

Chairman's Report

It is safe to say that 2012 has been another fantastic year for Letterkenny Riding club. Members have enjoyed many lessons and informative evenings from a wide range of instructors including our own Geraldine Porter. It is always to see young blood stepping up to the plate and keeping knowledge fresh in the club. We have also enjoyed many ride outs, BBQ's, treasure hunts, table quiz's, X-country training, a trip to Mary Devine's equine spa and a very relaxed but informative talk on bits and bridles with Mary Finnerin, to mention but a few.

The first of our big events of the year, the NW League, was ran over 5 weeks and proved very fruitful for the Letterkenny RC with Louise plucking top honours in the X poles, Liz nursing her way to victory in the primary class and Damien hammering home a victory in the AI class. Many other members were knocking on the door. Amidst the excitement of the League Nadine give birth to one of the clubs future members, Emily, and still managed to attend 4 out of 5 legs albeit on foot.

The next expedition saw 10 members take on the challenge of flowerhill where Enda and Pauric became our national champions of 2012. We had as many if not more helpers as riders. A big thank you to them for their support and dedication. A special well done has to go to Libby and Fenway who finally made it after several failed attempts.

May was an action packed month beginning with our spring show in Lenamore which again was very successful with many of the top rosettes being kept in the club.

Next we had a camping trip to Carrickfin – a night we will never remember.

Relay for life was an event well supported by the club this year along with the ride out at crossroads. They saw members go to great efforts to raise well needed money for worthy causes. Well done to Cormac and Denis for their work on these events.

Our Derby was held in July and for the 2nd year we were blessed by the Edwards family's generosity at Hillsborough farm. The Derby always proves the most challenging show to prepare for because of the fact that a bare field has to be transformed into a show ground and perhaps the number of entries did not reflect the effort of the setting up this year. We

hope to secure an earlier date in 2013 as not to clash with other popular events.

The following week a good number of members headed to the DG beach show where Nadine, Damien and Cormac in that order took the first 3 ribbons in the AI class. Cormac was not stopping there picking up 1st place in the AI dressage albeit on Orla Moores horses who also claimed 1st prize in the AP class. The highlight of the day when Cormac joined forces with paddy to claim top spot in the speed pairs class. Libby also was also on fire in both the showing and dressage arenas. One of the most memorable parts of the day for me was watching Enda squeezing into Cormac's jacket just to go for a roll in the sand. It is safe to say that that poor jacket is no stranger to a fall!

The year has been rounded off perfectly by the NW mini league and dinner dance which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and will hopefully become an annual event. Well done to the Letterkenny participants especially Louise, Hazel, Anne Chambers and Joanne Cuff for victories in their lasses.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the club this year and to all those members who sat on the committee.