



Rosegarland Ride 13th September 2015

Wexford welcomed Endurance Ireland with another yellow weather alert and while it just threatened for the first hour while riders were going through the vetting with Vet Declan Kehoe, it soon made an appearance. In spite of the weather we were delighted to see a great turn out at this fantastic venue in Rosegarland Estate even when the heavens opened strong and hard.

Our competitive riders (CRs) really had a tough couple of hours riding, with all six CRs getting the brunt of the heavy downpours. Evelyn Moore bringing her third string Boston Rose through her first intermediate ride along with Madison Flaherty and her pony Bobby also attempting their first intermediate. These weather conditions did not make for easy riding with the going getting heavier as the day went on and a midway vetting putting both crew and riders under pressure to present their horses with the wind and rain punishing everyone.

Luckily Evelyn and Madison completed the 63.5km, finishing with great heart rates and very happy horses. Well done to both ladies.

Next out on course were Patrick Byrne on his mare Amber and Bobbie Ovington on Hanna. Bobbie and Hanna went through their Novice Grade earlier this season but this was Patrick and Amber's Novice final. Our vet Declan was again really pleased with the fitness of all horses on the day and how they all went. Bobbie's mare had no problem around the course and passed with ease. Patrick's mare Amber took on a tough track for her Novice final, while it was a flat course the going was heavy due to the rain. This young mare has come through all her Novice rides really well and thankfully today was no different. Patrick and Amber only took up endurance riding during at the start of the summer so we are delighted to congratulate Patrick on how much he has achieved this season.

While Evelyn was out taking on a higher distance, mum Terri took on a shorter distance of 36km with Gales Hill Boffin, she rode along with Mike Cuddihy and Gales Hill Sabre. Both of these combinations have ridden together over the years. Both Terri and Mike passed the vet and then it was off to sort the horses out, followed by a change of clothes for the riders. Pat Carthy rode a trail ride along with Terri and Mike for most of the way bringing out Gales Hill Drummer. Drummer is well known to all Endurance Ireland members, and has brought many a first time rider to endurance around on his back. On Sunday, he and Pat, a regular combination, took on the fields of Rosgarland. Unfortunately like every horses and rider on the day they got caught in the heavy rain while out on course.

Eamon and Rosin Conway, well known to Endurance Ireland, missed out on last year at Rosegarland but decided to make the trip this year. They set out from Tulla, in Co. Clare on Saturday evening. As you can imagine it is a very long drive from Clare to Wexford especially on a Sunday morning!

Another Endurance Ireland regular Eileen Burrell on her mare Lucy arrived accompanied by a new rider Kian McGee out on her coloured pony Buttons, both easily managed the trail ride. Another pair of regular riders were Stephen Trant and Claire Doyle who travelling from Kilkenny and also took on the trail ride. Like all our riders they got a watering on course thanks to the Irish weather.

Wexford based riders Sofie Meehan and Ciara Fogarty on their mounts Be and Dusty came out to enjoy the day in Rosegarland, it is great to see riders coming out to the sport of Endurance. Both ladies took on the trail ride with ease with both horses skipping back to the venue.

Sarah Keogh who owns this spectacular venue and Ann Clarke, a regular rider, set out the course earlier in the week, with Sarah and her husband marking the course. We really appreciate their help as all of the work was done for us, Sarah also unmarked the course. Thanks must also go to Sam Linton who did the groundwork on the day and Yvonne Croke who was on hand for expert crewing on the day. Thank you to Declan Kehoe and his daughter who carried out our vetting duties for the day. We love this venue and look forward to returning to Rosegarland next year.