

Chairmans Report 2025

First of all I would like to thank the committee of the western region for the wonderful work all year. The team works so well together, everybody plays their part and puts their shoulders to the wheel - it's a fantastic group to be associated with.

The year started with our combined training league which saw a great number of horses and riders compete over 4 weeks culminating in a final. The league is a great foundation to get horses ponies and riders up and running for the season ahead and received great feedback from the competitors. Many thanks to all those who make it happen including scorers, judges, call up stewards and helpers on the day.

This was followed closely by our Berts Properties Stakes Series – in it's third year the overall aim of this series is to identify horses and ponies that have the potential and attributes to become top class eventers, to encourage breeders, owners and riders to produce these horses correctly and provide them with an opportunity to showcase their animals to potential buyers. The aim was also to raise the profile of eventing in the region by encouraging local producers to get involved. The qualifiers were held in different venues throughout Mayo, Galway and Clare allowing horses and riders the opportunity to familiarise themselves with different arenas and a variety of courses.. Thanks to Claremorris Equestrian Centre, Tubberbride, Galway Equestrian Centre and Clare Equestrian Centre for hosting qualifiers for the final which took place in Milchem Equestrian Centre. Sincere thanks to our new title sponsors Berts Properties, HIS, Liam Lynskey, Derryronane Stud, Matt Gordon, Padraig Howley, Treo Eile, Milchem Equestrian, Gerry Daniels and Sea Warrior for their generous sponsorship. Thanks to all the judges throughout the series – our judges for the final were Nicki Roncoroni and John Ledingham neither of whom need any introduction and did a great job on the day. Tommy Considine was the winner of the 5yo class and Jason Doerflinger won the 4yo – Jason also went on to qualify for Dublin and qualify and place at the Burghley young event horse series – a fantastic achievement and shows the value of the series in preparing horses for Dublin and other events.

We also ran combined training in the Autumn but weather came against us and the interest was not as strong at this time of the year.

Congratulations to all the Western region riders who competed throughout the country and beyond. Congrats to Hannah on a great Dublin – she was really on a winning streak and also Congrats to Godfrey and Katie Gibbons representing Ireland at Young rider and junior level in Poland and to Godfrey for bringing home a medal. Fantastic for such a small region to have two riders on Irish teams.

As you are aware we tried to run an event in Flowerhill and later in Dartfield but both were unsuccessful – thanks to the committee for their many hours of work in trying to get these events up and running. It's great to see that Oliver Walsh decided to run two events himself last season and great to see events back in Flowerhill.

We met with Oliver and Guilia a few weeks ago and had a discussion re this year. Oliver was looking for help with fence judges etc so we'll assist every way possible.

We concluded the year with our awards night in the Meadow Court hotel –ran in conjunction with the East Galway hunt – this was an opportunity to show case eventing to the wider community and it was great to have Team Ireland manager Dag Albert and his wife Liz join us on the night. Special



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thanks to the two Marie's who put a lot of work into organising the night and to Linda Kenny for organising the prizes. On the night the committee honoured the breeders of the winners in the Starter Stakes Series – these awards were gratefully received by the breeders who were truly grateful for the acknowledgement of their work in breeding such wonderful horses. Thanks to Liam Lynskey for presenting these awards. Next up on the night were our rider awards to acknowledge combinations that delivered outstanding results on the competition field. Our award winners were Senior Rider – Pdraig Flanagan, Young Rider – Godfrey Gibbons, Junior – Katie Gibbons, Pony Rider – Rory Connaughton and Amateur – Chloe Hestor.

In conclusion I would like to again sincerely thank the fantastic committee who give so much of their time for the good of the region