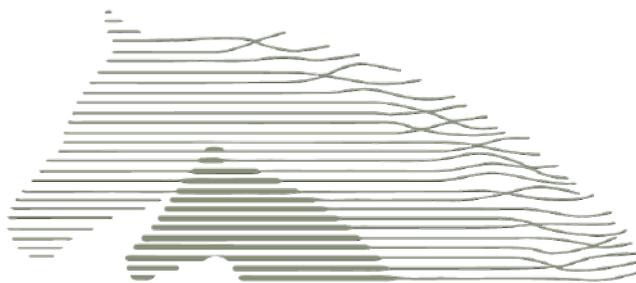


CUMANN LUCHT CAPAILLÍNÍ CHONAMARA

**CONNEMARA
PONY BREEDERS
SOCIETY**



Connemara Pony Breeders Society —

Annual Newsletter



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Irish Horse Board

President's Corner

A Message from Uachtarán Cumann Lucht Capaillini Chonamara

Daragh Kevin Ó Tuairisg

A chairde,

As we near the close of 2025, I would like to begin by acknowledging and sincerely thanking our outstanding staff team. Their professionalism and dedication to us as members has been fundamental to the Society's achievements throughout what has been an exceptionally demanding and productive year.

I would also like to recognise Stephen Long, who joined the Society as CFO. His professionalism, steady guidance, and support since coming on board earlier this year have contributed meaningfully to strengthening the Society's operations during this period of significant development and improvement.

My thanks also go to all our volunteers, inspectors, contributors, and participants who supported our events, inspections, and educational initiatives. The Learning Project Pilot has been a particular highlight— This pilot was designed to deepen our collective understanding as breeders of the linear profile sheet and the breed standard, and to create space to discuss the pony itself—its traits, characteristics, movement, and the market we are breeding for. This collaborative achievement with our national and international partners reflects the very best of the Connemara Pony community. More courses are planned for 2026.

This year also saw significant progress in the delivery of our Inspectors' Training Course and the opportunity to us as breeders to become inspectors. The rollout of a dedicated Judges' Course is being prepared for 2026. Both courses are important steps in strengthening consistency, fairness, and expertise across our breeding, showing, and evaluation programmes.

We also celebrate the tremendous work of The Clifden Show Committee, led by Mary Coyne, who delivered a highly successful Clifden Show this year. Their dedication and organisation enhanced the Connemara Pony Show, Clifden and strengthened its international reputation.

The Amnesty Programme provided members and breeders with a valuable opportunity, particularly in relation to the progeny of uninspected ponies. Due to strong engagement and clear demand, this initiative was followed by the French society and will be extended to ensure fairness, accessibility, and allow the ponies who are the progeny of uninspected ponies be inspected and classified for the benefit of the studbook.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening engagement with partner societies, expanding educational outreach—particularly with universities—and supporting the long-term sustainability and global profile of the Connemara pony.

As we conclude the year, I would like to wish you all involved in the CPBS—our staff, volunteers, members, breeders, supporters, and the wider Connemara pony community—Nollaig shona daoibh agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir. Your dedication to the Connemara Pony and support drive this Society forward, and I look forward to all we will achieve together.

Mise le meas,

Uachtarán Cumann Lucht Capaillíní Chonamara
Daragh Kevin Ó Tuairisg

CPBS Completes Studbook Tender Review Outcomes & Next Steps

The CPBS recently participated in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's tender process for Lot 2 (Irish Draught) and Lot 3 (Irish Cob & Part-Bred Cob) as part of a strategic internal review of the Society's operational capacity and future development potential. We have now received the formal decisions and evaluation reports, which confirmed that our submissions were not selected in this procurement cycle.

Although unsuccessful, this process was a highly valuable exercise for the Society. It enabled us to:

- Benchmark our performance and readiness as a Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO);
- Assess our capacity to manage additional studbooks;
- Identify organisational strengths and priority areas for improvement;
- Explore future revenue and service expansion opportunities.

