

The Irish Draught Horse



A HORSE FOR ALL SEASONS

HISTORY

Breed History

From the earliest times horses have always been part of Irish life. Over the years the small active native horse was crossed with Norman warhorses, Great Horses from England and also Spanish Andalusian stallions brought in by way of trade. There were many schemes throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to increase the size and quality of the Irish Draught Horse in which the thoroughbred horse played a significant role. From these beginnings the Irish Draught Horse of today evolved.



An Irish Riding Horse in 1617

Background

The first authentic reference to the Irish Draught dates from the close of the eighteenth century. At that time a great increase in the area of land under tillage took place and this created a demand for bigger, stronger and more docile horses than was required when land was devoted to grass land and the rearing of cattle and sheep.

The Irish farmer bred for himself a lighter, more adaptable animal than the heavy breeds available in England. He needed a horse he could work, drive and ride.

According to the old rhyme the Irish Draught Horse could "plough, sow, reap and mow, go to church and hunt". Draught Horses were bred to be strong and gentle, have a good trot, and be able to gallop and jump.

Consequently today's Irish Draught is not simply a working horse, it is a riding and sporting horse as well.



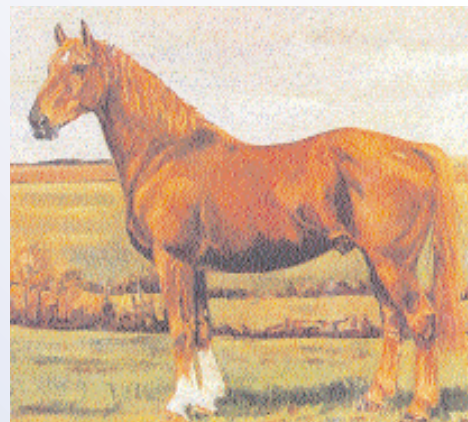
Farmers worked their horses alone or coupled with a neighbour's horse for heavier work



Pride of Shaunlara, by Milestone RID, out of Boston Burglar by Prefairy. This stallion had a pre-eminent influence on today's Irish Draught



Clover Hill, RID stallion, by Golden Beaker. One of Ireland's greatest sires of showjumpers



King of Diamonds, RID, by Errigal, RID, consistently ranked among sires of showjumpers in world rankings since 1990



Kildalton Countess RID, dam of five RID stallions. Sire: Ben Purple Dam Enniskeane Countess with her grand daughter Enniskeane Primrose RID, Sire: Ginger Dick Dam: Creggan Rose.

Front Cover (clockwise from top left)

- Antrim, (ID) Sire: O'Malley Dam: Terence Lady
- The Garda Mounted Unit
- Grange Bouncer, (RID) stallion. Sire: Prospect Pride Dam: Grange Heather
- Beezies Sue, (RID) mare. Sire: Sea Crest Dam: Princess of Woodlands.
- Coille Mor Hill, (RID) stallion. Sire: Clover Hill Dam: Lawrencetown Lassy
- Nancy Steele, (RID) mare. Sire: Holy Cross Dam: Whitechurch Sal
- The Likely Lad, (ID). Sire: Pride of Shaunlara Dam: Brosna Queen
- Irish Draught Mares
- Eden Ginger, (ID). Sire: Ginger Dick Dam: Swinford Girl

V E R S A T I L I T Y

Versatility

One of the real strengths of the Irish Draught Horse is its Versatility. Because of its wonderful temperament it learns quickly and is very easy to work with. Its strength, intelligence and lightness of step means that it can perform in many varied disciplines including show jumping, eventing, dressage, driving, le trek and endurance riding. Above all its reliability makes it an extremely safe and sound horse for the amateur and leisure rider. Today the Irish Draught Horse is to be found competing in every aspect of equestrian sport. It is also being used as a Police Horse in many countries.



A team of four Irish Draught geldings coping easily with a water hazard



Kingman, ID gelding, consistently successful three-day-event competitor. Sire: Creggan Diamond
Dam: Serene Sunset



Sir Rivie, RID Stallion, successful show jumper. Sire Sea Crest. Dam: Ginger Anne



Chrystal Breeze RID mare, prizewinning Le Trec competitor, by Heather Breeze out of April Jewel



← O'Leary's Irish Diamond, RID Stallion winner of numerous dressage championships in the United States.
Sire: Glidawn Diamond
Dam: Grey Currangong

→ Huntingfield Rebel, RID stallion, National Performance Champion.
Sire: Glenagyle Rebel
Dam: Whippy



PART BRED IRISH DRAUGHT

Part Bred Irish Draughts on the World Stage

Ever since show jumping had its birth here in Ireland and went on to become an international sport at the end of the 19th century, the Irish Draught Horse has played a major role. The temperament, durability and athleticism of the Irish Draught, so important in crosses with the Thoroughbred, has created a potent mix which is suitable for the demands of modern day show jumping.

