

EUROPEAN SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

MOORSELE - BELGIUM

The European Showjumping Championships at Moorsele, Belgium were conducted recently. Approx. 20 Connemara ponies from several countries competed making the Connemara the most conspicuous breed at the Championships. The CPBS sponsored the Connemara ponies Ballyowen Maybelle Molly and Sillogue Darkie. in this prestigious championship.

BALLYOWEN MAYBELLE MOLLY is by Monaghanstown Fred from the mare Ballyowen Bonny Bell. She was bred by John and Jenny Richardson, owned by Anthony McCormack and ridden by Kellie Allen. Molly was upgraded this year and won the 6-7 year old European Championship at Fontainebleu and has qualified for the 148A class at Dublin.

SILLOGUE DARKIE is by Ard Talisman from the mare Coillchru Esmerelda. Bred and owned by Eamonn Briscoe and ridden by Michael Duffy, Darkie has represented Ireland individually and in teams events in Belgium, Italy, France, England, Holland and Germany. Last year he won the premium pony league with rider Jessica Burke and this year is leading the league once again with rider Michael Duffy..He has qualified for the 148 Class at the RDS, the Star finder at Banteer.

Boston Burgler, another Connemara from Ireland also competed. Burgler is a member of the Irish Eventing team and had 189 SJAI points when he started eventing.

Ballyowen Maybelle Molly and Sillogue Darkie were jumping for Ireland in the team trials. The show jumpers were leading on a zero score at the halfway stage following clears from Kellie Allen (Ballyowen Maybelle Molly) and Michael Duffy (Sillogue Darkie). The team-mates all faulted second time out to leave the final Irish tally at 12 faults, which allowed the Danish team to claim gold when they completed with eight on the board while Germany took bronze when finishing with 16.

A few days later Ballyowen Maybelle Molly ended up seizing the gold medal in the individual trials Not only did a Connemara Pony attained such glory for her breed, but after Molly's jump-off against Denmark's Christiane Tetzlaff, second place went to Murphy's Flight (sold out of Ireland to Denmark some two years ago) - another Connemara! Sillogue Darkie finished xxx in the individual competition.



We look forward to hearing more results by Connemara ponies in the European Championships.