“

In reflecting on the process, President Daragh Kevin Ó Tuairisg noted:

“This tender exercise has given us important insight into our operational strengths and where we can further develop. It is another step in ensuring that CPBS continues to grow, evolve, and deliver the highest standards of service for our members and the wider Connemara pony community.”



The learnings gained will support the Society in refining and developing its services for 2026, strengthening operational standards and informing long-term planning.

New CPBS

Educational Videos Now Available

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society is pleased to announce the release of a new series of educational videos now available on the CPBS website. These resources are designed to support breeders, owners, judges, inspectors, and enthusiasts in developing a deeper understanding of the Connemara Pony Breed Standard.

Produced as part of the 2025 CPBS Learning Project, delivered under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Equine Technical Support (ETS) Scheme, these videos provide long-term value to the broader community and complement the blended-learning approach used throughout the project.

What's included?

A diverse range of topics is now available, including:

- Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) – Sheila Ramsey
- Colour Genetics – Sheila Ramsey
- Inbreeding – Fiona Comer
- Obesity & Practical Nutrition – Dr Sue Salter
- Pony Movement – Sarah McRae Thrasher
- Mare Lines – Malachy Gorham
- Inspection of a Filly – Daragh Ó Tuairisg, President of the CPBS
- Foal Registration – Laura Schneider
- SNP Testing – Clíona Gay



Twelve additional videos on Pony Movement have also been launched, each supported by a linear profile to assist with practical learning and assessment.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The CPBS Education Committee is continuing this important work, with new educational videos planned for release in 2026. Further ETS grant applications have been submitted to support expanded learning content, ensuring that CPBS continues to deliver high-quality, accessible educational tools for breeders and members worldwide.

Where to Watch

All videos are available now at:
www.cpbs.ie/education

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Equine Technical Support Scheme.

International Campaign for genetic research on early-onset aggressive melanoma in grey Connemara ponies

Melanoma is a prominent issue in grey Connemara ponies, and its management can become especially challenging when it develops in young horses.

Goal: By studying the link between early-onset aggressive forms of the disease, which is defined in our study as melanoma onset in ponies under 6 years of age, and the mutation causing grey, our research aims at developing reliable and accurate genetic testing tools that could help preserve the grey coat color within the Connemara breed, while lowering their predisposition to melanoma.

Advancements in genetic technologies have recently established that not one, but two mutations on the same gene (syntaxin-17, or STX17) can lead to their hair greying. **Three versions of this gene therefore coexist:**

- "G1", which is the unmutated version of the gene = non grey coat color
- "G2" two copies of the gene = grey
- "G3", three copies of the gene = grey

Each horse has alleles (one inherited from the dam and one from the sire), which means that a horse can possess any of the combinations made from G1, G2 and G3.

- G1/G1 = all non-grey horses (N/N genotype on test result)
- G1/G2, G2/G2, G2/G3 or G3/G3 combinations can be found in grey horses (N/G or G/G genotype on test results)

Melanoma Association: Preliminary research indicates that the G3/G3 combination is associated with a higher risk of developing such early-onset forms of the disease, while the risk is lowered in horses with G1/G2.

Further research is needed however to understand the impact of the other combinations on early-onset aggressive melanoma risk. With this, the Finno Laboratory at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine would greatly appreciate your contribution to our research by providing additional samples.

Should you own a grey Connemara pony that developed melanoma before the age of six or is melanoma free and over the age of 15, we would be interested in collecting a hair sample for analysis at the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. If interested in supporting our study, please reach out to Anushka Panjwani (apanjwani@ucdavis.edu) for US-based samples, and Oceane Soussiel (oceane.soussiel_21@envt.fr) for international samples.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration!



