

National Newsletter

Web-site

- If you haven't already checked out our web-site, where have you been! Ildra have a new site and facebook, 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 just email Kirsten or Kathy on Kirsten_136@hotmail.com or kkathycon@aol.co.uk

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DONARD FESTIVAL RETURNS

This year Ildra have decided that a weekend ride will be back on calendar. It will be held on 17th and 18th July at Moat Farm, Donard, Co. Wicklow by kind permission of Edward Allen.

It will be jointly run by both Ulster and Leinster Branch and should be an event with plenty activity and mileage for everyone.

All normal CTRs and pleasure rides will take place on both days and on the Sunday the race ride of 80km will be run.

It could be an opportunity for riders from the north to experience the beauty that Co. Wicklow has to offer from horse back. With a number of B&B's and stabling in the area why not bring the whole family. If you want to make the most of the outdoors why not pitch a tent at Moat Farm Campsite

This year Ildra have introduced a loyalty card for all our Pleasure Riders.

If you are fed-up with receiving a rosette why not take a loyalty card instead.



What a view!

right on the doorstep of the venue.

We are hoping to run a BBQ on the Saturday night. You could meet new people or catch up with those you haven't seen in a while!

Watch the web-site for more details of this event. A committee will be set up

Loyalty Cards

If you ride between 1-10 miles you will receive 10 points and if you like to go that bit further up to 20 miles will get you 20 points.

Collect 100 points through the year and you will

and information will be filtered out over the next few months.

All enquiries at the moment can be made to either Kirsten or Kathy in Ulster Branch or Larry in Leinster Branch.

receive a voucher for a free pleasure ride.

If you would like a card just contact Kirsten on 07957439569 or email Kirsten_136@hotmail.com

Leinster Branch Ride Results

Hollywood—Sunday 24th Jan

The weather was varied and this ride had been re-scheduled after such snowy conditions at the start of the year. Despite fog and ice 23 people travelled to the event. By the time riders went out from Hollywood the sun was shining which enabled riders to view Blessington Lakes and the Glen from Church mountain. This was a special occasion as Brona Kearney had just celebrated her 18th birthday! What more could you ask for good views, nice weather and cake!!!!!!! Thanks to the organizers Thomas and Cora Roche.

Wolfhill—Sun 7th Feb

The second ride of the year was at Wolfhill. 43 riders braved the cold and fog. There was a great improvement on the tracks. Many riders mentioned that it was better than last year. I believe there was also some soup being served up. Thanks goes to Michael Moore and all his helpers.

Donard—Sun 21st Feb

I know that at 6.30am snow had descended from the heavens covering most of Ireland, we went back to bed! However in Donard the mountains were the only place to be covered and 36

riders were braver and came out to enjoy the day. 3 riders successfully completed 23 miles CTR with the rest taking it easy. All riders had a great day and thanks goes to the organizers. Sorry for waking you up Thomas!!!!

Bawnreagh Sun 7th March

What a difference a month can make. Spring!! 6 CTR riders and 13 pleasure riders enjoyed the bright sunny morning. Thomas, Cora, Edward and Juliet all completed 20 miles and Terri and Evelyn completed 30 miles. I think Ann should be commended for her organization skills! Do a good job and you're an organizer for life. Well done!

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

Castlewellan Sun 17th Jan

The Ulster Branch kicked off their season with a pleasure ride at Castlewellan Forest Park. This ride was again a re-scheduled event. 63 riders braved the chill and brought their horses out to enjoy a welcomed break from the snow. High winds had brought down trees and organizer David Cunningham set out a route of 5 miles. If you wanted to weave, duck or jump obstacles you could attempt a longer route. Well done to David for his first time organizing!



Robyn, Hannah and Brona

Woodburn Sat 23rd Jan

Some said it was like a ghostly scene from a movie others just didn't want to get out of bed. 27 riders were faced with a misty cold morning but that wasn't stopping organizer Gail Baillie. She had marked a 5 mile track to entice the bravest of riders. The delightful trail took riders along woodland tracks to the reservoir and back. Many went on their feet just to enjoy the fresh air.

Tollymore Sun 14th Feb

Aaaahhhh Valentine's day! As the news article said romance was in the air as 84 couples made this their venue of choice. Not the pairing St Valentine was after because one of the couple had four legs! This was also the first CTR of the season with 14 riders heading out. 7 tackled the 22 mile course while the rest entered the pre-novice of 16

miles. For the second time this year Ulster Branch had new organizers. Simon and Melanie Talbot proved very capable of being put under pressure. (I think wine helped) Thanks to you both.

