



Inistoige Ride 23rd August 2015

We arrived in the beautiful village of Inistoige at a respectable 10.30am. Most of Leinster was waiting for the yellow weather alert that had been issued including the brave riders who had decided to chance the weather on the day. Unfortunately for the riders who stayed away nothing happened, but for those who did chance coming to Kilkenny, they were rewarded with a beautiful day without wind or rain.

Our riders got to take on the super going of Woodstock and Mt. Alto. A number of years ago there was some damage to the banks of the river Nore which flows through the village of Inistoige which prevented the ride starting from the village however thanks to John in Woodstock Gardens we had a lovely safe venue to set out from.

First out on course was Evelyn Moore on Boston Rose who was putting in a CR of 38.06km before her next ride of 65km. Evelyn took Boston Rose very nicely around the course and commented on the great going over the course. Anne Kinsella and her well matched mount Gales Hill Scimitar kept Evelyn and Boston company for over half the distance taking on 22.75km. Anne has been on a serious campaign this year and wants to bring home the Trail Ride Mileage Trophy and it is these rides where organisers have exact distances such as 38.06km or 22.75km can add up for a rider to win by .15km at the end of the year.

Eileen Burrell, who one would normally expect to see on her gelding Billy arrived with a new mount Lucy. Eileen has been working away in the background with Lucy, a lovely coloured mare, for the last number of months having bought her out of a field where Lucy has stood idle for 2 years. It is a credit to Eileen to see how fit and well Lucy went on Sunday, riding with Evelyn and Ann for 18.5km.

Next out on course were two riding buddies, Bobbie Ovington on Hanna and Madison Flaherty on Bobby. Both girls took on the full course of 38.06km. The girls who are now both Novice qualified were both giving their horses a CR before aiming for their first intermediate ride at our next event. Both combinations passed at the end of the rides. These two ladies have also been out training together over the summer putting the miles under their saddles.

The last of the CRs was Patrick Byrne, otherwise known to most as Stretch, and his mare Amber. Patrick also took on the 38.06km course and in doing so put the second of his novices' distances on his log card. Another Novice ride at his next event will give him his and the mare's Novice qualification.

Our rider who travelling the longest distance to come on the day was Eamon Conway, who made his way from over the other side of the Country, coming from Tulla in Co. Clare. Eamon brought his Irish Draught Francy for the 18.5km track and as always came in with a big smile on his face. Eamon has competed Francy at Novice Level in the past winning our Novice League but has now decided as his mount heads into his older years to enjoy trail riding with us.

It was a super day out in Inistoige and Endurance Ireland would like to thank all those who made it possible, John from Woodstock Gardens who helped with our venue location, Coillte for granting us

the permit to ride on the day, Patrick Byrne for marking and Yvonne Croke for organising, acting as Endurance Judge, marking and the many more little details it takes to run a ride. All of the riders appreciate the hard work of all of these people to make these days possible.