Connemara Pony Breeders' Society Appoints Stephen Long as New CFO



The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society, is delighted to announce the appointment of Stephen Long FCCA, as its Chief Financial Office, appointed in April, 2025 in the Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway. This marks a significant step forward for the Society, entering a new era of leadership aimed at modernising operations, as it continues to work towards promoting and protecting our world-renowned pony.

Long steps into the role at a pivotal time, as the Society looks to act in the best interests of its members, its ponies, and its heritage—guided by facts, transparency, and a deep sense of responsibility.

As a senior experience professional accountant, Long brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to the newly established role. His extensive experience in global financial operations is expected to strengthen and reinforce transparency within the Society's operations, financial decisions, and election processes—building trust and unity among members.

Long has also served as a volunteer director for Galway United Football Club for five years, in addition to being a finance committee member of the club. His time at the club significantly boosted the club's financial performance and community presence.

“We are excited to welcome Stephen Long to the CPBS,” said Daragh Ó Tuairisg, President of the Society. “His vision and dedication align with our goals, and we look forward to working together to ensure a bright future for the Connemara Pony and Society.”

In a statement, Long said: “It is a true honour to be entrusted with the leadership of such a respected and historic organisation. The Connemara Pony holds a special place in Irish heritage, and I look forward to working closely with the council, members, breeders, and the wider Connemara Pony community to ensure a bright and sustainable future for the breed.

For more information about the CPBS and upcoming events, please visit cpbs.ie.

Inspector Training

Earlier this year, the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society invited expressions of interest from members wishing to become CPBS Inspectors. Over thirty people came forward and showed an expression of interest. Those who applied were represented breeders, owners, producers and pony enthusiasts. Each applicant submitted a brief background outlining their experience with ponies and their motivation for becoming an inspector.

The course consisted of three days of training between Creagh Equestrian Centre, Ballinasloe and Galway Equestrian Centre, Athenry. Industry experts spoke on a range of different topics. Ger O'Sullivan spoke about Linear Profiling in depth, while Damien Griffin covered loose jumping. Dr. Sue Salter, an equine vet, Andrew Mahon from Farriery Ireland and Kitty Shannon, equine osteopath all spoke about the importance of conformation, movement, athleticism and overall equine health. These expert led sessions were valuable and were enjoyed by all involved. The trainee inspectors also gained invaluable hands-on experience, practising linear profiling on a selection of ponies while shadowing current CPBS Inspector.

Completing the three-day course marked the first step of becoming a CPBS inspector. Many trainee inspectors shadowed at Autumn inspections to complete their qualification. By the end of the Autumn phase, sixteen people qualified as CPBS filly inspectors. The CPBS is working on organising a dedicated day focused on colt and stallion evaluation and training. This will aim to support those wishing to inspect colts in 2026, ensuring all relevant requirements are met.



This initiative and strong uptake of the course, represents an important investment in the future of the Society, ensuring a strong and knowledgeable team of inspectors.

Inspections

Overview 2025

The 2025 inspections were very well supported with 1,104 ponies presented. The recently revised Breeding Programme was welcomed by many in as was the newly introduced scoring system. The amnesty was very well supported with 159 ponies passed. The two year amnesty has now been extended.

Firstly, the CPBS wishes to extend thanks to all the venues who help make these inspections run throughout the country – Creagh Equestrian Centre, Greenogue Equestrian Centre, The Parks Moycullen, Greenacres Equestrian Centre, Clifden Mart, Mullaghmore Equestrian Centre, Hollypark Stables, Hanley's Claremorris, Tipperary Equestrian Centre, Banner Equestrian Centre and Ballinamona Equestrian Centre.

The CPBS thanks the team of inspectors, the arena party, vets, safety officers, photographers, helpers, council members and office staff. It takes huge involvement and participation to run inspections and the CPBS is very appreciative to all. The CPBS would also like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) for their funding for the inspections under the Equine Technical Support and Equine Breeding Schemes.

