

## Dressage Ireland Winter Season Schedule

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**CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR INFORMATION AND AMENDMENTS TO THIS PRINTED VERSION OF THE SCHEDULE.**

**[WWW.DRESSAGEIRELAND.IE](http://WWW.DRESSAGEIRELAND.IE)**

## **Introduction**

Shows and events listed in the schedule are run under Dressage Ireland rules and competitors must either be full members of Dressage Ireland, or obtain a temporary membership. **Please note that a membership - and horse registration card are the only proof of membership, and these cards must be presented to the show secretary at each show.** Quoting membership numbers on the entry form is not a valid proof of current membership. All horse/pony owners must be members of D.I. and must be over 18 years of age.

Membership and horse registration runs from 1 January to 31 December each year.

Membership and registration forms can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the Secretary.

Non-members must complete a Temporary Membership Form and pay a temporary fee of €5 per show, regardless of the class entered for.

Up to date information, amendments to the schedule, rule changes, special events etc. may be published on the website. **It is the duty of members to keep themselves up to date by checking the website regularly.**

## **Membership 2010**

Full Adult Rider	€100
Young Rider U-21 on 01.01.10	€80
Junior Rider U-18 on 01.01.10	€55
Judge / trainee judge	€25
Parent membership (to register pony for u-18)	€20
Supporter/Non Riding Owner	€50
Horse/Pony registration	€30 see important info on "EXTRA INFO" page 10
BD Preliminary & Novice Test Set	€15
BD Test Set	€35
Complete set + Dressage Ireland folder	€45
Rule Book	€10
Dressage Ireland folder	€10
Rule Book + Dressage Ireland folder	€15

All Members must declare their region on their membership form. If no region is declared for, the Secretary will decide the region going by the address of the Member.

No person may change regions within the year of membership, running from January till December each year.

## **Rules**

All events organised for and on behalf of Dressage Ireland Ltd. are governed by the Dressage Ireland Rules. A set of rules can be downloaded from the website or can be purchased from the Dressage Ireland office. Amendments to the Rule Book are published on the website and can be downloaded to be inserted into your printed version. It is the responsibility of every member to be fully conversant with and abide by these rules. Competitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the sport. Rude and abusive behaviour towards stewards, officials, other competitors and the general public will not be tolerated.

Leaving litter behind is totally unacceptable.

## **Grant Appreciation**

Dressage Ireland is very grateful to the Irish Horse Board, The Irish Sports Council and Horse Sport Ireland for their continued support of the sport of dressage in Ireland. Once again this year an allocation from the proceeds of the National Lottery to the Irish Sports Council has made this funding possible.

## **Vaccination**

All horses/ponies registered with Dressage Ireland must be vaccinated against Flu and Tetanus. Under the new FEI rules, all horses competing internationally MUST be vaccinated every 6 months.

Horses competing in Ireland need flu vaccinations once per year.

## **Dressage Ireland Office**

Gerd Liekens-Schurmans  
Dove House  
Killedmond  
Borris  
via Kilkenny  
Tel. / Fax 059 977 17 28  
E-mail: [info@dressageireland.ie](mailto:info@dressageireland.ie)  
Website: [www.dressageireland.ie](http://www.dressageireland.ie)  
Enquiries by phone: between 2-5 pm

## **Anti Doping Policy**

Since 2000 the Equestrian Federation of Ireland (EFI), now Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) in conjunction with the Irish Government and its agencies, has been committed to implementing the Anti-Doping Policy, which regulates all equestrian competitors. As members of the HSI this policy applies to all members of Dressage Ireland wishing to compete.

A Therapeutic Use Exemption form (TUE) must be completed if you are on medication that is forbidden.

This policy is in line with the International Olympic Council with the following important addition:

\* Alcohol - in competition a blood level in excess of 80mg per ml is not permitted (as per driving levels)

\* Cannabinoids - in competition: zero tolerance.

If tested and proven positive, the penalties will include suspension from the competition, and/or a possible ban.

