

National Newsletter

DONARD FESTIVAL

Web-site

- If you haven't already checked out our web-site, where have you been! ILDRA have a new site and Facebook group, just type in www.enduranceridingireland.com and spend the day browsing.

Newsletter

If you would like to advertise or have an article for the newsletter or web site just email Kirsten or Kathy on

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Well its nearly here and after a lot of hard work from the committee we hope that everyone will enjoy the weekend.

ILDRA will be holding a show on the Saturday morning starting at 10:00am.

Class 1- Pure bred Arab—Open to any Pure Bred Arab, any age.

Class 2—Part Bred Arab—Open to any Part Bred Arab, any age

Class 3—Sport Horse—Open to any Sport Horse, any age

Class 4—Mountain and Moorland—Open to any M&M pony, any age.

Class 5—Irish Draught—Open to any Irish Draught, any age.

All classes above are open to members and non-members. Entry will be 10euros and can be either pre-entered or on the day. Any Stallions entered cannot be lead by a Junior. If the classes are running late timings for the rest of



Adele and Emma Greer take a breather at Glenariff

the day will be altered accordingly.

A 10 mile race will commence at 1pm. This is open to all with a special category for Non-members.

All other CTRs up to 48km and Pleasure Rides will start from 12.30pm.

The BBQ will be at the Hunting Lodge from 7.30pm. Tickets are 10euros and can be either purchased before or on the day.

Sun 18th. Vetting for

the 80km ER will start at 8am. The race itself will start at 8.30am with vetting for all other CTRs starting from 8.45am.

Prize giving will be at approx 4.30pm. Anyone who enters CTRs will be automatically entered for the Junior and Senior National Championships according to the lowest shamrock status. All entries to be sent to Kirsten Conly.

GOLDEN HORSESHOE

Golden Horseshoe is one of the oldest established and most prestigious endurance events in the British Calendar. Helen McFarland and her horse Jake are no strangers to the competition, having completed in 2007. The event takes in a variety of

tracks, bridleways and moorlands and riders often find themselves sharing these with red deer and Exmoor ponies. Due to heavy going this year speeds were reduced and on the second day none of the horses were able to

make gold time. Helen and two other combinations, received silver awards. This is the eleventh 100 mile ride which Helen and Jake have successfully finished over the years. Congratulations to both!

Leinster Branch Ride Results

Donard – Sat 3rd Apr

This years second ride at Donard proved to be a great success with the weather holding up to make sure that 33 riders enjoyed themselves. 13 CTR riders ranging from 64km to 40km ventured out. We are glad to report that all horses passed the vet.

Oldcourt – Sun 2nd May

Due to a change of venue things proved to be difficult with parking. We can only apologise for this, hopefully it will be back to normal for the next ride at Oldcourt. There were 9 CTR riders, 2 of which were doing a 80km race. Terri Moore and April O'Raw took on the challenge and both were successful.

Castleruddery – Sun 6th

June

After a few weeks of endless sunshine, the weather was not on our side! Although perfect for horses not so for the crews. 3 riders came from the north to attend. Helen McFarland joined Terri and Evelyn Moore in the 80km race while Robyn and Hannah Catterall took it easier by doing an 80km CTR. Sadly Hannah's horse, Holly threw a shoe. Kathy and Kirsten would like to thank Nikki Boud for taking over crewing for Robyn while they went out on course to rescue Hannah. Meanwhile the 3 race riders had given

Spectators a close finish. The finish of this line was captured on camera and if you would like to see this you can either go to the link on the web-site or you could visit ILDRAs Facebook page.

YES you read right, ILDRAs does indeed have a Facebook page. If you are part of the techno world why not join the club! ILDRAs Facebook has currently friends from all over. Not only people from Ireland there are quite a few EGB members.



Thank you to all our organizers and helpers throughout the season. Without you we would be stuck. If you think you could help at a ride speak to a committee member who will help!

