

POLO PIECES

A day of high drama at the Phoenix Park

ONE of the most exciting displays of polo ever to be seen at the All Ireland Polo Club ended in victory for Craig McKinney's Woodchester team last Sunday.

By Geraldine Comiskey

Watched by hundreds of spectators who crowded the pavilion and sidelines, the Heineken International Horse Show tournament was a perfect example of polo at its best and the final for the Freebooters' Cup between Woodchester and the Castletown/La Canada team had everyone on the edge of their seats as the score saw-sawed.

It was a day of high drama and bravery, with three accidents on the field during the final. Craig McKinney and Renata Coleman, joint-captain of the opposing team with Tony Rhatigan, endeared themselves to the spectators by bouncing back up and playing on despite their injuries.

Renata was the first casualty, dismounting most amatically in the second chukker. After a few minutes' rest she was back on board and into the thick of the action again. Playing in the number one position for Castletown/La Canada, Renata was marked relentlessly by McKinney.

By half-time, Woodchester were ahead by half a goal (which they had automatically received at the start of the game because of their lower handicap) and each side had scored two goals. But early in the third chukker, Woodchester's number one, the young Argentinian two-goaler, Tommy Elliott, scored a goal, bringing the score to 3½ to 2 in favour of Woodchester.

Seconds later, Woodchester's king-pin, five-goaler Eduardo Albarracin, scored another, and the third chukker ended with Woodchester leading by 4½ to 2.

In the final and most exciting chukker, Castletown/La Canada fought back with a vengeance. John Horswell, the English six-goaler, 'slammed' a ball through the posts despite the attentions of Craig McKinney.

Then accident number two happened, as Horswell's mallet accidentally hit Craig McKinney in the face. The game had to be stopped while the wounded Woodchester captain applied a plaster to his bleeding forehead before remounting, still bleeding but apparently none the worse for wear.

A penalty goal scored by John Horswell brought the score to 4½ to 4 in Woodchester's favour. Then Renata Coleman fell off in a scuffle but remounted and continued to put her heart into the game.

The rest of the match was wildly exciting. Argentinian four-goaler Sebastian Fumes, playing in the number two position for Woodchester, had the tough task of passing the ball upfield from Eduardo Albarracin to Tommy Elliott whilst being ridden off by John Horswell and the British five-goaler, Patrick McIl Dowie, who played in the number two position for Castletown/La Canada.

Another goal by Castle/La Canada brought them into the lead by half a goal. The tension in the pavilion was incredible. Suddenly, a penalty was awarded to Woodchester and Eduardo Albarracin scored a brilliant goal, bringing his team a

the end of the match, but Eduardo scored another, just before the bell — a state-of-the-art chukker-timer which sounds like a car horn and was the envy of visiting players. Specially invented for the club, it was donated last week by Woodchester — and the sound was music to its sponsor's ears.

The subsidiary match, before the final, was another cliff-hanger, ending in victory by half a goal for Abakebabra/Oakleaf. Opponents Enterprise/Tandragee fought fiercely for the cup and were leading by half a goal up to two minutes from the end. Then the unthinkable happened — one of their ponies scored an own goal. Confey, the thoroughbred chestnut owned by Enterprise/Tandragee's joint-captain, Alex Mackay, kicked the ball into the wrong goal-mouth, bringing the final score to five for Abakebabra/Oakleaf and 4½ for Enterprise/Tandragee.

Far less embarrassing was a brilliant goal for Abakebabra/Oakleaf's Pablo Bourdieu, an Argentinian six-goaler who played in the number three position. He was well supported by fellow Argentinian, five-goaler Francisco Moreno, and joint-captains Larry O'Mahony and Graham Beere.

The consolation tournament was won by Scotland, who beat Mulholland's All Blacks and the Wicklow/Beechwood/Polo One team in a "round-robin" match, which put all three teams to the test and showed fine polo.

After the day's excitement, the club members enjoyed a barbecue before dancing until the small hours — with some of the players still in their polo boots.

