



## **Kinnity Castle CR and TR**

Cold, downpours and gale force winds are just some of the words that will have been associated with the first Kinnity ride this year. But in the true spirit of Endurance the Met warning of storms and heavy rain did not put off a good number of our riders or some new visitors to endurance.

First to arrive at the venue were mother and daughter pair Anka and Amy Schwann followed closely by local riders Sam Linton, Zoe Mortimer and crew John Delaney who only had to travel over the mountain for their trip. Our second mother and daughter duo was Terri and Evelyn Moore followed shortly along with Eamon Conway all the way from Co. Clare and Tullamore rider Suzanne O'Rourke. At this stage ride organiser Yvonne Croke was feeling more positive on with numbers, like all organisers when the weather is not playing ball on the day of the ride!

The O'Carroll family were next to land at the venue including Andrea who was riding with her crew Peter, Zoey, Willow, Baby Billy and Andrea's mum Magella.

A lorry and horse box pulled up with Laois Hunt riders Mary Booth, Mary Kennedy, Rebecca Garven and Sarah Jane Spencer, all four riders completed the 17.6km with ease. Sean Searson also came for his first time to see what endurance was all about and both Sean and his mare took to it like a duck to water (given the weather this seems very apt) completing the 17.6km again with ease.

This was the first leg of our Novice League and riders took on the 35.2km course with an optimum speed of 12kph being set for the day.

Eamon, Amy, Andrea and Sam all took on the challenge. Eamon started out alongside Amy and her mum Anka (who rode the first 17.6km). Both Eamon and Amy passed the vet before and after setting them up nicely for the rest of the league. This was Amy's first CR let alone first attempt at an optimum speed ride, well done Amy.

It was with great delight we saw Andrea O'Carroll out in the league as this was Andrea's first time back in the competitive saddle since the birth of Billy. Andrea and Sam rode side by side out on course and were then joined by Zoe Mortimer who rode 30km at her first ride ever in endurance, well done to Zoe also.

52.8km is a lot of kilometres to ride in driving winds and heavy downpours but Evelyn and Terri Moore covered ever kilometre of it and their horses skipped in gaily at the end of it passing the vet yet again with ease.

As the day came to an end riders got some sausages and tea and coffee into them while trying not to let everything blow away but luckily at that stage the rains had stopped and the sun was doing its best to come out !

So as the league stands as of Sunday it reads as follows

Eamonn Conway	3pts
Amy Schwann	2pts
Andrea O'Carroll	2pts
Sam Linton	1pt