

Ballinamona attracts 300 entries



■ Sally Parkyn

IN terms of event venues, Eventing Ireland's Munster region now has an embarrassment of riches and in Ballinamona, they have a fixture that would compare favourably against the best on either side of the Irish Sea. The venue's old parkland turf and rolling acres lend themselves ideally to the sport, as do the all weather jumping arenas and other adjacent facilities.

Hard ground has been the bane of event organisers in recent weeks and, like many others, David Bogossian took the precaution of aggravating the entire track prior to competition. This, together with some very welcome spells of rain, ultimately produced underfoot conditions that were probably the best seen all year.

Unsurprisingly, this increasingly popular fixture, the first of two annually, attracted in excess of 300 entries across the 18 classes, 68 of which were in the two-star classes alone. The logistics of this led to a marathon show jumping phase for the feature classes but, despite that, the entire event was completed just after seven o'clock.

Of course the Bogossian family was not alone in contributing to the day's success.

"I can't emphasise enough that however much we do ourselves, today would not be possible without all of our volunteers," stated David. "We owe them all a huge thank you, and also to the riders who have supported us in a very tight schedule. I hope that they all went home feeling that their young horses have been educated, and the more experienced ones prepared for the internationals ahead."

SUPER LEAGUE

FRASER DUFFY has been no stranger to the winner's enclosure in the past few weeks



Fraser Duffy and Fernhill Revelation won the Connolly's Red Mills Super League A/CNC** at Ballinamona

but he was especially pleased to ride his Rio-listed **Fernhill Revelation** into pole position in the feature class, the Connolly's Red Mills Super League A/CNC**.

As one of just two horses (the other was Harold Megahy's Chuckelberry) to post a sub-30 dressage mark (24.2), Fernhill Revelation added just four show jumping penalties to a fast cross-country clear, and ultimately enjoyed a winning margin of a healthy seven marks.

"I felt that I have really nailed the dressage, which I am particularly delighted with," commented Duffy. "As the going was perfect, I was able to let him run across the country at his own pace – we're lucky to have such a beautiful venue."

Duffy also made reference

to the recently increased training fund, which has been made available to the event squad via an anonymous donor, as revealed in *The Irish Field* two weeks ago.

"It's a great bonus," he added. "It makes you more relaxed about training, and helps you make a real plan and work on things."

TESTING

Noel Phelan's show jumping track was a testing one, and lowering the same fence as Duffy, Becca Dunlea and Cashelane Captain slipped from second to third (37.5), reversing placings with Steven Smith and Bonito, who creditably emerged as the sole pairing to maintain an entirely clean sheet on 35.2.

The galloping cross-country track flowed well for these

experienced campaigners, and although the time proved influential in the lower orders, all returned home without mishap.

It was the show jumping that turned out to be the deciding factor in a hotly contested CNC** headed by Camilla Speirs riding Sally Corscadden's two-star first timer **Goldman**. Landing the first leg of a notable Ballinamona hat-trick, Speirs challenged from an initial second place (24.1), overtaking Clare Abbott and Glenkeeran River (19.2) in the final stages.

The latter, who lowered two rails, slipped to second, from Kirsty Connell and the improving seven-year-old Kapoairua (28.2).

"He is just a machine across country, and his test is so consistent and balanced,"

said Speirs of the thoroughbred son of Gold Well. "He's not dissimilar to Jiff [Porter-size Just A Jiff] in that I rarely need to set him up and is so quick thinking. The ground was stunning, and for me this is probably the nicest event around."

Although the top three placings fell to seven-year-olds, both jumping tests threw up plenty of questions, and the time allowed was hard to attain. Cricket scores were regularly recorded over a technical but fair show jumping track, while the cross-country accounted for five non completions.

The imposing and beautifully built step (4) to sunken road complex (5abc) accounted for two falls, including Karen McGrath, who took a painful tumble when Helluvaguy misjudged the step, and Gemma Parkhill riding Summerhill Echo. Steven Smith also walked home from here with Bellany Express.

CNCJ**

With underage team selections just around the corner, Ballinamona staged a well filled CNCJ** trial carrying a field of 17. With only one show jumping clear, the phase proved highly influential, but it was a winning dressage mark of 27.5 that sealed victory for Robbie Kearns and Garrybritt Bonny.

Landing their sixth win of the current campaign, the duo added just four penalties to their opening score, heading Conor Maguire (Derron Wood) by a distance. Adam Haugh, who held the distinction of recording the only clear round, took third with Master Gold Touch, and also fourth aboard Jantar.

