



Dressage Ireland Newsletter

December 2008

I would like to welcome you all to the final newsletter of 2008. The past year has certainly been a successful one for Dressage Ireland and 2009 seems to be shaping up to be very exciting. Plans are well in hand for the first CDI ever to be held on the island of Ireland. The fact that the European Dressage Championships will be taking place in Windsor should be very inspirational and Dressage Ireland hopes to be able to field a full team.

One of my main interests in being active in Dressage Ireland, as both a regional officer and a Board member, has been to further the progress of our younger riders. It is with great pleasure that I direct your attention to the new Dressage Ireland Youth Club – DYI - which is explained in greater detail later in this bulletin. This is an impressive initiative coming from the riders themselves and DI will do all it can to help them achieve their aims.

Having learnt to ride in riding schools I also feel sympathy with all the recent emphasis coming from Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) towards trying to make dressage less elitist and more “user friendly” for the non dressage specialist. Some very good inter-disciplinary events have been run this year with generous financial support from HSI and hopefully will be expanded in the future. It is very important to reach out to the other equestrian organisation and spread the gospel of the importance of “the bit between the fences.”

A very Happy Christmas and all best wishes for a peaceful New Year to all our readers.

Anne Cahill
Vice Chair

JEAN MITCHELL RETIRES AS DRESSAGE IRELAND DIRECTOR



Jean Mitchell MBE retired from the board of Dressage Ireland earlier this month. Jean was one of the founder members of what was then the Irish Dressage Society in 1989. Jean Scott Mitchell was born in Belfast and now lives in Hillsborough, County Down. She hunted all her days with the Newrys and was a prolific producer of young horses. The 'apple of her eye' and pinnacle the star-line was a Blue Cliff mare called Madrigal which was competed on at Badminton by a young veterinary student – one Hugh Suffern. A former director of Eventing Ireland and executive director of the Equestrian Federation of Ireland she became an FEI international eventing judge in 1984. Jean upgraded to 'Official International' status in 1994 and five years later in 1999 was the event director of the FEI World and European young rider eventing championships at Necarne Castle. She was a member of the ground jury for the team event at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and was the President of the Ground Jury for the 2002 World Equestrian Games, at Jerez in Spain as well as many European eventing championships at senior, young rider, junior and pony levels. She was President of the Ground Jury at Badminton and Burghley on several occasions.

In 2003 she had the unique distinction of being the event director for two European championships held in Ireland, the Pony European championships for dressage, show jumping and eventing in July at Necarne Castle and the FEI senior European eventing championships at Punchestown in September. Jean received the award of MBE from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, in the 2003 New Years Honours list, for her services to equestrian sport. In 2005 she was invited to join the FEI pony riders committee. A year later she was the Event director for the FEI junior European championships at Necarne, the international horse trials at Ballygraffin, Co Down and the inaugural Tattersalls international three day event. Tattersalls was judged 'Best event in Ireland' in both 2006 and 2007. Jean is a former international administrator for Eventing Ireland and she has also served as director of the Northern Ireland Horse Board. Jean is the secretary general of the international eventing officials club. In 2008 she was event director of Tyrella CIC***, Ballygraffin CIC**, Tattersalls CICW*** and Necarne CCI **. She is a list 2 Dressage Ireland judge and also an FEI candidate judge for pure dressage. At the Burghley Horse trials last September Jean was presented with a watercolour to mark her retirement from the FEI judging panel.

Jean has been a very active member of Northern Ireland Dressage for many years both as a committee member and as a judge. She was a member of the inaugural dressage judges group chaired by Gisela Holstein and was fully involved in the training and testing of judges in Northern Ireland for many years. In recent years she has updated the Dressage Ireland rule book a number of times. Irish dressage has benefited greatly from her phenomenal drive, commitment and passion for all things equestrian over the last twenty years. Jean's 'can do' attitude coupled with an unequalled work rate has seen the sport in Ireland make major advances over the last two decades.

