



### Portlaw Ride 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018

Waterford saw Endurance Ireland arrive in Portlaw on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April to take on the lovely forest just on the edge of the town. This is a fantastic venue with only one road crossing, fantastic views of Kilkenny and Waterford, as well as excellent going. As all organisers of any equine competition are well aware sometimes it is not always to pick a date to suit everyone and unfortunately this was the case on the 22<sup>nd</sup> but our riders that were out all enjoyed the tracks and trails looking out across the Suir Valley.

The weather was kind as rain had come early as riders were leaving home, however this did not deter the hardy few! First out of the starting blocks was Jill Mullen and her mare Jessica, Jill was ably assisted by husband Shane, who went on a hike for the day.

Jill was joined by family Paddy and Aisling Doyle. Paddy and Aisling are training for what will be their mares, Sally and Kalas' first competitive season with Endurance Ireland. This is leading on from last year where they completed a number of trail rides with these new mares. The riders were down with a game plan on their way to the first CR, all three riders took on the full 30.66km trail ride, and completed it with a comfortable 13kph. Their training consisting of gradually increasing speed and moving steadily up the miles are showing.

Next out were Gary Walsh on Blackberry with his daughter Belle on Harvey. While this not their first endurance ride, it was their first event with Endurance Ireland and was great to meet them and hopefully see them again.

Anne Kinsella and Galeshill Scimitar were joined by Teresa Moore on Galeshill Boffin to take on the trails. Both enjoyed the course completing and handy 22km to enjoy the day.

Once all had returned to the venue, picnics were had and it was agreed fun was had and that it was a good run out before the next event on the calendar!

Thanks to Emer and Yvonne for organising the day for us all and Coillte for providing the forest.