



### Beach Ride 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The day dawned bright and sunny for the annual Endurance Ireland beach day. Nothing could dull the rider's enthusiasm, not even the clocks springing forward and the early start!

Catherine and Maria with their mounts Miley and Ruby were first to arrive and eager to start enjoying the 19km stretch of beach available. They were closely followed by Katie on Missy and Amber on Shadalgo. The girls enjoyed the beautiful day with Katie finishing the day by riding with her Dad who was sea kayaking, making it a real family day out.

Eamon arrived then bringing granddaughter Caitlyn, this pair travelled the greatest distance to be with us on the beach. Eamon brought his new gelding Benny who was being chaperoned by the unstoppable Peppy. Benny certainly made the most of his first trip to the beach, even going for a short paddle in the sea to finish his ride.

Paddy and Aisling arrived with their mares Kala and Sally. As this was also Kala's first visit to the beach, they kept their speed and distance low to allow the horses to get used to the new sights and sounds at this stunning venue.

Terri and Evelyn were next to head out, Evelyn bringing Slaneyside Queen for her first beach visit ably led by the veteran Gales Hill Boffin. The duo brought the horses at a nice steady pace and even convinced both horses to go for a swim, not that Boffin needed much convincing!!

Our next group to head off across the sands were Eileen on Billy, Susanne on Apache and Niall on Rio. Apache and Billy are certainly no strangers to the sand and the group enjoyed the beach in the lovely sunshine, easily completing the 19km.

John was up next on last year's winner of the Endurance Ireland Irish Draught Trophy, Woodie. John and Woodie swiftly completed their ride, happy with the recent change in weather.

Colm on Buddy and Bobbie on Piccolo Boy were the second to last duo to head out across the beach. The two headed out across the beach and quickly completed the course enjoying the easy going and wide stretches of sand available.

Our last couple to head off were Jonathan and Michelle, bringing Marley and Paddy. The foursome are no strangers to the beach and weren't long about heading off to join the rest of the group out on the sand.

There's nothing like a bit of sunshine to lift everyone's spirits and Sunday proved no exception. We would like to thank Wexford County Council for allowing us to use the beach and the excellent and clean facilities available at the carpark. Can't wait for next year!