A full listing of banned substances can be found on the DI website.

## **Grading and Points:**

Horses may only compete at the level they are graded or higher. The point's limit for each grade is as follows:

- Preliminary                      up to 49 points
- Novice                              up to 124 points
- Elementary                      up to 199 points
- Medium                            up to 299 points
- Advanced Medium              up to 374 points
- Advanced                        open to any horse

Horses are upgraded continuously. Owners/Riders should keep a careful note of their horses' points and not enter a class for which they are no longer eligible.

## **Points System to become Results System**

Horses and Ponies are awarded points in registered classes in accordance with the scales set out below, providing that the judge on the day is recognised by Dressage Ireland and qualified to judge at that level. Points are not awarded in restricted classes, i.e. Pony, Junior, Young Rider, Freestyle, Amateur or Riding Club.

The results system will become fully operational at the start of 2010 and we advise every member to consult the website for a full explanation on how this will work for your horse's points.

If in doubt, please contact the Secretary's Office.

**It always remains the responsibility of each owner/rider to keep a record of their horse's points, and to ensure they enter the horse at the correct level of classes.**

### **Downgrading**

This is only allowed under exceptional circumstances. All applications must be made in writing accompanied by a fee of €30, and sent to the Secretary of Dressage Ireland. All downgrading is at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Dressage Ireland, and is valid for 1 year only. The downgrading must be re-applied for each year, but a fee will not be charged again.

### **Points Scale**

60.00 – 61.99%	1
62.00 – 63.99 %	2
64.00 – 65.99%	3
66.00 – 67.99%	4
68.00 – 69.99%	5
70.00 – 71.99%	6
72.00% +	7

### **Foreign Imports**

Grading for horses bought abroad must be applied for in writing from The Board of Dressage Ireland.

Please enclose as much information as possible about the horse's career with the application.

If no information is supplied, the registration will be delayed considerably.

Downgrading applications must be accompanied by a € 30 fee.

### **Grading for Event Horses**

- 61 or less Eventing Ireland Points: Preliminary, starting at 0 points.
- 61 or more Eventing Ireland Points: Novice, starting at 50 points.

### **Rule Book**

Dressage Ireland advises its members to keep themselves fully up to date with the Rules as laid down in the Rule Book.

This is available for downloading from our website:

[www.dressageireland.ie/downloads/Dressage\\_Ireland\\_Rule\\_Book.pdf](http://www.dressageireland.ie/downloads/Dressage_Ireland_Rule_Book.pdf)

Or alternatively can be purchased from the office for €10.

Amendments to the Rule Book are posted on the website and can be printed off.

