

SNIPPETS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

With winter drawing closer in the Northern Hemisphere, Connemara news is pretty hard to find. Below are a few items that may be of interest.

The national Pony Show, Scotland was held in late August in Perthshire. The Olympia Qualifier saw Sandra Burton's Irish bred Connemara 'Coulillaun Cushlawn' take out reserve award. The ridden Novice final also saw a Connemara, Alison Granger's "Crannard Special" being awarded the reserve award. There must be heaps more but nothing has come my way to report for you.

In America, the 44th Annual ACPS Region 1 Breed show has been held. The weekend turned out to be a real winner for the Connemara 'Bantry Bay's Kenny' and his owner-rider Lauren Ochs. The pair won the Lambray Seamus Award for working Hunter, the George A. Taylor memorial Trophy for Hunter under saddle, R.H.F. O'Harazan Perpetual Trophy for grand Champion Connemara, and the Sue Dexter Memorial Versatility Award.

All versatility competitors compete in 5 of 6 categories including Trail, Hunter, Jumper, Dressage, Driving and Pleasure. Trail is mandatory and includes travel through water, opening gates, checking mail boxes, crossing bridge etc. Not the usual areas for Connemaras to excel but Kenny excelled in all and took out the trophy. Who says Connemaras don't like gates, water etc!

From the USA also comes the sad news of the death of "Grange Finn Sparrow". This lovely Connemara was foaled at the grange Stud in Ireland. Joe Day, Wexford, purchased him as a weanling and later showed him in Clifden. He was then sold him to Willy Leahy. He was the 1978 Clifden Champion in hand.

Finn Sparrow was named Ireland's top scoring Grade A pony twice and took 2nd place at his only Eventing outing at preliminary level whilst standing at Stud in Austria. He was imported into America in the 198's and shown successfully throughout his years in the USA. He will be missed, I am sure, both in the USA and in all Connemara localities around the world.