

Evening Echo 10,000-strong field to delight Millstreet fans

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THE Millstreet International Horse Show is up-and-running for its annual showcase.

Operating over six days, the €200,000 show is a highlight for equestrian and non-equestrian visitors, showcasing the country's best show jumpers.

A phenomenal entry for the bumper programme at the Green Glens location sees an array of national horse and pony categories in excess of a massive 10,000-strong entry listing.

Show founder Noel C Duggan expressed delight on the return of Millstreet to its international status for the first time in 12 years, with seven

MILLSTREET HORSE SHOW

By JOHN TARRANT

nationalities making it to the picturesque North Cork location. "This is the only three-star international show in Ireland and on offer are seven all-weather sand warm-up arenas and two grass arenas", he said. Permanent stabling units will cater for 1,200 horses and ponies, and a mammoth 92-event programme is scheduled before a show ending on Sunday afternoon. Millstreet's reputation as a shop window for the promotion of the Irish

horse will again be enhanced in the conforming classes. Foreign buyers attend, seeking trained horses for showjumping across the world to view the highly popular 6/7-year-old Boomerang, the four-year-old National Discovery and the three-year Lee Strand Young Irish together with the continuing of the new Lee Strand Centrepoint five-year-old Championship Final adds intrigue in the indoor multi purpose complex. On Sunday, the €50,000 Millstreet International Grand Prix is part of the final stage of the inaugural Great Britain &

Ireland (GBI) Show Jumping Tour, which included competitions at Mullingar, the Royal Highland Show in Scotland and the British Masters at Southview, England. Today's programme operates with qualifiers in horse, 6/7-year-old Boomerang, 4/5-year-old National Eventing Discovery, Young Riders and much more. Thursday's schedule is up and running from 8am with a host of horse and pony classes. Entry is free to the public with the action beginning from early in the morning.

Emily to benefit from fundraiser

FUNDRAISER

By BARBARA O'CONNELL

A CHARITY Open Trout competition will take place on Sunday next, August 12, in aid of the Emily Fitzgerald-McSweeney fundraising appeal.

In addition to the fishing competition the organisers are raffling an autographed framed Irish soccer jersey from the recent Ireland v Italy Euro 2012, match and also an autographed framed Cork City jersey.

"We are asking clubs and sporting organisations to support this raffle and angling competition," Tony Fitzgerald, FAI vice-president and one of the organisers of the raffle said.

"It is for a great cause. Emily is such a brilliant person and we are fund-raising to help defray the cost of full-time physio for Emily.

"Hopefully, the people of Cork will row in behind this great cause."

Tickets are just €5 each and are available from Micky Fitz 089-4643612, John McSweeney/Michelle Fitzgerald 085-1610994 or Ashley in the High House Bar 087-2469705.

The raffle will take place in the High House Bar after the presentation of prizes for the fishing competition.

The fishing competition will take place on Sunday, August 12, with a check-in outside Cork Opera House from 8.30am.

The minimum size brown trout to be weighed-in is 10 inches.

The maximum number of trout to be weighed-in is 10 fish.

Weigh-in will be in the High House bar at 6pm sharp.

Entry Fees: Adults: €10, Juveniles: €5.

The organisers are appealing

Tony Fitzgerald, vice-president of FAI, presents a signed Irish shirt from the recent Ireland v Italy Euro 2012 Game to Michelle Fitzgerald, and Emily Fitzgerald-McSweeney.

Picture: Rebecca Horgan.



to all anglers and angling clubs to support this worthy cause and they are hopeful of giving a prize

to each individual who weighs in fish.

The organisers are grateful to

Heineken Ireland for their sponsorship and to Evening Echo for their valued coverage.

Breeze blocks and bamboo are in the air



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

WHEN I was younger, much younger than today, I never needed any help deciding what to do on languorous sunny summer days (don't listen to the weathermen, at least two in seven were somehow warm back when I was a kid).

I would watch whatever US sitcoms from the '60s or '70s RTE had bought that year and then head out into the estate to play three goals in.

This ritual was interrupted only when our Olympics began and unlike the internationally recognised event held every four years, our Games were an annual event that would last as long as contestants turned up and we could innovate our facilities and equipment.

We were lucky the estate possessed a green encircled by a road, a natural arena for track and field, about 150-200 metres around.

Competitors would come from several estates away take part or to spectate although one year a boycott was enforced after someone's jumper went missing.

The girls tended to be better at the sprints, especially when they entered their gazelle phase in their early teens. In fact, one year a whole raft of girls were banned from the sprints when it was discovered they had hit puberty before any of the boys.

The boys had the upper hand on the field in the shot put (half a breeze block), javelin (a bamboo stick), discus (frisbee) and hammer (hammer).

For the high jump and high hurdles we would have to go hunting for milk crates, which would be held on to for use in our annual Dublin Horse Show a few weeks later (minus the horses).

The pole vault was tricky as the bamboo market in East Cork didn't stretch to anything bigger than the sticks we pulled out of intercounty flags for the javelin.

Instead the person brave enough to jump from the highest height (garage roof, house roof, ankle-busting high branch) was deemed our Sergei Bubka.

I tended to fare best in the middle- to long-distance running events and was unbeaten in every steeplechase (there was a sloshing plastic sink basin for the water jump) between 1989 and 1991, being controversially disqualified in '92 for allegedly pulling an opponent's shirt. I got my revenge in the hurdles that year; I hid the milk crates

Our Olympics fizzled out for reasons I forget but probably had something to do with the boys realising snubbing girls who were maturing physically was a huge mistake.

Recommendation: Among the ladies who will be hard to catch tonight will be Lashinda Demus in the 400m hurdles and Brittney Reese in the long jump. You'll get 6-1 on the double with most firms.