## WINTER DATES 2010 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	18.10.09	SMR	Cashelane	P,N,E,M,FS Jnr
Monday	26.10.09	SMR	Woodlands	P,N,E,M,FS Jnr
Sunday	01.11.09	NR	Meadows EC	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Sunday	01.11.09	M&WR	Woodlands	P,N,E,M, PC
Saturday	07.11.09	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Sunday	08.11.09	NMR	Mellon Stud	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG
Sunday	15.11.09	SMR	Skevanish	P,N,E,M,FS Jnr
Saturday	21.11.09	NR	Meadows EC	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Sunday	29.11.09	M&WR	Deane's EC	P,N,E,M, PC
Sunday	29.11.09	SMR	Glen-Aire	P,N,E,M,FS Jnr
Saturday	05.12.09	NR	Meadows EC	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Sunday	06.12.09	SER	Belmont EC	Training show
Sunday	06.12.09	NMR	Maple Leaf St.	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG
Sunday	13.12.09	SMR	Bridestown T.	P,N,E,M,FS Jnr
Saturday	19.12.09	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	09.01.10	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	09.01.10	SER	Monart EC	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG,Inter I,Inter II,GP,Intro,YH,FS
Sunday	10.01.10	M&WR	Mullingar	P,N,E,M,AM, A, PSG,PC
Sunday	10.01.10	NMR	Ennis Showgr.	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG
Saturday	16.01.10		Marlton	P,N,E,M,AM,A,PSG,TT,BS,Jnr, Welcome
Saturday	23.01.10	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	23.01.10	ER	Boswell	P,N,E,M,AM, A. PSG, Jnr
Saturday	30.01.10		Marlton	P,N,E,M,AM,A,PSG,TT,BS,Jnr, Welcome
Sunday	31.01.10	SMR	West Cork EC	P,N,E,M, Jnr
Sunday	31.01.10	M&WR	Creagh	P,N,E,M,AM,PC, FS
Saturday	06.02.10	ER	Boswell	P,N,E,M,AM, A. PSG, Jnr
Saturday	06.02.10	NR	Meadows EC	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Sunday	07.02.09	NMR	Dohyle House	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG
Sunday	07.02.09	LR	Killossery	P,N,E,M,AM,A,Open
Saturday	13.02.10	SER	Barnadown E	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG,Inter I,Inter II,GP,Intro,YH,FS
Sunday	14.02.10	M&WR	Milchem	P,N,E,M,AM,PC, FS
Saturday	20.02.10	ER	Boswell	P,N,E,M,AM, A. PSG, Jnr
Saturday	20.02.10	NR	Meadows EC	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	27.02.10		Marlton	P,N,E,M,AM,A,PSG,TT,BS,Jnr, Welcome
Sunday	28.02.10	M&WR	Galway	P,N,E,M,AM,PC,FS
Saturday	06.03.10	ER	Boswell	P,N,E,M,AM, A. PSG, Jnr
Saturday	06.03.10	SER	Monart EC	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG,Inter I,Inter II,GP,Intro,YH,FS
Sunday	07.03.10	SMR	Skevanish	P,N,E,M, Jnr
Saturday	13.03.10	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	13.03.10		Marlton	P,N,E,M,AM,A,PSG,TT,BS,Jnr, Welcome
Saturday	20.03.10	ER	Boswell	P,N,E,M,AM, A. PSG, Jnr
Sunday	21.03.10	M&WR	Glenamaddy	P,N,E,M,AM,PC
Sunday	21.03.10	NMR	Clonshire EC	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG
Saturday	27.03.10	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open
Saturday	27.03.10		Marlton	P,N,E,M,AM,A,PSG,TT,BS,Jnr, Welcome
Sunday	28.03.10	M&WR	Woodlands	P,N,E,M,AM,PC
Sunday	28.03.10	LR	Killossery	P,N,E,M,AM,A,Open
Sunday	28.03.10	SMR	Maryville	P,N,E,M,AM, Jnr
Saturday	03.04.10	NR	Danescroft	P,N,E,M,AM, Open, U-25
Saturday	03.04.10	SER	Spruce Lodge	P,N,E,M,AM,PSG,Inter I,Inter II,GP,Intro,YH,FS
Sunday	04.04.10	LR	Killossery	P,N,E,M,AM,A,Open

Sat/Sun	10/11.04.10		National Winter Finals	
Saturday	24.04.10		Marlton	

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***Remember that all entries  
must be pre-paid and by  
post***

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*Have you checked our  
website?*

*All amendments and extra  
information are posted  
there!*

[www.dressageireland.ie](http://www.dressageireland.ie)

# **WINTER FINALS 2010**

**MARLTON STUD**  
**CO. Wicklow**  
(by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Delahoyde)

**10 and 11 April 2010**

**Secretary:** Gerd Liekens-Schurmans, Dove House, Killedmond, Borris, via Kilkenny.

**Entries close:** **Monday 29 March 2010**

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE ARE LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**

**Prepaid and by post Or via pay pal:** to the Secretary, cheques made payable to Dressage Ireland Ltd.

Entries must be made on official entry forms for "National Winter Finals 2010". These can be downloaded from [www.dressageireland.ie](http://www.dressageireland.ie) or obtained by sending SAE to the secretary. No more need to send in a Qualification Sheet, but you must quote date and venue and % gained on the entry form. Entries WITHOUT qualifications stated will be null and void.