"I couldn't have asked for a better venue," elected junior team manager Debbie Byrne. "The cross-country was beautifully presented and asked a nice mix of questions, while the show jumping contained three technical lines and was up the height. Although they won't have to jump that height at the championships, the course there will be as technical, and I felt this was a good test before Camphire."

ROUND-UP

Back-to-back wins for Bloomer

Rounding up an exceptionally busy day, Louise Bloomer scored back to back O/CNC* wins with Jinnie Webb's **Canvamiro**. Victorious at Rosanna seven days earlier, the pair rose through the ranks by recording one of only two double clears, and headed Laura Kelly (To A T) and Emma Jackson with the stallion Crevagh For Sure.

Another racking up multiple successes was Alison Holden, who landed the CNC* with **Buccaneer Bay**. The former show horse led the 35 runners from the front, to hold off Edie Murray Hayden, who recorded the only double clear with Caesars Gold (34.5), and Kim O'Gorman (The Tooth Fairy). In the underage divisions, Isabella Purcell posted her first EI win with CNCJ* victor **Daytona Du Rouet**, while adding to a great day for Sally and Brendan Corscadden's Grange Farm, the Hammarstrom sisters filled the top two placings in the CNCP**.

In a closely contested class, Klara maintained her early advantage with **Creemully Melody**, from Selma aboard Three Wells Breeze. Both combinations are bound for the European championships in Malmo, where they will represent Sweden on home turf.

Local rider Kate Lenihan is proving the one to beat in the region's EI 100P and EI 90P classes, and this week she landed a double, with **Sheebas Boy** taking the former from the front, and **Tyson** the latter in a similar fashion.

Completing the celebrations in the Corscadden household, 16-year-old Alexander headed the EI 100J riding Rhona Healey's five time winning racehorse **Night Busker**, from stablemate Gortglas Eclipse and Klara Hammarstrom.

Sam Watson produced yet another of Stephen Lanigan O'Keeffe's homebred sons of Puisseance (**All Heart**) to win the EI100, while fellow professional Paul Donovan picked up a nice Kilgulleigh House EI 90 win with the five-year-old Sportsfield Inspector.

ISH EVENTING SERIES

Studbook success for Camilla Speirs and Loughnavatta Cedar

■ Sally Parkyn

BALLINAMONA also staged the second leg of the popular Irish Sport Horse Studbook series, together with the opening one for four-year-olds.

Racking up her second victory of the day, Camilla Speirs headed a very strong six-year-old division with Rory Costigan's CNC* debutante **Loughnavatta Cedar** by Luidam.

The homebred six-year-old, who is the second foal out of the ISH mare Ballydoolagh Aime Sunrise (Aldato) added

just one show jumping time fault to a competitive dressage mark (36.3).

Had she not missed out a fence with her own BT Bentley, Speirs would have clocked up a smart one-two, but her mishap opened the door for second-placed Angela Dennehy and Kilroe Free And Easy (37.5), as well as Emma Jackson with Cushlas Skyimp (37.8).

"He came to me just before Badminton this spring," said Speirs of the winner. "Rory's nephew Matthew had done

some show jumping with him, and he's taken to the eventing like a duck to water."

Another to stand out was the aptly-named OBOS Impressive (Paul Donovan) who, having led the dressage, added a costly 2.4 time penalties to complete in fourth place.

FLATWORK SCORE

Following their runner-up placing at Grove the previous week, Camilla Speirs and **LEB Lias Jewell** went one better to land the five-year-old sector on their flatwork score

of 20.0.

Owned and bred by Jo Breheny, the winning mare is by Limerick, and is the first foal out of LEB Liath (Colin Diamond) who is a half-sister to Mary King's Olympic event horse Imperial Cavalier. It was a poignant victory for connections, as Speirs was a good friend of the late Laura Breheny and had been a contemporary in the junior ranks.

"Jo really wanted the mare to come to me," explained Speirs. "We started in the

Stepping Stones series this spring, and she has come on so much again from there."

Mary Kehoe was on course to complete a good week with her Tattersalls YES winner One Plan but after recording a stunning dressage mark of 17.5, the pair collected an additional 8.8 time penalties, which demoted them to fourth behind Brianna Stanley (Business Class) and Fraser Duffy with Fernhill Exchange.

In the final section, and the first of the year for the four-year-olds, the honours fell to

David Maher riding William Kirwan's homebred **Barnadarrig Boy**. Making only his second appearance under rules, the well-related gelding led from flag fall (30.0) to narrowly head Daisy Duggan and Willows Peeping Pocket (30.5) and Ian Hannon aboard Barnahown Corn Hill. The winner was placed second on his event debut at Kedrah three weeks earlier, and is by Shannondale Sarco out of the owner's grade A show jumping partner Mark Clover (Mark Twain).

