REPORT ON THE NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE SHOW – 7TH MAY 2017

THE FIELD EQUESTRIAN DERBY RING A CLEAR SUCCESS AT THE NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE SHOW

Held on the grounds of Newbridge College for the past 32 years the Horse Show proved the place to be on Sunday last with unprecedented numbers of both riders and spectators. The beautiful sunshine brought out families, visitors and dogs to watch the 60 classes on offer throughout the day, all under the watchful eye of Vice Principal, Mr Neville Conroy and Fr John Harris Prior, who both enjoyed greeting all the riders and getting photos with the winners.

Along with a full schedule of Irish Pony Society classes the Equestrian Club in Newbridge made a THE Derby Course which was added last year proved to be draw in the crowds. Robert Owens Of The Field designed 15 jumps that could be extended from 60cms to 1 mtr and included natural birch fences, wishing wells, and railway crossings some which were knockables making this one of the most colourful courses of fences the riders have met this year. As each class was won on time the Joker fence proved very popular but problematic. There was great interest and excitement as over 150 competitors battled it out for the top cash prizes with rugs sponsored by Homestead Saddlery, in the 60cms, 80cms and 1mtr classes which ran all day. There were 31 competitors in the 60cms derby class which was won by Lara Field, who had travelled from Galway for the show, The 80ms derby class proved the most popular with 48 competitors getting practice in for minimus. This class was won by Max Ross on his pony Ballydavid Souz in the fastest time of the day. Max also won the Novice College Cup. A new class added this year was the 80cms Horse class for riders of any age and that was won by Abby Plunkett on her horse Purdy. The competition was exciting between Newbridge College Club members in the 1mtr class who were also competing for the Open College Cup. The winner of this hotly contested class was Niamh Flinter followed closest by club mate Ivanna Dempsey. The last class of the day was the 1 mtr Horse Class and yet again had lots of interest. It was also won by a Newbridge College student Rachel Ross.

Across in the Irish Pony Society rings Judge Mrs Pat Byrne was delighted with the numbers in her mini and performances classes. She had personal words of encouragement for all the little competitors that came through the ring with everyone getting rosettes for their turnout and effort; both Mini Working Hunter and Mini Ridden championship being awarded to Oscar O’Connor on Birtley Rainbow Quest.

The Working Hunter track built by Mr John O’Boyle proved challenging with lots of new fillers with animal artwork painted by the Newbridge College Students Caoimhe Sweeney and Chloe Cassidy . Judges Mrs Carole Douglas and Mrs Kathy Geoghegan awarding Eimear Furlong on Thistletown Olympia the Working Hunter Championship.

A new addition this year was the Kelly Hudson Properties Supreme Championship which was awarded to Shauna Furlong on her pony Danny’s Pride. Shauna had also won both the Heritage Ridden and Working Hunter championships earlier in the day.

The Family Pony classes judged by Mrs Helen O’Neill, a former chef d’equipe of the Newbridge College Equestrian Club, ran all afternoon with riders and parents being put through their paces. With lots of delighted riders getting rosettes and sweets with Helen awarding Champion and Reserve to Eloise and Anthony Creighton. A delighted brother and sister as the Judge discovered as she awarded the prizes.

After walking their dogs around the show grounds since early morning the Dog Show gave great entertainment to all the spectators with a larger ring needed for owners pets and leads that were a little too long. The overall champion dog was awarded to Shilo by the TY Judge Rebecca Byrne .

A very successful format for the show which will be built on each year with the continued support of Mr Pat O’Brien, Principal, the Equestrian Club, and the Parents Association.