



29th September 2015 Endurance Ireland National Championships

Our National Championships were hosted yet again by Vice Chairman Paddy Miller from his farm in Larkfield just outside of Athy, Co. Kildare on Sunday 27th of September. We are always extremely grateful to Paddy and the super course he sets every year and once again riders were not let down. Larkfield is a fantastic course consisting of stubble and grassland with the minimal of road. This course allows horses a lovely free flowing event and speeds on the day reflected that.

The morning of the ride saw the venue cloaked in a cloud of fog which the ride committee hoped would soon burn off into a nice day for horses and riders. Luckily the weather came good by the time riders started to arrive just after 8am.

Our vet Nicole Fenton got stuck into vetting horses as soon as she arrived. All our horses including our Trail ride class and our Irish Draught class went through the vetting procedure on the day. This is in case of a time tie the winner would then be decided by horse presentation times and heart rates. All horses on the day have been through the vetting before as riders are encouraged to be vetted from trail ride distance up. With the exception of the open class all our classes were set at 13kph on the day.

Open Champion

Our Open Championship this year was won by Terri Moore and her Arab cross Gales Hill Boffin. Boffin is well known to all riders as he has been competing for many years, first under Terri and then under her daughter Evelyn. Terri took on the course in gusto with Boffin knowing where he was and what his job was on the day. Terri and Boffin cruised around the course sailing through the midway vettings and finishing up in style as he started with a strong canter across the finish line.

Intermediate Champion

Mike Cuddihy and his mount Sabre, also a Gales Hill horse, took the intermediate title on Sunday. While Sabre has been through his Intermediate qualifications this was Mike's first attempt at a full 65km course. Mike and Sabre set out on course just after 9am just behind stable mate Boffin. This pair presented nicely to our vet at the midway and also at the final vetting. With Terri who had finished, watching on, Mike felt some pressure but there were smiles all round as Sabre sauntered through his vetting.

Novice Champion

This was to be a hotly contested class with 3 riders having been gearing up for this for a while now. Madison Flaherty was first out on course on her pony Bobby. This combination had two weeks before completed their first 65km ride. Madison set out in the company of

Anne Kinsella. Both riders took off a very good pace from the venue. Bobbie Ovington and her mare Hanna and Patrick Byrne and his mare Amber were next out on course to complete the 48km track. It was super to see the riders checking their times as they came in off each section of the course. All three riders crossed the line with only 2 mins between 1st, 2nd and 3rd on the day with 2nd and 3rd coming down to presentation times and heart rates. Madison took honours in taking 1st place with Bobbie taking 2nd and Patrick taking 3rd. This was definitely the tightest results we have ever had at our Nationals so well done guys on keeping everyone thinking till the very end. It is great to think that all these riders are first season novice riders and so competitive, it will be interesting to see how next year pans out for these riders. Exciting times ahead.

Trail Ride Champion

Anne Kinsella had decided earlier in the year to set her sights on the trail ride championship and mileage trophies this year and can now tick one of these off her list. Time will tell for the mileage trophy! Anne rode alongside Novice winner Madison which turned out to be a great combination. Anne brought Gales Hill Scimitar one of our veteran horses successfully around the course of 32km passing our vet Nicole with ease before and after.

Irish Draught Class

The Irish Draught class was run thanks to the sponsorship yet again of the Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association (IDHBA) and the Laois Branch of the IDHBA came away winners for the second year running with their chairman David Cosby coming home straight on the 13kph. David is now champion yet again and has already says his plan is to go for the hat trick next year. Having watched the mare float around the course this year we are in no doubt that David will most certainly put it up to riders again next year.

Trail riders Pat McCarty and Margaret King also took to the tracks on Sunday coming 2nd and 3rd in the Trail ride class. Ann Clarke of Skander Stud took her mare who is just back in work around the 16km course.

Evelyn Moore brought Boston Rose successfully around the mare's Intermediate final of 65km. This will see Evelyn with yet another horse being brought up through the grades. Boston has maintained healthy speeds of 13/14kph in her competitive rides this year which is great to see.

We would once again like to thank Paddy for the use of his land for venue and course and also to Mike Cuddihy for marking the course with Paddy. Thank you to The Field Equestrian for their sponsorship in all the classes and to Homestead Saddlery for their sponsorship of prizes once again. Thanks to vet writer Ben Croke and Rosemarie Ryan who took on the role of secretary on the day. Also thanks to Emer Lennon and Sam Linton for the ground work on the day and Anne Kinsella for all the work behind the scenes on the run up to the event. A big thank you also goes to our vet Nicole Fenton whom without we could not have had the event. It goes without saying but without all the voluntary help from these people we would be unable to run our rides but also without our horses and riders it wouldn't be possible either so we thank everyone who came and rode.