



ILDRA Leinster Branch Newsletter

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2010 and what a start to the year! All that ice and snow. But things are looking up. The evenings are getting a lot brighter now and the rides are underway. The first was bravely run in Hollywood, under difficult conditions. The ride had to be moved to the 24th of January (due to weather) and was run instead of Stranahealy. There were 23 riders. Thanks to Cora Roche and helpers for running the ride.

The next ride was Wolfhill on the 7th of February, a great success, it had 43 riders Braving the cold and fog. The track is improving again, the stones are not as bad and a lot of the riders mentioned, it rode a lot better than last year. It was unusually busy around Wolfhill with two matches being played on the pitch behind the school, it's only a tiny village so we were in competition for parking, but there's also the church car park just down the road, and many thanks to those who cleaned it up before they left. It makes us more welcome there next time. Many missing the soup! Sorry..... we'll have to ask Michael and Eilish to resurrect the soup ride next time round. It's a great warmer-up on the top of Wolfhill. Thanks to

Michael and helpers for running the ride.

Leinster Branch Race Ride Series 2010

Just a reminder to all potential race riders, the 2010 Leinster Branch Race Ride Series is kicking off on the 21st March at Kinnity. This is a race ride series open to any gold rider and gold horse combination. It operates as a stand-alone race on the day as well as on a handicap rating worked out over the best four rides out of five. All are welcome to enter, whether it is your first experience of a race ride or whether you are and old pro at them!! Entry is €50 on the day. There will be a small prize for the first home on the day and prizes presented for the overall series at the Leinster Branch AGM.

The venues and dates of the series is as follows-

1st	21st March	Kinnity
2nd	18th April	Portlaw
3rd	2nd May	Oldcourt
4th	6th June	Castleruddery
Final	18th July	Donard

Home International and Celtic Challenge

Would you like to be a member of a team representing your country in the sport of endurance riding? Each year ILDRA sends two Irish teams made up of riders from both the north and south of Ireland. One team competes in the "Celtic Challenge" competition and the other team competes in the Home International. Each team is made up of many different levels of endurance riders. There are places for novice riders and junior riders alongside our more experienced riders.

We have had various levels of success over the years but have always had fun. If you are interested in putting your name forward for the team please look at the website www.enduranceridingireland.com for details of the selection criteria. They will be published there in the near future.

Just a reminder to all current members the yearly membership fees are due. The forms are available online for new members and old!

There are many more fab rides to look forward to in the coming months, hope you can all support these rides if you can, these rides can't be run without your support. So come out and have some fun meet all your friends again human and equine..... Hope to see you all soon, let's make it a great season for our 20th Anniversary! Keep an eye on the website for any changes

hopefully not too many! Its www.enduranceridingireland.com

If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the next newsletter please send details to Kim McCormack at Kimmccormack9@gmail.com

All Ride Reports are available online at www.enduranceridingireland.com so have a read and see what it's all about!

Photograph of the Quarter



Fun at the Fancy Dress Ride! (Philip McCormack, Melanie Byrne, Ben Croke)

NEXT RIDES:

**Donard – 21st Feb
Thomas Roche - 0878577801**

**Bawnreigh – 7th March
Anne Kinsella - 0876552250**

**Kinnity – 21st March
Kevin Croke - 0851565188**

**Donard – Sat 4th April
Edward Allen - 0878777580**