Qualifications:

**Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium Championship:** To participate in Preliminary, Novice, Elementary, Medium Championship, competitors must have achieved a qualifying standard of 62% on two occasions between the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Please note two occasions means two separate shows, festivals are regarded as one show for the purpose of qualification.

**Advanced Medium Championship and above:** To participate in Advanced Medium Championship and above, competitors must have achieved a qualifying standard of 62% on one occasion between 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Shows after 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 will NOT qualify for Winter Finals.

**Withdrawals** before Monday 5 April 2010.

Please state if you are category (1) or (2) rider, as you will be entered in a separate section at Preliminary and Novice level.

**Taking on board the views of our members and competitors at the National Championships, rosettes will be awarded in each test and championship rosettes in each championship class.**

Entry Fee € 60 Classes 1,2,3,4,5

Entry Fee € 35 Classes 6,7,8,9,10

**Times on website:** [www.dressageireland.ie](http://www.dressageireland.ie) on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Stabling must be booked on a separate form (at end of schedule / on web) via the office.**

Cost €30 per night. Please note that stables cannot be booked directly with Marlton. Electrical hook up available, first come first served, charge €20/1<sup>st</sup> night, €10 each night thereafter. All vehicles parked at owners' risk.

**In the event of unmanageable numbers at Preliminary and Novice Levels, we reserve the right to ballot out. This will be carried out on a first come first served basis.**

### Tests for Winter Finals 2010

Class	Level	Saturday	Sunday
		Test	Test
1	Preliminary	13 (2006)	18 (2002)
2	Novice	35 (2009)	39 (2010)
3	Elementary	45 (2010)	53 (2007)
4	Medium	64 (2006)	75 (2002)
5	Adv Medium	85 (2009 Junior FEI Prelim)	94 (2002)
6	Advanced	104 (2007)	
7	Prix St George	FEI 2009	
8	Intermediaire I	FEI 2009	
9	Intermediaire II	FEI 2009	
10	Grand Prix	FEI Grand Prix 2009	

**Under NO circumstance will late entries be accepted.**

**There are 2 options for entering: via snail mail and on line.**

**All must have arrived at the office BEFORE the closing date or time.**

**Do not contact the office about late entries as refusal might offend.**

## **The 2009 National Champions**

THE BLARNEY RIDING CENTRE PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP  
Donna Flora (Antonia Ward)

THE BLARNEY RIDING CENTRE OPEN RIDERS PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP  
Get-Set (Lucy Adams)

THE TEAM MILLICENT NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Bonaparts (Sonya McCormack)

THE TEAM MILLICENT OPEN RIDERS NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Fire and Ice (Heike Holstein)

THE SOUTH MUNSTER REGION ELEMENTARY CHAMPIONSHIP  
Fire and Ice (Heike Holstein)

THE MIDLAND AND WESTERN REGION ELEMENTARY FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Fire and Ice (Heike Holstein)

THE NORTHERN REGION MEDIUM CHAMPIONSHIP  
Aldham Mill Dubloon (Rosemary Gaffney)

THE EASTERN REGION MEDIUM FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Tintoretto S (Ruth Chadwick)

THE BALLINTEGGART STUD ADVANCED MEDIUM CHAMPIONSHIP  
Saint Emilion (Rolf Seidel)

THE BALLINTEGGART STUD ADVANCED MEDIUM FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Urbanus (Anne Marie Dunphy)

THE 'FRIENDS OF PARA'S' PARA CLASS  
Youri (Eilish Byrne)

THE INTER- REGIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP  
Northern Region

THE LEINSTER REGION YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP  
Dark Site (Christiana Manoras)

THE SOUTH MUNSTER REGION ADVANCED CHAMPIONSHIP  
Urbanus (Anne Marie Dunphy)