Ulster Branch Ride Reports

Florence Court – Sun 11 Apr

A total of 33 riders tackled the tracks which included several river crossings—while some horses appreciated the chance to splash through the cool water, others took a bit of persuading and more than one rider also managed to go for a paddle! There were 9 CTR riders and 1 Pony Club Member who successfully passed through vetting which was carried out by Bob Smith.

Mournes – Sat 24th April

Hazy sunshine and warm sea breezes gave 24 riders the opportunity to enjoy outstanding views from this well established course. The venue was run from Tollymore Riding Centre. Today was a first for one rider! ILDRAs had the pleasure of Jessica Spitzke, a German Endurance Rider who has taken great interest in ILDRAs while she is working here in Ireland a year. She partnered Just C'Mall to complete a 40 mile ride. We hope to see more of Jessica throughout the year. 10 CTR riders successfully completed their rides.

Slieveanorra – Sun 9th May

Another day of sunshine was the fitting reward for the riders who made the journey to scenic Slieveanorra, high on the Antrim plateau. A combination of work in the forestry and fallen trees meant a few last minute route changes, however organizers Rosemary and Richard York coped admirably with all the details. A total of 9 CTR riders successfully passed the vet and special mention goes to Sancha Talbot and her horse Calypso for completing their silver Shamrock. A mention also goes to Erin Fowler, who not only completed her Bronze Shamrock but picked up an award for best condition, Well done to both. But the highlight of the afternoon was when Hannah Catterall shared her birthday cake!

Rostrevor – Sat 22nd May

Fresh from her success from the Golden Horseshoe, Helen McFarland, accompanied by hubby David organized a very relaxed ride. Wall to wall sunshine and clear blue skies provided all riders with spectacular views. The horses however were glad of a drink from the stream on top of Slievemiskan. 9 CTR riders and 1 Pony Club rider successfully completed their days riding while their crews soaked up the sun!

Glenariff – Sun 13th June

Riders who traveled to Glenariff were rewarded with yet another beautiful day! With the help from Lucinda Buchanan (vet), Peter Moore and Evelyn Meharg, organizers Gail Baillie and Ian Gault set out a course which took riders up and down the Glen and across to Parkmore.



Young rider Jenni Cunningham was overjoyed as her and horse Breeze completed their Silver Shamrock. 10 other riders were successful.

Home International & Celtic Challenge

Well its finally been decided. After an informal meeting over coffee, the selection committee and our new Chef have come up with the teams. A number of riders have been working towards these competitions and have successfully made it onto the team.



Racing finish at Ludlow 2009!

Home International Team

1 x 160km (100miles) 2 day

Helen McFarland—J St Jake

1 x 120km (75 miles) 2 day

Thomas Roche—Polly

1 x 80km ER (50 miles)

Larry O'Neill—Bluebell

1 x 80km (50 miles) 2 day

Jane Bruce—Holy Smoke

1 x 48km (30 miles) Junior

Jenni Cunningham—Breeze

1 x 40km (25 miles) Novice

Tasha Anderson—Zeno

Celtic Challenge Team

1 x 160km (100 miles) 2 day

Robyn Catterall—Ellanora

1 x 80km ER (50 miles)

Kate Russell—Spike

1 x 80km (50 miles) 2 day

Sancha Talbot—Calypso

1 x 80km (50miles) 2 day
Junior

Hannah Catterall—Holly

1 x 48km (30 miles)

Brona Kearney—Charmer

1 x 40km (25 miles) Novice

Edward Allen—Pepperjack

We would like to wish Cora and her teams the very best of Luck!