Paying tribute Robert McCormick Chairman of Dressage Ireland said "*I am especially sad to see Jean retire from both the Board of Dressage Ireland and the committee of Northern Ireland Dressage. Jean has unrivalled experience of international competition having travelled all over the world to competitions. Not only does she pass on her wealth of knowledge and experience to the eventing and dressage people in Ireland, but often while in her company she would get a phone call from other countries like Spain, France or even Australia asking her advice on how to deal with some problem that had arisen. Jean is held in very high esteem world wide and someone we should be very proud of. However it is a personal level that I will miss Jean most. For many years Jean has been my travelling partner for the monthly board meetings. The long journey to Naas seemed to fly in as the craic started in Hillsborough and ended as we pulled into the Johnstown Inn car park. On the way home we would discuss what happened at the meeting and how it would affect our region and as we would arrive in Hillsborough in the wee small hours Jean would be as full of chat as when we left. I have learnt so much from Jean during those many long car journeys and I would like to thank her for giving me so much advice and help over the years*".

NICE TO MEET YOU



Jordan is clearly delighted to meet Dressage Ireland Chairman Robert McCormick at the London International Horse Show in Olympia or should that be the other way around?

Last of the big spenders!!



NID Dressage Secretary Kelly Troughton at the London international Horse Show Olympia 2008.
Photos courtesy of Paul Nolan.

Judges Seminar 2008

On 10th November this year 85 judges and aspiring judges, from all over the island, gathered together at Kill Equestrian Centre for a day of training and discussion. The day, which was sponsored by Horse Sport Ireland and organised by Gisela Holstein and the Judges Committee, featured German list 1 Judge and trainer Isobel Wessels.

Isobel Wessels was introduced by Gisela Holstein and started her presentation with a lucid explanation of the training scale and the importance of the way of going of the horse.

The first guinea pig of the day, 11 times Dressage Ireland National Champion Heike Holstein, brought her impressive grey horse Wanted, National Preliminary and Novice Open Champion in 2008, to show the assembled judges what a 9, and even a 10, looks like.

Margaret Coonan brought her elegant mare Helena and rode a preliminary test that was judged on the spot movement per movement by Isobel.



For the novice movements, Heike with Last Resort and Angela Lyons with Rizaro, demonstrated the ways of going of two very differently built horses.

The morning session finished up with an elementary test ridden by Sorrel Klatzko.

Throughout, Isobel illustrated eloquently the logic of how all these progressively more difficult movements ultimately all build up to Grand Prix level.

Following this very stimulating morning session, Joe Walsh and Damian McDonald of Horse Sport Ireland joined the participants for an excellent lunch.



During lunch a number of presentations were made. In recognition of the huge contribution judges make to the sport, presentations were made to some of the hardest working among their number. Ninnie Odenrick received a trophy for judging the most Dressage Ireland and Eventing Ireland shows over the year. While the trophy for the most events judged went to Pat Barry with 12 events for Eventing Ireland during 2008.

The next presentation was for all the judges that upgraded during the year, with a special presentation to Dermot Cannon for his upgrading to list 2. An impressive total of 24 judges upgraded during 2008, which surely bodes well for the future of dressage in Ireland.

All registered judges were given Dressage Ireland judge pins and all the aspiring judges that registered as Dressage Ireland members on the day got a candidate judge pin.

Gisela Holstein took the opportunity to thank her judges committee for their hard work and support with a special memento.



Judges Seminar 2008 continued ...



The final presentation was made by Robert Mc Cormick to Gisela Holstein and Jean Mitchell on their retirement as International Judges after very many years of judging all over the world.

Joe Walsh, chairman of HSI, thanked all the judges for their attendance and their ongoing support to all the other organisations when judging for the pony clubs, riding clubs and many other equestrian groups.

In the afternoon Isobel continued her presentation as the medium and advanced movements were demonstrated by Sorrell, this time on Lorenzo. Although this work was well above the level that most of judges are judging, Isobel made it very easy for everyone to understand how the more advanced movements all start from the same scales of training.

The final guinea pig for the day, Bill Delahoyde, showed the Prix St. Georges movements on Leonardo Austria.

Dressage Ireland would like to express special thanks again to Isobel, who made it all look very simple and clear and also to the riders that gave up their time to show the movements at different levels on their horses.

The Judges Committee was so delighted with the very positive reactions of the participants, clearly signalling that this type of event is greatly appreciated by Irish judges, that it is hoped to repeat this event yearly.

Judges training will be continuing in 2009 – watch www.dressageireland.ie for details.

