



Dressage Ireland Newsletter

July 2008

Letter from the Vice-Chairman, Dressage Ireland

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2nd edition of the Dressage Ireland Newsletter. Thanks again must go to Jenny and Alison for all their hard work putting the Newsletter together.

I am sure you, like me, are looking forward to the summer and all that it brings, sunshine, long days and BBQs and, of course, a full summer dressage programme.

Dressage Ireland is entering a very exciting time, we have more Small and Big Tour riders that ever before and have got our judges training and upgrading programme up and running, so there is much to look forward to.

On the National circuit, congratulations to all the prize winners at our National Winter Finals, and on the International circuit congratulations to Anna Merveldt and Judy Reynolds who are really putting Irish Dressage on the world map with some outstanding results.



A committee is being formed to draw up a 3 year strategy plan incorporating all aspects of Dressage Ireland. If anyone would have any suggestions which they feel would improve our organisation we would be delighted if you would forward them to our secretary.

Finally, as we all look forward to our National Championships at Necarne in September, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and successful summer season.

Robert McCormick
Vice Chairman
Dressage Ireland



Heike Holstein with World Fire, winners of the National Winter Championships 2008.

(Photograph courtesy of Jim Prime)

Dressage Ireland National News

Dressage Ireland AGM 2008

The Dressage Ireland AGM was held on Wednesday 4 June at the Green Isle Hotel, Newland's Cross, Dublin.

In addition to the normal business, the meeting was addressed by Damian McDonald, Chief Executive of Horse Sport Ireland (H.S.I.), who updated members on the role and objectives of the H.S.I. and confirmed that the Dressage 'High Performance' Committee, now in place.

The meeting was also informed that plans to hold a CDI at Necarne in May 2009 are under way and a written application will now be sent to the F.E.I. Both the board of Dressage Ireland and the H.S.I. have given their full support.

Members were invited to contribute to the formulation of a 3 year strategic plan for dressage. A working group is being established to develop this plan over the summer and any members interested in having an input to this process should contact the Dressage Ireland Secretary at info@dressageireland.ie.

The setting up of a 'Sportsmans' membership category was also discussed and will be explored by the board.

New Dressage Ireland Rule Book

The new Dressage Ireland Rule Book is now available to consult and download here: http://www.dressageireland.ie/downloads/Dressage_Ireland_Rule_Book.pdf

Printed, ring-bound Rule Books will be available to purchase from the Dressage Ireland Office in the near future.

National Championships 2008

The National Championships 2008 will take place in Necarne, Co. Fermanagh from 26 – 28 September 2008.

The tests for the National Championships 2008 will be as follows:

Preliminary	BD 15 (2008) BD19 (2008)
Novice	BD 22 (2007) BD38 (2005)
Elementary	BD 53 (2007) BD 58 (2004)
Medium	BD 64 (2006) BD 73 (2007)
Advanced Medium	BD 98 (2002) BD 94 (2002)
Advanced	BD 104 (2007)
Prix St. Georges	FEI PSG 2000
Intermediaire I	FEI Intermediaire I 2002
Intermediaire II	FEI Intermediaire II 2001
Grand Prix	FEI GP B 2003
Elementary Freestyle	BD Elementary Freestyle 2006
Medium Freestyle	BD Medium Freestyle 2006
Advanced Medium Freestyle	BD Advanced Medium Freestyle 2002
Prix St Georges Freestyle	FEI Young Riders (Prix St. Georges) Freestyle2006
Young Dressage Horse	BD 15 (2008)

Para tests will also be included.

Silver Spurs

The Silver Spurs is a scheme organized by Dressage Ireland with the aim of identifying and developing young dressage riders. It encourages their progress by awarding training bursaries and by giving direction and advice. The goal is to provide a pathway to help young dressage riders achieve an international standard.

Details of the Silver Spurs competition for 2008 are now available on the Dressage Ireland website. There has been an important change in the procedure for qualification for the Finals to be held at the National Championships. [Click here to see full details of the Silver Spurs for 2008](#)

Potential Irish Sport Horse - Sponsored by Horse Sport Ireland

The aim of this class is to identify horses bred in Ireland who have the conformation, temperament and potential to be produced as a riding horse suitable for dressage.

