



## IMFHA Hound Show 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017

Endurance Ireland were proud to be invited again this year to the Stradbally Family Fair and National Hound Show run by the IMFHA in the fabulous setting of Stradbally Hall. We would like to thank the Cosby Family for allowing us the use of this gorgeous venue, and the IMFHA for extending the invitation. The National Hound Show is ever expanding and this year again some of the Country's best packs of Hounds were on show, in addition classes were run for our native breeds such as the Irish Draught Horses and Connemaras and a new welcome addition to the show in the form of an Arab Class.

Our first rider to head out on course was Ann Clarke with her arab mare Jasmine, Ann and Jasmine headed out and quickly completed the course before some of our other riders had even arrived!

Next to head out was the first of our CR riders and a hot contender for the Endurance Ireland League, Patrick Byrne on his mare Amber. Amber was quickly vetted by our Endurance Judge Yvonne Croke and the two headed off to start the 41km course.

Endurance is a real family sport, with father/daughter duo Pat and Niamh Cooney, next to tack up. Pat on his gelding Ringo and Niamh on her mare Gypsy are also hot on the trail of the League. This is Pat and Niamh's first competitive season and signs are good for the future. The two horses were put through the initial vetting and soon headed out on course.

Next to arrive were our mother/daughter regulars, Teresa Moore on the veteran Gales Hill Boffin and Evelyn Moore on her newbie Slaneyside Queen (or Emma!). This was to be Slaneyside Queen's Novice final so the two were keen to get going. They were ably crewed on the day by Michael and Eilish Moore.

Another family party were Claire Caplice on Ralph with niece Becca Hennessy on Bonnie, accompanied by Marcus McCormack on the always photogenic Ben. All three completed on loop of the course and then headed off around the fair to check out some of the show classes and stalls.

Husband and wife team Susanne and Niall O'Rourke riding Endurance Ireland favourite Apache and newcomer Rio, undertook the longest trail distance of the day, of 26km. All four arrived back in looking as fresh as when they went out, demonstrating the excellent going available at this venue.

Eamon Conway and his granddaughter Roisin arrived over to take advantage of the fine weather, with an early start to the day to travel up from Clare. Eamon brought out his Irish Draught gelding, Francie and Roisin brought the feisty Pepe around the tracks. The two finished up after one loop of the venue, with Rosin taking the opportunity to get in a bit of shopping afterwards at the fair. Another rider travelling up from county Clare, was Claire Walsh and her big chestnut gelding Setanta. The duo headed out to do one and half loops enjoying the going.

Another Endurance Ireland regular, Rachel Lawlor brought her gelding Volco for a nice easy day, Rachel is no stranger to trail riding and met up with newcomer Tara Phelan riding Smoothie. The two headed out on course and with Rachel quickly showing Tara the ropes. Both returned having enjoyed their ride and looking forward to coming to our next event.

Eileen Burrell arrived with her lovely coloured mare Lucy, as Lucy is just returning to work Eileen decided only do one loop around the venue. Eileen was ably crewed by husband Thomas and her other four legged friend Louie.

Debra Carr was our last rider to head out on the day on her horse Pips. Pip was very interested in all the goings on in the venue and the duo quickly completed the loop.

Patrick Byrne was our first CR rider to complete the distance, he returned into the venue and true to previous form, quickly and successfully completed his vetting. Then it was time for Patrick to wait and see the results of the League.

Niamh and Pat Cooney were next to return, crossing the line together, and then the race was on to vet the quickest, with Pat narrowly getting in ahead of Niamh. However as both horses easily passed the vetting, the duo were very happy.

Teresa and Evelyn were the last two riders to return off the course, with Evelyn calling for vet immediately on crossing the line. She was delighted when Slaneyside Queen, passed the vet and gained her Novice Qualification. Gales Hill Boffin was the last horse to be vetted and sailed through the vetting.

With all five horses successfully passing the vet, the points were then added up to get the League results:

| <b>Rider</b>  | <b>Horse</b>      | <b>Place</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Evelyn Moore  | Slaneyside Queen  | 1            |
| Teresa Moore  | Gales Hill Boffin | 2            |
| Patrick Byrne | Amber             | 3            |
| Pat Cooney    | Ringo             | 4            |
| Niamh Cooney  | Gypsy             | 5            |

As always we would like to thank our volunteers without which we could not run these days, so our thanks go to Endurance Judge Yvonne Croke, Vet Writer Emer Lennon and organizer Anne Kinsella. Thank you once again to the Cosby Family and the IMFHA for allowing us to take part in this great event.