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ANOTHER exciting tournament had been held at Major Hugh Dawnay's Whitfield Court the previous weekend, when four teams competed for a cup sponsored by Jury's Hotel, Waterford Crystal and 16 local companies. The close final was between two home teams. The club's chairman, James Kennedy, led his team to victory over Major Dawnay's team by 5½ goals to 5.

Kennedy's team started with one-and-a-half goals on handicap, but the Dawnay team (the Major, his sons David and Sebastian, and local lady Carina Moran) brought the score level just two minutes before the end of the match.

Baydon Broughton of New Zealand retaliated with a goal for Kennedy's team and, despite four near misses, the Dawnays were unable to score the winner. Kennedy's team also included Peter Reilly from Clonmel and Chris Hennessy, the Waterford Renault dealer who also teaches flying.

The Monkrig team from Scotland must have regretted lending Baydon Broughton to Kennedy's team — but they still managed to win the subsidiary cup against Trans Ocean from Kildare, by five goals to three.

Monkrig's captain, James Manclarke, was supported by John Tinsley, Christine de la Rue and Portlaw's Denise Power. Trans Ocean boasted one of Ireland's greatest players, Peter Newell.

The semi-finals were keenly fought too. In the match between the Dawnay team and Kildare, the Dawnays led all the way to win 6-4, but in a thrilling last period they were overtaken as Peter Broughton kicked strongly with



Woodchester's Sebastian Fumes, from Argentina, starts another high speed attack in the final of the Freebooter Cup at the Phoenix Park last weekend, watched by his team mates and countrymen, Tomas Elliot and Eduardo Albarracin

SHOWING NEWS

The pride of Goresbridge

DAVID CHAWKE, wearing his showing rather than his show jumping hat, brought out a Pride of Shauntara filly he bred himself to win the 10th Goresbridge All-Ireland young horse championship on Monday last.

Out of a qualified group of 60 which turned out for the £2,000 final, Chawke's bay filly out of a Skyboy mare was among 28 recalled by judges Leonard Cave, George Stewart and David Mitchell and went on to top the line-up of five. As owner, David took a first prize of £1,000 and as breeder he came in for a bonus of £250 from Red Mills.

In contrast to the new Bank of Ireland Young Irelander format at Millstreet, both the qualifying rounds organised by the Irish Shows Association and the championship itself were judged on the lunge, but all the young horses were also looked at for conformation. All of the finalists were offered for sale immediately after judging had finished.

Taking the reserve rosette for Jennifer Dunlop of Athenry was a real flashy gelding by Chairlift, which challenged right to the end. He too was bred by the owner, Malachy Marron of Carrickmacross slotted one by Touchstone into third. A very appealing bay Skyboy gelding owned by Brian Maguire and bred by him out of a King of Diamonds dam looked for a time to have won the day but his final few jumps let him down.

In something of a surprise outcome, Big Digion, Willie McDonnell's Young Irelander winner, took the fifth prize this time around. Except for one really good jump that brought a gasp from the large gathering, the 17 hand bay by Ceredigion out of Midnight Darkie bred by Rosemarie Deasy did not show the same flair that won the title for him in the loose ring at Millstreet.

Full sales results from Goresbridge will be published next week.

RESULTS ROUND-UP

NIWHA show, Balmoral, July 15-16

PONIES

Working hunters
Novice, 153 cms — 1, Scampi (Lisa McGarrity); 2, Juanut (Karen Smyth); 3, Dapplewood Lady (Cherith Graham).

143 cms — 1, Shanogue (Claire Phillips); 2, Super Trouper (Sheryl Dunn); 3, The Chancer (Caroline Bellow).

138 cms — 1, Rookery Sunrise (Claire Dobbins); 2, Wideawake (Caroline Bellow); 3, Starlight Dancer (Nicola Kenton).

Novice champion — Shanogue. Reserve — Super Trouper.

Open 153 cms — 1, The Dun Fellow (Stuart Pollin); 2, Goody Tiptoes (Alison Thompson); 3, The May Queen (Lorna Turkington).

143 cms — 1, Shanogue (Claire Phillips); 2, Poppin Popsi (Sarah Kilpatrick); 3, Prince Robin (Emma Jenkins).

