



### Stradbally IDHBA Eventing & Endurance Day

Well our day at Stradbally was well worth the wait with beautiful weather smiling down upon all who turned up for the ride at the IDBHA Laois Branch Eventing and Endurance Event. We started our event early on Sunday morning so as to ensure that all of our riders were off the course before the Cross Country started at the one day event and to allow people to take part in all of the events on offer on the day.

First to arrive and enthusiastic to head out on course was one of our CR riders Madison Flaherty on her pony Bobby, Madison was undertaking the 44km course which was the second leg of our Spring League. The set speed was 14km and after making short work of the course Bobby sailed through the vetting with a nice quick presentation time.

Of course the main focus of the day was on one of our Native Breeds the Irish Draught horse and we had 3 beautiful examples of the breed take part in the Endurance section of the event. As some horses go one to continue on the day, the course for the Irish Draught competition was 22.2km long with a set speed of 14kph as the target.

First out was newcomer to the sport Izabela Windak with her mare Diamond, Izabela recently took part in our Training Day, held at the Field Equestrian Centre and was all set to take on the competition. This mare has a beautiful stride and we are looking forward to seeing more of her in the future.

Next out on course was Kevin Brennan on his ID mare June, Kevin was accompanied by his daughter Alannah on her pony Jerry. Kevin and Alanah are first timers to the sport of Endurance but were keen to undertake the event.

Our final Irish Draught combination are very familiar to Endurance Ireland followers, Yvonne Croke and David Cosby's Ballycullen Minerva. This combination headed out on the course determined to bring home the red.

All ID combinations returned home and then it was time for vetting, Emer Lennon, was undertaking the role of Endurance Judge on the day and ably brought all 3 horses through the required checks. Then it was on to Paddy Miller our Chairperson to announce the winners.

1<sup>st</sup> Place            Yvonne Croke with Ballycullen Minerva at 14.1kph

2<sup>nd</sup> Place            Kevin Brennan with June at 12.47kph

3<sup>rd</sup> Place            Izabela Windak with Diamond at 11.93kph

With minimum speeds of 10kph required for standard CRs you can see from above that this breed is more than suited to the sport of Endurance.

Quickly on the heels of the Irish Draught competitors was Patrick Byrne on Amber, Patrick and Amber were also undertaking the 44km CR course. The duo were joined by Bobbie Ovington on her veteran mare Coolhenry Hanna for the second half of their CR. Unfortunately as is the case with Endurance occasionally the day is not with you and Patrick and Amber did not pass the ride. However both rider and horse are fit and healthy and ready ride on another day.

Our second father daughter duo of the day were next to head off on the trail ride track with Pat Cooney and daughter Niamh bringing their enthusiastic mounts Ringo and Gypsy. Pat and Niamh were on their usual form bringing their mounts out for the maximum distance as always.

Terri Moore arrived with DVS Wanda and Pat Carthy brought along Gales Hill Boston Rose. Terri and Pat elected to do a trail ride on the day heading off around the 22.2km course enjoying the going and the sunshine.

Eileen Burrell, a familiar face to Endurance Ireland arrive with her gelding Billy, and headed out on course. Eileen as always did not hang around and quickly completed almost 20km on her willing mount.

Sean C with his amazing gelding Theo arrived with local Niall McAuliffe on Tincan Tom. First timers to the sport of Endurance the two men decided to give their horses a quick spin around the 11km course finishing in good time.

Marcus McCormack on the handsome Ben and Claire Caplice riding the lovely Ralph, arrived with niece Becca on Bonnie to undertake the 11km course. All three enjoying the riding and beautiful weather on the day.

Ann Clarke with her Arab mare Jasmine arrived over to take out the course. It was great to see this pairing out and about both seeming to enjoy the course especially with the nice warm sunshine.

Two local riders Paddy and Regina Quinn came to Stradbally with Paddy brining Tia Maria this time and Regina bringing the aptly named Rosie Rebel. This is familiar going for the pair who had no trouble finding their way around.

Vickie McMullen and Liz Burbage were next to arrive on the day to undertake the 11km, with their mounts Duke and Maggie, the ladies enjoyed the course with the going proving popular.

Gerry and Debra were our last riders out on course, with Debra bringing the lovely Pips and Gerry bringing the striking Squeak. The foursome headed out around the 11km course.

The course rode well with all of the riders commenting on the favourable going which is always available in this fantastic venue. Our League results were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Madison Flaherty on Bobby

Well done to all the competitors and indeed all who took part on the day, we are always delighted to encourage our Native Breeds into the sport of Endurance and it was great to see so many amazing

animals in the venue on the day. Thanks to Emer Lennon for stepping into the breach on the day and acting as Endurance Judge. We would like to thank the IDHBA and the Cosby Family for allowing us the use of their amazing estate as a venue for the competition.