Lastly, the CPBS wishes to thank all members, breeders and owners for bringing their colts, fillies and geldings to inspection. The dedication to the Connemara Pony ensures the pony remains of the highest quality for the future and continues to represent Irish bred ponies throughout the world.

Key figures 2025

- Colts Presented = 79
- Fillies Presented = 1,001
- Geldings Presented = 24
- Class 1 = 803 ponies
- Class 2 = 206 ponies
- Class OH = 49

25 days of inspections in 11 venues throughout Ireland
 Team of 20 inspectors
 159 ponies passed under the amnesty
 Average height and bone of colts – 145.7cm, 7.9”
 Average height and bone of fillies – 144.3cm, 7.65”
 Oldest pony presented – 19-year-old mare

All digital linear profiles are now available to be viewed on the CPBS database

2025 TOTAL									
	Total Presented	Total Classified	Class 1	Class2	Class OH	Amnesty	Gelding	VetFail	Inspector Fail
AUTUMN 2025	561	540 (96%)	420 (78%)	98 (18%)	22 (4%)	92	16	10	11
SPRING 2025	543	518 (95%)	383 (73%)	108 (21%)	27 (5%)	67	8	7	18
TOTAL	1,104	1,058 (95%)	803 (76%)	206 (19%)	49 (5%)	159	24	17	29

CPBS Inspections are funded by the DAFM under Equine Technical Support & Equine Breeding Schemes

2026 Classification Requirements (simplified from the Breeding Programme)

This is not including Amnesty Requirements

Colts must be a minimum of three years old

Fillies and geldings must be a minimum of two years old

Class 1

- Sire and dam are Class 1, Class 2 or Class OH
- The pony must measure between 128 – 148cm without shoes, on the day of inspections
- Fillies and colts must
 - pass mandatory visual inspection achieving a score of 80% or more
 - be either N/N or N/HWSD (tested through the CPBS) to be eligible for Class 1
 - pass veterinary requirements on day of inspection
- Geldings – must present at a filly inspection. Measurement only, no visual inspection required.

Class 2

- Sire and dam are Class 1, Class 2 or Class OH
- The pony must measure between 128 – 148cm without shoes, on the day of inspections
- Fillies and colts must
 - pass mandatory visual inspection achieving a score of 60 – 79%
 - be either N/N or N/HWSD (tested through the CPBS) to be eligible for Class 1
 - pass veterinary requirements on day of inspection
- Geldings – must present at a filly inspection. Measurement only, no visual inspection required.
 - 128cm – 148cm = Class 1 gelding
 - 149cm+ = Class OH gelding

Class OH

- Ponies that meet all the criteria of Class 1 or Class 2 except for the height requirements
- Measure over 148cm

Percentage awarded for each pony is recorded in the passport when the classification is updated.



FOALS AND HWSD STATS

- Foals registered in 2024 - **3280**
- Foals registered in 2025 – **3284**
- Foals registered in 2015 – **1232**

The following table shows HWSD breakdown in 2016, 2024 and 2025:

Reg Year	Total Animals	Tested	N/N	N/HW	HW/HW	N/T	UnClassified
2016	1145	1145	877	254	14	0	0
2024	3307	3307	2913	389	5	0	0
2025	3430	3372	2978	390	4	0	58



How HSI's 2025 Breeding Schemes Support the Native Breed

In 2025, Horse Sport Ireland ran another year of National Breeding Services schemes, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. These schemes were open and available to all studbook breeders, producers, and owners in Ireland. These schemes provided breeders with support for the breeding and production of sport horses, including Connemara Ponies. These schemes provided opportunities for pony breeders, owners and producers around Ireland to add value to their herd, in terms of breeding, performance and market value. Additionally, these schemes also supported the welfare of horses and ponies in Ireland, education and knowledge transfer.

2025 Schemes available to Connemara Pony breeders, owners and producers

Mare Breeding Package Scheme (New in 2025)

Open to registered Connemara Pony mares, carrying their own pregnancy. Subsidised the cost of the pre-breeding scanning and health screening along with the post cover scans up to the 28-day scan.