Report by Wouter Liekens and Jennifer Egan.



Photos courtesy of Michael Reid of www.reidesign.com

All judges who wish to upgrade in 2009 are reminded to send in their upgrading application to the office before 31 January 2009.

CONRAD SCHUMACHER - TRAINING THE TRAINERS

Rosemary Gaffney B.H.S.I. and H.S.I. Coach

Photos courtesy of Norbert von Cramon

On a windy and cold Thursday we found a warm welcome at the new 'Spruce Lodge' at Ballyrogan in Co. Wicklow the new superb home of Joan and Mick Keogh. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Keogh for all her work for Dressage Ireland and for setting up Training the Trainers which has been invaluable to all of us who have been fortunate enough to attend.

Mrs. Keogh introduced the day and explained how training the trainers was started and it was a joy to see so many new young trainers join the ranks, not just from the dressage world, but also the worlds of eventing and showjumping. How wonderful to see the whole gambit of the sports mixing and 'finding the way' Not only from different areas of the sport, but also there were at least five nationalities taking part!

Mr. Schumacher discussed the German training system showing a video made by the German Federation explaining the importance and need for clarity and understanding of the seat. Mr. Schumacher emphasised the need for the education of the riders 'You have to train riders - good riders make good horses'. He then went on to discuss the importance of feel and explained that words can not teach it. The trainer's job is to develop movements, working with patterns to help riders feel and then tell them when they have it, from that they can then learn the feel and repeat it. Mr Schumacher went on to explain that at a show you are on your own once you go down the centre line and 'feel' is the only 'person' you can rely on, train it and you will learn to conquer all fear.

The second video that was shown was on the Scales of Training on how these fit into the system and how the scales interlink. It showed how a work session should be broken down:

- suppling up
- exercises
- working phase
- relaxation

Feedback from previous Training the Trainers days had shown that trainers/coaches/judges wished to see horses worked through all levels. Four trainers/riders who have worked and trained with Mr. Schumacher agreed to demonstrate this, inviting some of their own clients to ride for the group.

First up was Ann-Marie Dunphy with Trish Ryan a 14yr old rider from Wexford riding her own 6yr old mare bred by Ann Kirwan. Ann-Marie set out to show what you can do with young riders. As youngsters are usually open minded, they do not have too many preconceived ideas. Ann-Marie worked on Trish's suppleness, feel and coordination of the aids, improving the pony's way of going and Trish's overall softness. Ann-Marie set up exercises showing the importance of swinging in the hips and going with the pony. Trish who won the junior novice championship at Marlton'08 and the regional Elementary championships this year gave a super demonstration.

Next into the arena was Maureen Dwyer with two event riders both who have won Silver Spurs. Training awards. Maureen showed how to ride leg yielding and shoulder in. She worked on position, seat and the swinging hip and her riders did a good job riding the exercises.

Katie Nolan who is 17yrs riding a 12yr old which has been placed in lots of 1* events this year and went on to win the Pony Club Members National Championship and also took part in the Speed Derby in the RDS. The other rider James Dalrymple 18yrs riding his 9yr old mare Pageantry was 3rd in a 1* event and then went on to ride in Pony Club events. Both Katie and James were on the winning Pony Club National dressage team that qualified to go to England.

Working with Niall Quirk, Heidi Hamilton rode her 5 year old Lassban Radovix who she competed at the RDS in the Young Event Horse this

year. One pole down in the main arena cost her the title, but she went on to be in 4th place overall. Heidi has done 10 events with this horse - won 5, 2nd twice and 4th twice. As Heidi's horse has only been in work for three weeks Niall emphasised that care must be taken when making a plan, not to overwork the muscles of the horse when they are not fit. Niall worked on getting the horse more 'through' in his back with more connection, giving him rhythm and softness in his work and connection to the riders hand.



Donie McNamara then presented Melanie Mackey from Cork riding her eye catching 6yr old gelding U-P Bese. They clearly demonstrated half pass and went on to show how to improve the engagement of the horse and its way of going. Melanie who is 18yrs has trained from ponies to horses with Donie, she won the 2007 Novice National Winter Championship, in 2008 she competed Elementary and has just started Medium level.

