



Kinnity Castle

The 25th of August saw Endurance Ireland once again return to Co. Offaly and Kinnity Castle. This was the fifth and final leg of the novice league and what a league it was.

On the day it was a guessing game right to the very end as to who would win. In the running for first place in the league was Amy Schwan, Eamon Conway and Lorcan O'Rourke and it would all come down to heart rates! At the start of the day Eamon was on 8 points and Amy and Lorcan were on 7 points so a win for Eamon would give him an outright win but a win for Amy or Lorcan would tie them with Eamon! Lorcan was first back into the venue and came in on exactly 12kph in 3hr49min which was a great result. It was then a long wait for Lorcan to see how Amy and Eamon finished their ride. After all the horses were in and vetted it was Eamon and Lorcan who both had 9 points and then went to heart rates for 1st and 2nd place.

1st place went to Eamon on his ever faithful Irish Draught Francie. 2nd place went to 1st season rider Lorcan O'Rourke and his 1st season mare Apache, a result he can be very proud of and 3rd place went to Amy Schwan on her Killossery Star mare Killossery Klarissa both of whom are both 1st season competitors also, well done Amy.

Andrea O'Carroll of Hollow Arabians gained her Intermediate qualifications on her arab mare Spice on Sunday and was accompanied by her husband Peter on his FEI 1* stallion Shanis Riona. It was great to see Andrea get her qualifications on this mare and it will see her now compete at intermediate level at the National Championships. As Andrea said "I love this course and it has been good to me over the years" and this year it certainly has.

Evelyn Moore took her home bred gelding by Dantean around the intermediate course for his first time doing 65km. Galeshill Sabre came in comfortably with 30mins to spare. Terri, Evelyn's mother, said "She was delighted in how he rode over the course of the day" and "He drank at ever crew point along the course". Having ridden the horse myself and seen how well he did on Sunday this is a horse people will need to keep an eye on over the next few years!

We had a good number of trail riders out with us once again including Kenna Chapman and Natalie Hayden. Also Zoe Mortimer brought Faye Nolan out to join us. The west showed up in abundance, aside from Eamon, we also had Claire Walsh and mother and daughter team Leanne and Aoife Meere on her super pony Bubbles. With 18 riders out in total it was, as our ride secretary on the day Sam Linton said, "it was a good day!"

Once again we would like to thank Kinnity Castle for inviting us in to the grounds and giving us the fantastic facilities and also to Coillte for the use of the forest up in the fantastic Slieve Blooms. We would also like to thank Sinead Murray and Niamh Bannon our Vets for the day.