

IPC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

Report on Dressage and Combined Training

IPC Festival:

This went well in spite of the weather, though the various competitions had to be moved from the arenas that were originally scheduled to be used, and the days became very prolonged due to the unavailability of the main grass arenas at Mullingar EC.

Therefore, it is planned to run the Festival over 2 and a half days in 2010 to better fit in all of the competition whatever the weather (esp Mounted Games) and separate the Dressage from the Games as far as possible.

Venue: Mullingar EC.

Dressage:

Dressage tests to remain the same for 2010.

Rules changed slightly: whips now excluded at Area Qualifiers as well as at Championships (as previously).

Combined Training:

SJ Phase of CT reverting to straightforward SJ rather than Equitation SJ, as considered fairer after the trial period.

See new Rules.

SJ Tack Sheet will apply for SJ phase.

New RDS Combined Training Competition:

The RDS was very positive about the new Combined Training competition in which IPC riders took part and the IPC has been invited again this year.

Pat Hanly of the RDS Equestrian Committee was relatively complimentary about the standard of riding demonstrated by the IPC members taking part, and gave credit to the IPC for this. However, he reported that the Equestrian Committee considers that the standard of riding has generally decreased in all the RDS competitions involving young riders, and they are determined to try and reverse this trend.

Extract from the letter received by KMH from Pat Hanly, of the RDS Equestrian Committee on 15th Sept 2009:

'The mission statement of the RDS Equestrian Committee is 'to showcase and promote the Irish bred horse by setting breeding and performance standards'. Towards this end it was encouraged to select the IPC Area winners in this discipline 'to encourage correct equitation among young riders and to provide them with another opportunity to improve their riding skills' by providing an RDS Combined Training competition.

In itself, the spectacle of the competition was well acclaimed by the viewing public, efficiently run and produced worthy winners. However it is necessary that all those involved now examine the process and the outcomes of the event with the view to improve this class if it is to be repeated.....

The RDS' commitment to its own mission statement remains resolute. Therefore it invites the reflective observations and recommendations of all stakeholders in its process of systematic improvement'

Some feedback has been received from the Areas, mainly arising out of the fact that the IPC competition and the RDS competition are NOT THE SAME as each other. The IPC runs our own competitions and the RDS runs theirs, each using their own Rules. It is hoped that the inevitable confusion arising last year will be resolved in the light of experience, and with better dissemination of information.

In accordance with the above, the RDS Rules for 2010 include: No martingales as well as no whip are permitted, and snaffle bits only are allowed (for both Dressage and SJ phases). KMH will make all info available on the IPC Website, and is very happy try to answer any queries (in consultation with the RDS). The Dressage tests will again be set by the RDS.

Similarly, all horses must have the documentation to support that they were foaled in Ireland.

Kate Harvey
Chair of Dressage and Combined Training subcttee of the IPC