The morning was brought to a close with Ann-Marie Dunphy and Monica Dunn riding her consistent and pleasing 6yr old mare Vilberie, who has already produced 3 foals and was 3rd with Monica at the Nationals. They showed how to warm up for a test, rode through the test requirements and then rode a test. A good way to end the morning session.

The afternoon session started with Donie MacNamara, this time with Bubbles Mackey riding her new 7yr old chestnut horse Don Fernando. Donie started to warm them up and then Mr. Schumacher stepped in and worked on showing the trainers some different exercises, working to improve the neck which in turn showed a huge difference in the medium trot and to the sitting and carrying ability of the horse. He complimented Donie on his training, as Bubbles understood all that was asked of her and showed control and as Mr. Schumacher said 'was riding in a good way'.

Next in the arena was Ruth Chadwick riding Barbara O'Doherty's Andalusian Stallion - Ladino XV who was placed in the Novice class at the Nationals. Mr Schumacher warmed them up showing how important it is to have the neck and how it improves the paces and this horse showed some super medium trot. He then went on to show the exercises he uses to teach the horse flying changes and showed with this horse how important it is to get the timing right.

Next into the arena was Siobhan Cazabon O'Sullivan riding her 8yr old Westphalian, Aramis. They have only been doing dressage for one year and were 3rd at Medium level at the National Championships. Mr. Schumacher set out to show how he works with the 'hot horse' and worked on counter canter, simple changes and changes on the diagonal. Keeping the horse occupied and thinking all the time, he showed that once the horse relaxed he had a great range of movement. This will be an exciting combination for the future.



Last but not least, we had the pleasure of watching Mr. Schumacher working with Ann-Marie and her mare Nofretete riding to Prix st George level, showing softness and through ness in all her work. Everything appeared to happen without any visible aids making

the audience feel that they could do it because they made it look so easy.....

This showed real coaching - it is like an orchestra where all musicians play their part and the magic appears. What a wonderful finale!

On behalf of the Dressage Ireland Training committee Mrs Keogh gave thanks to Conrad Schumacher for all his wisdom and help for the past ten years and the trainers and riders for their time and effort. Mrs Keogh pointed out how far we have come - we are on a journey and any journey takes time but the training is showing and improving all riders from grass roots up. Training the Trainers now needs to be recognised as a method of learning in its own right.

DIY - (The new 'Dressage Ireland Youth Club')

A message from [Bill Delahoyde](#) and [Sorrell Klatzko](#)

Dear U25's,

As you will hopefully know, Dressage Ireland is undergoing a three year development plan, to improve the standard of Dressage in Ireland. A major part of this plan is for **youth development**, which is where **you** come in! Dressage Ireland has recognised the real need to encourage young people in the sport of Dressage & give you the help you need, whether it be just starting out, or pursuing an international career. That is why,



as part of this three year plan, we ([Sorrell Klatzko](#) & [Bill Delahoyde](#)) are delighted to announce that we have been asked to design a scheme for youth development, and also to be your representatives to the board of Dressage Ireland. This by no stretch of the imagination means that we make all the decisions & then tell you what is going to happen! Oh no! **You**, the members, are the main drivers & decision makers in this & we need **you** to make contributions. Now is **your** chance to make a real difference to the future of success in the sport of Dressage in Ireland.

To get things started, we have set up an U25's club, called the '**Dressage Ireland Youth club**', (**DIY**) to which you are all automatically members (once you are a member of Dressage Ireland, Eventing Ireland, SJAI, Irish Riding Club Association & Irish Pony Club) and to which anyone can join! The aim of this club is to be a focal point for us all, to discuss ideas, support each other, give & get help, and ensure we make the best decisions for us all, & Dressage in Ireland.

