**‘BALMORAL STAR OF THE FUTURE’**

**PERFORMANCE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**CLASSES: FIVE YEAR OLD**

**SIX to EIGHT YEAR OLD**

Championship finals will take place at Balmoral Show on Friday 13 May in the Main Arena. The Championship is restricted to those who have pre-qualified.

**Aim**

To identify high class horses bred in Ireland with the potential to become top class performance horses whether that be in show jumping or eventing, to create a medium for breeders and producers to display their quality young stock and encourage breeders and trainers to produce and present the correct type of horse likely to make it at the top level.

**Eligibility**

Restricted to Irish Bred horses only. Only animals with named passports identifying sire, dam, dam sire, microchip and breeder may compete.

Horses must be 15.0h (153cm) or over.

To be ridden by riders who have attained their 16th birthday by 1st January in the current year.

**Competition Format**

On entering the arena, each competitor will present to the judge where conformation will be assessed whilst mounted before riding away to demonatrate their horses walk and trot paces on the flat.

Competitors will then proceed straight to the jumping phase which will comprise of a course of show jumps immediately followed by natural cross country type fences.

There will be no more that 16 jumping efforts in total with height of fences being 1m for 5 year olds and 1.05m for the 6-8 year old class.

Penalties will be awarded as follows:

First disobedience 4 Penalties

Second disobedience 8 Penalties

Third disobedience Elimination

Knock down of obstacle 4 Penalties

Fall of horse or rider Elimination

Error of course Elimination

Retaking of obstacle already taken Elimination

At the end of the jumping phase, the competitor will demonstrate the ability of their horse to gallop.

The judge will assess each horses performance and marks will be awarded based on conformation, paces, way of going throughout the jumping phase, suitability and potential.

In the event of equality of marks, the jumping mark will take precedence.

**Qualifiers**

1. Meadows Equestrian Centre Saturday 5 March
2. Hazeldene Farm Sunday 13 March
3. Gransha Equestrian Centre Sunday 20 March
4. Wexford Equestrian Centre Wednesday 23 March
5. Lusk Equestrian Sunday 27 March

Qualifier Entry Fee: £40

Qualifer Judge: Janet Murray

Entries for qualifiers to be made directly to RUAS via the Balmoral Show website.

3 horse/rider combinations in each class will qualify at each qualifying venue. If any of the top 3 horses have already qualified, placings may go down the line.

Riders can ride two horses per class in the final. A change of rider will not be permitted under any circumstances. Only the horse / rider combination that qualify will be allowed to compete at Balmoral Show.

**Rules**

* Protective headgear conforming to the current recommended BSI Kitemark standards and fitted with an adjustable harness, is compulsory for all riders.  Please note that (BS) EN1384 hats will not be permitted unless the hat is dual stamped with another standard such as Snell or PAS 015.
* A body protector must be worn by all riders. A correctly fitted, BETA approved, and appropriately labelled Level 3 body protector manufactured in the year 2009 or after is recommended. If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector, it must be worn over a recommended body protector.
* Eventing colours and attire must be worn along with the required dress code of beige, fawn or cream breeches, long black/brown boots and gloves.
* Only snaffle bits as listed on the website are permitted.
* Only bridles with any one of the following nosebands: cavesson, drop, flash or grackle (including the micklem bridle) are permitted.
* Martingales, neckstraps and/or breastplates are permitted.
* Standing martingales are not permitted.
* Numnahs (if used) must conform neatly with saddle contours.  Saddle cloths or visible logos are not permitted.
* Hind leg boots or bandages are not allowed. Overreach boots are permitted.
* Only blunt metal spurs, or ones with rubber rowels <2.5cms facing downwards are permitted.
* No item of tack excluded from competition is allowed in the practice arena.
* If for any reason a competitor goes through the start with incorrect tack, the judge will have no option but to eliminate that competitor.

Championship Course Designer: Adrienne Stuart