

New Riding Club Championship Announced for Clonmel Show – 5 July 2026

Clonmel Show is pleased to announce an important new addition for 2026 with the introduction of the Riding Club Members Championship, featuring the Peter Ponsonby Memorial Cup. Following the recent closure of Clonmel Riding Club (CRC), its committee sought a fitting way to mark the club's contribution to the local equestrian community. In doing so, they have presented a perpetual cup to Clonmel Show, to be awarded in a dedicated championship for members of the Association of Irish Riding Clubs. The initiative reflects the club's longstanding commitment to participation, horsemanship, and sporting behaviour, and aims to provide a platform for amateur riders to compete and be recognised at a major show.

Championship Format

The Championship is open to current AIRC members, with qualification limited to the top two eligible members in each of the following classes: Cob, Riding Horse, Open Racehorse to Riding Horse, Novice Racehorse to Riding Horse, Coloured Horse and Veteran. Each qualifying combination will receive a distinctive AIRC Championship Finalist rosette in CRC colours (navy blue and light blue), to be worn in the Championship class. Competitors qualifying more than one horse may select which to present in the final; substitute riders will not be permitted.

The Championship Class

Finalists will compete for the Peter Ponsonby Memorial Cup, judged on overall presentation, conformation, and manners. Horses will be required to walk, trot, and canter on both reins. In keeping with riding club tradition, horses will not be ridden by the judge, and galloping will not be required. A valid AIRC membership card must be presented, with eligibility strictly verified. The Champion and Reserve Champion will receive rosettes and sashes, along with prize money of €150, supported by Clonmel Show's overall sponsorship programme. The perpetual Peter Ponsonby Memorial Cup will be presented to the Champion by former members of the CRC committee on behalf of Clonmel Riding Club. Speaking ahead of the launch, Jacqueline Walsh, on behalf of Clonmel Riding Club said:

“This Championship recognises the standard and commitment of riding club members and provides a valuable opportunity for them to compete at a major show. We look forward to seeing it become an established feature at Clonmel.”

This inaugural Championship is expected to attract strong entries and contribute to a competitive and well-supported programme, further strengthening Clonmel Show's position within the showing calendar. For further information, please visit our website

www.clonmelshow.ie