A **website** is currently being set up for the DIY club, which will have a link from the Dressage Ireland website (& hopefully Eventing Ireland, SJAI, Irish Riding Club Association and the Irish Pony Club's website). This site is really for **you**, the club's members, and will include all the things **you** need. A few examples of what will be on it are; **news flashes** about various events, **results**, etc. information regarding upcoming **training days** for your region, **schedules & calendars** for competitions, both national & abroad, **galleries** from previous events, with **your photographs & videos**, and **contact details** for trainers, horse nutritionists, etc. There will also be a list of '**Frequently Asked Questions**' (**FAQ's**) to help you with a wide variety of issues, and details about some **venues**, particularly abroad, which people have already visited (i.e. accommodation, directions, etc.). We will also have **forums**, for members to discuss various things, for example, buying horses. The website will also hold a section for our **team clothing**, where you can look at what's on offer & order it online. Currently we are working on ideas for a logo, and designs for the clothing, & we have decided to hold a small **competition** for you, our members, in which you will get the chance to design the club's future logo, which will be used on almost everything, from our website, to the team clothing, etc. (see below for details). There will be a **suggestion box** on this site too, for **you** to leave **your** comments & suggestions about the website, or anything to do with the development plan, because at the end of the day it's our club, so everyone's input is vital to it! Please feel free to post a comment, we would love to hear your input!

We are currently working on a **development plan** for next year, to start raising the standard of Dressage in Ireland & to encourage more new members into the sport. Here are a few of the ideas we are working on, to give you a taste for what's in store; As mentioned above, the DIY club, the website and the team clothing are all part of the plan. We are also aiming to set up **U25's classes & leagues** at more of our national regional shows and to introduce a new **interprovincial competition**. Some visits from top **international trainers** are being planned, along with some trips **abroad, on foot**, for those of you who are unfamiliar with the international scene, to get a taste for it, at whatever level you are at; this will include trips to the likes of, **Olympia**, the **BD National Convention**, a few **CDI's** & hopefully a climax in the **European Championships!** This is what we are currently working on, however, if you have any further suggestions, or ideas on how to improve this plan, or indeed anything you would like to see added to it, please feel free to contact us at the details below!



This club is, first & foremost to help **you** fulfil **your** aims in Dressage, & we would like to really stress that your input is very important to us! So please, feel free to make suggestions & ask questions at any time! Remember, no question is not worth asking! This is going to be a challenge for us all, though through hard work, commitment & supporting each other we can do it! As Horace, the great Latin poet put it, "*No man ever reached to excellence in any one art or profession without having passed through the slow and painful process of study and preparation*". So this is just what we need to do, and together we can do it!

Logo Competition:

As mentioned above, we are planning to develop a set of **team clothing** for the club, & we need to design a logo for it. We feel the most productive way to do this is to give **you** a chance to get creative & come up with designs for the future face of the club. This is a really great opportunity for **you** to have a chance of having **your** idea at the forefront of the DIY youth club.

We're not limiting you at all with your designs, other than that the logo should include the letters DIY, for the initials of the club. So get creative & good luck!

Contacts:

Any queries, requests, questions, etc. please feel free to contact us, Sorrell Klatzko and Bill Delahoyde at: diy@dressageireland.ie

DIY - (The new 'Dressage Ireland Youth Club') - continued...

Aims and Strategies

Aim 1:

To raise the standard of Dressage in Ireland, by drawing together all the Irish Youth who are interested in improving their flatwork by training, competing and ultimately representing Ireland in Dressage.

Strategy:

Enthusiasm, dedication, motivation and team spirit, along with having information, help & support readily available, from trainers, sponsors, Horse Sport Ireland (HIS), Dressage Ireland (DI), parents & supporters.

By setting up this club & website we hope to help everyone get the support they need.

Aim 2:

To have successful U25's teams competing at friendly internationals, both in Ireland & England.

Strategy:

Easy step by step goals planned out, to help you achieve your ultimate aims.

Providing funding, bursaries & scholarships to help you get the training & competition exposure you need.

Aim 3:

To have a Pony, Junior and Young rider team at the 2009 Europeans - In Holland for the Juniors & Young Riders (Ermelo) & in Belgium for the ponies (Moorsele).

Strategy:

With your support, dedication & commitment to the sport!
Training with top international trainers..

