

LOUGHRICKLAND SATURDAY

# The Chosen one

By Margie McLoone

THE Co Down Staghounds really know how to put on a good show and, in spite of a bitterly cold wind last Saturday, a huge crowd converged on Loughbrickland where they witnessed Derek O'Connor record four wins at a track he rides particularly well.

*The Irish Field* champion struck early, taking the opening four-year-old maiden on Chosen Native (1/1). Maralin second Playing The Field and the winner drew away from their rivals climbing up to the second last. Chosen Native led into the final fence and had two lengths in hand at the post, with a long-looking four-length gap back to the newcomer Not So Sure Dick.

Stuart Mactaggart, representing the sponsor Doncaster Bloodstock Sales, wasn't the only one impressed by the Colin McKeever-trained winner, the first runner by the Sadler's Wells stallion Well Chosen, who stands in Co Tipperary at Tom and Magette Meagher's Kedrah House Stud. "He's the new Old Vic!" declared the stallion owner, who is keen to raise the profile of the horse, and his stud, with the thoroughbred fraternity.

"He looks a racehorse doesn't he?" remarked winning owner Wilson Dennison, one of the host hunt's joint-Masters. "I knew I had a good horse on my hands and was just worried that this race might have come too soon after last week (beaten a neck by Carribs Leap at Durrow)."



● Chosen Native, an impressive son of Well Chosen, was part of a four-timer for Derek O'Connor