

The Channel Cup – Chef d'Equipe Report

As chef d'equip for the junior team at the Channel Cup I would like to congratulate the whole team on how they conducted themselves throughout the trip. The young team members Steven Spillane, Lauren Robinson, Edward Goodwin, Rachel Campbell and Amy Manogue were a credit to us all.

The competition was organised by I.C.K.D and ran under the same regulations as an F.E.I world championship. Friday saw a Veterinary check and trot up followed by a night of nations where produce and goodies from each nation were displayed. Thanks go to John Goodwin for cooking fresh soda bread on the griddle in traditional style which was very popular with some people actually wanting to buy some, look out "Pat The Baker".

Saturday saw the first of the Dressage and Derby with Steven and Lauren first out in class 2 and the other drivers in the late morning in class 3.

The competition was stiff with many of the other nations juniors driving open ponies which will compete in the world pony championships in Germany later this month.

Steven however was the star of the show in class 2 winning the dressage with Star.

Lauren put in some good times in the Derby holding the fastest time in her class for Obs 3

Steven had an excellent Derby phase to see him winning this section also.

The team members in class 3 had a difficult task as the standard of competition and turn outs was excellent. All competed to the best of their ability in the dressage phase and went on to compete hard in the Derby improving their places.

Saturday night was the prize giving, BBQ and disco and a good time was had by all.

Sunday was an early start with a difficult cones course to be completed. Steven drove maturely with all the pressure on his shoulders as he had only one cone in hand however as we held our breath he breezed through the course to win the class 2 outright greatly assisting the overall team score.

Edward Goodwin claimed 5th place after the cones and the Team finished 5th overall.

This event was a steep learning curve for all who participated and showed the standards of young drivers across Europe.

The organisers and hosts at Ashfields made us all welcome and gave us wonderful memories.

We would like to thank all those who supported the Team in this trip in particular Mr Barry Capstic for training the junior members in CDI and also Mrs Sarah Clinghan and Mr Jeffery Lyons for assisting those in NICDA.

The overall Lesson that I took from this event is that a huge amount of time and support is being given from the other nations in developing their young drivers and in turn securing the future of carriage driving at the top level.

Mr Patrick Dubrulle of France the current president of ICKD was most enthusiastic and invited Ireland to put forward two representatives for the ICKD committee and was also very keen to see an Irish team compete in the World trophy in Hungary 2010

It was an honour to have been a part of this trip and act as Chef D, Equip I hope I carried out my duties to the best of my ability and thank all for their support

Many Thanks

Pauline Campbell