



The Heath 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

Well unfortunately for once the weather forecast was spot on, and our day on the Heath was wet and cold for the most part. However this is a great venue and bad weather never deters Endurance Riders!

First to arrive on site were Teresa and Evelyn Moore with Gales Hill Sabre and Gales Hill Boffin. The ladies were getting an early start as Sabre was undertaking his first Open qualifier of 80km. Evelyn was riding out with the Endurance veteran Boffin, who was on hand to provide encouragement for the first 48km. The two horses were quickly inspected by vet Sinead Murray who is a familiar face to Endurance Ireland. The foursome set off on the 8km loop setting a good pace of 13kph.

Next to arrive at the venue was George with her gelding Spirit. George did 13km of a loop and Spirit seemed to really enjoy the venue stepping out into a lovely Endurance trot as he passed the venue by, halfway through his ride.

Kenna Chapman rejoined us this year bringing the magnificent Pilgrim out for his first ride of the season. Pilgrim seemed to really enjoy the open course with Kenna reporting he was very happy to be out and about.

Madison Flaherty had the lovely Molly out accompanied by Tommy on Bobbie. Madison is racking up the mileage this year, with both Tommy and herself undertaking 4 loops which was the maximum trail distance available on the day. They clearly enjoyed the going with the two ponies proving their fitness.

Mother and daughter team Susanne and Natasha brought out Apache and Bronte, they were lucky as they managed to arrive and ride between the showers staying nice and dry. Natasha completed 13km with Susanne and Apache heading out again, the additional mileage no problem to this Open qualified mare.

Yvonne Croke and Sam Linton arrived with Diamond and Cecil, the ladies had decided to undertake a 48km CR. In the true spirit of Endurance, Yvonne and Sam started a little later in the day in order to provide companionship to Terri and Sabre as they finished their 80km.

Evelyn and Boffin were the first to finish their CR passing the vet in under 10 minute. Evelyn was very pleased with both Boffin's speed of just over 12kph and his quick recovery time. The

remaining CRs completed the course together, with Diamond vetting almost immediately on her return to venue. Proving her experience and fitness she easily passed the veterinary check and looked ready for more. Cecil (Ballycoolan Hero) wasn't far behind and easily completed his first CR of the season.

Quickly following his companions Gales Hill Sabre presented to be vetted and was declared passed, to the delight of his rider Teresa Moore who had put in a cold day in the saddle.

Endurance Ireland would like to thank everyone who helped on and before the day especially Sinead Murray who was kind enough to give up her Sunday to help us out and Mike Cuddihy who helped un-mark the course.