Objectives

To incentivise venereal screening the sport horse sector (including CEM, EIA, EVA screening), which in turn protects against these notifiable diseases particularly in the absence of vaccines (EVA Vaccine)

Incentivise proper scanning for breeding mares

Premium Retention Scheme

The retention scheme focused on the support for breeders to professionally produce mares / stallions which they do not have the capacity to do themselves. This scheme subsidised production costs of young high-performance mares / stallions which can be retained for future breeding. Successful applicants were eligible to receive up to €6,000 towards the retention costs of the mare / stallion over a 5-month period.

Objectives

To encourage owners and breeders to retain, produce and breed from equines which are of high genetic merit or descended from rare bloodlines.

To identify potential premium equines and enable breeders to produce them, and potentially breed from them, and in doing so add value to the animal and the breeder's breeding herd.

Mare X-Ray Screening Scheme 2025

X-ray screening scheme for breeders /owners of young fillies /mares aged 2-5 years old. Horse Sport Ireland notified the selected approved veterinarian and cover the cost of screening and a full radiological report from an expert radiological panel. To meet the criteria Connemara pony mares/ fillies had to be by Class 1 stallions out of Class 1 dams.

Objectives

Use the data as a benchmark for bony changes in the Irish herd and disseminate this information in a scientific journal/scientific conference(s).

Provide breeders with an accessible x-ray screening programme for their own personal use in benchmarking their breeding herd.

Document the prevalence osteo-abnormalities the degree of bony changes in the Irish young horse population.

Embryo Transfer Scheme 2025

Aimed to increase genetic improvement by maximising the genetic potential of Ireland's top-class performance mares. This initiative was developed to encourage usage of AI and ET in order to accelerate the dissemination of superior genes.

Native/rare breeds could apply and be assessed on their rarity, ponies must be registered in the main section of a DAFM approved studbook and have a kinship value of less than 1.25.

Starting Scheme I

The aim of this initiative was to incentivise Irish breeders to produce future breeding ponies (fillies, young mares and stallions) born in 2021 or 2022, through a designated training pathway. This adds value to these young horses while providing information to their owners regarding their positive and negative traits, and aids breeders with informed decision making.

Successful applicants were eligible to receive up to €1000 in receipted training and associated expenses over a 6-week period pending compliance with the relevant conditions.

To be eligible, Connemara Mares/fillies and entire colts/stallions had to be registered in the CPBS studbook with a fully recorded pedigree.



Schooling Scheme I & II

For Schooling I option ponies must have been either mares or stallions and be between 4 and 6 years of age.

HSI reimbursed breeders with funds towards eight weeks training with a producer to school their young pony up to a maximum of €1,500 per pony .

For Schooling II ponies must be either mares or stallions and be between 4 and 6 years of age. Connemara ponies had to meet the relevant performance criteria, be register in the studbook, with full recorded pedigree. HSI reimbursed breeders with funds towards eight weeks training with a producer to school their young horse up to a maximum of €3,000 per pony.

Environmental Testing Scheme

This scheme involved a farm visit by an Irish Equine Centre (IEC) microbiologist and or an environmental scientist to sample various aspects of the applicants breeding premises (foaling stables, foal paddocks, water, fodder and concentrate feed). These samples were analysed and reported back to breeders with regards the quality of feed and presence of toxins in the breeding environment.

The scheme was worth over €550 (inc VAT), and was subsidised through National Breeding Services, applicants were required to pay €125 to Horse Sport Ireland for this scheme.

This scheme was open to breeders with a minimum of one breeding mare or stallion under 20 years of age who are Irish bred with a CPBS passport. All applicants must provide a valid Equine Premises Registration Number (EPRN).

