



Kinnitty Ride 8th April 2018

The sun shone down on Kinnitty Castle on Sunday the 8th of April for the riders who took on the scenic Slieve Blooms. First to arrive were father and daughter duo Pat and Niamh Cooney with their mounts Ringo and Gypsy who took on the first leg of this year's league. Pat and Niamh vetted and headed out on course to begin their Novice challenge.

Next out on course was Aisling and Paddy Doyle on Sally and Kala along with Jill Mullen on her mare Jessica. The three riders took on the 22km course while training up to their first competitive rides. The threesome easily completed the 22km and were delighted with their mounts enthusiasm.

Evelyn Moore with her Novice mare Slaneyside Queen joined by Anne Kinsella on her favourite Galeshill Scimitar also took on the 22km for a relaxing trip up and around the mountain.

Eamon and his granddaughter Caitlin came across the Shannon from Co. Clare to Kinnitty with his new horse Benny, who has taken to endurance after his time on the track. A credit to Eamon, he has eased into the longer distances from racing to be a happy horse enjoying the tracks and trails. Caitlin and her pony Peppie, as always rode with a smile on her face alongside Eamon.

Emma Jay Curran with her horse Tommy arrived for her first Kinnitty event. Emma rode with side kick Tara Creighton and the well-known boy Zee. The girls took on the full trial ride which took in both the mountain and the Slieve Bloom valley. Emma and Tara both enjoyed the course on the day.

Una Holohan with her horse George arrived with husband Simon and daughter Evie. This was a family affair as both Simon on Henry and Evie on Robbie rode out with Una to take on one of the trail ride course. It is great to see a family being able to ride out on course in what is a very family friendly sport.

As the trail riders were finishing up Pat and Niamh both arrived in from the first CR of the year. Both riders rode the same speed, presented at the same time and both vetted with the same heart rate, what are the chances? As a result it was a joint 1st place for the Father/Daughter duo. Well done and let's see how this runs over the season.

Our thanks to Kinnitty Castle for the use of the venue and what a magnificent backdrop to a venue. For more information on the castle see www.kinnittycastlehotel.com for more details. We also give a big thanks to Coillte for the use of the forests, what a great facility. We would also like to thank Yvonne for both acting as organiser and vet judge for the day, she was a busy woman!