This class is for 4 and 5 year old horses bred in Ireland, with breed codes ISH, RID or ID that are registered in the IHR, by a stallion approved in the Main Studbook of the IHR and with sire and dam documented on the passport. [Click here to see full details of the Potential Irish Sport Horse Championships for 2008.](#)

Vaccination and Passports required for National Championships

All horses and ponies registered with Dressage Ireland must be vaccinated against Equine Influenza and Tetanus. Under FEI Rules all horses **MUST** receive a booster vaccination every 6 months.

Passports are required at the National Championships and **MUST** be presented when declaring.

Dressage Ireland National News (continued)

Attention all International Riders!

The criteria for International Riders have been revised with effect from the 1st April 2008. Important changes have been made and all international and potential international riders should study the new criteria carefully.

These revised criteria take precedence over all previous versions.

To read the International Criteria click here >>>

Summer Schedule 2008

The schedule for Summer Season 2008 has been sent out to members and is available to download at <http://www.dressageireland.ie/downloads/downloads.htm>

Midland and Western Region - Extra Show

Midland and Western Region have added an extra show on 17th August, 2008 at Woodlands Equestrian Centre near Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo (not 24/08/08 in Corrandulla as previously announced) with classes as per their regional final on 03/08/08.

New Grades for Horses

Horses may compete only at the level at which they are graded or higher. The new bands came into force on 1st May 2008. The points limit for each grade will be as follows:

Preliminary	0 - 49 points
Novice	50 - 124 points
Elementary	125 - 199 points
Medium	200 - 299 points
Advanced Medium	300 - 374 points

Riders/owners must keep a note of points won at each affiliated show, and should not enter classes for which they are no longer eligible.

Judges Training Plan 2008 - Remaining Dates

Date	Venue	Details
19th July	Barnadown E.C. Gorry, Co. Wexford	Venue Training and mock exam for judges up to list 4 going to 3 and potential judges
11th - 16th August	FRYS, G.B.	Exam for list 3 judges upwards at C.D.I. in FRYS
16th August	Boswell E.C.	Exam for all judges up to list 4 to 3 and potential judges
26 - 28 September	Necarne Castle	Training for all lists and exam for all judges up to list 4 to 3 and potential judges

Please Note: Judges at all levels **MUST** sit a mock exam before they will be considered suitable to sit the exam proper.

For any enquiries please contact the secretary: on 059 9771728 or email: info@dressageireland.ie.

Put it in your Diary!

Dressage Ireland is holding a training and judging seminar with Isobel Wessels at Kill E.C. on Monday 10th November.

This seminar is aimed at everyone: Judges, trainers and riders.

International News

Anna Merveldt and Coryolano win Grand Prix Special at Lipica World Cup Qualifier

08/06/2008



Early on the morning of 8 June, at the CDI-W in Lipica, Slovenia, the Grand Prix Special class, which had been suspended the previous afternoon due to adverse weather conditions, resumed. Irish international rider Anna Merveldt, riding James Connor's Coryolano, leaders from the previous day, maintained their position to win the class on 65.96%.

This victory, together with Judy Reynolds' win on the 5 June, the first day the competition, with Remember in the Prix St Georges class, marked the first occasion where two Irish riders have scored wins at CDI level at the same event.

Reynolds' second ride, Rathbawn Valet, took 5th place in the Prix St Georges class, went on to finish second in the Intermediaire I on 7 June and rounded off the week by placing third on 69.250% in the Intermediaire I Kur (Freestyle to Music) on the final day of the competition. For full results visit www.lipica.org



*Judy Reynolds and Rathbawn Valet
- Lipica CDI-W*

*Anna Merveldt and Coryolano -
Grand Prix Special Presentation at 7am on Sunday morning [8th June 2008] at Lipica CDI-W*

(with thanks to Joe Reynolds, who provided these images)

Success continues for Reynolds in Austria

16/06/2008



*Judy and Remember
competing in the Intermediaire I*

Following on from her successes at the Lipica CDI-W, Judy Reynolds continued her run of form at Achleiten CDI3*, finishing third on Friday 13 June in the Prix St Georges with Remember 143 on a score of 68.5%, only 0.2% behind the winner, Alfons Friedberger of Austria.