Progress to date:

Website to include;

- Forums – for you to discuss various ideas & get help & advice
- Galleries – from previous events, with all your photos
- **Suggestion box** – for you to leave your comments & suggestions about the club & training plan

Plan for next year;

- Training for everyone & squad training for teams
- Selection trials for teams
- Competitions - local, regional, inter-provincial, national, international
- Trips on foot – hopefully get a few groups to go to various competitions & events abroad (e.g. Hickstead, Olympia, etc.)
- Team clothing – range of items with our own logo (see above, about the logo competition)

**This is the start of such an exciting era, led by you for you!
Be part of improving Dressage in Ireland for the under 25's and ultimately for the whole sport!
Good luck!**

Regional Training

South Munster Training

Youth Development

South Munster has been very busy training this autumn! Rosemary Gaffney has made the journey from Kildalton College twice so far to head up the Youth Development training in the area. Both days were fully subscribed, with a number of very young enthusiasts travelling all the way from the Beara Peninsula to Glen Aire riding school in Mallow – a two and a half hour trip each way. All participants were delighted with Rosemary's tuition as she tailored each session to the level of the horses and riders taking part. Clever use of ground poles made the younger ones forget that they were doing "flatwork" and indeed it helped the riders to see how correct riding on the flat will help them to meet fences right when jumping.

Several of the older participants went on to compete in the South Munster autumn league where their results speak for themselves. Fourteen year old Emer Creedon went on to win the Junior Preliminary section, while Gavin Smiddy, Emer McSwiney and Neil McSwiney all achieved very high scores on the days they competed. Maeve Hennessey, who is a young rider rather than a junior, went on to compete at Preliminary and Novice level in the league with her young horse, Snoop Dog, and scored 70% plus at both levels – no mean feat for a horse in its first competitive season.

We are hoping to fit in another training day with Rosemary over the Christmas holidays and it looks like it will be just as well supported as the first two. Thanks Rosemary! And many thanks of course to HSI for sponsoring this training.

Member Training

Jennie Loriston-Clarke made a return visit to Cork for two days of rider training. This was booked out from an early stage with a couple of riders taking advantage of the opportunity to have two lessons with Jennie. Jennie had a wide range of horses and riders to work with – several Preliminary competitors, some working at Novice/Elementary level and a few working at Medium/Advanced Medium. The revelation of the weekend was Sally Bolger's Andalusian, Gallito. Sally, a regular Preliminary competitor, was beaming from ear to ear as she learned how to ride flying changes, counter canter, canter pirouettes and half passes. We're all awaiting their return to the competition scene with bated breath!

All who participated in the lessons were delighted. Jennie's years of experience showed as she quickly spotted problem areas and helped the riders to overcome problems and improve their horses' way of going. We are indebted to her for making the long journey to Cork and teaching through the first cold spell of the year – and just before going for surgery! We wish her a speedy recovery from her operation.

We will be continuing our members' training in the New Year. There is clearly a huge surge of interest in dressage in the region at the moment and we are working to provide a consistent training schedule to cater for our members' needs.

Report by Martine Greenlee

Leinster Dressage

Simply Dressage with Anne Marie Dunphy, Friday 21st November 2008

Leinster Dressage, with the support of HSI, were fortunate to host a dressage demonstration with Irish International rider and trainer Anne Marie Dunphy at Dollanstown Stud, Kilcock, Co. Kildare.

The popularity of such events with Leinster folk was evident as nearly 80 dressage enthusiasts packed the arena to see. Anne-Marie started the evening by looking at the confirmation of three different horses and discussing what to look for in the ideal dressage horse. Then she moved on to work with two 4 year old horses - Sorrell Klatzko and her mare Holly and Margaret Coonan on her mare Helena, demonstrating paces and the correct way of going for a young horse, starting work on lengthening of strides in trot and canter and showing how the use of shoulder fore can help towards straightening.

Next, Emma Kieran rode Anne-Marie's horse Urbanus and Miriam Joyce rode her own Terence Hill, acting as guinea pigs for Anne-Marie to discuss the correct position of the rider. She then moved on to working the horses up to medium level, including shoulder-in, medium trot, simple changes of leg through walk, canter - halt on the centre line, half pass and walk pirouette. She showed some exercises that could be used to help specific problems and then finished this section of the demonstration by talking about test riding while the riders demonstrated some of the movements required in a medium test.

Anne-Marie finished the evening riding her own Nofretete, while Sorrell rode Lorenzo, each showing the more advanced movements - zig-zag half passes and tempi changes.

Clare Fitzsimons and Sheila Fuller laboured mightily to provide tea, coffee and sandwiches for everyone and judging by the lively discussion afterwards, the experience left the audience feeling inspired.

