



Rosegarland Ride 24th August 2014

This was our first ride in the beautiful Rosegarland Estate and we were delighted to be offered this opportunity by the host Sarah Keogh. This venue is open to the public with accommodation on offer for both horse and rider in this fantastic setting.

Lorcan O'Rourke with his mare Apache undertook the longest ride of the day with both taking on their first Open qualifier of 81km. Lorcan set off at 10.20am with Apache on the 20km loop. As Endurance Ireland follows FEI rules for vetting, there were 2 vetgates in the 81km ride. They had their first vetting after 35km, with Apache passing through easily, ably crewed by Mum Susanne. After the 20 minute hold they headed back out on course completing another 35km before the next vetgate and hold. Finally they took on the last 11km loop. Lorcan and Apache successfully completed their first 81km at a very impressive 13kph so a huge congratulations to them both.

We had four riders out to undertake Novice CRs on the day. First out were Evelyn and her mare Gales Hill Dawn. Dawn is an endurance veteran, at 13h having previously gone up to 75 miles successfully. She was accompanied by Anne on Gales Hill Simmie. Terri brought her new mare DVS Wanda out to undertake the second of her novice qualifiers and Mike brought round Gales Hill Drummer also undertaking his second novice qualifier. The 4 took on a 35km course consisting of long flowing bridle paths and stubble and grass fields. With only gentle hills this is a generous and scenic course with great views of the old Estate house and saw mills while riding along the bank of the river.

After completing the distance Simmie was first to call for vet, showing his experience with a quickly lowering heart rate and easy trot up. Dawn was next up passing the vet with ease and showing she hasn't forgotten how to complete a ride. Terri and Mike called for vet quickly after with both Drummer and Wanda passing without any trouble giving all CR riders and horses a very successful day.

We had a good turnout of trail riders as well on the day with Eileen and Billy heading out first on course, Eileen is a regular at Rosegarland Estate and Billy seemed happy to share the venue with a host of others. Adrian was out with Noddy, Adrian took the opportunity to put his horse through the endurance vetting to see what it was all about having no trouble passing the vet either at the start or on completion. Joy brought her mare Abbey with

Tracey on Scooby around the 20km course enjoying the start on the bridle paths leading to the big open stubble fields.

We had David on Troy and Carol on Jane also completing the 20km course with ease. Bobbie on Gales Hill Marco and Siobhan on Hannah headed out to do 15km. It's great to see this mother daughter pairing back in action this year and we look forward to seeing more of them before the end of the season.

Sarah brought her pony Sonic out for the day accompanying Una on her pony Nutmeg. They did 11km with Una's Mum leading her at the start but soon Una and Nutmeg were off around the fields under Sarah's watchful eye. Caroline a familiar face to Endurance arrived with Pie in the Sky and did a 10km course enjoying the views and going.

Endurance Ireland again would like thank our generous hosts Sarah and John Keogh for allowing us access to their beautiful estate and use of their extensive yards for parking and vetting. Sarah was also kind enough to accompany Ann Clarke marking the course the previous day and unmarking after the ride so a huge thank you to both. Thanks also to Natasha O'Malley-Moore for vetting throughout the day. Without all of you it would be impossible for us to have such fun days out so a heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers.