



This is the second year that Endurance Ireland has held an endurance event near Ballyhale in Kilkenny and once again it was a huge success.

It has to be said right from the start a heartfelt thank you to the Dempsey family who allowed us access to and parking on their farmyard. Indeed they also stabled the horse of one of our competitors who travelled to the event a day early so that he could rest his horse for the Novice Competition.

The day started with the promise of some fine weather and good forestry tracks. A large entry for the second leg of the novice competition meant that it was going to be a busy one.

As riders were only to arrive at the venue from 10 am it meant that things got under way at a frantic pace the competitors for the Novice Ride Series were getting horses ready to vet eager to tackle the 35.2km distance.

First to leave the venue was Gerhard Terpherlle on Jaro and Anne Kinsella on Gales Hill Tara they were swiftly followed by Lorcan O' Rourke on Apache. For all three of these competitor's it was the first leg of the series that they have competed in.

Next to leave were Andrea O' Carroll on Kildalton Spice, Sam Linton on Ballycoolin Hero (Cecil) and Zoe Mortimor on Crystal this the second time that this trio have ridden together and were determined to increase their speeds and ranking in the table.

Leaving the venue next were the mother and daughter team of Amy Schwan on Klarissa and Anke Schwan on Pallas another very determined pairing looking forward to the challenge that lay ahead.

The final rider to take on the second leg of the novice series was Eamon Conway on Francie. Eamon was the leader of the series as thing stood at the beginning of the day.

That means that there were nine horse and rider combinations out on track aiming to complete the 35.2km route at a set speed of 12km per hour in just less than 3 hours.

As the day progressed all riders and horses traversed the course and all finished the distance and vetted sound. This alone is a great result as the welfare of the horse is paramount. Congratulations to all for completing the 35.2km.

When the ride speed and time taken to complete the course was worked out the winner was Amy Schwan on Klarissa, for the win Amy was awarded 3 points all others were awarded 2 points for completion of the ride. This ties first place between Amy Schwan on Klarissa and Eamon Conway on Francie who are both now on 5 points after two events but it is still all to play for as competitors get to grips with the set pace of 12km per hour. The results and placings after two events can be found on [www.enduranceireland.ie](http://www.enduranceireland.ie) on the Race Ride League page.

On the trail ride side, we were very pleased also to be joined by 17 other horse and rider combinations some trying the discipline for the first time and some who are more experienced.

It was great to be joined by Terri and Evelyn Moore some of the most experienced members of Endurance Ireland on their veteran mounts Jehol's Song and Gales Hill Boffin, they easily completed the course enjoying the day. Also back with us were Breda Heary and her faithful Bailey bringing her daughter Aoife on her first Endurance ride with her new pony, well done Aoife. Alish Houlihan also came out with her Draught mare who also seemed to enjoy the course, she accompanied Breda and Aoife. Patricia Short joined us again with her Irish Draught, Patricia quickly completed an 17km course.

Mary Booth, Mary Kennedy and Sarah Jane Spencer joined us again having enjoyed Kinnity and undertook the 17km course with ease.

Newcomers Jane Doyle on Pierre and Stephen Tarant on Castlewarren lass headed out to do the 17km for their first go at Endurance. Both horses arrived back in looking fresh having enjoyed their spin round. We were also joined by a group of riders from Kylebrook Equestrian Portlaoise, Stef, Steven, Lisa, Sharon, Eilish and Clodagh all headed out on their mounts to see the scenery around Ballyhale

The organisers Peter & Andrea O Carroll would like thank all who attended and helped to make it an enjoyable and successful day. We would also like to thank Yvonne Croke who vetted all the horses before and after completing the course and had a very busy day.

Once again thank you to the Dempsey family for the use of their yard, and thank you to Coillte for permission to ride through the forestry.