

12th Lancelot Awards

Club Secretary of the Year

Nominees

Tara Dalton (Clonlara Riding Club)

Tara is one of the most lovely and genuine people you could meet. She is totally generous of her time with her own club members and other club members. She is always willing to help out and always offers her time at other shows when she is not competing. Tara has helped to encourage the spirit of a family club that is always evident at Clonlara and it is a family that always has open arms to welcome other clubs. It is evident that the Clonlara members both admire and support Tara in everything she does for the club. She works tirelessly to constantly be trying to improve the club in their shows and training. Tara deserves this award as being one of the most committed and dedicated secretaries that there could possibly be.

Serena Finnerty (Corrib Riding Club)

This club secretary has gone way beyond the call of duty since she took on this role our club has went from strength to strength. Serena is always promoting the club & region and is always promoting the AIRC's ways of friendship helpfulness and fun. She is well known to riding club members for being helpful fun and always has a great big smile and a warm welcome.

As a committee member, Serena brings new ideas of different ways to keep the members interested and active, from the non-riding member, novice rider and competitive riders, she forgets no one in the club and makes sure everyone's opinion counts.

She organises training sessions and social events making sure everyone has a way to the training checking that their time suits making sure everything runs smooth for them.

Serena is the first person volunteering to help at any event locally or nationally She is generally the volunteers organiser. I have even seen her checking people are gone doing there jobs while she is compete herself.

Jane Gaffney (Benbulbin Riding Club)

Jane is a relatively new member who instantly endeared herself to all connected with Benbulbin. A former Secretary of Warrington, Jane moved to Benbulbin after getting married and became an active riding member, always willing to help and get involved. Her arm needed no twisting when proposed as secretary of the club and since late 2014, Jane has been constantly proactive in seeing and meeting the needs of our members, at Club, Regional, National and International levels and has devoted her time and energy, in the most organised, informative and willing way imaginable. Jane has been largely responsible for ensuring that Club shows, Regional Team Show Jumping Qualifiers and our most recent trip to the Lincoln Show Grounds all made us proud to be involved in the AIRC.

If ever a club needed a role-model Secretary, Jane is it. Her ability to combine a great work ethic, invisible but incredible leadership qualities with a willingness to serve others with love and caring affection make Jane the 'Loveliest Lady' any club could possibly hope to have as Secretary.

Rory O'Sullivan-Hennessy (Warrington Riding Club)

Throughout 2016, Rory has done fantastic work strengthening the club. Elected as Secretary last-year at 21, and in the middle of his final year at university, it was a new challenge for Rory which he accepted with great energy and spirit.

Each week, Rory organises a huge variety of lessons and clinics catering for all members and covering all disciplines. In the lead up to his college finals, he ran the most successful spring show Warrington has had in a number of years, and invited the crew from IrishTV to film which was a great boost both to the Club and Association.

This year he revamped our Facebook and web pages, giving them a fresh and updated feel and which are both constantly updated to promote the Club and its activities. His communication with members is excellent, consisting of weekly texts, emails and a club members group on Facebook, keeping the Club informed and updated at every turn.

We went from having no teams at last year's RDS Qualifiers to having three teams of 4 in 2016. He is a team-player, super organised and is a fantastic character, and his contribution to the club over the past year alone has been fantastic and definitely one to be recognised.