

IDHBA National Awards 2018

Athlone

The Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association annual awards night was hosted by the Westmeath Offaly branch of the association at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel in Athlone on the 3rd November 2018. Irish Draught enthusiasts from throughout the country attended the event where six national awards were presented. The winner of the Irish Draught Mare of The Year was “Lady Hattie” who is owned by Offaly man, John Bracken. “Lady Hattie” is a seven-year-old mare and has the best of traditional Irish Draught breeding being by “Agherlow” out of the Star Kingdom mare Bell Lady. She was bred by Gabriel and Madeleine Tunney.

The Irish Draught Performance Horse of the Year was the 11-year-old Bay Mare “Braeview Codega”, a daughter of the Irish Draught Sire “Flagmount Clover Diamond” out of the mare Dernahatten Pearl by “Mountain Pearl”. She was bred in Monaghan by Eamon McKernan. In the hands of her now owner and rider Kathryn Knox from Ballymena, she has had a fantastic year in the ever growing and competitive performance ID competitions.

The Young Horse Award went to “Clogher Quiet Man”, a yearling colt who was bred near Tuam in County Galway by his exhibitor Denis McGrath. He is by the 2007 RDS Reserve Champion Stallion Mountain Diamond and out of the eight-year-old mare Clogher Quiet lady by It’s the Quiet Man.

The Outstanding Service to the breed award was presented to Sally Begg who bred and stood the Stallion Rakish Paddy. The stallion was Champion Stallion at the RDS in 1995 having been a three-time Reserve Champion also. He was renowned as a performance Irish draught Stallion and reached Grade “A” by the time he was 7 and jumped in International classes at Dublin, Millstreet and in Paris where he represented Ireland. Sally was also recognised for her passion in the preservation of a viable population of mares and of the Irish Draught as a rare breed.

A number of branch awards were also presented on the night:

Lifelong Support of the Irish Draught Breed Award	Joe Rohan
Outstanding ID Breeder Recognition Award	Anne Rabbitte
Service to the Branch Local Shows Award	Pairic McNeil
Home of the Homebred Stallions Award	Windgap Stud and Mannion Family

The speakers at the dinner were affiliated coach Victoria Teuton and the IDHBA Vice Chairman Michael Kirwan. Victoria highlighted the importance of the wider preparation



Gillian Kinahan making a special presentation to Michael Hughes on the occasion of his retirement as Secretary of The Irish Shows Association



Gillian Kinahan presenting a branch award to Pairic McNeil



Gillian Kinahan presenting a branch award to Michael and Martin Mannion of Windgap Stud



Gillian Kinahan presenting a branch award to Joe Rohan

that's important to producing a successful performance Irish Draught in addition to teaching it to jump a clear round. This equally important preparation includes the handling that the Breeder does from the foal stage and the work that exhibitors do if the horse has an in-hand career before

turning to performance. Victoria also suggested that since the breed is promoted as kind versatile and rideable that we should allow riders from age 12 participate in the ID performance classes rather than the current age limit of 16. This would bring them in line with other existing horse and pony jumping classes and give more options to young riders to use the Irish Draught.

From a strategic perspective for the organisation, Michael Kirwan reminded guests of the benefit of having the Inspection Process and standards harmonised with the UK and the US Irish Draught studbooks. Michael also outlined two important calls to action for members, firstly the need to get more young people involved at all levels with the Irish Draught and identify the next generation of breeders and secondly that the case to secure further public funding or support from government would be a stronger one if the Irish draught communities and organisations were more cohesive rather than divided. Any steps taken that results in progress on these two aims would be welcome for the preservation of Irish Draught.