Two days later she bettered her position and achieved a personal best international score with Remember 143 in the Intermediaire I, placing second on a score of 69.7%, missing out on the top spot by just 0.25%.

Her second ride in this class, Rathbawn Valet, also posted a solid score, placing 9th on 65.9%. Full results can be found at: www.achleiten.at



*Judy being presented with her prize
by Sissy Max-Theurer*

(with thanks to Joe Reynolds, who provided these images)

News from the Regions

Necarne Festival

For the ninth consecutive year Dressage Ireland held their May Festival at the beautiful Necarne Castle venue in Irvinestown. Competitors started to arrive on Thursday before the competition started at the weekend. The warm welcome from Robert McCormick (vice chairman of Dressage Ireland) and his team, who organised the event, was much appreciated by all, especially those who had travelled from various parts of England and Scotland. The excitement from many children and their ponies was apparent as well as the hard work and training that had taken place leading up to and during the event, from all levels of horses and riders.



The FEI judges, who had travelled from England and further parts of Europe, stated throughout the competition that the organisation of the whole event was exceptional and that the quality of the horses, riders and the tests rode, exceeded their expectations.

The friendly atmosphere generated by all the supporters was enjoyed during the whole festival and trainers were kept busy with their riders ensuring that the highest possible marks would be achieved during the tests ridden.

Two tests were ridden each day with placings awarded for each class. The championships for each level were decided on the total of riders scores over the four tests. Ten teams competed for the Children's Choice Publications team championships and first place was clinched by North West England over Scotland Red. Northern Region England came a close third followed by Eastern Region England. The winning team were

delighted to receive the Mastin Brothers Cup from judge Alison Mastin-Moore.

The Horshware Ireland Preliminary Championship was won by a clear majority by Joan Adrain riding Zugaro, the Dutch bred stallion owned by Carolyn Mellor. Joan took a weekend break from her busy show jumping yard to ride the stallion. This four year old and many other young horses who attended the show, showed off their potential and were all on their best behaviour in the busy warm up arena and during their tests.

The Sportscameras.com Novice Championship was won by English rider Samantha Morrison on Ushi II and the Ansell Lightening Elementary Championship was a clear win for the talented pony rider from Scotland; Robyn Smith on Maesy Fron Rhett.

County Down based Lucy Adams enjoyed a double win over the weekend, firstly on the Oldenburg pony stallion,

Brinkum's Helmut, owned by William and James Collins, which sealed the medium championship and then took the small tour on her own impressive Ben Hymn ahead of Jennifer Somerville on Mr Bingley and Danielle Read on Early Warning.

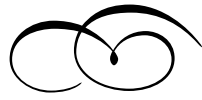
With just two competitors in the advanced medium class, Read had to settle with second place to Sylvia Henry on Obelix III.

Laragh Hamilton on her sixteen year old Irish bred mare Claggan Roxy Music took the big tour championship with an average score of 62.8% but the Grand Prix class was won by Heike Hostein on her twelve year old Weltmeyer gelding World Fire.

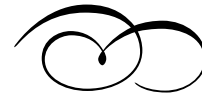
The accolade cup for the highest score achieved from the under twenty-one years Irish rider was presented to Lynsey Pritchard with Kemella Clover King who also finished third in the Preliminary Championship.

PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP		
1st	Zugaro	Joan Adrain
2nd	Western Star	Linda McKinney
3rd	Kemella Clover King	Lynsey Pritchard
NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP		
1st	Ushi III	Samantha Morrison
2nd	Perplex	Lara Dyson
3rd	Kelmscott Sandpiper	Aimee Witkins
ELEMENTARY CHAMPIONSHIP		
1st	Maesy Fron Rhett	Robyn Smith
2nd	Dublin	Charity Graepel
3rd	Tres Chic	Amber Taylor

