



2014 National Championships

This year's National Championships were supported by IPB Insurance with prizes sponsored by: Mountrath Credit Union, Wrafter Agri Feed Mountrath, Holmstead Saddlery, Brown's Jewelers Portlaoise and the IDHBA. Our sponsors were once again fantastic this year and we would like to thank them for helping us make this ride such a huge success.

This year's National Championships saw Endurance Ireland once again return to Larkfield just outside of Athy, Co. Kildare. Paddy Miller played host to yet again a great turn out of riders with numbers up on previous year which is great to see.

With a change of dates from the usual third weekend in September to the first weekend in October the weather and also the availability of land was a concern, as most will know the course is run over stubble and grass and come this time of the year farmers are starting to sow but thanks to the farmers and our course manager Paddy Miller and his crew PJ Ward and Paddy Doogue a fabulous course was offered to our riders.

THE OPEN CLASS

The Open Class consisted of Mother/Daughter duo Evelyn and Terri Moore on their experienced mounts Galeshill Boffin and Jehol's Song. Both riders hit the tracks with a very steady 16kph on the first loop with both riders going through the vetting quickly and all under the careful eye of vet Natasha O'Malley-Moore who had a very busy day. Terri and Evelyn were riding pretty much neck and neck for most of the day and now had come in for their 2nd vet gate at 64km (we run our rides to mirror the FEI standards and therefore had 2 midway vetting in the 80km rides). This is where a rider can break away and that's just what Terri did by vetting slightly quicker than Evelyn this gave Terri a couple of minutes in hand. Terri was back out on course with Evelyn hot on her heels to make up for those lost minutes in the vet gate and did we have a super finish ...we certainly did with Evelyn pipping Terri at the post with a really strong racing finish, the finishing speed for both riders was 16kph on the day. Results: 1st Place Evelyn Moore & Gales Hill Boffin, 2nd Place Terri Moore and Jehol's Song

THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Lorcan O'Rourke and his super tri colour mare Apache in the Intermediate Class were next to head out on course, this combination have had a super year and will be competing in the Open classes next year, this will be a pair to watch out for in the ERs of 2015. Lorcan completed the day at a speed of 13kph so congratulations to him.

THE NOVICE CLASS

Anne Kinsella and Mike Cuddihy were next out on course and taking on the Novice class of 40km. Anne riding veteran Galeshill Scimitar while Mike took on the younger Galeshill Sabre. The pair maintained a steady speed throughout the day finishing on just a fraction under the set speed of 13kph. However experienced showed in the veteran Simi who vetted quickly with a heart rate of 48. Results 1st Place Anne Kinsella & Gales Hill Scimitar, 2nd Place Mike Cuddihy & Gales Hill Sabre

THE IRISH DRAUGHT INDIVIDUAL & TEAM EVENT

Sam Linton and Trish Short were next out on course as the Laois Branch for the Irish Draught class both as individuals and as a team, Sam and her draught Cecil both went on the also complete their Intermediate Final at 14kph. Trish brought round her gelding Monty. The next Irish Draught team out on course were Helen Kelly and Lorraine Murphy from Mullingar with Ailis Holohan and David Cosby forming the third team. Eamon Conway and Tara Creighton competed in the Individual ID Class. David met up with Sam Linton and Lorcan O'Rourke who were now out on their 3rd and 4th loops to complete his 32km. This was the first time a team event has been run for Irish Draught where it was all registered Irish Draught competing against each other. It was fantastic to see so many riders out enjoying their horses while being competitive. Team Results: 1st Place Sam Linton & Trish Short, 2nd Place David Cosby & Ailis Holohan, 3rd Place Helen Kelly & Lorraine Murphy. Individual Results: 1st Place David Cosby, 2nd Place Sam Linton and 3rd Place Trish Short

TRAIL RIDE CLASS

The trail ride class was well attended this year with first of the Trail Riders out on the 32km course mother daughter team Siobhan and Bobbi Ovington (Bobbi was in the Young Riders Class). Siobhan brought her own mare Coolhenry Hannah over the course. Next out on Course were trail ride veteran Margaret King with Gales Hill Drummer bringing Endurance Novices Pat Carthy and Boston Rose. Galeshill had a total of seven horses out on the day range from Drummer and Margaret in the trail class all the way up to Terri and Evelyn doing the 80km Open. George and Laura were the next out on the course in the trail ride class, this was their first Endurance Event and we hope to see more of them next year. Sabine Gruuing had her first day out with Endurance

Ireland but being from Mountrath she is now riding out with Sam and Cecil. Paddy Doogue brought out two horses for the Trail ride Class, first his own mare followed by Emily Millers mare Penny. Results: 1st Place Siobhan Ovington, 2nd Paddy Doogue, 3rd Joint Place George and Lauren Robinson

YOUNG RIDERS CLASS

Our Young Rider class was well supported with riders coming far away as Co.Clare with Roisin Conway and as local as Bobbi Ovington. Bobbi riding a Gales Hill pony Marco undertook the 16km course and continued on with Mum Siobhan to do another 16km, this gave Bobbi the most mileage on the day so well done Bobbi and Marco. Roisin and her pony Peppy did the course with Dad Eamon who was competing in the ID Class. Madison Flaherty on Molly's Sister and brother George on Bobbi took to the tracks with dad Richard on camera duty for the day, with all of the mileage under their belts already this year, the 4 had no trouble with the 16km. Newcomers Laura and Leanne on Harry and Tara also headed out to complete the 16km track. Bobbi Ovington and Marco were awarded the Young Rider Award in this class.

Riders were lucky on the day that the weather held off for most of the day, only coming towards the end did it come in hot and heavy for a number of riders who were presenting for vetting but this didn't stop our vet nor did the horses really seem to mind.

Our National Championship could not have happened if it was not for a number of people. We would like to thank the on the ground people on the day: Rosemarie Ryan for keeping all our records in check for the day, Kevin Croke for the time keeping both at the start and finish line and the vet gate, Damien Kenny for our passport control, Paddy Miller, PJ Ward and Paddy Doogue for the course marking, Ben Croke for vet writing and Natasha O'Malley-Moore our vet.