THE OLYMPIC SADDLERY PRIX ST GEORGES CHAMPIONSHIP  
Tonka Wakkan (Christiana Manoras)

THE OLYMPIC SADDLERY PRIX ST GEORGES FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP

Egano S (Anthony Byrne)

THE SOUTH EASTERN REGION INTERMEDIAIRE I CHAMPIONSHIP  
Ben Hymn (Lucy Adams)

THE NORTH MUNSTER REGION INTERMEDIAIRE II CHAMPIONSHIP  
Has to be Fun (Yvette Truesdale)

THE DRESSAGE IRELAND GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONSHIP  
Has to be Fun (Yvette Truesdale)

ABBEYLEIX OWEN TROPHY  
Creemully Western Melody, Mary Mitchell

IRISH DRAUGHT TROPHY  
Bannerman Breeze, Jo May

LEADING PONY RIDER Tara ffrench

LEADING JUNIOR RIDER Robert McMullin

LEADING YOUNG RIDER Anthony Byrne

**NATIONAL UNDER 21 CHAMPION**  
**Anthony Byrne**

**NATIONAL DRESSAGE CHAMPION OF IRELAND**  
**Yvette Truesdale**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## 1. HORSE PASSPORTS AND REGISTRATIONS

When registering horses, please DO NOT send horse passports to the office any longer. For horses to be registered for the first time, send the following passport PHOTOCOPIES:

- Horse name and passport number page
- Veterinary's outline drawing page
- Vaccination page

For horses which are being re-registered, send PHOTOCOPY OF

- Vaccination page.

## 2. MAJOR CHANGE TO RIDER CATEGORIES

To simplify our rider categories and also to make a more even split at Preliminary and Novice Level, there will be a major change for 2010.

Rider categories to be applied at Preliminary and Novice Levels, will be as follows:

- **Category 1**: any rider who has NEVER competed at Medium Level or above.
- **Category 2**: any rider who has EVER competed at Medium or above.

This will apply at all regional as well as national shows, and will come into force from 1 November 2009.

Riders must declare their category on every show entry form.  
The Rule Book will be amended in due course.

## 3. NEW BD TESTS FOR 2010

British Dressage has announced changes to the tests used in affiliated competitions. With effect from 1st January 2010, there will be four new tests and three existing tests will be withdrawn.

### **New tests**

- Novice 24 (2010) short arena (number being re-used)
- Novice 39 (2010) long arena (number being re-used)
  - Elementary 40 (2010) long arena
  - Elementary 45 (2010) long arena

### **Tests being withdrawn**

- Novice 25 (2005)
- Novice 26 (2006)
- Elementary 48 (2007)

It is very important to note that British Dressage has had to re-use test numbers. Novice 24 and Novice 39 were published in 2002 and withdrawn some time ago. So be careful that you have the correct version.

All the new tests are available now at [www.dressagediagrams.com](http://www.dressagediagrams.com).

We would like to inform the members that these changes are out of the control of Dressage Ireland.

If you want to order score sheets and/or test sheets from the office, please allow a minimum of 2 weeks.

#### **4. NORTHERN REGION FESTIVAL**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2010

Cavan Equestrian Centre

Full details on the website in due course

#### **5. IRISH INTERNATIONAL DRESSAGE RIDERS GROUP**

The Voice of the Riders. Regular updates, information.

If you are planning to compete Internationally 2010, or are working towards International participation in the future and would like to join the group contact Anne Marie

[info@annemariedunphy.com](mailto:info@annemariedunphy.com)

087 2324545

#### **6. JUDGES NEWS**

Judges training and mock exams and exams proper for 2010 will be posted on the judges section on the website.

## Dressage Ireland Youth Club (DIY)

The youth club is now heading into its first winter, and we hope to bring you plenty of events to look forward to, including training clinics with top trainers, ongoing regional training and trips abroad! The youth club is for all riders under the age of 25, and is free to join again this year. You can sign up by sending us an e-mail at [diy@dressageireland.ie](mailto:diy@dressageireland.ie). Being on our mailing list is the best way to keep up to date with the various events, because we send regular e-mail updates with upcoming training clinics, competitions, social events, trips, etc. This information is also posted on our website, [diy.dressageireland.ie](http://diy.dressageireland.ie) so be sure to check it regularly!

