

Racing kicks off with some good fare

■ Tom Red

The 2010 season of racing started at Lenebane on Monday evening in lovely weather and a large crowd enjoyed some very good fare on offer.

The opening colts and geldings maiden was won by the John James Murphy-trained Top Spin ridden by Fran Berry by a neck from Speechmaker, with the favourite Thank Your Stars two and a half lengths away in third in what was a bad start for the punters.

In the following fillies maiden the David Wachman-trained, Wayne Lordon-ridden Leo Gali beat the 11/10 favourite by two and a half lengths with Valbuca filling the places a short head further away. The winner is expected to improve and is entered in the Irish Oaks. Keep an eye on this one remembering Again on 2008 who went on the win the 1000 guineas after being beaten in Roscommon for the same yard.

The third race The Derrinstown Apprentice Race was won by La Chassotte ridden by Ben Curtis by half a length from Sailor's Warn, ridden by Miriam Fogarty seeking her first win and the favourite His Way, who could only finish two lengths back in third. Robbie Walsh taken to hospital after a nasty fall from Noeleen's Moon soon after the start of this race.

The Connolly's Red Mills Race was divided and the first division was won by Fischer Bridge from Noel Meade's yard under Tim Carroll. The winner is best known as a national hunt horse and last won on the flat in Leicester in 2007. The second division was won by Ger Keane's Lynott with Davy Moran aboard at odds of 20/1, ensuring that the jackpot pool went forward to Punchestown on Tuesday. The winner was also returning to the flat after a spell over hurdles and whose last flat win on the track was the same race, also Div 2, in 2007 when he carried 7 lb more.

The Kepak INH Flat race, the bumper, fell to Nodourabourra, trained for Dermot Cox from Naas by Conor O'Dwyer and ridden by Katie Walsh from Jan Jandura and the odds-on favourite Frisco Depot ridden by Nina Carberrry.

Jumping took over for the last two races and both gave the punters some relief as the Handicap Chase was easily won by Adajal, completing a hat trick at 13/8f for Charlie Swan and David Casey and in the last race on the card Edward Cawley's Oscar Glory won the Frank Hannon Memorial Chase under Philip Enright. The 5/2 favourite took the biggest prize of the night beating Jawad and Rosbeigh two and a half lengths and three and a half lengths.



Picture shows Ivan Connaughton presenting the Ivan Connaughton Auctioneer Fillies Maiden trophy to Seamus Dunne, winner of the second race at Roscommon on Monday. Also in picture is Orla Healy, Roscommon Race Committee.



Picture shows Anthony Flaherty presenting the Connolly's Red Mills Horse Care Cubes Handicap to Noel Meade, winner of the fourth race at Roscommon on Monday.



Picture shows Anthony Flaherty presenting the Connolly's Red Mills Horse Care Cubes Handicap to Jim Feeney, owner of Lynott, winner of the fifth race at Roscommon. Also in picture are: Gerry Keane, Navan (trainer) and Darragh Feeney (right).



Adrian Keegan presenting the Keegan Tractors Handicap Steeplechase trophy to Frank Berry, winner of the seventh race at Roscommon.

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Labour to launch major regional survey on Saturday

Voters in County Roscommon will be contacted by the Labour Party this weekend as part of a major campaign to assess attitudes on a range of issues currently facing them.

Members of the local community in each area will have the opportunity to participate in what is potentially the largest grassroots survey of voters to date. The survey, which is being launched on Saturday, May 22nd, is being seen as an ideal method to canvass voters and to determine what the important issues are likely to be for the next general election.

The survey will take place at central locations in the towns and cities and also from door-to-door. The campaign, which will see Labour Party supporters out in force in large number, will last for six weeks. On Saturday, May 22nd next voters at various locations will be encouraged to complete a 30-second survey.

Cllr. John Kelly will be handing out a voter survey as well as greeting voters and answering questions on Saturday afternoon at locations in Cas-



Cllr. John Kelly

terea and Ballaghaderreen.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to meet with voters on Saturday. We are a party that listens, but along with meeting voters, I hope people will take the time to fill out the survey. Their opinions are very important to us and will help shape the focus of my campaign and that of the Labour Party.

"The survey primarily focuses on jobs and economic development as well as local issues and what are the press-

ing issues of the day for people. This is a simple introductory step to meet, listen, and engage many potentially frustrated voters. The basic idea is to focus on building up trusted local voter relationships and a more meaningful understanding of the concerns of voters.

"The next step, of course, is for people to vote the current Government out of office by getting electing Labour Party candidates across the region who will defend traditional Irish principles and values against the reckless spending and transformation of our country by politicians who seem to think that they have the unchecked power to simply do as they please now.

"Mr. Cowen's recent conversion on the road to Damascus, like his sums, just doesn't add up, and it's rather late in the day for the Taoiseach to admit failings, when thousands have lost their jobs while thousands more have emigrated. Thanks, but no thanks, Mr. Cowen, but I'd rather you kept your half-baked apologies to yourself," said Cllr. Kelly.