



Stradbally Family Fair and National Hound Show 6th July 2014

Endurance Ireland were delighted to be extended the invitation from the Laois Hunt to take part in the annual Stradbally Family Fair and National Hound Show held in the fabulous scenic venue of Cosby Hall. This is our second year taking part in this show and we were thrilled to be given the opportunity to stage our ride in this wonderful atmosphere with fantastic tracks throughout the estate. We would like to thank the Laois Hunt and the Cosby Family for allowing us to be part of this event.

This ride was the final leg of the 2014 Novice League with three contestants taking part on the day. The League was hotly contested with no clear winner before this leg. First out on track were Rosemarie with Zara and Martin with Shadow. The speed on the day was 12kph and the distance 36km. Rosemarie and Martin found the going so good that their final speed was 13.6kph, both horses easily passed the vet so it was down to heart rates to decide between the two. Our 3rd competitor on the day was Susanne on Apache. The first two competitors had a short wait to see what Susanne's speed would be as Susanne had left at a later time. Susanne and Apache paid close attention to their time and achieve a speed of 12.9kph. The results of the day were Susanne 1st, Rosemarie 2nd (due to Zara's excellent heart rates) and Martin 3rd.

Once the results were in for the final leg, it was clear who the winner of the 2014 League would be. Endurance Ireland would like to say a huge Congratulations to Rosemarie Ryan and Zara on winning the 2014 League. Rosemarie and Zara had a great league presenting with low heart rates throughout to seal their win. Second in the league was Martin Murphy who came back from a retirement in his first leg, well done to Martin who is in his first Endurance season. 3rd in the League was Mary Balkin with her Arab mare Shalimar (Princess), Mary and Princess are also in their first Endurance season so it was an impressive performance. We would like to thank and congratulate everyone who took part in this year's league and look forward to great things from these competitors in the rest of the season.

Next out on course were endurance veterans Terri and Evelyn Moore. Terri brought along Gales Hill Sabre who was undertaking his intermediate final, this young gelding is by the FEI 5* Stallion Dantean, standing at Delour Valley Stud. Terri was delighted with Sabre's performance around the 60km track, achieving a speed of just over 11kph. Evelyn brought her mare Boston Rose, this was Boston's Novice Final and she easily completed the 48km at

a speed of 12.3kph. Both Terri and Evelyn were thrilled with the results of the day and we are looking forward to seeing more of these horses in the future.

First of the trail riders to head out was Jill Dowd with her mare Tami. Tami and Jill are familiar faces in the Endurance world and we were delighted to have them out with us on the day. Jill enjoyed the 12km loop and said Tami was a bundle of energy the whole way round.

A number of riders from Trec joined us on the day, they were keen to check out the venue which will be the site of the Trec National Championships at the end of the month. They also felt it was an ideal opportunity to present their horses for the Endurance vetting which is similar to the vetting undertaken in Trec. First to arrive was Karen Reilly with her horse Roxy, she was soon joined by Edward and Aibhe on Blossom and Caspian. After vetting all headed out on course, completing 18km easily with all passing the post ride inspection quickly. Endurance Ireland wishes them the very best of luck in the Championships this year.

Kim and Melanie joined us again this year in Stradbally, this year Kim took Cloud 9 while Melanie was on the Endurance familiar Gales Hill Tara. Both riders enjoyed the loop so much they headed out again to undertake 24km. All four arrived back to the venue looking happy with smiles all round.

Jane Stanley joined us for the day with her gelding Moz. This proved a somewhat exciting venue for the Moz, however he soon settled and Jane was pleased with his performance. He easily completed the 12km loop and looked ready for much more.

Madison and Alana on Molly's sister and Bobbi headed out to do the loop. Madison having ridden here before was thrilled to be back in such a fun venue. Both girls headed out on course undertaking the 12km in a good time. Alana then headed out to do another 4km enjoying the going.

Joining Susanne on course were daughter Natasha and friend Eileen. Natasha has brought her mount Bronti who is no stranger to Endurance and has done a number of rides with Natasha already this year. Eileen Burrell fast becoming an Endurance regular brought her gelding Billy. Both riders were enjoying the day so much they undertook the loop twice doing 24km. All four arrived back home looking fresh having enjoyed their outing.

The Committee would like to thank all of our helpers on the day, especially vet Sinead Murray. If anyone would like to volunteer at one of our events please contact the organiser. Members, don't forget in order to be in with a chance for a trophy you must have helped at one of our events during the year.