Some dates to put in your diary for the winter season:

**24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October** – Mid Term Training clinic with Sonnar Murray Brown, former UK Young Rider national champion. Training will be in the Eastern region on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, the Northern region on the 26<sup>th</sup> & the South-West region on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.** – Trip to the British Dressage National Convention (at Addington Manor), taken by internationally renowned rider & trainer, Jean Bemelmans. There will also be appearances from some of the top UK riders, including Carl Hester & Emile Faurie.

**15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December** – Trip to the World Cup Qualifier at the London Olympia Horse Show, set to feature the record breaking Edward Gal & Moorlands Totilas.

*More details on these events can be found on the website, and to sign up for them, please send us an e-mail.*

Other dates to be confirmed:

We will be organising a big **Christmas Party** in December, with details to follow on the website & mailing list.

**Training** – Training clinics will also be organised for the Christmas holidays and the February mid-term school holidays, with details to be confirmed.

Looking ahead into 2010:

**U25's Teams** – There are numerous U25's friendly internationals coming up during the summer of 2010, including the Marlton U25's International (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July), the BYRDS Home International, Carol Hogg's U25's Dressage Championships & the Sheepgate U25's championships, for which we will be looking to send teams. Details on team training & selection for these events will be available at a later date.

It promises to be a great winter, so be sure to sign up for the mailing list if you're not already on it, and really get involved with the various events planned! Best of luck with your training, and look forward to seeing you all!

## Silver Spurs 2009



### **The Format of the Competition 2009**

An extra age section was introduced, giving us four sections:

Young Rider (Under 21)

Junior Rider (Over 14 and Under 18 mounted on a horse)

Pony Rider (Over 12 and Under 16 mounted on a pony)

Under 12 (Mounted on a pony)

Four qualifier days were scheduled, three in July and one in August. The qualifiers were each judged by two “day-judges”, who varied from venue to venue, and one Master-Judge, who is the one judge who sees and assesses all of the riders.

The top ten riders from each age group were then qualified for the Semi-final day on the 20th August. The top three from each age group except the Under 12s then participated in a Ride-off where the final placings were determined. The ride-off was held the day after the Semi-final so that the horses taking part in the ride-off would not have to perform five tests in one day.

### **Qualifiers**

Attendance at the qualifiers was highly variable. The first one to be held was at Clonshire Equestrian Centre in Adare, Co Limerick. With forty riders taking part, this qualifier had the highest number of entries.

The second qualifier took place the next day, in Dollanstown Stud, Co Meath. With only eighteen riders participating, this was a fairly quiet day.

However, the third qualifier, scheduled for Laurel View Equestrian Centre in Co Down, had to be cancelled due to insufficient entries as there were only eight riders entered for this venue.

The fourth and final qualifier was held in Spruce Lodge in Co Wicklow. This had a healthy entry of 32 riders, with a couple of those who had entered for Laurel View making the journey to the South to take part.

The different age categories also had varying levels of entries. The Under 12 class, newly introduced in 2009, was well supported, with a total of 21 children taking part. The judges were very pleased with the standard in this section, as many of the children demonstrated good awareness of their ponies' way of going coupled with stylish riding and accurate use of arenas.

The Pony class had a total of 24 children taking part, which is within the normal ranges of entries that this class has seen over the years. The standard at the top end of the pony class was outstanding, with each of those who qualified proving themselves to be extremely capable riders. Scores were disappointingly low at the lower end of the class, but hopefully those riders will take away what they have learned in 2009 and come back as stronger riders in 2010.