MEDIUM CHAMPIONSHIP		
1st	Brinkum's Helmut	Lucy Adams
2nd	Riddler	Amy McFarland
3rd	Uneek	Lyn Mc Cormick
ADVANCED MEDIUM CHAMPIONSHIP		
1st	Obelix III	Sylvia Henry
2nd	Early Warning	Danielle Read
SMALL TOUR		
1st	Ben Hymn	Lucy Adams
2nd	Mr Bingley	Jennifer Somerville
BIG TOUR		
1st	Claggan Roxy Music	Lara Hamilton
2nd	Fahrenheit	Sarah Mellor



Interview



Dressage Ireland PRO Alison Kirkpatrick met with the Scottish BYRDS Regional Training Group at the Necarne Festival.

The Scottish BYRDS Regional Training Group took Necarne by storm led by Chef De Quipe Adrienne Taylor. The squad of six, with ages ranging from 11-23 years, travelled over from Scotland with their ponies, families and friends. When talking to the team, their passion for dressage the excitement of being at Necarne and their strong competitive spirit were apparent. None of the riders had competed at Necarne before but their leader Adrienne was back for the 7th year in succession, Adrienne's enthusiasm for all the teams she has managed was a pleasure to see and it was obvious that all the riders and their families trusted and respected her judgement and were proud to be in her team. She explained how, through being involved with in selecting and training the Scottish teams, she was involved in Regional training camps where horses and riders where given individual instruction, psychology lessons, information on Horse Pilates, physiotherapy and team building exercises. She also runs the "Sports Scotland Funded Teams" in which only five places are allocated, following selection days run with the support of Ferdi Elberg. To keep the continuity of young riders coming through, Adrienne manages the BYRDS development Group. A very busy lady who is an asset to dressage and all the young riders in Scotland, so I was delighted to be given the opportunity to interview her and her young team for Necarne festival 2008.

One of the stars of the team who, after Necarne, went onto feature in the Horse and Hound, is Robyn Smith from east Kilbright. Robyn now only 11 years old starting riding at 3 years and rides between Prelim and Medium level. Her two ponies, namely Bracken and Maesy Fron Rhett were placed.

She has competed in Wicklow and the Dressage Ireland National Championships at Necarne but her ambition is to ride at Grand Prix level. Her hobbies are swimming and singing.

Rosie Williams, also 11 years old, started riding at six. Rosie is from Perthshire and is currently competing at Novice level on her pony called The Last Word, Rosie has also previously competed at Wicklow and in England, but her real passion is eventing, so her dream would be to compete at 4 star level. Her main hobby is hockey.



Another young member of the team is Carmen Gammie, also aged 11 years. Carmen and her pony The Butler travelled from Aberdeen. She has only been riding for just two and a half years and rides from prelim to elementary level, but would love to compete at Grand Prix eventually. Like Rosie she has competed in England and the Dressage Ireland National Championships.

Another potential eventer for the future is Henrietta Cooper who, despite only being 14 years old, dreams of competing at Badminton. Her pony Muirsland Downe is performing up to elementary level and Henrietta has worked hard as she has only been riding for nearly 3 years. She enjoys football and rugby as well as training hard for dressage.

Louise Ritchie who at 17 years old thoroughly enjoys riding El Especiale at Elementry level, was also delighted to be riding in the Scotland red team. Louise had also competed regularly and away from her home town.

Kate Paskins at 23 years old had a very busy and successful Necarne Festival. Her own North by North West, a thoroughbred whose dam was the champion hack horse at HOYS. This combination competed at elementary along with Kate's other ride, the 12 year old called Piroc. Kate was in both Scotland red and Scotland blue Teams on each of these horses. Sunray Shadow was Kate's Novice horse. All in all she felt she gained valuable experience, with these horses throughout the festival.

The placings for the team competitions were strongly contested, and the scotish team proved their hard work and dedication throughout the whole competition. Scotland Red consisted of Merven Miller on Nico VI, Robyn Smith on Maesy Fron Rhett, Louise Ritchie on El Especiale and Kate Paskins on North by North West. This team came 2nd out of the 10 teams and were delighted with their success. Scotland Blue came in 6th and consisted of Rosie Williams on The Last Word, Henrietta Cooper on Muirsland Downie, Kate Paskins on Piroc and Carmen Gammie on The Butler.

