



Kinnity Ride 15th March 2015

Endurance Ireland took to the Slieve Blooms for the first ride of March. This ride always brings great numbers because of the great going of this free flowing course. First out on course was George Prior on Spirt along with Laura and her Connemara Joe. These two ladies took on the 17km trail ride with great speeds and Spirt sailing through the vetting. While vetting is not a must in the trail rides we encourage riders to put their horses through the process so when it comes to undertaking a competitive ride it is not daunting to horse or rider.

Terri Moore on her seasoned FEI horse, Jehol's Song took on the 68km track and flew through the vetting under the ever careful eye of our vet Natasha O'Malley-Moore. Riding with Terri was Mike Cuddihy on another Galeshill horse, Galeshill Sabre who is making his way through the grades at a very successful rate with only one more 80km ride to achieve his open status. Word on the grapevine says he will be trying to achieve that at the Stradbally ride in April.

We were delight to have so many young riders out which also means good numbers for the inter schools competition. Natasha O'Rourke, Madison Flaherty, Adam Boyhan, Bobbie Ovington and Alana Dohney all took to the trails with our riders taking on distances from 8km up to 25km which means the future of endurance in Ireland is looking very safe.

While we had our young riders out doing their thing we also had some parents out going the distance too Susanne O'Rourke and Siobhan Ovington took on the 25km course with their daughters. It is great to see some rivalry among the senior riders too.

New riders out with us Vicky Farrell and Alana Dohney took on the 17km course along with Kenna Chapman, Kenna has been out with Endurance Ireland numerous times with her eye catching horse Pilgrim.

Tara Creighton made the trip down from Kildare with her Draught horse Zee, while Tara headed out on course husband Joe and the kids did a bit of trekking themselves. It was great to Zee back after he had taken a year out of work. Well done Tara on bringing him back to his former glory.

Last but by no means least were Sarah and Harry Wall from Mountrath on Black Jack and Zendan. Sarah and Harry both took on the 17km track with their sport horses with both combinations coming home very happy.

As a special thank you and celebration of International Woman's day and Mother's Day boxes of chocolates were given to all our woman riders. As always we would like to thank the people who made this day possible, Yvonne Croke as organiser, Ben Croke as marker and vet writer and Natasha O'Malley-Moore our vet on the day. Thanks also to Kinnity Castle for allowing us the use of their wonderful grounds as a venue and Coillte for permitting us to use the forestry.