



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2012**

**SPLENDID SHOWJUMPING IN THE SUNSHINE ON DAY THREE OF MILLSTREET INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW**

Record crowds have been enjoying superb weather conditions and top-class International showjumping on the opening days of the 2012 Millstreet International Horse Show.

Since Sunday afternoon, over 1,200 horses have been arriving in the Co. Cork town; travelling from across the country and following the return to International status for the first time in 12 years, riders from 6 different nations have also made the journey. Foreign visitors include Global Champions Tour winner Roger-Yves Bost, dual championship rider Juan Carlos Garcia, three-times Hickstead Derby winner William Funnell, European Team Bronze medallist Guy Williams, former showjumping world champion Dermott Lennon and GBI Tour contenders Joe Clayton, Conor Swail and Joan Greene.

Competition got underway on Wednesday with the “Goresbridge Horse Sales” Boomerang Qualifier where just 11/100 of a second separated the eventual winner Hayley Dunne and “Arendsoog B” from 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Peig Van Amerongen with “Bolandro”. The National Eventing Discovery was won in by style by former Irish Olympian and 2012 First Reserve for the eventing team, Capt. Geoff Curran and “The Jump Jet.”

The International action kicked off with a British victory on Thursday when Guy Williams and “Bijou Van De Vikfheide” took home the spoils in the Grand Prix Qualifier. Alexander Butler and the Irish-bred “Lowhill Ambassador” put the first Irish win on the board in the International 2 Phase class. In the national classes the 1.30m Mini Grand Prix Qualifier was won by William McDonnell Jnr. with Ballinagore Ice. This class is one of two stages of the Connolly’s Red Mills Munster Grand Prix League to take place at Millstreet this week, with the final taking place on Sunday.

Friday saw the sun stay in the skies over Clara mountain once again and William Whitakker rode to victory in front of a record crowd in the Irish Farmer’s Journal Grand Prix qualifier with “Fandango.” Later in the afternoon Guy Williams notched up his second victory of the week with “Torino Van De Middelstede.”

Away from the showjumping action, an air of anticipation hung over the 5,000 strong crowd with events at the London Olympics close to everyone’s mind. News of the Irish success stories

featuring Katie Taylor and Millstreet regular Cian O' Connor quickly reverberated around the Green Glens Arena.

The show continues over the weekend with a wide range of classes culminating with the Millstreet International Grand Prix on Sunday afternoon with a prize fund of €50,000. This marks the final stage of the inaugural GBI (Great Britain and Ireland) Tour which included competitions in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. British rider Joe Clayton currently leads the league but with points and a half on offer this weekend a nail-biting finish is guaranteed. Millstreet Horse Show's commitment to Irish breeders and producers continues with the finals taking place of the Young Irishlander (3YO) and National Discovery (4YO) classes over the weekend.

Speaking at the International Rider's Reception on Thursday evening, Noel C. Duggan welcomed competitors and visitors from near and far to the Green Glens Arena and acknowledged the financial support from IRD Duhallow under the LEADER programme. Improvements to the venue include the installation of 500 International standard stables, new custom-made showjumps and an improved internal administration system.

If you're looking for a family day out with free admission, world-class showjumping, a wide range of trade exhibitors (including saddlery, leisurewear and footwear, pet accessories and more) and updates from the London Olympics, then look no further than the Millstreet International Horse Show and take the opportunity to get behind the Irish team!

Further information is available on [www.millstreethorseshow.ie](http://www.millstreethorseshow.ie).

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