KILLOSSERY (4) ODE

Official season concludes at Killossery

IT was good to see Ciaran Glynn back riding competitively at Ballinamona on Sunday, a day after he and parents Frank and Laura held the fourth and final Eventing Ireland one-day of the season at Killossery Lodge Stud.

"I don't think we would do that again as it was just too many events in such a short space of time," said Glynn on Monday as he reflected on the series which began on May 23rd. "Saturday was a substitution for Collistown and, as you could see by the entry, there were plenty of people who wanted an outing.

"Overall, as far as we are concerned, and we'd hope riders would agree, the four days went well. As they progressed,

I feel we became more efficient, addressing problems as they arose. In the immediate future, I don't see us upgrading as we can attract plenty of horses at one-star level and below.

"Our pre-Tatts international fixture is very popular as it allows riders get out their younger horses and horses not qualified for the international before they have an easy few days as riders head to Tatts. Also, to be honest, it would be a short two-star and who needs that?"

"We held our first Irish Pony Club eventing qualifier here a couple of weeks ago and that went extremely well. It was organised by Area 7, who had lots of volunteers on

site early to help and it ran off very efficiently. It had an entry of nearly 200 which was great to see and augurs well for the future."

The numbers were disappointing at last Sunday's riding club event at the north Co Dublin equestrian centre where, on Thursday, a five-leg series of mini one-day events commenced.

"I enjoy holding these," commented Glynn. "They are really for younger, less experienced horses but riders can also use them to bring out an older horse for an easy day and these runs don't appear on their record. There is no time allowed on the cross-country and riders can just potter about."



Ciaran Glynn

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THE Nigrasine gelding Nigra Flight made his third Eventing Ireland appearance on Saturday and his third at Killossery Lodge Stud where each time his performance has improved. He finished fourth on this occasion under Emma Jackson.

The brown five-year-old had narrowly failed to qualify for the young event horse class at Dublin the previous Thursday when problems in the Derby arena during the Young Event-horse Series (YES) qualifier at Tattersalls neutralised his good marks in the ridden display and those for suitability and potential.

Nigra Flight was bred by Desmond Noctor of the Tara Hill Stud in Co Wexford out of the Big Sink Hope mare Enniskeane Flight. He is a half-brother to Timpany Flight Hero (by Cult Hero), who successfully competed here at novice level with Richard Irwin. In further removes, this family features names such as Kildalton Cooley, who is eventing at international two-star level in the United States, and the three-star show jumping mare Victoria Rose.

A grey double for Gilford's Smith

THERE was great support from the Northern Region of Eventing Ireland for Saturday's one-day event at Killossery Lodge Stud where Steven Smith recorded a double on Anvil Lodge Pinnocchio and EMS Florence.

Previously campaigned by breeder Claire Byrne, Trevor Smith's Anvil Lodge Pinnocchio has recorded six double clears from seven outings at one-star level since moving north last summer and, on all but two occasions, the grey has come home inside the time across the country.

The eight-year-old Grange Bouncer gelding was only lying sixth following Yvonne Monahan's judging of the dressage phase in Saturday's 20-runner CNC* class but completed on his flatwork score of 33.5 to post his first EI success.

A costly 1.6 time penalties on the final leg denied Florence Campbell victory on the 14-year-old Master Imp gelding Imperial Master as they completed on 33.6.

Riding the six-year-old Beach Ball mare Beltrim Sweet Clover, Trevor Smith also picked up 1.6 for time over the fixed fences and he had to settle for third place on 34.6.

The dressage leaders on 28 penalties, Joanne Jarden and her home-bred eight-year-old mare MJI Wendy, lost their hold on the top spot with a pole down show jumping and slipped to fourth with the addition of 7.2 time penalties in the final phase.

The home-based combination of Symone Brown and Rozel Cool Touch were just one penalty point off the lead following dressage but picked up time penalties on both jumping phases to drop from joint second to seventh

(42.6). Local rider Stephen McAvinchey, who was also on 29 after dressage with Scatterty Katie, dropped all the way to 15th, his total of 77.6 being comprised mainly of time penalties.

There were two eliminations across the country, Sandra Cusack and Shannondale Ditto getting the big E for three refusals at fence nine, the birch oser, while Matthew Johnston was eliminated for cumulative refusals with Derryniver Ye Wee Boy.