Endurance for Balmoral

Thursday 13th May saw a first for ILDRA and Balmoral Show. ILDRA were invited to run a display at Balmoral to show people what we are all about. Our commentator for the day was Maggie Patterson, from EGB. With the riders warmed up in the main arena, Maggie explained a few aspects of the start of a ride. Riders Robyn and Hannah Catterall,

Jenni Cunningham, Thomas Roche and Juliet Jobling-Purser were riding a mock 50 mile race "The Balmoral Challenge". Each of the riders played their own part. Thomas and Jenni were vetting, Juliet was crewing and Robyn and Hannah were the racing finish. The finish proved to be very exciting and had the audience standing and cheering!

ILDRA would like to take the opportunity to thank Balmoral for the opportunity and Maggie for all her hard work! A lot of positive feedback has come in and we would like to thank John Anderson and crew for drawing in the crowds to our stand.

Belated Happy Birthday to David Cunningham, special prize if you can guess his age. Party goers are excluded!!!!!!!!!!

Pony Club Endurance

In 2009 the Pony Club introduced the latest discipline, Endurance, to its field of disciplines. With the help of EGB it has grown in England to cumulate in the first PC Championships being held in Sept in Bedfordshire. Now in partnership with ILDRA, Endurance is available as a Pony Club discipline in Northern Ireland.

The discipline aims to

promote a high standard of horse mastership, particularly in developing an awareness of fitness in the horse and pony and the need for rider fitness.

ILDRA are currently working to introduce this with the Irish Pony Club so watch out for further information. If you know any member of the Pony Club that would like to try these rides you can contact David Cunningham

on 028 9751 1294.

So far this year Ulster Branch have had a number of Pony Club riders out. It is not as popular as we thought it might be but with the help of David, Kathy and Kirsten visiting a number of Pony Clubs we hope this will change. If you know a PC member why not encourage them to try!

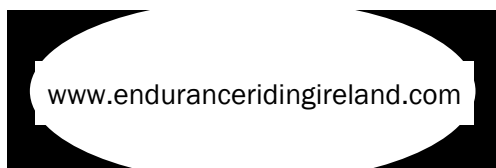


Irish Long Distance Riding Association

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ILDRA

Leinster Branch Committee

Chairman—Larry O'Neill
Vice Chairman—Edward Allen
Secretary—Sam Hawkins
Treasurer—Michelle Byrne
Web-site—Brona Kearney
Aisling Byrnes
Carmel Quinn
Kim McCormack

Ulster Branch Committee

Chairman—Kathy Conly
Vice-Chariman—John Anderson
Secretary—Kirsten Conly
Treasurer—Kate Russell
Web-site—Maggie Gilpin
PRO—Helen McFarland
Branch Awards—Allison Sloan

For Sale

13hh Liver Chestnut Mare 8yrs old, Sadly outgrown, same home last 5 years, Quiet in every way. Bronze qualified Endurance. Jumps well. Has done well in working hunter classes. Hacks out alone or in company, Quiet in traffic.

Contact Kathy - (NI) 028 3752 4809 - (RoI) 048 3752 4809

Unbroken 14.2hh Grey Pure Bred Arab mare with foal at foot. Breeding and Price on request. Gentle in every way.

Contact Larry +353 (0) 8728 00424

Members adds now on web site.

FORTHCOMING RIDES

Donard Festival
Sat 17th & Sun 18th
July

Crocknagrally
Sun 25th July

Ballyboley
Sun 8th August

Castleruddery
Sun 8th August

Coilog
Sun 15th August

Florence Court
Sun 22nd August

**Home International and
Celtic Challenge**
(Scotland)
Sat 28th & Sun 29th
August

Knockmany
Sun 12th September

Athy
Sun 12th September

Kinnity
Sun 19th September

Tollymore
Sun 26th September

Red Dragon (Wales)
Sat 2nd and Sun 3rd
October

Mobile Calendar

As part of the ILDRA web site you can now access the full ILDRA Calendar on your mobile phone (iPhone, Blackberry and other internet enabled phones) using the new phone friendly link.

www.enduranceridingireland.com/mobile



Spot the 3rd amigo!!!!!!