Numerous horses with Irish Draught Breeding are competing successfully on the International Circuit. The Irish Draught/Thoroughbred cross is famous throughout the world as the Irish Sport Horse, a much wanted competition horse.



Coolcorron Cool Diamond (ISH) 1989 approved stallion, by Glidawn Diamond (RID), out of Bonmahon Belle (ISH), by Bronti (ISH), bred by Mr Francis Fitzgerald, Ballinaslisla Stud, Bonmahon, Co Waterford. Rider: Mr R Splaine (Irl). Member of the Winning Samsung Nations Cup Teams at Washington (USA) and Toronto (CAN) in 2001



Master Ballinteskin (ISH) 1994 gelding, by Master Imp (TB), out of Highland Beauty (AID), by Highland King (ISH), bred by Ms Francis Hatton, Slyguff, Bagnelstown, Co Carlow. Rider: Mr M Hauri (Sui). 2nd in the 7 year old final of the FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships for young horses, Lanaken 2001



Carling King (ISH) 1991 gelding, by Clover Hill (RID), out of Gortnagger Star (ISH) by Chairlift (TB), bred by Dr Pat Geraghty, Kilkerrin Road, Glenamaddy, Co Galway. Rider: Mr K Babington (Irl). Won the East Coast League, Ariat WEF Challenge Cup Series Final (USA) CSI-W March 2001

Boherdeal Clover (ISH) 1989 approved stallion by Clover Hill (RID), out of Virginia Wolf (ISH), by Regular Guy (TB), bred by Ms Pamela Miller, Mount Cashel Stud, Mount Cashel, Co Roscommon. Rider: Lt David O'Brien. Won the 1m50 SEB Cup Table A in Falsterbo (Swe) 2002



Ado Annie (ISH) 1993 filly, by Errigal Flight (ISH), out of Coolrain Princess (ISH) by Blue Henry (RID), bred by Ms Frances Sheeran, Glebe, Coolrain, Portlaoise, Co Laois. Rider: Mr Will Simpson (USA). Won \$60,000 Tiffany & Company Grand Prix at the Oaks Blenheim Fall Classic in 2001

ITS ON THE WORLD STAGE



Mister Springfield (ISH) 1993 gelding, by Western Promise (ISH), out of Glebe Bess (RID) by Ballinahow Boy (RID), bred by Mr Robert L Gallagher, 22 Springfield Road, Co Derry. Rider: Mr R Smith (GB). Won in the 1m50 - Table A with Jump off at Alencon (FRA) in 2001



Loughtown Atlanta (ISH) 1991 gelding, by Clover Hill (RID), out of Northern Rose (ISH) by Northern Value (TB). Bred by Gabriel O'Connor, St Jarlath's Place, Tuam, Co Galway. Rider: Mr R Letter (Sui). Won the 1m50 - Table A with jump off in St Gallen (Sui) CSIO in 2001



Clover Leaf (ISH) 1986 gelding, by Clover Hill (RID) dam by Middle Temple (TB). Rider: Ms L Howard (USA). Won the \$30,000 Grand Prix FEI World Cup in Tampa (USA) in 2001

Irish Sport Horses have continued gaining great successes on the International show jumping circuit in recent times. In 2001, they won over 50 international classes in 12 countries worldwide. 'Carling King' by Clover Hill (RID) represented Ireland on the Gold winning team at the European Championships in Arnhem (NL) and won the Grand Prix in Hickstead (CSIO). In 2000, Ireland won a record 10 Nations cups. Of the 13 Irish Sport horses that competed on those Irish teams 5 were by Irish Draught stallions, 'Ballaseyr Twilight', 'Dream Point Clover' and 'Carling King', (by Clover Hill, RID), 'Coolcorron Cool Diamond' (by Glidawn Diamond, RID) and 'The Prophets Thumb' (by Knockboy, RID). 'Ballaseyr Twilight' also won the Kings Cup at Hickstead and the Kerrygold Grand Prix in Dublin.

