



### Portlaw Ride 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Portlaw in the sunny southeast gave Endurance Ireland a mix of weather on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June with rain, sun, a bit more rain and finally more sun to dry off riders as they finished the course.

First out on course was father and daughter duo Pat and Niamh Cooney with their horses Ringo and Gypsy with both riders completing the 44.34km course in the novice section. Congratulations to both Pat and Niamh who are now fully graded Novice riders having completed three novice grade rides (between 40 and 50km under the watchful eye of our vets), a great achievement early in the year.

Next out on course were mother and daughter duo Terri and Evelyn Moore on GalesHill Boffin (no stranger to the endurance circuit) and Evelyn's ride Slaneyside Emma who is in her first competitive season. Patrick Byrne with his mare Amber were out just behind Terri and Evelyn also on the 44.34km course. The five riders in the league while all doing the same distance rode at different speeds, Pat, Niamh and Patrick riding at 12kph and Terri and Evelyn at 13kph. All the course speeds are set on the day by the rider organiser, in this case Emer Lennon, and reflect the ride terrain and difficulty of the course.

Our TR's (Trail riders) all took on the 22.17km track and first out on course was Paddy Doyle on his mare Kala, Paddy who usually rides with Aisling, took the mare out for her first outing on her own and finished with ease at 11.5kph. Next out on their stunning cobs Paddy and Marley were riders local to the area Michelle Quilty and Jonhathan Sheridan. Michelle and Jonhathan made the very wise decision to change into wet gear at the 11km mark, a decision that paid off given the downpours that followed.

Eamon and his granddaughter Caitlin, who travelled from Co. Clare also took on the full TR course with Eamon on his Merrymate Irish Draught and Caitlin on her pony Peppie. Another Merrymate Irish Draught was also out on course with John Litherth from Co. Carlow and John and his horse Woody also did the full course.

The CR's came back on off course with Pat Cooney first to present his horse Ringo earning him 3<sup>rd</sup> place followed by daughter Niamh with Gypsy and earning 4<sup>th</sup>. Terri and Evelyn were next in off course and presented at the same time both of which gathered the same points and earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place for both riders. The most tactical move came from rider Patrick Byrne and his mare Amber, as Patrick crossed the finish line exactly on time bringing him in on the 12kph. This gave him full points on speed, but more importantly he also called to be vetted, this move gave him full marks on presentation. This gutsy move all hung on the mares presentation and it all paid off with the

combination earning 1<sup>st</sup> place and 37 points, 3 points off the full 40 points. Well done to Patrick and a very brave decision.

Endurance Ireland would like to thank Coillte for allowing us to run the ride down in the beautiful forestry of Portlaw and Emer and Yvonne for organising this fantastic event.