

IDHBA National Breed Show Launch 2019

Kilmacanogue Show, County Wicklow, was the location for the launch of the 12th IDHBA National Breed Show on Saturday the 27th July.

Every year the national show committee look for ways to grow and improve their show. This year is no exception. The brainchild of none other than PRO Eilene Brennan, for the first time in National Breed Show history, there will be a carriage driving class, so it was fitting to hold the launch at Kilmacanogue show where there is always a beautiful display of carriage driving.

The show committee, all looking very smart in their co-ordinated show scarves and ties, welcomed patrons to their marquee with summer refreshments of Mr. Jeffares cordial along with Wexford strawberries and cream. Our thanks to Des Jeffares who supplied the drinks. The Jeffares have enjoyed success in recent years with Irish Draught sired youngstock.

IDHBA National Chairperson Jennifer Haverty thanked a gathered audience, who included IDHBA members from Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford/Kilkenny and Laois Branches, exhibitors and friends for coming to the launch. She also thanked Kilmacanogue Show for facilitating our show launch and wished the committee every success with this year's show.

Miriam O'Sullivan introduced the guest of honour National Ploughing Association MD Anna May McHugh, who has Irish Draught mares herself, to officially launch the national breed show. Anna May wished the show every success and highlighted to Minister Andrew Doyle who was also in attendance, how important it is to support shows such as this because they rely on so many volunteers to be a success. Kilmacanogue Show President Harry Williams said his committee were delighted to have the IDHBA present and it was great to see the increased interest in Irish Draughts. A very strong class of nine ridden Irish Draughts took place just before the show launch.

Una Holohan gave the gathered audience an overview of this year's show, highlighting the newer classes. New in 2018 and included again this year, is the Premier Mare & Foal class with mares and foals judged 60/40 as a unit. Each of the judges must judge independently and mark each exhibit without consultation with the other judges. There is €1,500 in prize money along with 8 stallion nominations for this class.

Another popular new class last year was the Ridden Irish Draught Mares. Additional sponsorship was secured through the HSI Breeding Fund and this class now has a prize fund of €700 including a breeder's prize of €100.

So what's new this year? Carriage Driving, for the first time in the history of National Breed Shows. Judged on style and appearance it is open to any vehicle being pulled by a purebred Irish Draught. There is great interest being expressed in this class with numerous exhibitors expected from far and wide. The class will be judged by Mary McGrath whose late father Joe McGrath was famous for exhibiting 4 magnificent Irish Draughts under carriage in the RDS.

A performance class for 4 & 5 year olds, with prize money of €485 has also been added to the schedule.

Another first at a national show will be a Performance Stallion Exhibition. Expect to see younger and older Irish Draught stallions give a performance display over the working hunter course. The organisers expect this to be a real showcase display for all in attendance.

JUDGES: There is an eminent and vastly experienced panel of judges for this year's show. Among them Ms. Kerrilee Wilson who won the OLYMPIA Supreme Championship riding her homebred Irish

Draught under side saddle, while others have either competed internationally or bred champion horses. The two Irish judges on the panel are the very esteemed Mr Tim Wilson Jnr and Dr Charmaine Kee. The committee believe having UK judges helps to highlight the quality of our Irish Draughts to a wider audience.

Jimmy Heery who was exhibiting in the Driving class at the show, brought his Irish Draught mare and carriage out early for some photographs with the gathered guests. The carriage was driven by his grandson, Thomas Fisher.

Jimmy will be one of many well known faces from the showing ring that will be exhibiting a horse under carriage in Punchestown in what is already an eagerly anticipated spectacle for the 31st August.

Entries close on 23rd August so once Dublin is over... go online to www.idhba.ie and get your entries in!



Pictured l-r Minister Andrew Doyle, Anna May McHugh NPA, IDHBA Members, Show Committee & National Chairperson Jennifer Haverty, with Jimmy Heery's Irish Draught mare and carriage driven by Thomas Fisher