Killossery (ISH) 1992 gelding, by Clover Hill (RID), out of Jeannie (ISH), by Radical (TB). He was bred by Killossery Lodge Stud, Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin and owned by the Minister of Defence. Rider: Mr S. Carey (Ir). Won the 1m60 H&M Derby - Table A in Falsterbo (Swe) CSIO**** in 2002



Tomgar Rocky (ISH) 1989 gelding, by Diamond Lad (RID) out of Bracklin Sky (ISH), by Skyboy (TB), bred by Mr Charles Pidgeon, Bracklin, Kibbegan, Co Westmeath. Rider: Mr H.D Dreher (Ger). Won the Grand Prix at San Lazzaro (ITA) CSI C in 2002



Cruising (ISH) 1985 approved stallion by Sea Crest (RID), out of Mullacrew (ISH), by Nordlys (TB) bred at Hartwell Stud, Kill, Co Kildare. Winner of Grand Prix in Aachen and Dortmund in 1999

P R E S E R V I N G

The Irish Draught Horse

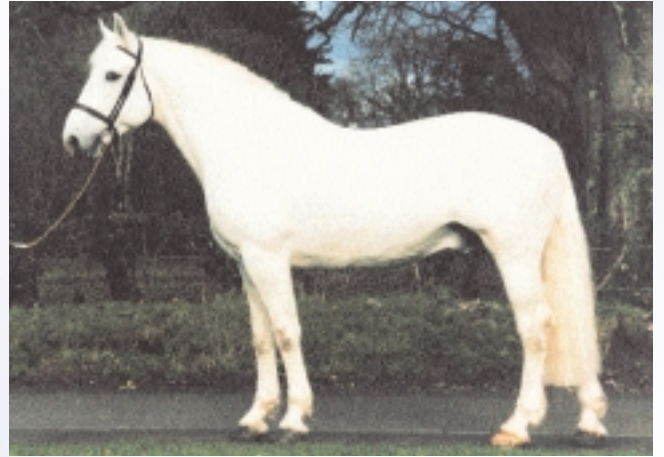
The Irish Draught Horse Society was founded in 1975. Its aims are to encourage and assist breeders and those interested in the preservation, promotion and improvement of the breed. There are currently 17 branches of the Society all over Ireland and affiliated groups in Great Britain, Germany, New Zealand, the United States of America, Canada and Australia. The studbook is maintained on behalf of the Society by The Irish Horse Board and the Northern Ireland Horse Board. All animals are inspected for entry into the studbook.

Stallion Inspections

Registered Irish Draught stallions are inspected for type, conformation, movement, soundness and temperament. Colts for inspection must be at least three years of age and must pass a veterinary examination and performance test as part of the approval procedure.



Classic Vision, RID Stallion, Grade A showjumper. Sire: Ginger Dick. Dam: Lady Glen



Annaghdown Star, RID Stallion, winner of the stallion class at the Royal Dublin Society Horse Show in 1991, 1993, and 1997. Sire: King Elvis
Dam: Annaghdown Gold

Mare Inspections

All potential Registered Irish Draught mares are inspected for type, conformation and movement. Mares for inspection must be at least two years of age and must pass a veterinary examination. Inspections are held at locations round the country during the autumn of each year.



The Blue Lady, RID, winner of the Royal Dublin Society Irish Draught Mare Championship in 1996 and 1999 and winner of the Breeders Championship in 1996. Sire: Blue Rajah. Dam: Seafin Lady



Brehan's Pride, RID. Winner of All Ireland Championship in 1996
Sire: Pride of Toames. Dam: Brehan Lass

Judging Courses

Courses are held for future judges to instruct them on the finer points of conformation and movement.



P R O M O T I N G

The Irish Draught Horse

Qualifiers and Championships

In co-operation with the Irish Shows Association the Irish Draught Horse Society holds All Ireland Irish Draught Mare and Young Horse Championships for which contenders must qualify at venues round the country for finals at the National Show.



Enniskeane Flash RID. Winner of Bank of Ireland All Ireland RID Championship and numerous other Championships. Sire: Mountain Pearl Dam: Enniskeane Primrose



Lady in Red RID, winner of Mare of the Future and many other Championships. Sire: Grosvenor Lad Dam: Ginger Grace

The National Show

The national breed show is run by the Society annually. It is hosted by Branches of the Society and the show location changes every two years. There are classes for mares, foals, stallions, young stock and also a performance section. Every year 300–500 of the best of the breed attract visitors from all over the world. It is the place to see the world's greatest gathering of Irish Draught Horses.



Killountain Pearl RID. Youngstock winner at the National Show
Sire: Crannagh Hero Dam: Killountain Diamond



Necarne Castle, Co Fermanagh, location of the National Show 2000 – 2001.



Irish Draught foal, winner of the FBD Connaught Championship.
Sire: Huntingfield Rebel Dam: Oh Carol



Derrynagarra Clorin RID. Reserve Champion National Show 2000 and RDS 2000
Sire: Crosstown Dancer Dam: Banks Fee Annabel