

Polocrosse

Mareike Graepel

Riding tall for polocrosse tournament



From left: Vikki Murphy, Richie Crockett, Mike Murphy and Joanne O'Flynn in training for the first national Kearys Lexus polocrosse tournament in Cork this weekend.

Picture: Padraig Edwards

THE fastest growing equestrian activity in Ireland is expanding across the country, with the Cork Polocrosse Club being the latest addition to this exciting and fascinating sport and the first national Kearys Lexus polocrosse tournament taking place in Cork this weekend.

More than 100 players from polocrosse clubs in Carrickmines, Limerick, Birr, Tipperary, Horetown and Waterford are expected to fight for prizes in A-grade to D-grade matches all weekend.

"We are excited to be the hosts of this incredible event, and are looking forward to seeing everybody play at such high level of competition," said chairwoman Joanne O'Flynn. "We have amazing prizes for the players, sponsored by Horetown Equestrian in Wexford, Orchardquestrian.com and Eclipse Haylage, and got so much support from companies around the country."

The tournament will take place over two days this weekend on two pitches on a beautiful estate in Carrigaline.

"Without the land owner's help, we wouldn't be able to have the event at the level and size as it is now, it's great," said Ms O'Flynn.

Mostly, the Cork Polocrosse Club trains in the Hop Island Equestrian Centre, run by Liam O'Driscoll — who first brought polocrosse to Cork nearly a decade ago.

Training sessions are held every Wednesday night at 8pm and on Sunday afternoons at 1pm. Beginners and newcomers are welcome.

■ For more information, see www.corkpolocrosse.com

Trotting

Jackie Cowan

Galiano impresses at central track

GALIANO made his trip from Dublin worthwhile when he claimed the free-for-all at the ITHRF benefit meeting at Central Track. The US import had been ante-post favourite all week and was sent off at 4/5.

Part-owner and trainer, Adam Russell, from a beneficial draw, did not hang around and sent his charge to the front at flag-fall. His most serious threat, Cam's Best, tried but could not get on terms. The local-bred had to be happy with runner-up spot, which he held on to from a fast-finishing Bon Camotion.

Porterstown Jack justified favouritism in class 024/043. Donal Murphy was taking no chances, sending his charge forging clear at the off, and staying there.

Kouros Boy, the Grand Prix winner here just a couple of weeks ago, posed the main threat, but Porterstown Jack had

more than enough in hand.

Among the other races, Hopping Rook and Patrick Kane made light work of class 000/009 while Coalford Western, driven by Michael Goggin, was awarded first when Ayr Strike was disqualified in class 010/022.

Amy O'Reilly was all smiles when Ship's Cruiser, which she trains, dropped his maiden tag. In maiden/novice, Ringo Star and Finbarr Brickley denied visitor, Marion Hall, while Midnight Mover, in rein to Kevin O'Connell in improver/intermediate, paid an overdue return to the winner's circle.

In the saddle races, Flashdance, with John Reid up, franked his claim to serious consideration in the upcoming All-Ireland, with a gutsy win in Grade A & B.

Spanko's Boy, ridden by Noreen McSweeney, and Matty

O, under Johnny O'Callaghan, crossed swords again in Grade C & D with the latter getting the nod.

McSweeney had earlier won Novice & E with Lakeview Security — no novelty for the pair as they had racked up a string of wins late in the winter game.

Free-for-all: 1. Russell/Delaney's Galiano (A. Russell), 4/5 fav; 2. J. Shanahan's Cam's Best (P. Kane, jr), 5/1; 3. Quill Bros's Bon Camotion (D. Murphy), 12/1. 7 ran, 3l, 1/2l. 2m.02secs
Class 024/023: 1. J. Burchill/D. O'Donoghue's Porterstown Jack (D. Murphy), 1/2 fav; 2. Porterstown Stables' Kouros Boy (G. Dunne), 2/1; 3. Patricia Carey's Destiny's Dream (G. Carey), 5/1. 6 ran, 4l, 5l. 2m.03

Class 010/022: 1. J. Manning's Coalford Western (M. Goggin), 4/1; 2. Murdoch Bros's Rockaround (C. Morrison), 1/2 fav; 3. J. O'Donovan's Bonkerstotalynuts (Owner), 4/1. 5 ran, 1/2l, 1L. (Ayr Strike passed the post first, but was disq.) 2m.06secs

Class 000/009: 1. P. Kane's Hopping Rook (P. Kane, jr), 4/5 fav; 2. C. Hannan's Oakview Flash (M. Goggin), 4/1; 3. N. Forbes's Crown Direct (J. McSweeney), 4/1. 8 ran, 7l, 1/2l. 2m.06secs

Improver/Intermediate: 1. K. O'Con-

nell's Midnight Mover (Owner), 4/1; 2. Deasy/Hurley/Keohane's On The Run (J. McSweeney), 4/1; 3. Porterstown Stables' Porterstown Dragon (J. Dunne), 2/7 fav. 5 ran, 1 1/2l, 5l. 2m.07secs

Maiden/Novice: 1. F. Brickley's Ringo Star (Owner), 1/1 fav; 2. W. McKitterick's Marion Hall (P. Kane, jr), 5/2; 3. P. Hill's Hillside Hi-Ho (P. Hill), 6/4. 5 ran, nk, 5l. 2m.04secs

Maidens: 1. Amy O'Reilly/Tony Enright's Ship's Cruiser (Amy O'Reilly), 3/1; 2. Rose Shanahan's Glenarn Flyer (R. Shanahan), 2/1; 3. M. Goggin's Mr Chapman (Owner), 2/1. 8 ran, 4l, 8l. 2m.08secs

Grade A & B Saddle: 1. Kelleher/Powder's Flashdance (J. Reid), 2/1; 2. Breda Shanahan's Dream's Place (Noreen McSweeney), 6/4 fav; 3. T. Doyle's Zidane (J. O'Reilly), 3/1. 7 ran, 1 1/2l, 6l. 2m.04secs

Grade C & D: 1. A. Hamilton's Matty O (J. O'Callaghan), 2/5 fav; 2. P. Hayes's Spanko's Boy (Noreen McSweeney), 5/2; 3. Quill Bros's Sable Decision (S. Quill), 4/1. 6 ran, nk, 6l. 2m.06secs

Novice & E: 1. J. Shanahan's Lakeview Security (Noreen McSweeney), 1/2 fav; 2. G. Carey's The Biscuit (J. O'Reilly), 4/1; 3. S. Buckley's Red Cam (P. Shanahan), 4/1. 6 ran, 4l, 1L. 2m.09secs

Schools Regatta set to make a splash

The Fastnet International Schools Regatta will be held for the 20th consecutive year at Schull Community College from July 21 to 24. First run in 1988, the event has produced top international sailors over its duration and this year's entry is expected to be no exception.

The event will, as in recent years, be sailed within Schull harbour and will consist of three fleet — gold, silver and bronze.

Fleet racing will take place in the gold fleet for classes with entries of five or more boats while handicap racing will take place for all other entries.

Individual awards will be made in a host of fleets and classes while an overall trophy will be awarded to the best school team of three boats in any combination of fleet or class.

To date, 20 boats from Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre in the Educational Board Co Down will be competing with the regular overseas visitors from Britain and Spain, with an expected entry of 100 boats.

Local interest will be high given recent successes in team racing championship by sailors from Schull Community College.

■ Registration is on Monday, July 21, 1pm to 6pm. Information: Schull Community College, Schull, Co Cork; see www.schullsailing.ie or Email office@schullcommunitycollege.com.