

BODYKE, Co.Clare, 15th July

Eamom Conway welcomed Endurance Ireland with open arms into Co.Clare and the village of Bodyke on what was a super Sunday morning given the wet summer we have had so far.

With a lot of people travelling to Clare on the morning most made it safe and sound with the exception of two riders. One being our own treasurer Anne Kinsella whose jeep decided to complain just as she came off the road and into the venue! Luckily for Anne she was back on her way into the venue and took off up into the mountain on Galeshill Tara alongside Evelyn Moore on her pony Marco. It was Marcos first time out doing a trail ride so Anne and Evelyn took them around on a gentle 18km TR.

One other rider who was unfortunate was Louise Mitchell who arrived only to find that her horse had stood on itself while travelling and made the right decision not to go out on course.

Before the hold up into the venue with the jeep incident our first rider out on course was Gerhard Terpelle who came from Kinvara . Gerhard had been to a ride earlier on in the year to check what it was all about and so travelled out to do 12km course followed by a nice picnic with Emma .

Terri Moore and Pat Carty riding Gales Hill Boffin and Gales Hill Sabre respectively took on the 24km course which brought them up to "The seat" which was literally a wooden seat that looked out over Lough Derg and into the village of Killaloe. It was worth the travelling for that site alone.

Next to arrive was Eamon and his daughter Roisin , Eamon also carried Emer Lennon's horse as Eamon had not only put up her horse but also Breda Heary and Rosemarie Ryan's horses for the night. Eamon and Roisin both took on the 24km as did Emer Lennon with Damascus D'Azat. Breda and Rosemarie took on the 12km coming back in after taking their horses around handily.

Caroline Birmingham along with her daughter Merissa came up from Tipperary with their horses and were the only two unfortunate riders to be caught out in the rain , luckily for them they were nearly home but the rain came down strong and hard.

Leane Meer and her daughter Aoife on their horses Misty and Bubbles arrived to take on the 12km trail which they did with gusto. It is great to see new riders young and not so young out trying their hand at endurance. Luck for us Leane has a lovely course at hand so keep your eyes on the news with a new venue coming soon.

Last and by no means least to arrive at the venue alongside Louise were Niamh O'Malley, Nicki Jolinson, Laura Hassett and Michael Moloney who all travelled from Kilrush in Co.Clare. Yet again it was super to see new faces out with us. The four took on the 12km trail with no problems at all. With the amount of interest show in the West it will not be long before Endurance Ireland will be back over.

19 riders out on a day which didn't know if it was going to rain or shine was great to see. Thank you to Eamon for a super course with fantastic views and thank you to Emer and Yvonne for helping with the course marking and on the ground work on the day.