

Evening Echo SPORT

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Dunne is an example of another Cork rider doing well in UK

MUNSTER is a very strong breeding ground for motocross riders and Cork riders in particular are good. This year four local riders that competed in the UK with huge success.

David Sorenson, Aidan McDonagh, Jack Galvin and David Galvin Jnr — who finished a third overall in the BW 85 British youth championship — were to the fore over the past season.

David and his brother Jack both became Irish champions last weekend in Dundalk, along with Aidan McDonagh, who also became a national champion.

MOTORSPORT

By JOHN TARRANT

Rathcormac rider Jordan Dunne is another rider making a name for himself in the UK.

Jordan has moved up this year to the adults and competes in the Red Bull Pro Nationals.

This is a seven-round championship with racing both Saturday and Sunday.

Jordan rides his VMX backed KTM 125 in the Red Bull Pro national British two-stroke championship.

He is now looking close to a top

three finish in this championship. Locally, next weekend the Munster Motorcycle Club will hold the last round of the Great Stuff Caterers Southern Centre Championship. There are some championship positions still up for grabs.

Local auto ace Finn Wilson is out through injury but he will still finish second in this class.

Jack Galvin ends a great year with a Southern Centre Championship win and Irish championship win along with top finishes in the British youths.

Jamie Murphy, Ronan Steel, Sam Galvin, Marcus Coakley and Cian

Buckley are all the top riders in this class.

Aidan McDonagh has made this class his own with both Irish and Southern Centre Championship wins, but all eyes will be on the pride of the northside Cork's Quinten Murray, who will be looking to hold on to his second place overall. The BW wheels are again very quick class this year.

Jack Daly will try and hold on to his lead over Dylan Stynes, while David Galvin jnr is still in with a chance of an overall win.

Jordan O'Leary and Tommy Allen are local riders looking to race well.



Francis Connors winner of the Connolly's Red Mills Munster Grand Prix League receives his prize from Gareth Connolly in the presence of Kiersan O'Donovan, commentator, Liz Wheeler, Munster Showjumping, John Gersaghty, Connolly Red Mills, Jerry Sweetnam, Banteer Gymkhana, and Frank Mulvihill.

Picture: John Tarrant

BANDON'S Lisa O'Sullivan delivered a competent performance with her mount Castlequaid Diamond only to be pipped by former Irish National Champion Eddie Moloney at the final leg of the Connolly's Red Mills Munster Grand Prix Showjumping League hosted at the popular Banteer Gymkhana.

Ten of the 31 starters made it through to the jump-off over the Munster Agricultural grounds at Curraheen.

Moloney was the first to go in round two with the 13 year old gelding Argent Van De Zuuthoeve and a very fast clear in 44.87 seconds set a target which proved unbeatable for those who followed.

Double clear rounds were difficult to come by with just three combinations managing the task, O'Sullivan from Bandon gave the home crowd plenty to cheer when taking runner up spot after an eye-catching performance with Castlequaid Diamond in a time of 49.17 seconds.

At the end of the series to the 2013 League, Waterford's Francis Connors claimed the leading rider honours, a consistent summer campaign earned the €3,000 prize.

"Its has been a great league thanks to the sponsors and organisers and also to the owners of all the horses. I am looking forward already to next year's Munster

O'Sullivan is pipped at the post

GYMKHANA

By JOHN TARRANT

Grand Prix league, I have another few nice young horses coming along who will hopefully make the step up," said Connors.

Midleton's Edel Kelly offered terrific consistency all summer on Delphi Flyer culminating on outright victory in the Ballymaloe Ladies National Ladies League.

The staging drew huge entries to its annual staging with a mixed array of pony and showjumping

events over two days.

Equine followers near and afar enjoyed the bumper programme commencing early morning and continuing into the afternoon. Close on 350 entries on each of the days with organisers headed by Chairman Dermot McCarthy; Secretary Gerry and Marie Sweetnam and Treasurer Betty O'Connor thrilled with the response.

Though wind and rain greeted the opening day for the pony classes, blue skies and balmy sunshine made for a thoroughly enjoyable day two.

Ms. Sweetnam indicated entries

were running at record level in many of the classes with enthusiasts coming from all over Munster and the new Munster Showgrounds won favourable comment.

"The grounds were superb and it helped to contribute to one of the most successful gymkhana ever staged and the Banteer hosting is now ranked amongst the foremost within the province," she said.

Proceeds from the two day event go towards the St Joseph's Foundation in Charleville.

Compliments are as crucial as criticism



NOT being a big fan of awards, I've never tuned in to the People of the Year show.

I'm certain there are many worthy recipients each year, it's just that patting someone on the back for something is never as entertaining as seeing them getting a metaphorical hoof up the behind. (Also, any ceremony that gives an award to Brendan O'Carroll for something other than 'Least Desired Person to be Stuck in a Lift With' lacks credibility for me).

The talking point following the show last Saturday was the somewhat clumsy remark apparently uttered by host Gráinne Seoige that the late Garda Adrian Donohue was a 'fine thing'.

Now while a male presenter commenting on the appearance of a female victim of a murder in similar circumstances would probably be censured, — it could even end his career — Seoige has got off relatively lightly.

Other than the gross double standards, there is nothing really wrong with what she said; I certainly wouldn't mind her saying something similar about me, even if I wasn't around to hear it.

Considering the amount of insults that fill the airwaves these days, it would be silly to get upset about what was a compliment.

One person who isn't taking the former any more is Glenn Whelan, who fired back at criticism dished out by Eamon Dunphy last week.

"For him to say that I'm a terrible player and was lucky to get 50 caps, well let's put our records and our achievements on the table," said Whelan.

"What has he done in football? Compare his achievements to what I have done and that speaks volumes. He is a bully. I have held back on saying something until now but I won't hold back any more."

It's all well and good to say Whelan should shrug it off and accept such criticism is part and parcel of the game. On Monday night, however, I found myself the recipient of similar vitriol while playing in a five-a-side in the Glen Sports Complex. That those delivering it were kids who could barely peek over the partition wall hardly assuaged the battering my ego took each time they shouted "crap pass".

While we may be hooked on no-holds-barred punditry and chide English channels for their soft soaping, I'd certainly play better football if instead of receiving stinging barbs from the sideline, I thought there was a sexy woman in her thirties who thought I had nice legs.

Recommendation: A Napoli, Chelsea. Atletico Madrid and Milan accumulator gives you 10/1 with William Hill tonight.