Gosford Sun 28 Feb

It was the turn of our current Chairman to take on the responsibility of organizing! John spent the day taking entries, directing traffic and clearing up with little help from his side kicks Kathy and Kirsten (they were too busy eating Ferrero Rocher and shortbread). 12 CTR riders and 29 pleasure riders enjoyed what turned out to be the warmest day in Feb (not very hard). The route of 7 miles took riders around the estate of Gosford Castle which is currently being transformed into homes. If only our lottery numbers would come up we could ride there everyday!

Home International & Celtic Challenge

Last year saw a first for Ildra, outright winners taking both the Home International and Celtic Challenge trophies home. Anyone who was there will tell you that it was a great experience not only for those riders but the crews and supporters. If you would like to be a part of this



2009 Winning Nation!!!!!!

why not send the Chef a letter nominating yourself and your horse. There are classes ranging from Novice to the more experienced.

All the criteria can be found on the web-site but if you have no internet access you can telephone the secretary Kathy Conly for information on 028(048) 37524809.

All letters must be in by 30th June. The team will be announced shortly afterwards. This years event is being hosted by Scotland and will be held near Inverness on 28th and 29th Aug.

Home International Team

1 x 160km (100miles) 2 day
1 x 120km (75 miles) 2 day
1 x 80km ER (50 miles)
1 x 80km (50 miles) 2 day
1 x 48km (30 miles) Junior
1 x 40km (25 miles) Novice

Celtic Challenge Team

1 x 160km (100 miles) 2 day
1 x 80km ER (50 miles)
1 x 80km (50 miles) 2 day
1 x 80km (50miles) 2 day Junior
1 x 48km (30 miles)
1 x 40km (25 miles) Novice

Endurance for Balmoral

Anyone who knows anything about showing knows that Balmoral Show at the Kings Hall, Belfast is the place to be seen. After Ildra's success in 2009 they have been invited to put on a display of Endurance riding. Thursday 13th May will see a 30 minute presentation in the main arena. It will feature many elements of

Endurance riding from the starts, crewing, vet gates and a race finish all with comprehensive commentary explaining what is happening.

Supporting this display will be a stand where anyone interested in finding out more about us can pop in for a chat with members. What we need is help!

The stand will run for duration of the show 12 -14 May. This is a huge task and if you feel that can help even for an hour it would be much appreciated.

Contact any member of Ulster Branch committee for more information. We also need people to hand out leaflets and be part of the display! So why not come along.



Pony Club Endurance

In 2009 the Pony Club introduced the latest discipline, Endurance, to its field. 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.

To launch Endurance in Northern Ireland Ildra will run a series of rides that match the Pony Club's criteria of Merlin, Kestrel, Osprey and Eagle rides. The first of these will be at Shane's Castle on Sun 28th March and at Florence Court

on Sun 11th April where both Merlin and Kestrel rides will be run.

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, david@truska.com or via contact page on web site at enduranceridingireland.com

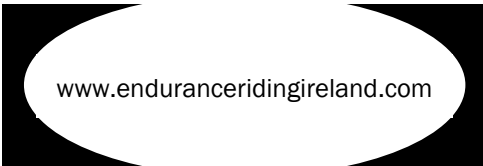


Irish Long Distance Riding Association

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



ILDRA

FORTHCOMING RIDES

Shane's Castle, Co. Antrim
—28th March

Donard, Co. Wicklow
—3rd April

Florence Court,
Co. Fermanagh—11th April

Portlaw, Co. Waterford—
18th April

Mournes, Co. Down—24th
April

Old Court, Co. Wicklow—
2nd May

Slieveanorra, Co. Antrim—
9th May

Man V Horse, Donard,
Co. Wicklow—16th May

Rostrevor, Co. Down
— 22nd May

Inistigoe, Co. Wicklow
—22nd May

Castleruddery, Co. Wicklow
—6th June

Glenariff, Co. Antrim
—13th June

TBC—Leinster—20th June

Baronscourt, Co. Tyrone
—27th June

Castlewellan BBQ,
Co. Down—4th July

Rathvilly,
Co. Carlow
—4th July



The Three Amigos!