Gilford-based Smith brought up his double in the EI100 class on Diane Harron-Eakin's EI newcomer EMS Florence who he qualified at Ravensdale Lodge for the five-year-old young event horse class at the RDS next month.

The grey mare, who is by Loch Cruise and was bred in Co Donegal by Willie McIlhenny out of his Horace mare Kilshane Mansha, completed on her dressage score of 26.5 while the Emma Jackson-partnered Ardglan Diva Dancer, another mare, also finished on her first phase score of 29.5.

With his eyes firmly set on this weekend's National Championships in Ballindenis, Ian Cassells withdrew the dressage winner Silver Ridge (23) after his clear show jumping round.

REAL CRACKER

As Steven Smith was rushing off to Ballinamona, brother Trevor explained that as Anvil Lodge Pinnocchio is their own, he only gets out when there's room on the lorry for him to compete. "He's a real cracker though and may go to Camphire. The mare (EMS Florence) heads to Dublin."

Only two started in the open/novice class where Isabelle Crosse riding Turfmas-

ter completed on her winning dressage score of 35.5. The Wicklow native and her 2002 Ghareeb gelding last competed in an EI event in October 2011 but did some show jumping in 2012 and 2013.

Busy studying Sports Management at UCD and juggling work placements, Crosse gave the Noel Redmond-bred chestnut to Declan Crowley when he was based in England last year. There they finished in the first six in half of their eight starts with a best place finish of second in an intermediate at Wilton.

Again on work placement for the summer, Crosse isn't thinking too far ahead for Turfmaster but plans to compete at Marguerite Lodge and Tattersalls.

"They did a great job with the ground at Killossery," she stated.

All but three of the eight who started in the EI 100J class completed on their dressage scores.

The odd ones out included Caoimhe Eivers who added four show jumping penalties to the winning dressage score of 25 she had been awarded by Pat Creighton for her flat work on Steller Kings Cruise but held on to score by three points. The Trim combination had also been successful here last month.

Having won a Killossery EI 90 class under Fiona Fitzgibbon in May, the thoroughbred Ballybay Boy, an eight-year-old Millkom gelding, finished second (32) under owner Sandra McGaffin's son Michael.

Two thoroughbreds topped the leaderboard at the conclusion of Saturday's EI 90 class in which there were just seven starters.

The only combination to complete on their dressage score were the winners, Bal-



Steven Smith and ESM Florence, one of Smith's two winners at Killossery Lodge Stud last weekend

Also making his eventing debut in third was the Connemara Killaan Blu who, under Ciara Gilroy, had a fence down show jumping to complete on 37.5. This seven-year-old Laerkens Cascade Dawn gelding qualified at Scarteen for the younger Connemara performance hunter championship at Dublin.

HUGE ENTRY

With a huge entry in the Irish Pony Club one-day event at Tattersalls on Sunday it wasn't surprising that there were so few ponies entered here and that those who did compete mainly came from the Northern Region.

Lucy Johnston from Richhill in Co Armagh won the duel for the EI 100P class. Riding her mother Lesley's seven-year-old Connemara gelding Tynan Mist, she held a comfortable lead after dressage on 30.5 to which she added four show jumping penalties and 1.2 for time across the country.

Johnston and Tynan Mist, a grey by Crusheen Comet out of a Streamstown Larry mare, have only once been out of the top three in seven EI starts.

Following the withdrawal of Mayson Ben after show jumping and the elimination of dressage leader (35.5) Attyrory Bucks Fizz on the final leg, Hillsborough's Joanna Eames won the EI 90P class when completing on her flatwork score of 41 with TBS Ferdinand.

Owned by Neill McCluskey, the six-year-old gelding is another pure-bred Connemara being by Glenayre Silver Fox out of the Ashfield Bobby Sparrow mare Dandy Sparrow. Making his EI debut on Saturday, the grey has 47 SJJ points.

lyclare's Amy Griffith with her Insan mare Ballymaccannan Ariel who was making just her third start of the season. The 12-year-old bay was bred by the senior event squad veterinary surgeon Hugh Sufferon out of the French-bred Cerise De Totes (by Champ Libre).

The Fiona Fitzgibbon-ridden Acclaimed Angel fin-

ished second on his EI debut when adding four show jumping penalties to his winning dressage mark of 31.5. A six-year-old by the top-class two-year-old sprinter Dark Angel, the well-bred grey gelding has been competing with some success in ex-racehorse classes this season having displayed little promise on the track.

Jack Lyons/jumpinaction.net