

# willing branch

ies (NGOs).

"This change can't come from the BGA, it needs to be a strong message, and it should be federation led. We are in talks with the federations at the moment," Katan said.

## IRISH CASE

These results mirror the findings of *The Irish Field* grooms' survey in August, which found that 97% of grooms in Ireland are in favour of the establishment of grooms' association.

With an average pay scale of €15-18,000, 83% of our survey respondents said wages were the biggest challenge, while 66% said the lack of opportunity to further their skillset was another road block.

Katan extended an invitation to help Ireland in creating an association for grooms in this country. "If someone came to me and said could we do something, could we help in creating something for the Irish, I would be very open to that."

She continued: "The model is already there. We could use the BGA website."

The BGA currently has 1,600 members, including Irish grooms, who Katan said are "very welcome". Membership costs €21.50 per year and as part of that members receive the *British Grooms Magazine* four times per year, a membership welcome pack and a discounted rate on KBIS personal accident insurance. The BGA is run as a business and does not receive funding from any national federation.

"There is no reason why we couldn't produce a version of the magazine geared towards Irish readers, or any English-speaking country.

"It would make sense. (If we were to work together) I would suggest that an Irish grooms association would have its own executive director and committee and board, but could be run by the BGA."

## news+

### Star of the Month

■ MANY congratulations to event rider Aidan Keogh of Tredstep who was voted the *Gain Equine Nutrition/The Irish Field* Star of the Month for September.

### French win for Kenny

■ OFFALY's Darragh Kenny won Thursday night's 1.45m speed class at the four-star show in Rouen, France. Riding Southernways Equestrian and Bowers Cone LLC's Cassini Z (Cassini II x Capone),



At the cheque presentation to St Francis Hospice, Raheny were (l-r): committee members Eugene O'Neill, Patricia Donohue, Stephen O'Connor, Gladys Graham, Dick McElligott and Patrice Dorney with Sr. Margaret Cashman and Dee Kinane of St Francis Hospice and Roger Casey, managing director of Tattersalls Ireland

## Tatts donate €20,000 to St Francis Hospice

THE committee of the Tattersalls Ireland July Show, in association with the Rolestown Show and Ward Union Hunt, made a donation of €20,000 to Sr. Margaret Cashman and Dee Kinane of St Francis Hospice at the Tattersalls Ireland November Sale.

The funds were raised from the proceeds of the 2017 July Show which saw equestrian competitors flood through the gates to take part in one of Ireland's elite equestrian sporting events. The donation is the biggest to date, and the Show has now donated over €50,000 to the Hospice over the last four years.

St Francis Hospice, located in Raheny and more locally in Blanchardstown, provides specialist palliative care service for the people of North Dublin City, County and surrounding areas.

In 2016 alone, they supported more than 1,500 patients and their families along with

specialist palliative care to more than 1,200 people in their homes. In addition, more than 600 people were admitted to their Inpatient Units for symptom management and end of life care.

Tattersalls Ireland Managing Director Roger Casey commented: "I am delighted that the Tattersalls Ireland July Show has generated a donation of €20,000 in 2017 and I am very proud of the tireless work of the entire show committee who through their combined efforts ensure that the show is a success and can contribute to the Hospice in this way.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the show and helped raise such a substantial amount of money this year. St Francis Hospice is right on our doorstep and to be able to support their invaluable cause in some small way is gratifying for all involved."

### ■ PONY STUBBOOK OFFERING €30 REGISTRATION

THE Irish Sport Pony studbook are offering a registration rate of €30 including DNA for registering a pony with full parentage in the studbook. The offer, which is available until the end of 2017 requires:

- A covering certificate
- The sire and dam must be DNA typed or sample submitted
- Name of sire and dam, their pedigree and studbook where they are registered
- Marking chart
- DNA sample from animal to be issued with a

passport

If the sire and dam of the animal to be registered with recorded parentage are in the main section of pony and horse studbooks that are approved/recognised by the Ministry of their country of operation, the progeny should be eligible for classification in the Irish Sport Pony studbook. Cavan's Stuart Clarke said: "It is a great incentive for pony owners and breeders to register their pony in a studbook that tracks and measures their performance. It allows us to develop pony pedigrees."

