

**2012 Massachusetts Horsemen's Council  
"Days of Champions" Medal Finals**

**2012 Mass Horsemen's Days of Champions**  
For Immediate release by  
Melody Taylor-Scott, Evergreen Media Services  
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The highly regarded MHC Medal Finals, held September 28 through October 30<sup>th</sup> at the 3 County Fairgrounds in Northampton, MA, have wrapped up for the 31st year. Show Manager Debby Tate and Chairman Felicia Knowles produce a top notch, three day Medal Finals and welcomed over 300 competitors that qualified over the past year.

Offering a four Judge panel of Fran Dotoli from North Hero, VT, Joyce Przebowski of Medford, NY, James Zulia of Eustis, FL and Mike Nielson of Diamond Bar, CA, who also designed the technically challenging courses using multiple bending lines with many fences set on diagonal center lines providing the opportunity for riders to show their ability to ride off their eye to get a correct distance. Announcer Melissa Brown, Show Secretary Charlene Brown, Paddock Master Russell Stewart, and Equestrian Management Solutions jump crew kept the show moving smoothly. After warm ups on Thursday, exhibitors were served excellent beef stew from the Lincoln Grille and beverages at the Welcome Party.

Friday brought the Adults along with the rain, as usual, but didn't dampen their enthusiasm as



113 Adults competed in Open Equitation and their respective Medal Finals. In the Adult Open 18-30 the winners are; **Sec.A- Casey Zuraitis** with Trainer Mary E. Drueding, **Sec. B- Anna R. Pavlov** with Trainer Shane Powell.

Congratulations goes to MHC **Adult 18-30 Medal Champion Alexa Bayko** with Trainer Monica D. Hunt, **Reserve went to Laura Cannistraro** with Trainer Cookie DeSimone.

The Adult Open Over 30 winners; **Sec.-A Kim A. Miller** and Trainer Cathy Grady. **Sec. B- Nicole R. Nichelmann** and Trainer Olana K. Laffey.



The 2012 MHC **Adult Over 30 Medal Champion is Laura Kadane** and the **Reserve is Nicole R. Nichelmann**, both riders train with Olana K. Laffey!

Following the Adult Medals the President's Exhibitor's Party and Buffet was held in the hospitality room at the arena and catered by Spoleto Restaurant of Northampton serving up Chicken Teriyaki, mixed vegetables, pasta with sun dried tomatoes, and excellent Tiramisu!

Saturday was Junior day with 121 riders competing for top honors. Open Junior Eq. winners; **Under-14 Sec.A- Samantha M. Howell** on Quintess and Trainer Tara Valade. **Sec.B- Nicolas Horgan** on Captain 33 with Trainer Monica D. Hunt. **Open Jr. 15-17 Sec.A- India Bluett** on Venus and Trainer Carl Catani. **Sec.B- Alexandra Carlton** on Signature Trained by Kristi Smith. **Sec.C- Sydney Smith** on Calimero Trained by Kristi Smith.

Congratulations to the 2012 MHC Days of Champions **Junior Medal Champion Sarah Kieran**



with Trainer Julie Chandler-Kelly! **Reserve Champion is Sydney Smith** riding Trainer Kristi Smith.

Sunday brought peaks of sun and the 86 Mini Medalists along with a stupendous, building shaking grand finale clap of thunder as the last rider finished their victory pass! Open Eq. winners, **Under 11 Sec.A- Taia LaPointe** and Trainer Denise Marks. **Sec.B- Syona Shah** and

Trainer Cathy Grady. Open **12-14 Sec.A- Brigitta Shepard** Trained by Cyndy Van der Meer. **Sec.B- Shae Jackson** Trained by Krisanna Onorato.

**The 2012 annual Person of the Year Award was given to Trainer Joyce Mersereau** of Stoneymeade Farm for her positive support and many accomplishments in the industry. **The 2012 Pony of the Year Award went to Strawberry Smoothie** now owned by Nina Wordell.



Congratulations to **2012 MHC Mini Medal Champion, Samantha Hamzavi** who trains with Cookie DeSimone and **Reserve Champion Annabel Revers** trained by Mitch Steege and Jill Weinstein.

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