

FABULOUS DERBY WIN FOR BALLYOWEN MAYBELLE MOLLY

The seven year old Irish Connemara mare, Ballyowen Maybelle Molly, competed at the Complet International de Fontainebleau Show Jump Championships in France on 18th and 19th April 2009.

Molly competed in the final seven year old International Jumping Competition over a huge, highly technical course. Molly had the only treble clear round out of the entire field. Huge congratulations must go to her rider, Kelly Allen and owner Anthony McCormac. The results of the mare's two days competition are:

CSIP Table A against the clock, International Jumping Competition for 7 year old, FEI Art. 238.2.1 1m15 Saturday 18th April:

1. BALLYOWEN MAYBELLE MOLLY (ISH); Kelly Allen (IRL) Faults 0.00 - time 34.99
2. LITTLE DARK WARRIOR (IRRP) ; Niamh Dooley (IRL) Faults 0.00 - time 57.67
3. OMBRE DES FALAISES; Robin Muhr (FRA) Faults 0.00 - time 65.15
4. IRISH NIGHT WATCHMAN; Brian Crowley (IRL) Faults 0.00 - time 72.83

CSIP Pony final seven year old, International Jumping Competition Table A with jump off. FEI Art.238.1.2 1m20 Sunday 19th April 2009:

1. BALLYOWEN MAYBELLE MOLLY (ISH); Kelly Allen (IRL) Faults 0.00/0.00 - time 34.28
2. IRISH NIGHT WATCHMAN; Brian Crowley (IRL) Faults 0.00/4.00 - time 34.93
3. GARRYDNUG GOLD DIGGER (ISH); Madeline Roberts Allen (IRL) Faults 0.00/4.00 - time 34.99

A terrific result for owner, rider and the Connemara pony in general.



BALLYOWEN MAYBELLE MOLLY

It was a joyous occasion for all her connections - owner Anthony Mac Cormack, rider Kelly Allen and breeders John and Jenny Richardson when Ballyowen Maybelle Molly won the seven year old derby at Fontainebleau on April 19th 2009. She had become, officially, the best seven year old in Europe. Her magnificent achievement was not a surprise to me because I know the family and have followed its fortunes for many years

It all started when Sean Mac Lochlainn bought a three year old filly by Tiger Gill out of a Tully Lad mare called Kiss me Kate. She was a dun roan and stood at 13 hh. Sean entered her in Class14 at the Clifden Show in August 1960. This was a class for non registered Connemara mares not less than three years old. His sole purpose in doing so was that such ponies could be inspected for registration at the show which she was. She was called Lus na bPog (2103).

Her career as a show pony was short and inglorious but she became the most wonderful broodmare and left five fabulous daughters.

The oldest, Poigin (Carna Dun) went to England/Scotland. Ballyowen Belle (Carna Dun) stayed in Ireland with the Richardsons. Ciotog (Doon Paddy) went to Montana/Canada. Bla an Duinin (Doon Paddy) went to Sweden and Doireann (Macdara) went to France.

There is obviously a big Little Heaven influence but I also think there is a big female thing going on in this family. The females are so dominant that we mustn't give too much of the credit to the 'topline'. Consider also that Doireann, who was by Macdara (no outside blood), produced Balladin de Fremur (Macky) in France, a registered stallion who jumped at national level there, thus garnering a big reputation for himself and the breed.

The extended Lus na bPog family is littered with great performers but three of them were genuine superstars operating at the very highest level. They were Poigin, Golden Avenns Ruby (daughter of Ciotog) and Molly (daughter of Belle). All three were females ridden by extremely talented girls - Fiona Clarke, Melanie Jacobi and Kelly Allen respectively.

Poigin and Goldie were allrounders, excelling in a variety of disciplines. They looked alike being typical of the Carna Dun line i.e. tall, scopey strong heads. Molly is different in that she is an absolute jumping machine and looks as well as she jumps. Doris Jacobi and I have written previously about Poigin and Goldie (English Chronicle 2001) and all I can say about Molly, being a seven year old, is that her career, stunning as it is to date, is only beginning.

The prominence of the females in the family is intriguing. The talent and athleticism is unquestionable and if Sean were alive today we can assume that he would regard the £77-10-0 that he paid for Lus and her companion Londubh fifty years ago, as pretty good value!

Tom MacLochlainn