



National Championships 2012



Endurance Ireland's first nationals took place on a somewhat cold and wet day, given the good weather that preceded Sunday 16th of September.

The Nationals were kindly hosted by the Miller family whose farm in Larkfield is just outside of Athy, Co. Kildare. The course on offer was a super free flowing course and given most tracks ridden this year it was extremely flat which allowed riders to move on with their horses.

First on site (approximately 8am) were a number of helpers without which these competitions would not go ahead and most made a beeline for Mick and Carmel's chuck wagon (Kelisha Fine Farm Foods) to enjoy some breakfast before the riders landed.

First out on course were the open class with Terri Moore, her daughter Evelyn and Emily Miller. The race sent riders off into the country side for their first loop, this would bring them back to the venue once before going out again before vetting after the second loop. The midway vetting saw Terri and Jehol present first followed by Evelyn followed by Emily. Horses and riders then took their mandatory break before heading out on their last loop.

Crews had a job on their hands in this race as the horses moved on the crew at the vet gates had to get heart rates down (below 64bpm) while also trying to keep the horses warm and prevent stiffening, a bitter wind and steady down pour had set in during the midway vetting but horses set out very happy on loop 3.

Paddy and Emily Miller set a great racing finish in which crew and spectators could watch riders race in to the finish from a good $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. In the open class it was a race between mother and daughter in which Evelyn on Galeshill Boffin just pipped her mother, Terri on Jehol's Song, at the post. Emily Miller arrived in just behind them to finish third on Thababy Shorook.



The novice riders were next out on course with Breda Heary and Rosemarie Ryan both setting out together. The novice class was a set speed ride of 30km @12kph which works out at 2hours and 30 mins riding time. Breda and Rosemarie always ride out together but Sunday saw the competitive edge come out on both ladies and over the finish line with 1

min over time was Breda, to take 1st place, followed 3mins later by Rosemarie who took 2nd place both after passing the vet.



There were two TR (trail ride) classes both set speed . An Irish Draught class saw Eamom Conway from Tulla, Co. Clare cross the start line with Tricia Shortt from Nurney. These two riders stuck side by side for the whole of the ride and both passed the finish line without so much as a nose between them, the results came down to heart rates after both horses went through their final inspections(vetting). Ailish Houlihan with her mare Purda also rode in the ID class, this was both horse and riders first time to compete in an endurance event and after heart rates and times were all taken into account 1st went to Eamom, 2nd to Tricia and 3rd to Ailish.



The second TR was open to all horses, again set speed. Peter O'Carroll on Alexander Woodhouse' mare Darna arrived in over the finish line on perfect time which put him straight into 1st place followed by Shane McKeever on Jack (this a first time out for Shane) and Alexander followed into 3rd place.



At the end of the day Endurance Ireland received its second 1st birthday cake of the week thanks to Siobhan Ovington, Peter and Andrea O'Carroll producing the 1st cake, thank you for both cakes.

We would also like to say a very big "Thank you" to Connelly's Red Mills who sponsored the prizes on the day and thanks to then all prize winners went home with bags of feed as well as rosettes and trophies.