



Dear Amateurs,

Welcome to the Showjumping Ireland amateur newsletter! We are excited to share the latest updates, upcoming events and important announcements with you.

2026 National Amateur Committee

- Chairperson – Máire Cosgrove
- Connaught Representative – Karen Boylan
- Leinster Representative – Aileen McDermott
- Munster Representative – Gary Flynn
- Ulster Representative – Paddy Ward

We're here to help! Please [reach out to us](#) with any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

- Munster Amateur Show – 5 July – Clare Equestrian Centre
- Cavan Summer Amateur Show – 18-19 July – Cavan Equestrian Centre
- Millstreet CSI 2* International Horse Show – 12-16 August – Millstreet
- JAG Amateur Show – 23 August – JAG Equestrian Centre

- National Amateur & Sports Member Championships – 12-13 September – Mullingar Equestrian Centre

- Cavan September Amateur Show – 19-20 September – Cavan Equestrian Centre

Refer to the [SJI Calendar](#) for additional upcoming events.

Farmer's Journal 'A' Qualifier, Circulo/NAPS National Amateur League and SM All-Ireland Qualifier dates are available on the [SJI Amateurs page](#).

Competition Highlights

- Balmoral Amateur Championship

 Kevin O'Reilly (Cranny West)

 Caitroina Cody (Shanroe Socialite)

 Breda Perrin (LKS Bianca)

- SJI Leinster Amateur Show

 Welcome Stakes – Tom Hogan (Limerick Jewel)

 Two Phase – Colm Fitzpatrick (Maretto Flight)

 Grand Prix – Colm Fitzpatrick (Bluestone Diamond Fly)

 Six Bar – Mia Browne – Empress Nala

- RDS Qualified Riders – Killossery – Nicole Lynch (My Velvet Lady), Colm Fitzpatrick (Bluestone Diamond Fly), Jennifer Holland (Ballingowan Melody), Nicola Hall (Ladykiller), Ciara Kelly (Juan Amigo), Rachel McAlinden (Knockash Flexi), Jessie O'Flynn Hall (MMS Loreal), Lisa Hitchmough (Jessica 55)

- RDS Qualified Riders – Kernans – Gwyn Yemm (Doonini Z), Niamh Quinn (Clonguish Vivaro), Amanda-Jayne Comyn (Eirian Gatsby), Liz Keegan Comerford (Edoxtown Comerford), Carole Smillie (Larkhill Countess), Barbara Clarke (Lupins Lux Z), Caitlin Duffy (Jockeyhall Midas Touch), Vicky Curran (RNH Coco Chanel)

- RDS Qualified Riders – Galway – Nathan Kenny (Lachain Princess), Tara Brandon (BEC Phoenix, Sarah Kate O'Donovan (Diamond Infinity), Jody Townend (JT Calover Junior), Linda Gillespie (Archibald), Fiona Brady (Kilrainey Firefly), Jennifer McCurry (LGS My Echo), Edel Kelly (Augustina)

- RDS Qualified Riders – Tipperary – Dean Cotton (Imperial Darco), Luke Barton (Roadstown Lark), Ashleigh Mooney (Jelo), Lorraine Young (Adieu Flight), Evelyn Farrell (Little Miss Sunny), Ava Vaughan (Carrigshawn Condi), Padraig Fives (Mermus R Russel), Noel Elliot (Corgary Goodluck)

Congratulations to all!

Spotlight Feature

Thoroughbreds in Amateur Showjumping

This month, we're delighted to shine the spotlight on four exceptional Thoroughbreds in recognition of Showjumping Ireland's partnership with Treo Eile, whose ongoing commitment continues to promote the versatility and success of Thoroughbreds in sport.

Treo Eile has become a valued supporter of Showjumping Ireland competitors, with initiatives designed to encourage more Thoroughbreds into affiliated competition. Throughout the 2025 and 2026 seasons, generous Thoroughbred prizes have been offered at numerous SJI shows across the country, rewarding the achievements of Thoroughbreds at all levels.

The organisation has also made a significant financial commitment to supporting Thoroughbred registrations with SJI, covering 100% of the Sports Member registration fee for eligible Thoroughbreds and contributing €80 towards all other Thoroughbred SJI registrations. In addition, their SJI entry fee support scheme helps make competing more accessible for owners and riders of Thoroughbreds.

Looking ahead to September, Treo Eile will introduce an exciting new feature at the National Amateur and Sports Member Championships with the inaugural Treo Eile Amateur and Sports Member Thoroughbred Invitational. Thoroughbreds ridden by SJI-registered Amateurs and Sports Members will be invited to compete for a prize fund of €500, providing another fantastic opportunity to showcase the breed's talent.

To celebrate this partnership, we caught up with four riders whose Thoroughbreds are proving just how versatile, competitive and rewarding these horses can be.