138 cms — 1, Wideawake (Caroline Bellow); 2, Miss Minnie (Elaine Jenkins).

Open champion — The Dun Fellow. Reserve — Shanogue.

Intermediate 153 cms — 1, Song Of Morning (Suzie McIlwaine); 2, Scampi (Lisa McGarrity); 3, The May Queen (Lorna Turkington).

143 cms — 1, Poppin Popsi (Sarah Kilpatrick); 2, Grey Dawn (Claire Phillips); 3, Hollyhill Dream (Susan McEneaney).

138 cms — 1, Starlight Dancer (Nicola Webster); 2, Wideawake (Caroline Bellow); 3, Blackface (Frances McCambridge).

Intermediate champion — Song Of Morning. Reserve — Scampi.

Young riders — 1, Midnight Blue (Heather McCabe); 2, Whiteheather Brooke (Susanne Patterson); 3, Goody Tiptoes (Alison Thompson).

Novice horses — 1, Wait And See (Adrienne Stuart); 2, Ryans Mist (Sean Doherty); 3, Whiteheather Brooke (Suzanne McCullagge).

Senior champion — Wait And See. Reserve — Midnight Blue.

Working starter stakes — 1, Jimmy's Delight (Ruth Jamieson); 2, Perfect Polly (Emma Pollin); 3, Garfield (Roy Abraham).

Cradele stakes — 1, Cuan Fairy Boy (Kathryn Glenn); 2, The Mayflower (Jeremy Graham); 3, Mix 'n' Match (James McCullough).

Ridden starter stakes — 1, Greenlinks Olympic Personality (Pamela Gilpin); 2, Jimmy's Delight (Ruth Jamieson); 3, Chirk Sunbird (Beverley Kenny).

Cradele stakes — 1, Cuan Fairy Boy (Kathryn Glenn); 2, The Mayflower (Jeremy Graham); 3, Stambrook Mac Duff (Susanne Allen).

Mini champion — Cuan Fairy Boy; reserve — Greenlinks Olympic Personality.

Ridden hunters
Novice, 153 cms — 1, Scampi (Lisa McGarrity); 2, Lillala Moonlight (Alison Bishop); 3, Dapplewood Lady (Cherith Graham).

143 cms — 1, Clonross Nimrod (Kristina Patterson); 2, Eddison Honeyeater (Caroline Armstrong); 3, San Pedro (Helen Beggs).

138 cms — 1, Barney the Lad (Roslyn Armstrong); 2, Tiggy J (Emma McArthur); 3, Rookery Sunrise (Claire Dobbins).

Novice champion — Clonross Nimrod; reserve — Scampi.

Open 153 cms — 1, Gorrlyn Mercury (Claire Gilpin); 2, Willow Bank (Tracey Auld); 3, Brookvale Mooncoin (Louise Dunn).

143 cms — 1, Super Trouper (Sheryl Dunn); 2, Clonross Nimrod (Kristina Patterson); 3, Harlow Tiptoes (Amanda Jones).

138 cms — 1, Tiggy J (Emma McArthur); 2, Woodvale Don (Danielle Quinivan); 3, Waxwing Paprika (Deborah Simpson).

Open champion — Super Trouper; reserve — Clonross Nimrod.

Dressage (test 12)
138 cms — 1, Miss Minnie (Elaine Jenkins); 2, Tiggy J (Emma McArthur); 3, Barney The Lad (Roslyn Armstrong).

148 cms — 1, Super Trouper (Sheryl Dunn); 2, Clonross Nimrod (Kristina Patterson); 3, Shanogue (Claire Phillips).

153 cms — 1, Midnight Blue (Heather McCabe); 2, Mountcaulfield Gauntlet (Naomi McPolin); 3, Goody Tiptoes (Alison Thompson).

Young riders — 1, Goody Tiptoes (Alison Thompson); 2, The May Queen (Lorna Turkington); 3, Mountcaulfield Gauntlet (Naomi McPolin).

Newcastle West Sunday, July 21

SHOWING HORSES

Breeding stock

Broodmare Bank of Ireland All-Ireland qualifier — 1, D Hourigan. Heavyweight — 1, Pat Gleeson; 2, J McGinn; 3, Thomas Harrington.

