

## Connemara Filly All Breeds Champion in Finland

With no Connemara Breed Show arranged in Finland this summer, all the Connemara Pony entries were gathered at the National Pony Show, the annual show for all pony breeds, arranged for the 34<sup>th</sup> time this year. The judge was a third time visitor of Finland, Mrs Jackie Webb from the UK.



*Doyher Ruby Rose, Junior Champion of all breeds*

arranging the ponies in winning order, they are also awarded quality premiums in the form of rosettes – Finnish colours white and blue for the first premium, blue for 2<sup>nd</sup> premium and white for the 3<sup>rd</sup> premium. Two of the colts got the blue and white, which may predict an interesting spring 2012, when they are eligible for inspection.



*Marshland Prince*

year's Connemara Junior Champion.

Three year old fillies saw two 1<sup>st</sup> premium ponies. Rockfield Arctic Glow (Atlantic Ace – Rockfield Scaramé – Kåsta Scaramouche, breeder & owner Merja Nurmi) had to give way to class winner Doyher Ruby Rose (Rockfield Scarface – Omey Ruby – Gleann Rua Maxwell, breeder Nina Tiainen, owner Hanna Asklöf).

Ruby Rose then went on to claim the best of breed Junior Championship (Marshland Prince being the best of opposite sex), and then a few hours later claiming the title of the best Finnish bred junior pony of all breeds! A pleasant result for the breeder, the owner and all the Connemara Pony enthusiasts in Finland.

The first day, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, saw the young ponies in the ring. The same day the Finnish Horse Board Hippos had their own ring, giving assessments to young ponies of all breeds – judging their type, conformation and movement. A top score of 40 points was awarded to a yearling Connemara colt, Goldrock Laddie (Golddigger Laddie – Sparrow Melody – Grange Surf Sparrow, breeder & owner Annika Hägglund), who then went on to win his class in the Connemara ring.

The two year old colt class saw a record number of entries, as six of the seven entered colts shared the ring, which for once seemed a wee bit too small for so many young and virile males! The class also showed high standard: Besides

The class winner was Marshland Prince, a well developed son of Ard Ri Cunga out of first class winner mare Downhill Dewdrop (by Kåsta Scaramouche). The colt is bred by Elisa Uusi-Heikkilä and owned by Cecilia Rosenlew. The other 1<sup>st</sup> premium colt, but 2<sup>nd</sup> placed in the class was beautiful dun Zitherbay Neil O'Hara (Ashfield Cathal Crobdhearg – Aramara Ona O'Hara – Rockfield Scarface, bred by Sari Lahtinen, owned by Inga Jytilä).

Only one three year old colt came forward. Fieldhill Apollo (Dale Mountain Mist – Irish Dream – Öxenholm Marble Jr, breeder Sari Takala, owners Neea, Sirpa & Timo Pönni) was awarded the first premium and a careful suggestion he could be successful in the colt inspection next year.

Yearling fillies' class was taken by dun Cleos Fay Fenella (Vanity Pdraigh – Enghöjs Irish Golden Rose – Öxenholm Markbook, breeder Laura Ovaskainen, owner Mia-Maria Lampiola), while the two year old filly class winner was Fieldhill Bene Bettina (Dale Mountain Mist – Eternal Amity – Symphatil Hazy Becks, breeder Sari Takala, owner Jenna Loimijoki) – last

On Sunday, the older ponies had their shot at the ring. 4 to 9 yr old mares class (without foal) was taken by Vanity Fairy Siobhan (Janus – Eiris Fairy Fiona – Ardnasillagh O'Flaherty), while 10-17 yr old mare class went to Irish bred Lady Of Kylemore (Kylemore Rocky - Waterfield Girl - Seafiel Silver Rogue ), who has developed nicely after giving birth to her first foal.



*Vanity Fairy Siobhan*

There was one separate class for mares with foal at foot; the winner of the 4-9 yr old mare class was Symphatil Irish Mist (Symphatil Hazy Becks - Symphatil Esmeralda - Ard Ri Cunga, breeder & owner Susanna Rahikainen).

Senior mare class and Championship was taken by the only veteran participant, 18 yr old Winter's Carneval (Ardnasillagh O'Flaherty – Espe Dina – Cocum Tiger Moth, breeders Marja & Tenna Talvi, owner Ira Oksanen), while Symphatil Quality (Halle Lafferty – Irish Dream – Öxenholm Marble Jr, breeder & owner Susanna Rahikainen) became the Champion Foal of the year. Of all the mare class champions, Vanity Fairy Siobhan became the Champion Mare.



*Rockfield Scarface*

Out of the four entered stallions only Rockfield Scarface (Ard Ri Cunga – Rockfield Scaramé – Kåsta Scaramouche, bred by Maj-Gret Nurmi, owner Merja Nurmi) entered the ring, in fine condition after having spent two years in Sweden. Not surprisingly he claimed the Stallion Championship... The Champion Gelding was the champion stallion's half brother Rockfield Wizard (Innellan Kestrel - Rockfield Scaramé – Kåsta Scaramouche, breeder Maj-Gret Nurmi, owner Sanna Ollikka).

In the end of the day the Connemara Champions entered the ring to see which one of the ponies would become the Breed Champion, to enter the Best In Show ring of all

breeds. The choice was Saturday's all breeds Junior Champion, Doyher Ruby Rose, who in the end beat her sire Rockfield Scarface, who was placed Reserve.

Unfortunately, the flow of success didn't carry on into the end – the Best In Show titles of the whole National Pony Show were shared by Shetland and Welsh ponies.

Next year's show, the 35<sup>th</sup> National Pony Show in Finland is likely to be arranged the last weekend of July 2012.

All results and photos of all ponies at the 2011 Show: <http://www.connemara.fi/poninayttely2011.html>



*Goldrock Laddie*



*Lady of Kylemore*