

KNOCKBEG COLLEGE STEALS SHOW AT BOSWELL

St. Gerard School, Bray hosted the second leg of the Equestrian Interschools league at Boswell Equestrian Centre, Ashford last Saturday. Despite having four teams in the Open team competition, with three in the jump off, St Gerards failed to make it into the ribbons.

Twenty five teams competed in the Open competition, with a Novice Team, Novice Individual and Open Individual being held in another arena to cope with the high number of competitors.

St Marys Knockbeg College won the Open Team competition with team of Shea Byrne on Magic, Shane Ryan KEC Parisian Malt, Seamus Dermody on Christmas Dreamer and Michael Pender on Madge's Choice. The competition standard was very high with Seamus completing the jump off in 49.31 seconds, and his team mate Michael Pender exceeding this at 43.56 seconds. Following close on their heels was Newbridge College with a team of three, Karen Casey (Primadonna Girl), Luke Heffernan (Ballymoney Peggy), Cian Springate (Kiloughter Nugget).

Third place went to Wesley College team of Sam Micklem (Hi Heaven), Tilly Shaw (Bushmills Fionn), Pippa Durham (Jim Delaney), and Calvin Nugent (Muffin). Colaise Bhride Carnew came in 4th place with Ellen Kavanagh, Frankie Kavanagh, Emer Kavanagh and Julie Mullins. Kings Hospital brought home well deserved fifth and sixth rosettes. On the Navy team winning 5th were Jane Jenny, Poppy Conolly-Carew, Erin Byrne, Ellen Forster, and on the 6th winning team (Navy) were 3 riders, Florence Sheridan, Caitlin Pretorius, and Hannah Langan.

In the top arena the day kicked off with the Novice team, with ten teams battling it out for ribbons. The long journey from Wexford paid off for Loreto College team claiming the red rosette, on the team was Rebecca Banville (Rolly), Ciara Banville (Diego Lad), Sarah Whelan (An Chapail Dhubh) and Meabh Byrne. Second place went to Newbridge Gold Sarah Buckley (Harvey), Anna Kelly (Camira Pride), Alanna Kelly (Jacksy) and Daniel Fitzgerald (Bobby Blake). A mixed team of St Gerards and Cholaiste Bhride Carnew claimed third prize, team of Harry Fitzpatrick and Rebecca Power of St. Gerards and Thomas Devaney and Pierre Woods of Cholaiste Bhride. The fourth rosette went to Schoil Mhuire Clane, 5th to Wesley, and 6th to Maynooth Secondary School, who had their first outing at the Interschools League.

Following the Novice Team competition, the Novice Individuals swung into action, over the same course as the team, but a two phase competition, against the clock in the second round. Alanna Kelly riding Jack claimed the winning red rosette on a time of 31.38 seconds, she also managed to claim place riding Harry on a time of 32.07 seconds. Third place went to Pippa Durham on Master Mozart, with Holly Micklem claiming 4th on Sunny Girl. Jessica Mahoney riding Spotacular came 5th and Anna Maher left for home with the 6th rosette.

The final competition in the top arena was the Open Individual, which was an 11 fence speed round, with 25 riders battling it out amongst each other. Ellen Radford-Dodd riding Real Cool Cruise, on a speed of 47.41 shaved 8 seconds off Mark Finnerty, claiming the red rosette. Mark Finnerty riding his new mount Dngle June came in second on a time of 55.81 seconds, while third was claimed by Jessica Schmidt riding Hero, on a time of 56.37 seconds. Fourth place went to Jack Ross on

Ballydavid Souz, 5th place to Ellen Kavanagh riding Pairc na Ruairc, and the 6th rosette was won by Catherine Kavanagh on Indian Express.

The competition was extremely tight for Turnout Prize of the day, but Borris Vocational School with their crisp maroon and white colours stole the show. The team of Declan Deegan, Catherine Kavanagh, James Kavanagh and Jeremiah Skelton were presented with the rosettes and prize by Principal of St. Gerards Mr Tom Geraghty.