

SPRING NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 MARCH 2015

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Crocuses, daffodils and lambs. Though the snow has barely melted Spring and longer evenings have arrived. The first foals will excite us next and the Stallion Parade at the end of the month will lead us into a new breeding season.

The Council and the office are extremely busy with two major reviews. The first of the Memorandum and Articles is nearing completion as the second of the Inspections and Classification begins. Here's hoping for wisdom and good judgement.

Thanks to everyone preparing for the Spring weekend and especially to Lucinda Kelly for editing *An Capaillín* and Claire Oakes who is preparing the Bartley O Sullivan Lecture.

SPRING FESTIVAL

As the pony breeding season commences the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society is planning its annual Connemara Pony Spring Festival. The festival takes place from Friday 27th March to Sunday 29th March. Traditionally focusing on Connemara stallions, this year will continue that theme with a few new additions to the programme.

Colt inspections will be carried out over two days with the first inspection centre being in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath starting at 10am. Day two of the colt inspections will start at 10am in Clifden. Colts that achieve Class one status will be given the option of parading on Sunday at the Stallion parade. There will also be a filly inspection following the colt inspection in Clifden. Ponies movement will be assessed on the triangle for the first time.

The focus of Saturday afternoon will be Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD). Veterinarian Kate Murray from Co. Roscommon will give a presentation on HWSD in the Station House Theatre at 3pm. Kate will explain what HWSD is, how it is carried, the implications of it, how to manage it and how to test for it.

The 2015 edition of *An Capaillín* will be launched at 7pm in the Station House Theatre and will be on sale for €12. Everyone is welcome to attend. Lucinda Kelly editor of *An Capaillín* says this year's edition is "a must read for any Connemara pony enthusiast".

In 2104 the Danish Connemara Pony Society celebrated its golden jubilee and in 2015 the Swedish Connemara Pony Society will celebrate its golden jubilee. Over the last fifty years fantastic friendships have been built through a common love for the Connemara pony and these two countries have made a huge economic contribution to Ireland both in terms of tourism and exports of Connemara ponies. Clare Oakes, judge and well known producer of Connemara ponies from Navan, Co. Meath will deliver the Bartley O'Sullivan lecture on Saturday evening at 8pm in the Station House Theatre which will concentrate on the remarkable relationship between the CPBS and its daughter societies in Denmark and in Sweden.

The Connemara pony stallion parade now in its eleventh year will start at 11.30am on Sunday morning in the Showgrounds. As well as being paraded in hand, for the first time stallions will have the option in competing in a 1m Show jumping competition or a flat ridden class. There will also be a ridden class for four and five year old mares and geldings sponsored by Robbie and Barbara Fallon.

For more information or to download entry forms please visit www.cpbs.ie or find Connemara Pony Breeders' Society on Facebook.

Connemara Pony Stallion Parade



Closing Date



FILLY INSPECTIONS

Date	Venue	Time
22/4/15	Mullingar Equestrian Centre, Co. Westmeath	11am
23/4/15	Ecclesville Equestrian Centre, Fintona, Co. Tyrone	10am
23/4/15	Kerin's Equestrian Centre, Coolooney, Co. Sligo	3pm
30/4/15	Hanley's Equestrian Centre, Claremorris, Co. Mayo	10am
1/5/15	Creagh Equestrian Centre, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	11am
6/5/15	Glen Aire Equestrian Centre, Mallow Co. Cork	10am
6/5/15	The Showgrounds, Ennis, Co. Clare	10am
7/5/15	Carraroe, Maam Cross, Moycullen	10am
8/5/15	Roundstone, Ballyconneely, Clifden	10am

ARENA PARTY

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society is currently seeking to put a list of names together to help out with events during the Spring Festival, Show Festival and Inspections each year.

The Clifden Show festival in August is going from strength to strength each year and without the work of committee members, these events would not be possible. However we need more help during this busy time. The CPBS are seeking volunteers who may have a couple of hours where they could help out the various committees during these events. The CPBS endeavour for every event to put a list of tasks together and email/text each member of the arena party with this information. This will allow candidates to identify a time slot where they may be able to provide some help.

