

Message from Millstreet 2010

The Duggan Family send you this communication to inform you of the up to date situation regarding our major All Ireland Horse and Pony Championship Show, running on our traditional dates, August 10-15 2010.

Despite our best efforts, contribution and investment both personally and financially over the past 38 years, we are experiencing serious harassment from Show Jumping Ireland (SJI), designed to prevent Millstreet from providing you, owners, riders, judges, officers and competitors from participating and officiating at a World Class facility, with an extensive programme and increased substantial prize fund, all of which now exists at the Green Glens, where we intend to stage several equestrian events throughout the year.

You will see from the accompanying evidence why Millstreet has taken the decision to host an independent show, like that of the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). Any effort made by the SJI authority to prevent us from doing so **will fail**, as it is contrary to competition law. You can also be assured that the threats of imposing sanctions such as fines, suspensions etc. **will not** succeed (see section 3.4 page 3 in our legal team's letter to the SJI dated 10th of May 2010). It is underlined and states as follows:

'Breach of Competition Law renders the parties, their directors and senior managers liable to fines and / or imprisonment upon indictment.'

The above fact should put your mind at ease about the SJI's threat of fines, or suspension.

The SJI have made every effort to discredit Millstreet and the Duggan family regarding the alleged unpaid levies for the 2008 shows. We will withhold a balance of levies until the SJI insurance agree to cover a claim made by a member of the association, for an accident which occurred at the affiliated 2007 show. To date, the SJI insurance has failed to indemnify us, and state that where there is an existing insurance policy i.e. public liability, they will not honour the claim (see Mullingar press release regarding a similar issue).

Therefore, we have decided to go independent, as is the case with the RDS, where the SJI and H.S.I. vie with each other to work at the horseshow every year. We believe that there cannot be one rule for Dublin (RDS) and another discriminatory rule for Millstreet and all other shows around the country.

Please take special note of our recent efforts to bring the World Equestrian Games to Ireland in 2014. You will see from the written evidence attached between Noel C Duggan, assisted by Frank Mulvihill and Dr. Pearse Lyons, that we were prepared to bridge the financial shortfall of up to €10 million, which Horse Sport Ireland (H.S.I.) and the government were not prepared to do.

The loss to Ireland of this once in a lifetime opportunity is significant, for the Irish horse, sport and industry, notwithstanding tourism. The games are now destined for France and will be held in a racecourse rather than over the 500 acres of spectacular Drishane domain and the Green Glens Arena combined - the only venue where all disciplines of the WEG could be staged. *“So much for the people who are charged with the development of our horse and pony sport industry in Ireland!!!!”*

The Duggan family invite you to what will be the biggest and best horse show ever! In preparation for this, we have carried out extensive developments since our last show in 2008. New sand arenas, warm up arenas, parking areas etc have been further developed. We have also reduced our entry fees and stabling costs and have increased our cash prize funds. Please note, there will not be any deductions or levies from the advertised prize fund. (See our enclosed schedule for further details.)

We are presently planning how we can add further new classes to our programme and increase our already impressive published prize fund. Your support will be most welcome and very much appreciated.

Please see our website for further details:

www.millstreethorseshow.ie

Or contact us at:

admin@millstreethorseshow.ie Tel: 029 70800

Sincerest Regards

The Duggan Family