Kenny posted the fastest clear round in 57.87 seconds with the 10-year-old gelding, almost two seconds faster than French runner-up Julien Gonin.

### Coaching conference

■ HORSE Sport Ireland's National Coaching and Breeding Conference 2017 takes place on Tuesday, November 28th at Cavan Equestrian Centre.

The conference will focus on horse and rider production for success and features internationally renowned

equestrian professionals Rob Ehrens, chef d'équipe to the Dutch Show Jumping Team, Olympic medallist event rider Andrew Hoy, Russell Guire; founder of Centaur Biomechanics and veterinary surgeon Larry Dunne, an embryo transfer expert.

Tickets are €50 including lunch. Spaces are limited and must be booked in advance.

Please book online at [www.horseportireland.ie](http://www.horseportireland.ie) or phone Katie on +353 45 854533.

For queries, email Catherine Farrell at [cfarrell@horseportireland.ie](mailto:cfarrell@horseportireland.ie).

## Bergin achieves BHS Stage 5 qualification

■ Isabel Hurley

WICKLOW'S Brendan Bergin has become one of the first equestrian coaches to attain the coveted British Horse Society Stage 5, a very high level professional qualification seldomly awarded.

To mark the occasion, renowned equestrian coach, author and inventor, William Micklem presented the BHS and Stage 5 Performance Coach certificate to a delighted Brendan at Powerscourt this week.

A BHS spokesperson said: "Brendan Bergin, proprietor of Bergin Equine in Co Wicklow, has become one of the first people to achieve their BHS Stage 5 through The British Horse Society's scholarship program. The BHS' scholarship program provides successful applicants with the funds to train for their qualifications and sit their BHS assessments. The aim of the scholarship is to increase the number of qualified BHS coaches.

"In July this year, the BHS launched their Equine Excellence Pathway – a world-lead-



Brendan Bergin of Bergin Equine, Co. Wicklow (right), receives his BHS Stage 5 certificate from William Micklem at Powerscourt

ing qualification system suited for those that are pursuing a career in the equine industry. Brendan is one of the first people to become a BHS Stage 5 Performance Coach in Complete Horsemanship, thanks to the scholarship program."

Brendan Bergin, of Brambly Hedge Farm, Newcastle Middle, added: "Since I started on my BHS career path in 2006, it has always been my dream to achieve the BHS Stage 5 ... the BHS scholarship allowed me to receive top-class training from some won-

derful trainers. Without the help of the BHS scholarship, I would not have achieved my BHS Stage 5.

"Thank you so much to everyone for all the help, particularly my wife Michelle, Carole Broad FBHS, Jillie Rogers BHSI ETCM, John Mulvey, Mark Robinson BHSII SC SE and William Micklem FBHS, onwards a new chapter of learning has begun!"

For more information on Bergin Equine, visit [www.BerginEquine.com](http://www.BerginEquine.com) or [www.facebook.com/BerginEquine](http://www.facebook.com/BerginEquine)

*The Show Jumpers Club Presents*

## Irish Showjumping AWARDS GALA 2017

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## HSI LOOSE JUMPING COMPETITIONS FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLD FILLIES

Competitions with a prize fund of €6,000 per venue will be held at;

- **Cavan Equestrian Centre** on **Friday, 1st December 2017** at 6pm.  
Closing date for entries is Tuesday, 28th Nov.

Contact the venue to pre-enter at [show.office@cavanequestrian.com](mailto:show.office@cavanequestrian.com)

- **Top Flight Eq. Centre**, Kilkenny on **Monday, 4th December 2017** at 5pm.  
Closing date for entries is Friday, 1st Dec.

Contact the venue to pre-enter at [tfwarrington@eircom.net](mailto:tfwarrington@eircom.net) or +353 56 7722682  
The entry fee is €10 per filly.

The competitions are open to fillies registered in a Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)-approved studbooks.

As part of the competitions, HSI will provide industry experts available to give advice to owners on breeding decisions for the 2018 season.

Fillies may be linear profiled as part of these events.



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