At Anne-Marie's request a collection was taken up in support of the 'Make a Noise' campaign against the long-distance transport of horses to slaughter, raising in excess of €320 for this worthy cause.

The Leinster Dressage committee were delighted with the success of this, the second dressage demonstration hosted by the Region in 2008. The large attendance and enthusiastic response to both demonstrations show that there is a great interest in the region for this type of event. We hope to organise more in 2009 and are extremely grateful to Horse Sport Ireland for their support.

Report by Jennifer Egan

Regional Training (Continued)

Eastern Region Youth Training

Report by Krystyna Pollard

Young dressage enthusiasts were treated to many lessons and lectures in training sessions organised by Eastern Region this year.

Two sessions at Spruce Lodge in Redcross and one at Wicklow's Marlton Stud were held in the latter half of the year to help nurture the region's up-and-coming young talent. The Spruce Lodge training days were headed up by Niall Quirke, while 18 children from the area's three pony clubs attended a two-day introduction to dressage at Marlton under the watchful eyes of well-known riders Sorrell Klatzko and Emma Kieran. Each day at Marlton saw the children from Bray, Wicklow and Shillelagh Pony Clubs have a lesson on their ponies with Sorrell and Emma as well as a fun group lunch and videos.

In 2009 Eastern Region plans to amalgamate the youth training days and hold all training at Marlton Stud, with thanks to the Delahoyde family.

The next youth training session will be held on January 5 and 6. Application forms are available on the web and should be sent back to secretary Deirdre Leeson by December 19.

For older riders, a lecture demonstration will take place in the region this month. International rider and trainer Anne-Marie Dunphy will present a night of "Simply Dressage" at Marlton Stud on Friday, December 12 from 7.30pm. Anne-Marie will work with horses and riders of all levels and will ride her competition horses to show the progression of training from the start all the way through to advanced level. Topics include conformation and its effect on training and performance, training the young horse, improving rider position to achieve better effectiveness, and ring craft among others.

Those wanting more information about the night should contact [Deirdre Leeson](#) on 0877567870.

Leinster Dressage

Youth Development Training

Report by Suzanne Kirwan

On 30 October 2008 Leinster Dressage held a youth development training day with Maureen Dwyer in the excellent facilities of Maynooth Equestrian Centre, Clonfert, Maynooth. The training was available to all riders in the Leinster area aged up to 21 years. A total of 17 young riders took part in the day ranging from experienced young riders honing their skills to fun-loving pony youngsters experiencing structured flatwork training as a new skill.



Leinster Dressage was particularly pleased to note that these sessions introduced many participants to dressage for the first time, spreading the gospel of 'flatwork' to a predominantly show-jumping-oriented group. Speaking after the day one of the young participants said "I really loved the way Maureen showed us how to make use of our new flatwork skills when we are jumping". Another rider commented that "the sessions were super - when can we do another?"

Leinster Dressage hopes to continue organising further training dates with Maureen.

Further details of these will be posted on the web at www.leinsterdressage.com



Dressage Ireland Needs your Help!

Have you got any ideas to help improve Dressage Ireland?

Don't forget you can share your inspirations using the Suggestion Box:
<http://www.dressageireland.ie/suggestionbox/suggestionbox.htm>

Message from the Editors

We hope you've enjoyed this, the end of year edition of the Dressage Ireland Newsletter.

We would like to express particular thanks to our contributors, Anne Cahill, Paul Nolan, Wouter Liekens, Michael Reid, Bernie Webb, Rosemary Gaffney, Norbert von Cramon, Sorrell Klatzko, Bill Delahoyde, Krystyna Pollard, Martine Greenlee, Suzanne Kirwan and Emma Kieran.

Once again, we would also like to express our appreciation to Robert D'Arcy, who has taken our emails, post-it notes, photos and asides and transformed them into this Newsletter.

As always, we welcome your feedback, news items, articles and suggestions for articles, letters to the editor and photos. Remember, the Newsletter will only be as good as you, the members, make it, so send your contributions to Alison and Jenny at pro@dressageireland.ie

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For all the latest news on Dressage Ireland activities, please visit:

www.dressageireland.ie

www.easternregiondressage.com

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