

# St Meubred's Ride attracts more than 200 horses and riders to take part

JANE HOLDEN

More than 200 horses and riders entered for this year's Blue Chip St Meubred's Ride in Cornwall.

This ride, organised by Jo Claridge, the chairman of Endurance GB, with the assistance of her husband Peter, is always a popular one. The route, which includes the Forestry Commission woods around Cardinham, quiet lanes and bridleways, is a delightful varied ride that looks its best in springtime when the gorse and the blackthorn are in bloom.

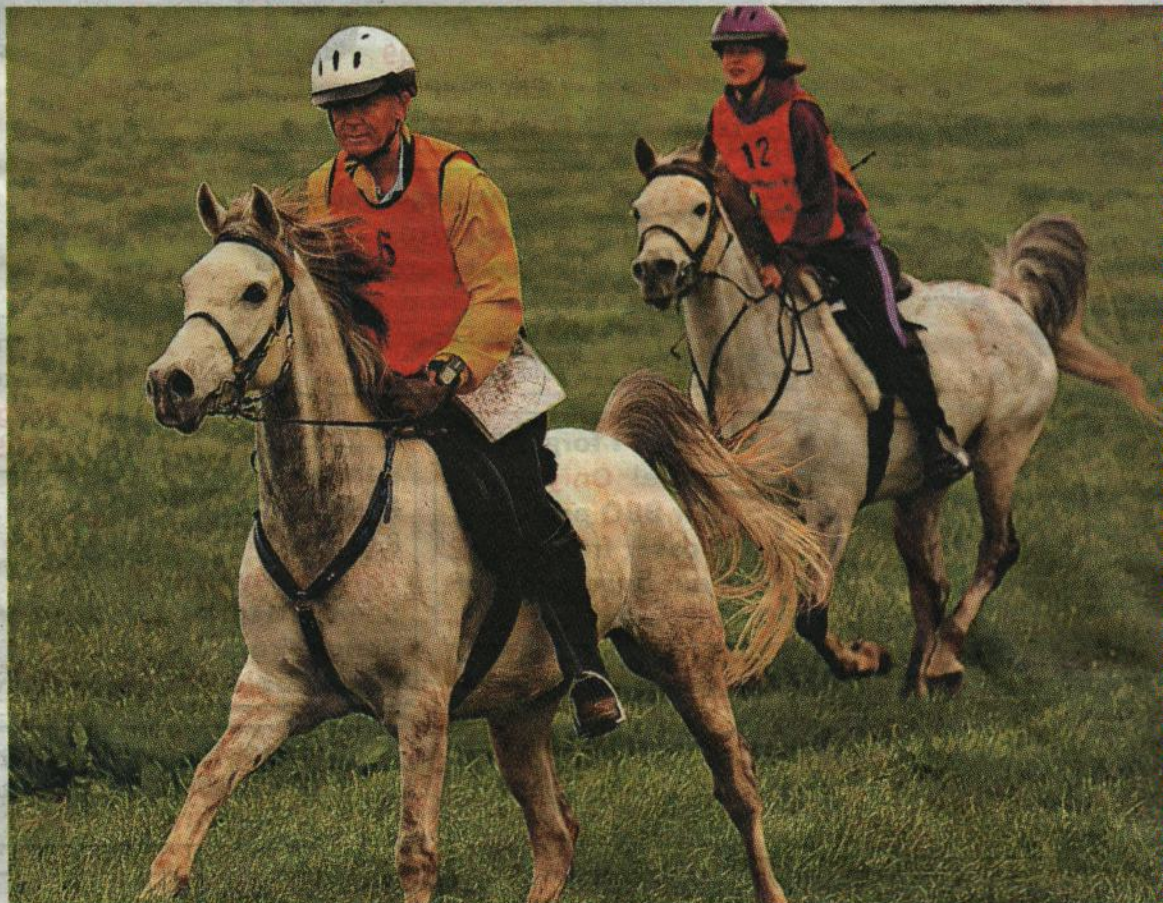
This year, it had rained the night before, which gave the horses easier going over the tracks in the woods. From the venue, the route followed the lane towards the A30 before crossing the fields and going downhill into the woods. From the Forestry Commission car park, it went up along the bridleway to the three way cross above Cardinham. It then went along the lane before looping around Laneskin Wood and Leball Wood on the way to Treslea Downs. From the downs it continued down into Cardinham itself and out to Millpool.

Here the horses and riders picked up the bridleway that skirts the airfield before crossing Cardinham Downs - a fast canter that is the highlight of the ride.

Among the horses taking part in the ride were two half-brothers, bred by Mike Stone and his wife. Both are grey Arab geldings, sired by Espano Estopa, and both are extremely talented endurance horses showing great promise for the future.

Mike Stone was riding six-year-old MC Lorenzo and Fantom, owned by Annie Joppe, was ridden by 15-year-old Abby Chisholm.

Blue Chip Feeds, who have been sponsoring the ride for the last eight years, gave prizes for all of the classes and Abby and Fantom won the prize for the Lowest Pulse in the 65km (40-mile) class. Her mother, Jo Chisholm, Chairman of Endurance South West, riding her young horse, Cairo LA, won the prize for the Lowest Pulse in the 50km (30-mile) class.



Mike Stone riding Lorenzo and Abby Chisholm on half-brother Fantom

Picture: www.farlap-photogr

Other prize winners included Lesley Dore riding Firebird in the 80km (50-mile) class, Christine Cameron with HS Envoy in the 33km (20-mile) class and Sue Speed with Destiny's Child in the 33km novice class.

The youngest rider in the competitive classes was Polly Moore, riding Crackerjack, while in the non-competitive classes there was a tie between two 12-year-olds, Pony Club member Ellie Robinson, riding Abbey, and Ryan Brock, riding Kairie.

The oldest horse in the competitive classes was the evergreen Steel Tobias, now aged 21, owned by Jane James and ridden by Nicky Sherry. The oldest horse taking part in the non-competitive classes was 22-year-old Rialton Silver Reef, ridden by Annie Strongman.

The farriers award for the Best Shod Horse, which was judged by Mike Drayton, went to Evermore Exciting, ridden by Jill Semmens, and shod by Gary Grey of Penzance.

The next competitive ride in South West is the Minions Moo Ride on Sunday, June 13, which has a full range of classes from a 80km to a 18km pleasure ride. Before there is another 16km training ride, Gare, near Truro. This is another draising ride in the Kentucky series.

Non-members are always welcome at the rides organised by Endurance South West. For details and forms to download go to [www.endancegbsouthwest.uk](http://www.endancegbsouthwest.uk).