Lightweight — 1, Jerry Horgan; 2, D Hourigan; 3, John Ryan.

Foal, colt — 1, D Hourigan; 2, John Shorten; 3, Linda O'Reilly.

Castle Freight All-Ireland qualifier — 1, John Halpin; 2, Tom Frost; 3, Noel Brosnan.

Young stock
Yearling, filly — 1, Leo Walsh; 2, Maurice Breen; 3, Michael Meehan.

Colt or gelding — 1, Morgan McSweeney; 2, Mia Twomey; 3, Brews Hardware.

Two-year-old, colt or gelding — 1, Tony Purcell; 2, Timmy Meare; 3, Walter Kelly.

Filly — 1, Rose Donovan; 2, John Ahern; 3, Jerry Horgan.

Three-year-old, gelding — 1, Wm McDonnell; 2, David Cotter; 3, Tommy Casey.

Filly — 1, J McGinn; 2, Ian Doyle.

Champion — Wm McDonnell; reserve, David Cotter.

Working Hunter — 1, Northern Light (Edmund Cogan); 2, Ta go Maith (Shane Flavin); 3, Ringwood Spectrum (Paul Brosnan).

PONIES
Riding
128cms — 1, K Hayes; 2, L O'Brien; 3, A O'Sullivan.

138cms — 1, Susan Walters; 2, Edward Flannery; 3, M Clancy.

148cms — 1, Mary Nagle; 2, Ann O'Sullivan; 3, Ed Flannery.

Lead Rein — 1, Ed Flannery; 2, Mrs Mansergh-Wallace; 3, John Hannon.

Lad — 1, P Hayes; 2, Francis Reihan; 3, P Mansergh-Wallace.

Local — 1, Katie Harrison; 2, G Teskey; 3, Mrs Shorten.

153cms — 1, Mystery Girl (Jill McAuliffe); 2, Kaiser (M Casey); 3, Sharville (Sarah Jane Hannon).

Starter stakes — 1, Peanuts (H Enright); 2, Milly Molly Mandy; 3, Mr Crib (Deirdre Doherty).

DRESSAGE
Test D — 1, Sandflash Glazing Nimble (Rachel Walters) 81 points; 2, Kenya (Anita Allis) 80; 3, Bolton Hall Lass (Terry Cairns) 78.

Test 22 — 1, Penzelle (Terry Cairns) 147 points; 2, Kenya (Anita Allis) 111; 3, Drumbigg Lad (James McCullagh) 106.

Test 12 — 1, Ebony (Orla Sheehy) 61 points; 2, Ebony (Kieran Curtin) 59; 3, Dela (Harry Dickson) 58.

Test 8 — 1, Mount Hillary (Patrick Coleman) 107 points; joint 2, Kenya (Anita Allis) and Northern Star (Edmund Cogan) 100.

Test 8, Juniors — 1, Sandflash Glazing Nimble (Rachel Walters) 109 points; 2, General Hatton (Dorothy Craven) 102; 3, Drumbiggie Tanager (James McCullagh) 101.

Test 15 — 1, Mount Hillary (Patrick Coleman) 158 points; 2, Sandflash Glazing Nimble (Rachel Walters) 153; 3, Bolton Hall Lass (Terry Cairns) 131.

Dressage finals, Lisnabrague, Sunday, July 21

THE finals of the Irish Dressage Society (Northern region) summer dressage league were held at Lisnabrague, Scarva, Co Down, last month. The judges for the day were Gilly Bell and Jessica Maxwell, both of whom are experienced event and dressage riders.

Preliminary (tests BHS 1 and BHS 4) — 1, Snow Dragon (Lucy Jameson); 2, Miss Puddleduck (Alison Little); 3, Aktion Man (Vanda Stewart); 4, Angel City (Yvette Trusdale); 5, Sgt Pepper (Sara Mrowas); 6, Innistokagh (Jennifer Howes).

Novice (tests BHS 8 and BHS 15) — 1, Centurian (Lucy Jameson); 2, Calvaldos (Lisa Aiken); 3, Kilmore Vision (Gail Baillie); equal 4, Snow Dragon (Lucy Jameson) and Glen Courage (Claire Toal); 6, Lord Zephyr (Anne Riddell).

