

## 2014 Massachusetts Horsemen's Council "Days of Champions" Medal Finals wrap up

The Highly respected MHC "Days of Champions" Medal Finals presented a wonderful weekend of Medal Championships held at the Three County Fairgrounds in Northampton from September 26-28<sup>th</sup>. Show



Chairman Felicia Knowles and Manager Debbi Tate with the help of Hospitality Chair Susan Cooper, Announcer Melissa Brown, Secretary Charlene Brown, and Jump Crew, Equestrian Management Solutions produced another year of top equitation competition. Hosting the Friday night 'President's Dinner,' catered by Spoleto's Restaurant and held in the hospitality area of the arena after the Adult Medals, the DOC welcomed the exhibitors, parents, trainers, and grooms to a complimentary buffet. The weather was perfect and the convenient new covered warm up ring next to the arena is a great addition to the show facility.

The courses by designed Mike Nielson of Diamond Bar, CA, were challenging making good use of the arena and set on both bending and flowing lines with roll back turns, option fences on the center line and a long canter to a single fence that proved to be a good test of the rider's patience and skill to ride off their eye. The Judges this year, Meg Schulman, Littleton, CO, Carol Coleman, Wellington, FL, Street More, Owings Mills, MD and Chris Wynne, Virginia Beach, VA were kept busy sorting out over 300 riders comprising 41 Younger and 42 Older Adults, 135 Juniors and 84 Mini Medal riders over the weekend.



The annual Pony of the Year tribute to 'Check Your Pockets' read like a Who's Who of area trainers and brought many to tears. The DOC also names a Person of the Year, and this year Jennifer Eaton was recognized for her many contributions to the industry.

Each day's exhibitors competed in one of several flights of open equitation classes, divided by age, prior to their respective Medal Finals. In the Younger Adult Medal Alexandra S. Cotreau and Jesse Fortier swapped places after the second round with Julie Letourneau and Julie Clancy moving up from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively in the first round to make the final 4.



Alexandra Cotreau held onto the lead to win by a commanding 10 points over Reserve Champion Julie Clancy.



Next to go were the Older Adults, Rosalie Giordano moved up from 3<sup>rd</sup> in the call back to take the lead in the second round and win the Adult Over 31 Medal with Melissa B. Welch taking Reserve.



Saturday brought the tightly contested Junior Medal won by Hannah Patten who took the lead in the First round and never looked back. Less than a point separated Olivia Van Der Meer and the Reserve Champion, Devon MacLeod who moved up from 8<sup>th</sup> in the first round!

The terrific weather held on Sunday for the Mini Medal which presented a great group of strong riding 'young entry'. Lily Toensing going third in the first round took the lead and held on to it until the second round. When the call back order came, young Miles Holman the son of well-known Vet Dr. Mark and Anne Holman was on top with Lily second.



The judges tested the top five asking for two trot fences, a halt, and canter line. As the results were



announced in reverse order the top two waited to see who would win the day.

In a very close ride-off, Miles who also won his Open Eq Under 11 class earlier, was named the 2014 Days of Champions Mini Medal winner and Lilly Toensing was Reserve!

Please visit the MHC on the web at [www.MaHorseCouncil.com](http://www.MaHorseCouncil.com) and FaceBook.