Interested candidates should contact the CPBS office on 095 21863 or email enquiries@cpbs.ie

TEAGASC TRAINING COURSES

We are hoping to run some courses for our members in association with Teagasc over the coming months including a Marketing course and a Horsemanship Skills course. Details are available on www.teagasc.ie/ruraldev/equine/courses.asp. If any of you are interested in these courses can you please drop an email to enquiries@cpbs.ie so we can get an idea of numbers.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning permission has been granted by Galway County Council to the CPBS to develop a new toilet block at the Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway. The toilet block will incorporate ladies and gents toilets, wheelchair accessible toilets and baby changing facilities.

CHARITY RIDE

A charity ride and car booth sale will take place on Easter Sunday 5th April 2015 at Connemara Livestock Sales grounds at 12noon. For more details please contact Joe Mc Namara on 087 6525445.

NOTICE TO SHOWS

Any shows that organise events for Connemara ponies please email details to enquiries @cpbs.ie and we will help publicise your event. Also please keep us up to date with results, photos etc.

MARKETING SURVEY

OVER THE NEXT WEEK MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL CONTAINING AN ONLINE SURVEY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO COMPLETE IT AND PROVIDE US WITH VALUABLE FEEDBACK.

NEW COMPETITIONS

The CPBS is planning on introducing two new competitions for the Wednesday of Show week. The first competition will be a loose jumping competition for four year old Connemara mares and the second competition will be five year old showjumping competition for Connemara ponies. Keep an eye on www.cpbs.ie for more information on these.

AN CAPAILLÍN

An Capaillín will be available to purchase online on www.cpbs.ie from Monday 30th March. The new edition will be launched in the Station House Theatre on Saturday 28th March at 7pm. Hope to see you all there.

CONNEMARA PONY SALE

A two day sale of Connemara ponies will take place in Clifden on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May. Entries are now being taken. For more details visit www.connemaraponysales.com .

WWW.CPBS.IE



BUS TOURS

This year the CPBS will run two bus tours to facilitate breeders without vehicles, on Monday the 18th of August and Tuesday the 19th of August. The tours will visit local breeders and points of cultural interest on Monday in North Connemara (Letterfrack & The Renvyle Peninsula) and on Tuesday in Ballyconneely and surrounding areas. Owners and Breeders who would like their farms or studs included in the tour should contact the CPBS to express their interest. Please note time restraints will not make it possible to visit every breeder along the route, In such instances breeders with smaller numbers can travel to the nearest stop to them. Enquiries or more information please email: emer@cpbs.ie



THE ISLAND PROJECT

In solitary existence on an uninhabited island off the coast of Connemara Equine Behaviourist Emma Massingale will spend one month with six Connemara ponies.

Four Connemara ponies will be from Emma's Liberty team, however two will be new to Emma and unhandled. The Equine Behaviourist is taking on the challenge to work with, and ultimately start the two unhandled Connemaras completely at liberty, without the use of any tack or enclosures, on her own, without any home comforts or human company on a wild exposed island.

A challenge in understanding and creating a relationship in just four weeks to ultimately be able to ride these horses completely free. The whole project is to be filmed by a combination of cameras, aerial drones, island Cameras, GoPros and a handheld diary camera.

TESTING FOR HWSD

Breeders are encouraged to test all breeding stock before the breeding season commences. The test is currently available from UC Davis at a cost of €35 approx and results are back within six working days. A thorough education programme for all breeders is being embarked upon by the Council through it's website, newsletters and breeders meetings. While encouraging breeders to be proactive the Council feels that it is not yet in a position to compel people to test their ponies until the study is published and peer reviewed. The CPBS is in contact with Weatherbys, who hope to have the test available before the end of the year. The ideal situation would be that one blood test would be carried out on all foals for Parentage testing, BEC testing and HWSD testing. More information is available on www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/HoofWallDisease.php .