High Performance Stallion X-Ray Scheme

X-ray screening scheme for breeders/owners of performance stallions aged 5 years old and older. HSI covered the cost of the screening (up to €350 total ex vat) and notified the selected HSI approved veterinarian. Connemara Pony stallions applying for the scheme must be the offspring of a Class 1 sire AND dam.

Objectives

Use the data as a benchmark for bony changes in the Irish herd and disseminate this information in a scientific journal/scientific conference(s).

Provide breeders with an accessible x-ray screening programme for their own personal use such as benchmarking their breeding herd.

Document the prevalence osteo-abnormalities the degree of bony changes in the breeding herd of actively covering stallions.

Stallion Health Screening Scheme

A subsidised reproductive health screening/sampling for all active breeding stallions. Safeguarding of the equine national health status and the reproductive health of stallions and mares is of vital importance. Protecting the national herd against these equine diseases is vital to preserve our high health status and to maintain our ability to safely breed, transport and participate in national and international competition. This scheme subsidised the cost of pre-breeding screening up to a maximum of €80.

- Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA),
- Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA),
- Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)

Connemara ponies had registered in a studbook with a breed recorded. Be actively breeding or planning to breed. Stallions must be standing in Ireland and available to cover in 2025.

Colt Retention Scheme

2025 saw the re-introduction of a colt retention scheme for breeders/owners of young colts who are 2 years of age and wish to go forward for studbook inspection. Eligible applicants were able to receive up to €2,000 towards the retention costs of the colt over a 3-month period. Connemara colts had to be CPBS registered, out of a Class 1 sire and the colt has to be by sires with no other approved stallion sons in Ireland and have less than 3 full siblings.

Objectives

To encourage owners and breeders to retain and breed from colts which are of high genetic merit or descended from rare bloodlines.

To identify potential breeding colts in advance of studbook inspection and support their breeders/owners to retain them for future studbook selection.

Other Schemes available

- Transition from Microsatellite (MS) to Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Scheme
- Hoof Wall Separation Disease Testing
- Foal Championship



Stallions Classified in 2025

Spring 2025							
Animal Name	Class	% Score	Height	Bone	HWSD	YOB	County
ADDRIGOOLE THUNDER 1	1	90	147	8.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
ALLIA ROCKY	1	86	141	8.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
ARCADE SILVER STAR	2	78	145	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
BALLYWILLIAM BRUNO	1	89	145	8.25	N/N	2022	LIMERICK
BATTLESTOWN JUNIPER	1	88	145	8	N/N	2022	WEXFORD
BOLARD RONNIE	1	84	141	7.25	N/N	2022	ARMAGH
BROSNA CHIEFTAIN	2	75	146.5	8	N/N	2021	KERRY
CAHANAGH'S NUMERO UNO	1	87	145	8.25	N/N	2022	CLARE
CAORANBEG LUXE	1	85	147	8.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
CARRAIG MAXIMUS	1	85	146	8	N/N	2021	GALWAY
CARRAMORE JJ	1	84	147.5	7.75	N/N	2022	MAYO
CASHEL OAK	1	87	142	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
CONG MOONLIGHT	1	84	143	8	N/N	2022	MAYO
CORAL BORIS	1	87	146	7.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
CORCLOUGH GINGER	1	92	147.5	9	N/N	2022	MAYO
DONEGREAGH SPIRIT	2	79	134	7.75	N/N	2011	ARMAGH
DONEGREAGH STORM DUSTER	2	75	142	8	N/N	2013	ARMAGH
DOOHULLA HAZY DUKE	1	87	146	8	N/N	2022	CLARE
DOONHILL DAKOTA	1	88	148	8.75	N/N	2022	GALWAY
DOYLES MASSIMO PONDI	1	89	147	8.5	N/N	2022	DERRY
DUNGUAIRE KING GEORGE	1	87	145	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
DUNLEWEY CHOCOLATE CAKE	1	87	146	8.25	N/HW	2020	DONEGAL
DUNRAN BENJAMIN BUTTON	1	87	145	8	N/N	2022	CARLOW
EASTWIND CHAMP	1	86	135	8	N/N	2022	WICKLOW
GLENCARRIG ROSS	1	87	147	8.5	N/N	2022	LEITRIM
GLENVIEW SHADOW	1	89	142	8	N/N	2019	SCOTLAND
KILEEN MONEYLAGE ROVER	1	83	146	7.5	N/N	2021	WEXFORD
KILMURRAY CAIN	2	79	148	7.75	N/N	2021	LIMERICK
KING BUNOWEN CASTLE JEREMIAH	1	89	148	8	N/N	2022	MEATH

