

Ballyhale 25th March 2012

Endurance Ireland arrived in Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny on a super Sunday morning. This ride was organised by the O'Carroll family and was very kindly hosted by the Dempsey family. Very quickly the Dempsey's yard was taken over by horse boxes on the morning.

This was the first competitive ride (CR) of the season and soon our vet on the day Margaret Wilson was busy putting our CR riders through their paces in the pre-ride vetting. All 7 CR horses passed ready to go out on course. Peter and Andrea put together a lovely course with plenty of tracks on which all the riders could move on and keep a nice constant speed, the lack of road work also helped in the good speeds.

Geraldine Hendricken on Lucy arrived down to go out on course and complete her first novice ride of 41km in 2hrs 58min with a average speed of 13.8kph, a great start to a competitive season. Paul Leete who rode with Geraldine was unfortunate to pick up a back injury and made the decision to retire after 17km.

Terri and Evelyn Moore were out on seasoned horses Jehol's Song and Galeshill Boffin. They took their horses out on the nice 41km course coming back in at a handy 12.61kph. These riders opted for a drive-thru on the 2nd loop picking up a hotdog from the BBQ before going back out on course !

Emily Miller brought Thababy Shorook (Penny) to Ballyhale and decided on the 34km route. Emily and Penny went out on course and enjoy the tracks at a comfortable 12kph.

Andrea and Peter O'Carroll both rode on the day with Andrea taking out her mare Kildalton Spice and Peter bringing out his stallion Shanis Rioni. Andrea's mare unfortunately with lame out on course and decided to retire out on course. Andrea's mare was then brought back in a horse box which her mother Majella brought out to meet her. Peter had Shanis out for the first time this year and completed the 34km course in 2hrs 28min @12.14kph.

Gillian Corcoran and Karina Fitzgerald were back out again this time on their own horses Philly and Travis and took on the 31km trail ride(TR) course. Mary-Ann Balkin and Danny Hoey on Hope and Charlie took on the 17km TR, this was Mary and Dannys first time out with Endurance Ireland. Lois Sheehan , Lydia Harper, Lorreto McDonnell and Jennifer Sweeney also arrived in Ballyhale to try out the trail ride course for the first time . All the trail riders were given the opportunity to avail of student vet Sinead Murray who put the horses through the vetting procedure. Anne Kinsella was on site to take on the roll of vet writer and time keeper while Yvonne Croke took on the job as chef for the day !

Results

Geraldine Hendricken Lucy (Pass)

Paul Leete Villejes (Retired rider injury)

Terri Moore Jehole's Song (Pass)

Evelyn Moore Galeshill Boffin (Pass)

Emily Miller Thababy Shorook (Pass)

Andrea O'Carroll Kildalton Spice (Retired on course lame)

Peter O Carroll Shanis Rioni (Pass)