IDHBA National Award Winners

Irish Draught Show Mare of the Year

Each year the association endeavours to recognise the success of an Irish Draught mare, as the mare is the foundation of our breed and the foundation of our Irish sport horses. This year's winner is rewarded for her own consistent success in the show ring during the year. "Lady Hattie" is a seven-year-old mare and has the best of traditional Irish Draught breeding, being by "Agherlow" out of the Star Kingdom mare Bell Lady. She was bred by supporters of the breed and successful county Fermanagh breeders, Gabriel and Madeleine Tunney. She was lightly shown as a Young Mare by the late Paddy Kelly from County Louth who was a leading breeder and exhibitor of Irish Draughts. Currently owned by Westmeath/Offaly branch member, John Bracken, who bought her at the Cavan sales in October 2017. Lady Hattie had a great first year for her new owner and was successfully shown by Gillian Kinahan. Her achievements included numerous wins at Shows throughout the country with the highlights being the Irish Draught Championships at Galway County Show and Mullingar Show, Reserve Champion at the Laois branch show and Winning the inaugural Premier Mare & Foal class at the National Show.



Left: Gillian Kinahan receiving the award for ID Mare of The Year, John Bracken's Lady Hattie, from Damien Kenny (national chairman)

*Photos by Charles Duggan Photography
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Sharon Mannion making a presentation to The Dunning Family in memory of Paddy Dunning



Gillian Kinahan presenting a branch award to Anne Rabbitte



Gillian Kinahan making a presentation to Victoria Teuton (guest speaker)

Irish Draught Performance Horse of the Year

Each year, the IDHBA presents this award to highlight the natural ability, ease of riding and versatility of the Irish Draught breed. This year's recipient is the 11-year-old Bay Mare "Braevew Codega", a daughter of the Irish Draught Sire "Flagmount Clover Diamond" out of the mare Dernahatten Pearl by "Mountain Pearl". She was bred in County Monaghan by Eamon McKernan. In the hands of her now owner and rider Kathryn Knox from Ballymena, Co. Antrim, she has had a fantastic year in the ever growing and competitive performance ID competitions. She had 23 wins from 25 outings at Shows between February and September. This versatile mare took part in Ridden Irish Draught, Ridden Hunter, Working Hunter and even Dressage classes at those shows.

The highlights included winning the Performance Irish Draught Class and Champion Performance Irish Draught at Balmoral Show, Champion Working Hunter at both Armagh and County Antrim Agricultural Shows and 2nd in the Ridden mare class at the National show in Punchestown.

What makes the winner even more remarkable is that in May 2017 Kathryn and Braevew Codega took a fall resulting in a broken neck and a back broken in two places for Kathryn! It is testament to the young woman's courage that since the fall she rebuilt her own fitness so that she could ride again this year and Kathryn, nor the mare literally hasn't put a foot wrong all year to win the Leading Irish Draught Performance Horse of the Year.



Kathryn Knox receiving the award for the ID Performance Horse of the Year, Braevew Codega from Damien Kenny (national chairman)

Irish Draught Young Stock of the Year

This award is presented each year to recognise the best of our young Irish Draught stock and to encourage breeders and producers to retain and show the best young horses. This year's winner is a very good example of the breed and displays many of the traditional traits of the ID. "Clogher Quiet Man" is a yearling colt and was homebred bred in County Galway by his exhibitor, Denis McGrath. He is by the 2007 RDS Reserve Champion Stallion, Mountain Diamond, and out of eight-year-old mare Clogher Quiet Lady by It's the Quiet Man. As he was a late foal, he was lightly shown as a foal and he was Reserve Champion foal at Virginia on his first outing. This year he was shown as a yearling colt and has had an exceptional year in the showing. His achievements include nine winning outings with the highlights being the Reserve Irish Draught Champion at Galway County Show, Strokestown and Ardahan shows. The exceptional movement of this versatile yearling enabled him to compete in and win the Non-thoroughbred yearling class at several shows also.