KNOCKMOY DEXTER	2	76	144	8.5	N/N	2021	GALWAY
MALFOY LEAM PONDI	1	85	144	8.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
MILLHOUSE SILVER	2	72	147	8	N/N	2020	WATHERFORD
MÓ CARA NUA	2	76	145	7.75	N/N	2021	KERRY
MOUNTROSS ERNAN	1	89	148	8.75	N/N	2017	GALWAY
MURVEY JACKSON	1	85	144	8	N/N	2022	ROSCOMMON
MY LORD DE VUZIT	1	88	148	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
NEPHIN SHADOW	1	82	147	8	N/N	2022	SLIGO
OLDSTONE HAZY LAD	OH	88	151	7.75	N/N	2022	GALWAY
PINEVIEW SWEET MAC	1	84	146	7.5	N/N	2022	SLIGO
POULAWILLIN RIVER LUCKY	1	87	146.5	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
PRINCE MAVERICK	1	86	147	8.25	N/N	2022	MAYO
ROSSCON BOBBY FINN	1	86	141	7.25	N/N	2020	ROSCOMMON
SWANVIEW CASANOVA	1	86	148	8.75	N/N	2022	GALWAY
T.B.S PONDI SPARROW	1	88	143	8	N/N	2022	LOUTH
WINGFIELD LEWIS	1	85	148	8	N/N	2015	CLARE
WOODFIELD LARRY	1	82	140	8	N/N	2022	WESTMEATH
WOODVIEW PRINCE	1	87	143	7.75	N/N	2022	DERRY
WRS COOLREAN DUNCAN	1	82	140	7.25	N/N	2022	CORK



Autumn 2025

Animal Name	Class	% Score	Height	Bone	HWSD	YOB	County
BALLINLOUGH PADDY	1	80	147	7.75	N/N	2022	ROSCOMMON
BÁN RACH CORMAC	1	87	147	8.25	N/N	2022	GALWAY
COASTLINE CROSBY	1	88	145	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
CORAL MISTY'S OWEN	1	82	145	7.75	N/N	2011	GALWAY
DERRADA BLAKE	2	78	141	7.75	N/N	2022	GALWAY
DERRYMORE BANKSVIEW DANNY	1	91	148	8	N/N	2022	CLARE
DERRYMORE DUNCAN'S JJ	2	74	144	7.75	N/N	2022	CLARE
EASKY NEPTUNE	2	79	146	7.75	N/N	2022	LIMERICK
ERNE VALLEY SPARROW	1	85	147	8.25	N/N	2021	LONGFORD
GLENAMADDY LORD OF WHISPER	2	78	148	7.5	N/N	2022	GALWAY
GORTADERRA JOEY	1	80	147	7.5	N/N	2021	CLARE
HEITA'S FUNAMBULE	1	82	147.5	8.25	N/N	2020	MAYO
KILMORAUN EDEN SHADOW	2	73	145	7.5	N/N	2022	CLARE
KNOCKMOY CASSANOVA	2	71	148	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY
MAECON'S MIRAH	OH	79	151.5	8.25	N/N	2022	TYRONE
MOYABBEY THUNDER	1	86	148	8.25	N/N	2022	GALWAY
SEAFIELD TURNOG MOSSY	1	92	148	8	N/N	2022	GALWAY

Class 1 Requirements:

80 - 100% | Class 2 Requirements: 60 - 79% | Class OH Requirements: 60 - 100% & 149cm+

CPBS Inspections are funded by the DAFM under Equine Technical Support & Equine Breeding Schemes



CPBS Judges Framework Upcoming Initiative

The CPBS recognises several pressing issues within our judging system: a lack of new judges coming through, an outdated rule book, and inconsistencies across judging decisions. These challenges highlight the need for a modernised, standardised, and sustainable approach.