The whole team and their families all thought that Necarne was a beautiful venue and the festival was extremely well run and all look forward to coming back in the future.

By Alison Kirkpatrick.

Rider Profiles:

This edition we profile two riders who caught the dressage bug at an early age.

Lynsey Pritchard, Northern Region

Lynsey Pritchard, junior rider from Northern Region, answered questions posed by Dressage Ireland PRO Alison Kirkpatrick:

Where do you live?
Bangor, Co. Down.

How old are you?
I'm 18 years old.

When did you start riding?
I started riding when I was 8 on treks when we went on holiday down south then I got my first pony when I was 10 and a half, a 12.2 called Cracker.

How long have you been doing dressage?
I first joined Dressage Ireland in November 2007.

How did you catch the 'bug'?
I had evented for three years and I found that my previous pony Fizz and my current horse Romeo always excelled in the Dressage phase, so last winter once the eventing season was over I decided to take up Dressage to see how Romeo would do at the pure Dressage.

At what level do you ride?
I have just recently moved up to novice.

What horse are you riding at the moment?
I'm currently riding Romeo whose show name is Kemella Clover King, he's a 16.1 chestnut gelding by Nautilus out of a Clover Hill mare called Fraulein. We bought him from Flowerhill in Galway almost three years ago when he had just turned four.

How often do you compete at Northern Region?
I try to get out competing every weekend, whether it be a Saturday or a Sunday.



What do you consider to be your major achievements to date?

Winning the prelim class at the National Finals in Boswell, Wicklow this year, finishing third overall in the preliminary championship at Necarne in May 2008 and being awarded the Accolade Cup for the highest scoring Irish rider under 21 at Necarne. Having moved up to novice on Saturday 14th June, I was very pleased when we won both of the novice classes that day.

What are your plans for 2008?

Hopefully to continue doing well at novice level and to compete at the championships in Necarne in September.

How do you feel dressage can be improved in Ireland?

I think mentoring for young riders and better sharing of information about how to qualify for Irish teams, and welcoming new members helping them to feel a part of the "Dressage family". I have been helped to settle in through my friendship with Alison Kirkpatrick the Dressage Ireland PR officer and by my trainers Yvette Truesdale and Carolyn Mellor.

What other hobbies do you have?

Horse riding takes up most of my time but any spare time I spend with friends.

Where do you go to school?

I have just finished a National Diploma in I.T at Bangor Tech.

What is your favorite subject?

I.T. which is why I choose to do the Diploma at Tech.



Rider profile:

Robert McMullin, Eastern Region

Robert McMullin, a junior rider from Eastern Region, answered questions posed by Krystyna Pollard, PRO for the Region:

Where do you live?

Roundwood, Co. Wicklow.

How old are you?

I just turned 17 in April.

When did you start riding?

I have always had horses in my family so it is hard to put an age or a date on when I started, all I can say is that I remember riding as far back as my memory will take me.

How long have you been doing dressage?

I've been doing dressage since I was 10 years old. I started to compete when I was 12, in 2002.

How did you catch the 'bug'?

I originally showjumped and from there I went into eventing. I found that the dressage really won the eventing classes so I started to concentrate on the flatwork and from then to now I've been hooked on riding and training dressage.

What horse are you riding at the moment?

I am looking for a new horse but at the moment I am riding my mum's current horse, Napoleon.

How often do you compete at Eastern Region?

During the show season I would rarely miss an Eastern Region or Marlton Show, so they would usually be held every two weeks.

At what level do you ride?

I ride at Medium level which is the international standard for ponies. I hope to move up to the next level which is Advanced Medium so as I can compete internationally as a Junior as this is my first year as a Junior, riding horses.

What do you consider to be your major achievements to date?

I was placed first and second in the Eastern Region Junior League in 2004 -2005, I was also a finalist of the Silver Spurs that year. I have represented Ireland in all of our home International friendly's since 2005. I have been the National Pony Champion of Ireland in 2006 and 2007. I won the FEI Pony Championship in the Addington International Show, England, 2006 and I won the FEI Pony Championship in the Marlton International Show, Ireland, 2007. I represented Ireland on the continent in Le Toquet CDI-P/J/YR, France 2006 and I represented Ireland in the European Pony Dressage Championships in Fraudenberg, Germany, 2007.

