



Portlaw Ride 25th May 2014

We arrived at the beautiful venue of Portlaw early, on what started out a damp Sunday morning. However despite the damp start, the day became a beautiful sunny day perfect for riding through the scenic hills of Portlaw. With the Rhododendron in bloom everyone agreed the course was definitely at its best.

Our first riders to head out on the deceptively testing course were mother and daughter team Terri and Evelyn Moore. This was the first leg of our Open League and Terri was on her firm favourite Jehol's Song while Evelyn brought 18 years young Endurance veteran Gales Hill Boffin. All undertook the 83km hilly course completing all 3 vettings with ease. This was our first 80km course of the season and we were delighted to see speeds of over 13kph achieved. At the end of the day Terri won out with some very quick presentation times to vet beating Evelyn and Boffin by a short margin. It will be interesting to see how the league progresses over the next 3 venues but this writer expects competition will be hot!

Next to take on his Intermediate final as well as our Intermediate League was Lorcan O'Rourke. Lorcan brought out his mare Apache who had no problem achieving our set speed of 12kph. A big congratulations to Lorcan and Apache who achieved their Intermediate Qualification today, I can't wait to see this duo in the future.

Early to arrive at the venue were our Novice riders Mary Balkin, Rosemarie Ryan and Martin Murphy with the mares Princess, Zara and Vetch. Competition has been strong between this trio in the Novice League so far this year. The course was set at 37km with a set speed of 12kph. After a fast pace ride and a close to racing finish the League played out with Rosemarie and Zara 1st and Martin and Vetch 2nd and Mary and Princess 3rd.

We had a number of trail riders out on the day undertaking the 24km course. First out was Danny Hoey on the brave Murphy. Danny undertook the trail ride easy and is clearly training for next year's competitive season. Eileen Burrell brought out the new to Endurance Billy and Natasha O'Rourke on the reliable Bronti. Both had great fun around the course finishing with both horses looking ready and willing to go on further.

As always Endurance Ireland would like to remind everyone that these days cannot take place without the cooperation and help of a host of people. First I would like to thank

Coillte and the O'Hara family for hosting our event today. A huge thank you to our vet Chris McGrath whose help was greatly appreciated and without whom we would not have been able to run the event. And finally Emily Miller who made a huge effort to make the day the success it was. Looking forward to seeing you all at Timahoe for our BBQ ride.