Open/elementary (Tests BHS 25 and BHS 29) — 1, Centurian (Lucy Jameson); 2, Kilmore Vision (Gail Baillie); 3, Glen Courage (Claire Toal).

Juniors — 1, Terrigal Bay (Lucy Jameson); 2, Brookvale Masterpiece (Deborah Simpson); 3, Clonross Nimrod (Kristina Patterson); 4, The May Queen (Lorna Turkington).

DUNAMASE RIDING CLUB LAOIS HUNT P.C.

ONE DAY EVENT

Ballinattagart, Borris-in-Ossory Sunday, 25th August

- R.C. Intermediate
- R.C. Adv. Intermediate
- P.C. 17 years and under
- P.C. Associate Members

Enquiries: (0502) 22838/21474

FIXTURES

SHOW JUMPING

Today — Rotterdam, Holland (Nations Cup meeting); Theux, Belgium; Schruns, Austria; Balinrobe, Co. Mayo, 10.30 a.m.; Roscommon, Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon, 1 p.m.; Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan, 11 a.m.

Tomorrow — Rotterdam; Theux; Schruns; Banteer, Co. Cork, 10.30 a.m.; Bunninadden, Co. Sligo, 10 a.m.; Castlesconell, Co. Limerick, Clara, Co. Offaly, 10.30 a.m.; Milltown, Co. Galway, 11 a.m.; Waterford, 10 a.m.; Loughshinney, Skerries, Co. Dublin, 11 a.m.

Wed., Aug. 21 — Cappamore, Co. Limerick, 10.30 a.m. Royal Meath, Trim, Co. Meath, 10.30 a.m. Thurs., Aug. 22 — Kildysart, Co. Clare; Tallow, Co. Waterford, 3 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 23 — Cervia, Italy; Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg.

Sat., Aug. 24 — Cervia; Mondorf; Gijon, Spain; Athlone, Co. Westmeath, 1 p.m.; Donegal Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, 10 a.m.; Limerick, 10 a.m.; Oldcastle, Co. Meath, 11 a.m.; Sun., Aug. 25 — Cervia; Mondorf; Gijon Athlone, 11.30 a.m.; Limerick, 11 a.m.; Oldcastle, 11 a.m.; Dunnamaggin, Co. Kilkenny, 10.30 a.m.; Glantane, Co. Cork, 11 a.m.; Gurteen, Co. Sligo, 10 a.m.; St. Mullins, Co. Carlow, 12 noon.

HORSE TRIALS
Today — Ezzo, The Beeches, Co. Antrim.

Tomorrow — Castletown, Co. Kildare.

Tues., Aug. 20 — Junior one-day event, Greenhills, Kill, Co. Kildare.

3Thurs., Aug. 22 — Rotherfield, Great Britain (European junior championships).

Fri. Aug. 23 — Rotherfield; Esso Tullymurray, Co. Down.

Sun., Aug. 25 — Rotherfield; Charleville, Co. Cork.

PONY SHOW
Sun., Aug. 25 — Spruce Lodge, Kiltarnan, Co. Dublin.

DRIVING
Sat., Aug. 24 — National Carriage Driving Championship, Birr Castle, Co. Offaly.

Sun., Aug. 25 — National championships.

PONY CLUB
Sat., Aug. 24 — Junior tetrathlon championships, Mayfield and Ballinisk, Cork.

Sun., Aug. 25 — Junior tetrathlon championships.

POLO
Today — All-Ireland Polo Club, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 3.15 p.m.

Tomorrow — Phoenix Park, 3.15 p.m.

Thurs., Aug. 22 — Phoenix Park, 5.30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 23 — Kildare Polo Club, Baroda Stud, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, 6 p.m.

Sat., Aug. 24 — Phoenix Park, 3.15 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 25 — Phoenix Park, 3.15 p.m.

Enquiries: DONIE MCGALE STUDIOS 6 Bridge St., Omagh, Co. Tyrone BT78 1BX Tel. 08-0662-247193/244542.