



ENDURANCE IRELAND

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Endurance Ireland ran its second Championships on Sunday the 22nd of September in hosts Paddy Miller farm at Larkfield outside of Athy and once again Paddy did not disappoint with another super course. Riders and organisers woke up to a somewhat misty morning which thankfully burnt off quickly to a fantastic day, quite a change from last year as riders rode in rain all day!

Riders began to arrive in a steady flow from 9 O'clock onwards and our vet Niamh was kept busy from the start. All horses went through the pre and post vetting, even those in the trail ride classes. All horses in all classes passed the vet which was a great result in itself.

Trail Ride Class: The results for the trail ride class were somewhat of a surprise in that 1st and 3rd were both new riders to endurance. In 3rd place was Cathal Harrington on his horse Mini, Cathal also marked the course with Paddy during the week (thank you Cathal). In second place was regular rider, Kilkenny based, Mary-Ann Balkin on Murphy, who was just off the speed by 0.2km and in 1st Place was Mountrath rider Faye Nolan (also her first time) on her Harlequin gelding Driscoll. Faye is a 6th yr student in Mountrath Community School. Well done Faye



RID Class: Ailish Holohan , another Kilkenny based rider, on her mare Purdy came 3rd on Sunday. Ailsih also brought her daughter Eillie around for her first time on Eillie's pony Socks. In 2nd place came Paddy Doogue on his mare Grey Lady, this was Paddy's first time at an endurance event. Paddy also marked out the course with Paddy Miller and Cathal (thank you Paddy). In 1st place was a delighted Sam Linton with her Crannagh Hero gelding Cecil. Sam gave Cecil a superb ride over the 32km course, with an optimum time of 2hr 40min (12kph) Sam came over the line at 2hrs 39min and then went through the vetting with ease. Well done Sam.



Novice Class: This class has been playing on the minds of a few riders over the last couple of weeks since the running of the Novice League. It is super to see so many new competitive riders this year who have gone Novice and are now aiming at Intermediate for next year. In 3rd place was Mike Cuddihy on Terri Moore's GalesHill Saber. In 2nd place was Rosemarie Ryan on her mare Zara, Rosemarie rode with Mary-Ann for 32km the went on to ride the last 8km with the mares lovely temperament showing through by leaving her buddy and setting off on her own. In 1st place was the seriously competitive pair Lorcan O'Rourke and his mare Apache. The optimum time for this class was 3hrs 4min 30sec (13kph) with Lorcan passing the finish line to the near second, a rider defiantly to look out for over the next year or two.



Intermediate class: The Intermediate was 64km with an optimum time of 4hrs 55min 12sec (13kph) and Andrea O'Carroll did not disappoint on her pure bred Arab mare Kildalton Spice. This was Andrea's third 64km ride in a row so a huge well done to her and also her crew.



Open class: The open class with no optimum time being a race began at 10am. Terri Moore on the gelding Jehol's song and daughter Evelyn on GalesHill Boffin were first through the venue followed shortly by Peter O'Carroll on his Stallion Shanis Riona . At the mid way point Terri managed to pull away from daughter by 6 mins by presenting that bit quicker so going into the second half of the race saw Terri leading followed by Evelyn and Peter. Evelyn did manage to catch up on Terri but with about 2km from home Terri managed to pull away from Evelyn and Peter to be crowned Open Champion of 2013 with Evelyn coming 2nd and Peter 3rd.



We also had a number of riders doing trial rides on the day including local riders Kenna Chapman on her Fresian horse Pilgrim and Anthony Walker on his horse Gringo. Leanna Meere riding her Arab/Connemara mare Misty and daughter Aoife on Bubbles made the long trip for Clare to ride on the day and completed the 24km course in great fashion. While Lorcan was out competing in the Novice class his sister Natasha took on the 16km loop accompanied by her mum Suzanne on foot! Regular rider Margret King also took on the 16km loop on the Galeshill Stables Drummer as did Ann Clarke with her mare Jasmine.

We had super sponsors for all the classes this year of which we are very appreciative of and so we would like to thank TRI Ireland, Mountrath Credit Union, Bill Keogh Sawmills, Slaneyside Stud, Frontier Saddlery, Brown's Animal Feeds and Connelly's Red Mills.