

The WBFSH Young Breeders World Championships were hosted by Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland at Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny on Friday and Saturday, the 17th and 18th of July. The competition comprised 17 different studbooks from Europe and also from as far away as Canada.

The overall winning studbook was the German studbook Pferdezeitungsverband Brandenburg-Anhalt.

In the senior section first place also went to the Pferdezeitungsverband Brandenburg-Anhalt. The team comprised of David Bahnemann, Claudia Constabel and Viktoria Herzog. Second place went to the Swiss Warmblood team of Cahrmaine a Wengan, Natalie Koch and Sonja Zahnd. Third place was taken by the Irish Sport Horse team comprised of Jean Meagher, David Bourke and Aine Geoghan with assistance from their whipper person Iris Brazil. This is a phenomenal achievement from the Irish team as a result of the hard work put in at the numerous training sessions over the preceding months with the Team Trainer Phillip Scott of Ballina and the Teagasc Equine Advisory Team.

In the junior section the German Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch took first place with the team comprised of Gregor Bensmann, Ricarda Schluter and Christina Len. The Westfalen Trainers have been of enormous assistance to the development of the Irish training programme over the past two years. The Young Breeders Training DVD which is available from Teagasc uses footage taken in Westfalen and has been of huge benefit.

The Hannoveraner Verband took second with their team of Meta Christmann, Leonie Fischer and Kristina Gehrdau- Schroder and the Pferdezeitungsverband Brandenburg-Anhalt took third place with their team of Lisa Wachtel, Sophie Wachtel and Hans-Martin Michaelis. The Irish Junior team finished in an extremely credible 5th position – only 10 points short of their senior Irish counterparts.

The best individual competitors were also recognised with David Bahnemann being named as the best individual senior competitor achieving a total of 366 marks and excelling in the loose gaits and jumping section, while Ricarda Schuler took the best individual junior award on 367 marks, excelling in the theory section.

The competition has developed enormously since its introduction in Germany in 2001 and involves a theory test, judging horses on gaits and loose jumping, assessing the conformation of mares and presenting a horse in hand. Competitors had a wonderful opportunity to represent their studbook while competing against their peers and it is a great learning experience and a valuable way to make friends and contacts in other countries.

Alison Corbally, HSI Director of Breeding & Programmes said: ‘I would like to thank Teagasc for hosting the event in Kildalton College, the facilities and hospitality were superb and ensured that the event ran very smoothly and was enjoyed by all. Particular thanks are due to the Teagasc Equine Advisory team and Phillip Scott for their role in training the Irish young breeders, to Teagasc for hosting the event, and to Rosemary Gaffney and her team who sourced, produced and turned out approximately 50 horses to an exceptional level for the event’

Horse Sport Ireland and Teagasc would also like to thank the judges for the event: Mr. Tiernan Gill, Mr. Olaf Hagemann, Mr. Patrick Hester, Ms. Jane Bech Jensen, Mr. Marcel Koch, Ms. Susan Minion and Mr. Tom Slattery.

All concerned are looking forward to the next Young Breeders World Championships which are to be held in France in 2011. Anyone interested in partaking in future training events and learning more about the concept can contact any member of the Teagasc Equine Advisory Team: Norman Storey 087 2222513; Wendy Conlon 087 9879083; Declan McArdle 087 6831876; Ruth Fennell 087 9602537



Irish Junior Team - Jennifer Malone, Conor Higgins, Miriam Bourke, PJ Hegarty, Amy McCarthy, Michael Hegarty