



National Amateur Committee  
**ShowjumpingIreland**  
**Newsletter**  
**March 2025 Edition**

Dear Amateurs,  
Welcome to the Showjumping Ireland amateur newsletter! We are excited to share the latest updates, upcoming events and important announcements with you.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Balmoral Qualifier – March 15<sup>th</sup> – Cavan Equestrian Centre
- Balmoral Qualifier – March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Kernan Equestrian Centre
- Balmoral Qualifier – March 29<sup>th</sup> – The Meadows Equestrian Centre
- Emerald Amateur Show – March 30<sup>th</sup> – Emerald Equestrian Centre
- Ingrid Kane Memorial – April 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> – Barnadown Equestrian Centre

Refer to the [SJI Calendar](#) for additional upcoming events

#### **Competition Highlights**

- Balmoral Qualified Riders – Portmore – Sophie McKeen (Pinecroft Kamiro), Naomi McCavana (Ferro Charm), Rebekah Tansey (Cherished), Grace Carlise (Something Smart), Tara Elizabeth Patton (Castleroché Pretty Women)
- Balmoral Qualified Riders – Killossery – Colm Fitzpatrick (Bluestone Diamond Fly), Caitlin Duffy (Jockeyhall Midas Touch), Vanessa Sweeney (Woodbank Clover), Lisa Patterson (Little Miss Shutterfly), Egle Zakaraite (Talbot Siss)

**Congratulations to all!**

## 🌟 Amateur Spotlight

Each edition, we highlight a dedicated amateur member of our community. This month, we feature **John Killoran**, who dedicates his time and effort to the running of the annual **Ingrid Kane Memorial Show**.

### A Passion for Showjumping – John Killoran

Growing up on a dairy farm, horses were always part of life for John Killoran. Learning to ride at a young age, he quickly found a passion for hunting and showjumping, starting his SJI journey in the 12.2 ponies. Thanks to Paddy Murphy of Johnstown, John had the chance to compete at numerous shows, setting the foundation for a lifelong love of the sport.

After a break from ponies, a suggestion from Patrick Murphy reignited John's passion for showjumping — leading to two decades of success and memorable experiences in the amateur circuit. Standout memories for John include winning the TRI National 'A' Championship (now the Farmers Journal 'A' Championship) and qualifying for the RDS multiple times.

Balancing a career in sports turf, including work on golf courses, football pitches, and the grass arena at Barnadown – a particular point of pride for John – takes a team effort. “It wouldn't be possible without the support of my wife and sons,” he says.



John feels privileged to be involved in the annual Ingrid Kane Memorial, which holds deep personal meaning. Fellow Wicklow amateur Ingrid was a much-loved figure on the circuit with a natural ability to bring people together. John remembers her fondly as a great character, who enjoyed the fun at the shows as much as the showjumping. Since 2013, the memorial show has raised over €40,000 for the Irish Cancer Society — a lasting tribute to Ingrid and a testament to her impact on the SJI amateur community.

Friendships have been a highlight of the sport for John, who has met most of his closest friends through showjumping. His advice for new SJI amateurs? “Get to know your fellow competitors — they'll always be there to help.”

As for future goals, John is determined to get back into the show ring this year. And if he could ride any horse? No need to look far afield, says John: Martin Wilson's former ride Database stands out for his incredible consistency, while Lisa Doyle's Corland's Clipper is a current favorite. John's own best horse, Echo Diamond, refused to jump in the practice ring during his final years of competition — but always delivered when it counted!

With a rich history in the sport and a supportive community behind him, John Killoran is set for another exciting chapter in his showjumping journey.

## 📌 Committee Announcements

- ◆ 2025 Rule Changes – Please familiarize yourself with all 2025 rule amendments [here](#).
- ◆ Rule Clarification – Per 2025 amendment to Rule 254N.C.1.3.2, height classes incorporating amateurs are **not** considered amateur classes; therefore, height classes incorporating amateurs competed in from **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** may not be counted toward the six-class quota. Height classes incorporating amateurs competed in **before** January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 may still be counted toward the quota.
- ◆ Exemption Deadline – Applications for exemption from the six-class quota per Rule 254N.C.1.3.2 will close **April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

## 📌 Save the Date

- ◆ Amateur & Sports Member National Championships – September 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Mullingar Equestrian Centre

**Stay tuned for more National Championship details in future editions, including a very exciting prize announcement** 🎉

## 🤝 Get Involved

We welcome all members to contribute to our amateur community! Send your ideas, feedback, and Amateur Spotlight nominations to us via [anna.smith@sjai.ie](mailto:anna.smith@sjai.ie).

We look forward to seeing you out jumping!

**Best of luck,**

♥️ **The National Amateur Committee**  
**Showjumping Ireland**