A new CPBS Judging Framework is now being developed under the leadership of John Noel Mullen (Chair, Connacht), supported by volunteers Lucinda Kelly (Leinster), Jackie Hockley (Ulster), and Eimear Coleman (Munster).

This initiative will introduce:

A comprehensive training programme for new judges, including a dedicated training weekend which will include lectures with professionals in their associated fields, CPBS Senior Judges demonstrations and a written examination process.

A Continuing Professional Development (CPD) pathway for existing judges, offering a structured refresher and upskilling opportunity.

Both the new judges' programme and the CPD sessions are scheduled to take place in February and March next year.

A key output of this work will be a fully updated CPBS Judges List, to be shared nationally and internationally with daughter societies and other showing bodies. This will strengthen confidence in CPBS appointments and ensure greater consistency and transparency across all judging panels.

The Rule Book will also be updated as part of this programme.

Further updates will be shared in the next newsletter and media outlets in the coming months.



CPBS Launches Pilot Educational Seminar: The 2025 CPBS Learning Project

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society (CPBS) proudly launched a pilot educational initiative earlier this year titled "The 2025 CPBS Learning Project"—an innovative learning opportunity designed to support and upskill members in the assessment and understanding of the Connemara Pony.

The program consisted of three online discussion sessions, followed by an intensive three-day, in-person hands-on seminar held at Galway Equestrian Centre in Athenry. The initiative was led by CPBS Council Member Cait Hennessy, with assistance from fellow council members and CPBS office staff.

"The core curriculum was based on the Connemara Pony Online Learning Program," said Daragh Ó Tuairisg, CPBS President.

"We were also fortunate to partner with Sarah McRae Thrasher and Tracy Garland, whose insights and experience brought an international dimension to the programme."

A total of 20 individuals were selected to participate in the 2025 CPBS Learning Project. The majority were based in Ireland, representing all four provinces, while designated places were reserved for representatives from international Connemara Pony Societies. The objective is that these international participants will bring the learnings back to their own societies, with a view to developing similar educational offerings for their members.

The seminar content focused on key topics essential to understanding and evaluating the Connemara Pony, including:

- Linear profiling
- Use of the linear profile sheet in CPBS inspections
- Pony conformation, type, temperament and movement
- Breeding goals and selection
- Veterinary and health considerations
- Group discussion and peer assessment

Participants reported that the project was highly beneficial in developing their confidence and skills—particularly in the practical application of linear profiling and pony assessment techniques.

This pilot project represents an exciting step forward in the CPBS's commitment to education, breeder development, maintaining the breed standard and continued improvement of the Connemara Pony.





Wishing all our members a very
Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy
New Year.

We look forward to 2026 with our
wonderful Connemara ponies.





An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



James Kann Cruz (ISH) - bred by Patrick Connolly (Galway)

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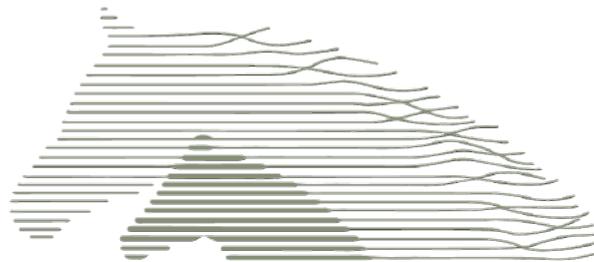


Coolley Rosalent (ISH) - bred by J W Rosbotham (Armagh)



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

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