Silent Picture – Aisling Donoghue



Known at home as Oscar, this 20-year-old Thoroughbred enjoyed a successful racing career before finding his forever home with Aisling. Since then, he has excelled across an incredible range of disciplines, from showjumping and eventing to hunting and showing, becoming a true family horse along the way. Together they have enjoyed numerous successes, including winning at the National Amateur Championships, qualifying for multiple SJI finals and seeing Oscar crowned the 2025 Treo Eile Showjumper of the Year. Aisling believes Thoroughbreds reward patience with unmatched intelligence, athleticism and willingness, encouraging anyone considering retraining one to embrace the journey. Oscar's cheeky ability to open stable doors has also earned him a reputation as the yard's resident "Houdini."

Red Rosanna – Kate Kenwright



After retiring her previous showjumper, Kate was searching for an affordable partner and decided to put her years of experience with Thoroughbreds to good use. Enter Red Rosanna, or Robyn, a 10-year-old unraced mare whose bravery and honesty have made her an ideal amateur partner. Although the pair are still getting to know one another, Robyn has already

impressed at Amateur RDS qualifiers, confidently tackling challenging tracks and helping build Kate's confidence. Kate hopes more riders will look beyond outdated stereotypes surrounding Thoroughbreds, describing them as kind, genuine horses with huge hearts and wonderful personalities.

Our Father – Corrie Auchterlonie



Few horses can boast a racing CV quite like Our Father. The 20-year-old enjoyed a distinguished National Hunt career, winning at Cheltenham and competing against some of the best staying chasers of his generation before embarking on an equally impressive second career. Gifted to Corrie following cancer treatment, "The Big Lad" has become an outstanding confidence-giver, helping her achieve clear rounds at Amateur qualifiers, a top five finish in the All-Ireland Sports Member Final, success at Balmoral and her first 1m victory. Corrie is passionate about promoting the breed, praising Thoroughbreds for their intelligence, bravery, adaptability and exceptional value as amateur sport horses, while reminding riders never to overlook an older Thoroughbred.

Pom Pom Shake – Nadine Fenlon



For Nadine Fenlon, buying Pom Pom Shake—known as Penny—meant returning to horses after several years away from the sport. The unraced 10-year-old needed time, correct nutrition and patient schooling to rebuild her strength after arriving underweight. The transformation has been remarkable. Penny's enthusiasm, athleticism and enormous heart have helped the pair achieve their first 1m track together this season, while her affectionate personality has won over many who once doubted Thoroughbreds. Nadine hopes Penny's story encourages more riders to give the breed a chance, proving that with time and patience they make incredibly rewarding partners.

These four horses are wonderful ambassadors for the Thoroughbred breed and perfectly demonstrate the qualities that make them such valuable partners in amateur showjumping: courage, athleticism, intelligence, versatility and an unwavering desire to please. Thanks to the continued support of Treo Eile and the enthusiasm of the dedicated riders who recognise their true value, the future looks brighter than ever for Thoroughbreds in Showjumping Ireland.

Know a fellow amateur or sports member who deserves to be featured in a future edition? Send your spotlight nominations to us via anna.smith@sjai.ie!

National Championships News

- ◆ Save the date!

☀ September 12th – 13th – Mullingar Equestrian Centre

- ◆ Champion prizes will be travel vouchers, kindly sponsored again by [Nadine Farrelly, Travel Counsellor](#) 

- ◆ Prizes be awarded in the Amateur Derby and Grand Prix to the highest paced rider aged 55+. Eligible riders are asked to email anna.smith@sjai.ie by Friday, September 11th to register to compete for these Masters prizes.

- ◆ The penultimate leg of the NAPS/Circulo league will be incorporated into the Amateur Derby, with **double league points** on offer!

Current NAPS/Circulo leaders:

- 🏆 1 Emma Walsh (Lux Like Diamonds)
- 🏆 2 Amanda-Jayne Comyn (Eirian Gatsby)
- 🏆 3 Colm Fitzpatrick (Maretto Flight)

 **Check out the full league standings [here](#) on SJI Live.**

◆ Featured Classes:

- ☀️ NAPS/Circulo Double Points Derby
- ☀️ Sports Member All Ireland (open to qualified riders)
- ☀️ Amateur & Sports Member Thoroughbred Invitational, kindly sponsored by Treo Eile
- ☀️ Peter Dargan Memorial Farmer's Journal 'A' Championship (open to qualified riders)
- ☀️ Interprovincial Amateur Team Challenge
- ☀️ Paddy Mullen Memorial Grand Prix

We are delighted to be able to host the Amateur & Sports Member National Championships in Mullingar again this year, based on the success of the 2025 Championships.

🏠 **Committee Announcements**

- ◆ The National Amateur Committee is delighted to be sponsoring the Welcome Stakes at the Cavan Summer Amateur show – get your entries in and compete to win vouchers redeemable for National Championships stabling and/or entries!
- ◆ 'A' riders are reminded of the requirement per 254N.C 1.10.5 to monitor their rider points and immediately upgrade to AA once 30 points are accumulated. Riders who reach 30 points should contact the office to confirm that their status has been upgraded.

🤝 **Get Involved**

We welcome all members to contribute to our amateur community! Send your ideas, feedback, and Amateur Spotlight nominations to us via anna.smith@sjai.ie.

We look forward to seeing you out jumping!

Best of luck,

♥️ **The National Amateur Committee**
Showjumping Ireland