The Junior class was the most popular, with a total of 30 entries. The standard throughout this class was excellent and those who made it to the semi-final day fought hard for their places. An extra three riders from this class were invited to the semi-finals, as each of these three were less than 0.1 of a mark behind the tenth placed rider. The next eight riders (14th to 21st) were all within one mark or less of qualification, which illustrates how close this class was throughout! Following the pattern of previous years, the Young Rider class proved to have the least entries overall. With only ten riders entered in total, a decision had to be made as to whether to implement a minimum qualifying mark or whether all ten should be invited to the semi-final. In the spirit of inclusiveness, all ten were invited to participate and they rose to the occasion, performing Elementary test 44 quite respectably.

### **Semi-final Day**

The Semi-final day was held at Marlton Stud on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Under 12 Section**

This day was also the final for the Under 12 riders, who were the first group in action on the day. Although a few of the children were perhaps overawed by the occasion (and of course this can happen to people of all ages) Kym Fitzhenry proved a very worthy winner indeed. Her style and positive way of riding earned her high scores from the Master Judge which gave her a commanding lead over her nearest rivals, Sarah O' Loughlin and Emma Murray. It is fair to say that Kym has a fair bit of mileage in both dressage and eventing under her belt already, while both Emma and Sarah are newcomers to the dressage scene. Sarah is a pony club/leisure rider who enjoys doing a little bit of showjumping as well and who has enjoyed the challenge of bringing on a relatively young pony. Emma has done mostly showing, but has been focusing on her flatwork in order to improve her pony's performance in the show ring and this has benefitted her greatly.

### **Pony Section**

The pony riders were the next group in action. It was most rewarding to see a number of riders who had scraped into the lower qualification slots had clearly been working hard since the qualifiers and had taken on board the advice of the Master Judge who officiated at the qualifiers, Alison Mastin-Moore. Most notable of these was Stephanie O' Callaghan, who leaped from eighth place up to third, earning herself a place in the ride-off in the process. Less than 0.5 marks behind was Emer Creedon, who had held fourth place since the Clonshire qualifier and who was just edged out of the ride-off by Stephanie. Vying for the top spot were 2008 winner, Katie Moffat and newcomer Kirsty Connell. Katie held on to the top slot by 0.6 marks but all three girls would start the next day with a blank sheet and everything to play for. Also putting in good performances on the day, and indeed consistent throughout the competition, were Maeve O' Neill, Niamh Moran and Kate Kerr-Horan – indeed Kate must surely be earmarked as a

future para international given her top-rate performance amongst fully able-bodied riders both in the Silver Spurs and in the recent Marlton Under 25s international.

### **Junior Section**

The very hotly contested Junior class was next. A couple of riders were let down by the inexperience of their mounts, the most unfortunate of these being the winners of both the Dollanstown and Spruce Lodge qualifiers, Gerard McNulty and Alexandra Archbold, both of who were mounted on five year olds. The top six riders all scored a total of 20 +, making this the closest class of all. Siobhan Schous and Kate Murphy were most notable in this class, the latter leaping from thirteenth to fourth place and the former making a smaller but more effective jump from eight to third, and claiming a ride-off slot as a result. Taking first place was eventing rider Melanie Young, with newcomer Ashleigh Tate in second and Siobhan Schous in third.

### **Young Rider Section**

Last class of the day was the Young Rider section. All in all, these riders managed a creditable execution of their two tests, the most technically challenging tests of the day. The top five riders all demonstrated the beginnings of collection and lateral work, which is what one would hope for at this level. The top three – Anna Mary Hudson, Rebecca Dunlea and Maebh Hennessey – all scored over 20 marks, with Louise Ireson and Ruth Byrne close behind on 19.7 and 19.5 respectively. Some of the other riders were less experienced and were mounted on inexperienced horses, but they all acquitted themselves well and hopefully both horses and riders will have learned from their experiences.

### **Ride-off Day**

The Silver Spurs ride-off was given centre-stage billing at Marlton show on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day after the semi-finals. Many riders who did not make the ride-off stayed on to compete at the show and all seemed to enjoy the day.

