



Beach Ride 8th September 2013

Where else would you rather be on a beautiful September morning? Our 2nd day at the beach this year was significantly warmer than the first with the sun in the sky and very few clouds. First to arrive at the venue was Sarah Butler with Misty Morning Dew, Sarah has joined us before on the beach and headed out to do the 19.5km. Misty wasn't convinced she should be the first horse out on the beach but she soon settled in and headed off down the sand.

Next to arrive were Mary Kennedy with Sailor and Mary Booth with Cyrstal. Both ladies decided to do the 19.5km stretch. Neither horse had ever seen the sea before however both adjusted quickly having no trouble with the new sights and sounds, in fact Cyrstal even seemed to enjoy her little paddle before heading home.

Willow O'Carroll on her pony Charlie was next to arrive with her family. Mom and Dad Andrea and Pter and Grandmother Majella were all on hand to see Willow complete her Mini Intermediate Strides Grading so well done Willow.

Lorcan and Suzanne O'Rourke arrived down with Apache and Bronte. Lorcan and Suzanne decide to do a 36km CR on the beach. This was Suzanne's Novice final and Bronte's first CR. First to arrive back in was Lorcan on Apache with Suzanne and Bronte following closely behind. Bronte's love of the water saw Suzanne using it to cool the gelding down before bringing him in to vet. Both horses were then ably crewed by Emer Lennon and presented to Endurance Judge Yvonne Croke where they both passed. Well done to Suzanne on achieving her Novice Final.

Next to arrive were Breda and Pat O'Brien with some of their riders from Rockafoyle Stables. First to head out were Philip Murphy on Sammy with his children Alice on Oscar and Tom on Captain, accompanied by Mike O'Brien on Innocent, the four headed out across the sand and went on to enjoy the 19.5km course.

Next out were Breda on Shang, Pat on George accompanying, Erin on Tulusa, Stephano on Blue, Jennifer on Ginger, Julie on Willow, Sarah on Mason, Shona on Star, Sammy on Bubbles and Jodie on Elvis. All riders took it gently at the start to allow their horses' time to get used to the new venue with the waves crashing gently on the sand.

Last to head out on course were Lisa O'Neill on Darcy, Ellie on Tissue, Dan on Penny and Amy on Larry. The riders undertook the course with ease with all horses taking to life at the beach quickly.

All 24 riders enjoyed the day at the beach with a few trying a swim as well as the ride. We finished up with a birthday cake as the 9th of September is Endurance Ireland's 2nd Birthday and we celebrated another successful year.

We would like to thank Wexford County Council for allowing us to hold our event there this weekend and also thanks to Yvonne Croke for her work as Endurance Judge. We look forward to returning to the beach again next year for more sun, sea and horses!