

ANOTHER SUNDAY WORLD EXCLUSIVE

DON'T REIN ON



RACING CERTAINTY: Carl Boylan and his friend Tomas Ward

OUR PARADE

BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

THEY are Kings of the Road.

But while the whole nation recently celebrated Ireland's amazing run of good luck at Cheltenham, the odds are not so good for our chariot-racers.

Their dreams of glory have been dashed for the umpteenth time after gardai refused to let them race on a public road.

Permit

A group of horse-owners had asked permission to use the old Balbriggan road on Dublin's northside for a trotting race between horses pulling light chariots called "sulkyies".

But Ireland's very own Ben Hurs are sulking after gardai turned down their request.

While Fingal Co Council gave the gee-gees the go-ahead, gardai in Ashbourne refused to give them a permit, according to sulky-driver Carl Boylan.

The dad of two from Darndale, on Dublin's northside, told the *Sunday World*: "All we wanted was to block off the road for an hour or so, once or twice a year. "The gardai block off roads for other events."

Instead of racing his horses on the roads of north Dublin, Carl and his mates travel to sulky-races in Carrickmacross and in the North.

"It's completely legal in the North. The police in Northern Ireland couldn't be more help-

Gardai put a dampner on plan for sulky race



HORSE SENSE: Carl and pal

ful. Everyone has a good day and there's no hassle."

A spokesman said the gardai in Dublin would not be against sulky-racing events if they were properly organised, like the annual race in Carrickmacross.

"The people who take part in races in Carrickmacross are members of clubs and have insurance."

But Carl believes gardai are unfair to urban horsemen in the greater Dublin area.

"Of course our horses will be frightened if cars drive too close to them. If a garda car passes us out with a siren blaring it's bound to scare the horses."

"A few weeks ago they arrest-

ed a young lad because his horse kicked the patrol car - but they were driving too close to him."

Carl and his mates are also fuming at a new law introduced two years ago, which requires them to get a licence before bringing a horse-drawn vehicle onto certain roads.

"Horses were on the roads long before licences were ever needed. We're doing what people have been doing for thousands of years, but we're being treated as a nuisance."

A garda spokesman said the law requiring a licence to drive a horse on a road only affects urban areas.

Grants

"You don't need a licence to drive a horse and cart on public roads in general," he said.

Carl says his sport should be promoted for youngsters.

"There are kids around here who love horses, but there's nothing for them in Darndale."

"There are projects for them in other parts of Dublin, run by the councils with the help of the DSPCA, but if you live in Darndale-Coolock area, you have to be rich to keep a horse. People in the racing industry get grants, so why shouldn't we?"

Carl's eight horses are "squatters" because he can't afford to pay for their upkeep.

He has stabled them in a barn near Baldoye which is owned by NAMA. "I found these sheds near Baldoye with about 20-odd acres around them. I asked in the houses nearby and people said it all belongs to Nama, so I put my horses there."

"I was paying €300 a week to have them kept in a stables, but two years ago I lost my job [as a plumber] and couldn't afford to keep paying it."

Carl says sulky-racing has got a bad reputation because it's associated with travellers. "People think travellers are all cruel to the horses - but I know travellers who take great care of their horses."

"There's a lot of prejudice against travellers and people from the northside of Dublin."

Carl is also a regular at Dublin's Smithfield Market, and points out that most of the people who attend are just horse-lovers like himself.

"There are kids around who love their horses and they have to hide them from the DSPCA in case they take them."

Carl says he'll be hanging onto his little herd - including a fine filly who's hot to trot.

The leggy lovely was named after RTE newscaster Sharon Ni Bheolain.

And she was making headlines as Carl put her through her paces for the *Sunday World*.

Sharon and her stablemates were stepping high as they took to the streets of Darndale this week for a lap of honour around the houses.

And while it was a world apart from the turf at Cheltenham, these horses were in fine form.



ATTACKED: Sister Nora

NUN'S ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

BY IAN MARKHAM-SMITH

IRISH nun, Nora Brick remains in an American convent's medical facility recovering from the serious injuries inflicted on her by a homeless man she was trying to help.

But the mission of mercy that the devout Tralee-born native has devoted more than 30 years of her life to in Florida will continue in her retirement.

Retire

The diminutive 81-year-old Co. Kerry woman, who became known as the "Irish Mother Teresa" because of her work for the underprivileged in Manatee County, Florida, was savagely attacked by Eliseo Ortiz on Valentine's Day because she refused his demands for cash.

Sister Nora suffered such serious injuries that she was forced to retire and move to the church-run retirement home.

Ortiz, remains at large, according to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

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