What are your plans for 2008?

I first hope to get a horse so as I can compete at Advanced Medium as well as the Medium horse I am riding at the moment. I also hope to go abroad to England to compete at some of the friendly internationally which will help set me up to compete next year on the continent in the CDI-J events, where hopefully I can gain qualification to go to the European Championships, 2009.

How do you feel dressage can be improved in Ireland?

I think if there was more done to encourage kids into the sport at an early age like clinics that anybody could enter or if there scholarship training bursaries available for all ages up to 21, obtained through rider assessment and potential rider classes.

What other hobbies do you have?

Other the riding, I like to paint and draw. I also like to play football, rugby and tennis. I have always loved to swim too.

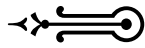
Where do you go to school?

St. Gerards, Bray.

What is your favorite subject?

Art closely followed by maths.





Meet the Members



Caroline Hofman, shown here with her horse *Albani*, is a Midland and Western region member, having joined Dressage Ireland for the first time this year.

Caroline is 14 years old and lives in County Tipperary.

She has owned *Albani*, an 11 year old Danish Warmblood gelding by *Andiamo*, since June 2007.

The combination currently compete at preliminary and novice level, as well as hunting, and competing at hunter trials and showjumping.



There is Life Beyond Dressage!



Lynne started her Dressage Career at the tender age of 8 years and competed ponies with great success. Through hard work and determination, her success continued onto horses. Lynne is a regular dressage competitor, while her son Andrew, who is now 7 years old, regularly entertains the Northern Region performing his own Dressage Test with his Hobby Horse!

But, it does not end here: there is life beyond dressage. Not only is Lynne a dedicated rider and wonderful mother but she has also spent the last few years studying very hard. Her diligence has been rewarded, as she was recently awarded a 1st Class Honours Degree as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Sciences. A very busy lady indeed!

A big Congratulations to Lynne from all of Dressage Ireland.

Congratulations are due to Northern Region member Lynne McCormick who recently graduated from Queens University of Belfast as Bachelor of Science in Nursing Sciences', gaining a First Class Honours Degree.

Eastern Region Camp

Eastern Region has seen the launch of many successful dressage careers over the years and was the springboard for the latest generation of riders on Saturday, July 12.

Lauren McKenna, Aoife Sheridan, Alisha Mullen, Louise Leeson, Shauna McGoren and Jessica Carton took part in a three-day dressage summer camp held at Tomdarragh Equestrian in Roundwood to brush up on their riding skills before being put to the test at the latest Eastern Region show.

It was the first time competing for four of the girls, who had to learn not only all the movements of the test but also what to wear and the rules of the arena.

The girls enjoyed plenty of success on competition day (July 12), with Shauna on *Sinbad* taking out third place overall against open competition. Alisha, who worked extremely hard all week on *Bronco*, put in a very good performance to take out fifth place while Aoife, also on *Sinbad*, came in sixth.

All the children received special rosettes for taking part on the day. Tomdarragh proprietor and well-known Eastern Region equestrienne Margaret McMullin is already planning another event due to popular demand.



Lauren McKenna and her horse Ben, Aoife Sheridan, Alisha Mullen, Louise Leeson, Shauna McGoren, Warpaint and his owner Jessica Carton after their dressage success. In background; Prince

Message from the Editors

We hope you've enjoyed this, the second edition of the New Dressage Ireland Newsletter.

We would like to express particular thanks to our contributors, Robert McCormick, Alison Mastin, Lynsey Pritchard, Robert McMullin, Krystyna Pollard and Caroline Hofman, without whom this Newsletter would not be.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Robert D'Arcy, who has once again 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. We hope to produce the next Newsletter at the end of September. Remember, the Newsletter will only be as good as you, the members, make it, so send you contribution 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

www.northernirelanddressage.com

www.leinsterdressage.com

www.midlandwesterndressage.com