All of the ride-off participants were advised to enjoy the ride-off and to treat it as the fun part of the Silver Spurs – the fact that they had all earned the same bursary helped to underline this point.

### **Pony Section**

Ponies went first and the Judges were very impressed by the level of professionalism and calm determination shown by all three riders. In the first round riders rode their own ponies. Kirsty Connell shone with her Welsh cob Harvest Moon, scoring almost 10 marks more than previous Silver Spurs winner Katie Moffatt and Ira tu Varagnac. During the second round Katie found Kirsty's pony a challenge while Kirsty produced a good test on Stephanie's pony, Who's Smudge It. Katie and Stephanie scored equal marks in the third and final round with a nail biting test for Kirsty on Katie's pony who she found a little tricky to ride! However, Kirsty's good performance in the first two rounds assured her of victory. Katie was 2nd followed by Stephanie in 3rd place.

### **Pony Result**

<b>Rider</b>	<b>Ira tu Varagnac</b>	<b>Whos Smudge It</b>	<b>Harvest Moon</b>	<b>Total</b>
Kirsty Connell	131.7	130	142.1	403.8
Katie Moffatt	133.3	133.3	129.9	396.5
Stephanie O'Callaghan	130.6	131.3	133.3	395.2

### **Junior Section**

In the Juniors riders had three very different horses to contend with ranging from Siobhan Schous' coloured cob Derryvinnane Herbie to Melanie Young's eventer Riverstown Express. Melanie is a previous Silver Spurs winner and her wide range of experience helped her keep her poise to secure 1st place, scoring consistantly high marks in each round. Ashleigh Tate (Viletta) and Siobhan Schous (Derryvinnane Herbie) found it difficult to adjust to the different

horses but will have gained valuable experience for next year finishing in 2nd and 3rd places respectively.

### Junior Result

Rider	Derryvinnane Herbie	Viletta	Riverstown express	Total
Melanie Young	125.6	126.4	136.4	388.4
Ashleigh Tate	124.4	123.2	119.2	366.8
Siobhan Schous	125.6	112.8	116	354.4

### Young Rider Section

The final for the Young Riders proved to be very close contest, with less than 5 marks separating the three riders at the end of the day. Anna Mary Hudson riding her 21yo cob, Twist of Autumn, took the lead in the first round with Rebecca Dunlea less than 1 point behind with her Captain Clover gelding, Cashelane Captain, while Maebh Hennessey and her 5 year old Crosstown Dancer gelding, Snoop Dogg, trailed somewhat. In the second round Rebecca instantly 'clicked' with Twist of Autumn and produced a great score which put her into the lead. Maebh Hennessey got on well with Rebecca's horse in this round and her total at this stage brought her back into contention. By the third round it was apparent that some of the horses were tiring. However, despite dropping by 6 marks in this round, Rebecca still had enough of a lead to cement her victory by a margin of 3 marks on 390.4. Anna Mary was 2nd on 387.4, with Maebh only 1.7 points behind.

### Young Rider Result

Rider	Cashelane Captain	Snoop Dogg	Twist of Autumn	Total
Rebecca Dunlea	133.8	120.8	135.8	390.4
Anna Mary Hudson	126.9	125.8	134.7	387.4
Maebh Hennessey	128	130.8	126.9	385.7

### Prizes

Prizes for the finalists were sponsored by HSI, with the top 3 riders in each section receiving an excellent bursary package worth in excess of €500. In a wonderful gesture of support for the Silver Spurs, many of Ireland's top dressage trainers offered lessons to be used as prizes. This offer came at a time when it was unclear if there would be any assistance from the HSI for the Silver Spurs and it was wonderful to know that there is such goodwill towards this competition. These free lessons were then used as prizes for the children who placed 4th to 6th in each section so that they were also rewarded for their efforts.

Plans for next year are beginning to take shape. It is intended to have qualifiers earlier on in the year so that there will be less likelihood of clashing with other events. Keep watching the Silver Spurs section of the website!