30pm.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 - Killultagh, Old Rock and Chichester point-to-point - CANCELLED.. North Down Hunt point-to-point at Kirkistown (re-scheduled from Nov 21), first race 11.30am. Winter Horse League at Kernan Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen. Riders Working Hunter League at Lusk Equestrian Centre, Carr, Lisburn, 10am. County Down Hounds Drag Hunt at Millbrook, 12.30pm. N.I. Festival Pony Working Hunter Qualifying Show at Connell Hill Equestrian Centre, Randalstown, 10am. HBHBS Three-Year-Old Loose Jumping Final at Danescroft, Lisburn, 1pm. Baileys Inter schools team league second round at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara. Pony jumping training show at Portmore Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 7.30pm. Fermanagh Harriers Branch of the Pony Club Winter League at Thornton's Indoor Arena, Florencecourt - open to everyone. Horse and Pony Winter League at Cavan Equestrian Centre. Winter Fun Day at Windyridge Farm Stables, Banbridge, 11am. East Antrim Pony Club Dengie show jumping qualifier at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 2.30pm.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - Winter Pony League at Kernan Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen. Annual Winter Horse and Pony Show Jumping League Final at

Lime Park Equestrian Centre, Maghaberry - ponies 10.30am, horses 2.30pm approx. Jump Cross at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor. Winter Dressage League at Laurel View, Templepatrick - pre-enter by Nov 25. Citroen show jumping challenge at Eglinton Equestrian Centre, 10am. Registered show jumping at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook - horses 10am, ponies 1.30pm. Working Hunter (55cm, 70cm, 85cm) at Mill Yard Equestrian Centre, Anahilt, Hillsborough, 11am. Gymkhana Fun Day at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 11am. Horse and pony show jumping training show at Portmore Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 10.30am.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - Warrenpoint and District Riding Club Winter League at Millbrook Equestrian Centre, Bessbrook, 7pm. Novice jumping at Mossvale Equestrian Centre, Dromara.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 - Indoor jumping at Gransha Equestrian Centre, Bangor. Horse jumping training show at Portmore Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 7.30pm. Christmas Dressage League at Connell Hill, Randalstown - pre-ent. Armagh Riding Club AGM at the Charlemont Arms Hotel, 8.30pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 - Show Jumping Training (30cm-1m) at Laurel View, Templepatrick, 6pm. Mini / maxi show jumping at Eglinton Equestrian Centre, 7pm. Horse and Pony sale at Portmore Equestrian Centre, Aghalee, 6.30pm - entries on the night. 'How to improve your dressage score' Demonstration by Alison Mastin-Moore at Necarne Indoor Arena, Irvinestown, 7pm - open to all.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 - Christmas league for horses and ponies at Mackenzie's Equestrian Centre, Randalstown, 6.30pm. East Down Pony Club Dengie Show Jumping Qualifier (juniors then seniors) at Mossvale, Dromara, 7pm. Show jumping league at Lusk Equestrian, Lisburn / Carryduff, 7pm (schooling as usual 2pm-6pm). Show Jumping (70cm - 1.10m) at Knockagh View Equestrian Centre, Greenisland, 6.30pm.

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To include items in Horse Scene contact:

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