Denis McGrath receiving the award for ID Young Stock of The Year, Clogher Quiet Man, from Damien Kenny (national chairman)

Irish Draught Foal of the Year Award

We are known as the Irish Draught Breeders Association and the breeder is often the forgotten piece of the jigsaw. They are the lifeblood of the breed and take all the risks of owning and breeding their mares for very little reward in many cases. Without the breeder, we will not have a breed. With this in mind the IDHBA decided earlier this year that



Joanne Maguire receiving the Irish Draught Foal of The Year award on behalf of John Bracken, for his Scrapman filly, from Damien Kenny (national chairman)

it would recognise and encourage its members who are breeders to continue supporting the breed by awarding Irish Draught foal of the year to the foal that had the most wins and placings in Irish Draught show classes during the year. The inaugural recipient of this well-intentioned award is John Bracken's Filly foal out of Lady Hattie and by Scrapman. The foal was produced and shown by Joanne Maguire for John and clocked up seven first places throughout the year including three championships at Ennistymon, Laois branch and Strokestown and together with its dam won the Premier Mare & Foal class at the National Show.

Services to the Breed Award

This year's services to the breed award goes to Sally Begg. Sally's interest in the Irish Draught started with Cattle!

Accompanying her Father to the West of Ireland on buying trips, a couple of Heavyweight Hunter Filly Foals along with a single female donkey would be added to the load of Hereford cross & Droimeann cross calves. The donkey added to keep everyone else calm on the ferry ride from Larne to Stranraer. Animals would be led down into pens on the lower deck of the ferry, as livestock were not permitted to stay on the lorries for security reasons during the troubles. And so, her love & fascination of the Irish Draught began. Her research into the breed began as many of these filly's had no passports and only by a lot of hard work & making extensive enquiries over a 10-year period was she able to identify five significant male line families within the Irish Draught Breed which was published in the 1979 Irish Draught Yearbook. Sally bred and stood the Irish Draught Stallion Rakish Paddy who was by Legaun Prince and was called after the well-known Irish reel of the same name. Rakish Paddy was Champion Irish Draught Stallion at the RDS in 1995 having been Reserve Champion also in 1989, 1991 and 1993. Rakish Paddy was a performance Irish draught Stallion and reached Grade "A" by the time he was 7 and jumped in International classes at Dublin, Millstreet and in Paris where he represented Ireland. As a sire Rakish Paddy produced many successful progenies including Roma Blue Hawk (GB) who became Champion Irish Draught mare at 3yrs in UK. Rakish Paddy is also sire of Claggan Roxy Music, a chestnut traditional half-bred mare. She was Triple Champion Ridden Hunter Mare at RDS Dublin Horse Show in '1998. She also qualified for Wembley in 1998. In the hands of Laragh Hamilton this mare went on to have a prolific career in dressage achieving National Champion with Dressage Ireland in 2006, 2008 & 2011.

This is just a very small snapshot of a very significant role Sally plays in the life of the Irish Draught Breed. Her passion in the preservation of a viable population of mares and of the Irish Draught as a rare breed. Sally knowledge & understanding of the Irish Draught is second to none.

Exhibitor Award

The Exhibitor award was presented to Dublin based breeder Jimmy Heery who is a popular and regular exhibitor of his Irish draught mares. The award recognises that this year Jimmy was a very successful exhibitor at the National Show in Punchestown. His 13-Year-old mare Liskillen Princess by Donovan and out the Uibh Fhaili dam Emo Princess won the dry mare 8 to 13 years class and was overall reserve Champion mare at the Show. She was bred by Martin Collins in Co. Laois. Jimmy's 10-Year-old mare Driving Delight by Fast silver and out of the King Elvis mare Rinneroon Bay won the small mare 4 years and over class. Jimmy also exhibited Bobby's Girl by Westfield Bobby in the Young Mares 4-7 years with foal at foot where she came sixth. In the Filly Foal class Jimmy was 6th with his Offaly Clover foal out of Balnadrinna lady. In addition Balnadrinna Lady's 2009 filly foal by Drumri bred by Jimmy and now owned by Julianne Corrigan also competed at the show and was sixth in the Premier mare and foal Championship.



Sally Begg receiving her award from Damien Kenny (national chairman)



Jimmy Heery receiving The Exhibitor's Award from Damien Kenny (national chairman)