REPORT ON THE NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE SHOW – 7TH MAY

Beautiful Sunshine for the Newbridge College Show

Held on the grounds of Newbridge College for the past 33 years the Horse Show proved the place to be on Sunday as 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 Principal, Mr Pat O’Brien and Fr John Harris Prior, who both enjoyed greeting all the riders and getting photos with the winners.

TRI Equestrian who are great sponsors of the Interschools League came on board this year as Title Sponsor and they gave out lots of goodies and advise to all who entered their stand on Sunday along with sponsoring beautiful rosettes and sashes for the winners.

With a full schedule of Irish Pony Society classes the show also ran a Derby Course which was added 2 years ago and continued to be a great draw with the crowds. Robert Owens Of The Field designed and supplied to the show 19 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. Robert also very generously provided lots of vouchers for the winners. As each class was won on time the knockables proved problematic. There was great interest and excitement as over 100 competitors battled it out for the top cash prizes with rugs sponsored by TRI Equestrian, in the 60cms, 80cms and 1mtr classes which ran all day. There 60cms derby class was the largest of the day and was by Sophie O’Neill, The 80ms derby class also had keen entries with young riders getting practice in for minimus. This class was won by Luke O Neill keeping the winnings in the family as his sister had just won in the 60cms. 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 Max Ross followed closest by his cousin Leah Ross who took 2nd place. The last class of the day was the 1 mtr Horse Class and was won by Ivanna Dempsey.

The Working Hunter track built by Mr John O’Boyle proved challenging with lots of new fillers with animal artwork fillers which the school had purchased in the UK for the track. Judges Mrs Pat Byrne and Mrs Kathy Geoghegan awarding James Ryan on Loughwell Bobby the Working Hunter Championship. The Mini Working Hunter championship was awarded to Paddy Byrne on his pony Rookery Fizz with Chloe Salley on Golden Grove Hotshot taking Mini Ridden Champion. Rianna Marnane on her new mount Darjans Atom Man won the Show Hunter Championship with Emma Mackey taking Reserve on Bunbury Suarez, Hannah then went on to win the Heritage Ridden Championship.

Last year The Kelly Hudson Properties Supreme Championship was added to the schedule and a delighted Ciara O’Connor, who had won the Starter Stakes Championship earlier in the day was awarded the perpetual trophy and the beautiful Sash sponsored by TRI Equestrian with Paddy Byrne on Rookery Fizz taking reserve Supreme.

TRI Equestrian also sponsored the Champion of Champions and this was also won by Ballydavid Souz.

The Family Pony classes judged by Mrs Helen O’Neill 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 to Sarah Ryan on her pony Dolly Mixture.

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.