

2018 37th Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Days of Champions Huntseat Medal Finals

For Immediate Release
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The highly competitive 37th Annual Massachusetts Horsemen's Council Days of Champions Medal Finals, held this September 28th through the 30th 2018 was a great success. Close to 300 competitors qualified to ride in 3 days of equitation finals held at the Three County Fairgrounds arena in Northampton Massachusetts. Judging for this year's finals Mike Nielsen, also the Course Designer, of CA, William Ellis, FL, Michael Page, NY and Patty Downing-Nyegard, NC worked through the competitors to determine the best.



Show Chairman Felicia Knowles, and new this year show manager Tom Hern, along with show secretary Charlene Brown and Hospitality Director Alicia Reddington kept the show moving, the coffee hot, and good food available all day long. Thursday evening was the Exhibitors Welcome Party offering delicious beef stew catered by Betty's Kitchen of NH and Friday evening the much appreciated Presidents Exhibitor Party with a full buffet dinner catered by Spoleto's restaurant of Northampton offered a great variety of hot food at the end of a rainy day.

Adult Amateur day dawned damp but the enthusiasm stayed high as 57 younger and 41 older adults



Winning the 2018 MHC Adult 18 to 30 Medal Champion, Carolyn C. Lavin who trains with Lia Chafee

competed for the win. In the younger's, winning their Open Equitation 18 to 30 Nyati Mehta, and Carolyn C Lavin won their respective classes.

Riding strongly all day, Carolyn C. Lavin and Lindsey Davitt consistently moved up through the medal rounds. Winning the Adult 18 to 30 Medal Championship sponsored by **Back Bay Farm**, was **Carolyn C. Lavin** who trains with **Lia Chafee** of **River Wind Farm**, and Reserve going to **Lindsey Davitt** training with **Greg Prince**.

Next up, the over 30 Adult Open classes, won by Mish Atamian and Steven Violin respectively, was



2018 MHC Adult Over 30 Medal Champion is Melissa Welch, a student of Greg Best

followed by the Over 30 Adult Medal sponsored by **Woodridge Farm**. Riding at the top of both rounds and the test, **Melissa Welch** a student of **Greg Best**, stormed the Medal to take the Championship and close on her heels throughout the day, the Reserve was won by **Natalie W. Hartley** a student of **Mark DeBlasio**.

Saturday brought the prestigious Junior Medal sponsored by **Corinthian Farm and Equine Insurance** of Medway MA and preceded by the Open Eqs.

Juniors warmed up in the early morning fog as over a hundred exhibitors prepared to compete. Mia Bonacorsi, Kenya Sanders, Hannah S. Farwell, Lilly Earley, Lindsey Johnson each won their Open Eq classes.

Between rounds the 2018 MHC Days of Champions Sportsmanship Award was given this year to **Maddison C. White**, Person of the Year awarded to **Renee Kwok**, and Horse Lifetime Achievement Award to “**Lex Luther**”.

The 2018 Junior Medal offered deceptively challenging courses, set as multiple single bending line



2018 MHC Junior Medal Champion is Sarah E. Hyde who trains with Carl Catani.

fences, and placed in the middle 3/4 of the arena. The various options and turns required the exhibitors to ride off their eye and display a plan that would work for their horses' stride.



2018 MHC Junior Medal Champion Sarah E. Hyde

Sarah E. Hyde who trains with **Carl Catani** rode beautifully throughout, called to

the top of the standings in both rounds and winning the test! Reserve Champion Morgan **Budovsky**, training with **Kristen Chance**, moved up from 5th in the test to win Reserve.



The 2018 MHC Mini Medal Champion is Anna Leighton who trains with Sheryl MacLeod.

Sunday's Mini Medal sponsored by **Stoneymeade Farm**, saw 67 competitors vying for the win. Open Eqs were won by Katelyn Coveny, Caroline Olsen, Amelia Allaire, and Julia Lautz respectively. Anna Leighton and Pippa Springer chased each other up the standings throughout the day with the deciding factor determined by a test on the flat of the top 5.

The 2018 MHC Mini Medal Champion is **Anna Leighton** who trains with **Sheryl MacLeod** and Reserve to **Pippa Springler** training with **Molly Kenney**.

For more information please visit the Massachusetts Horsemen's Council on the web at **MaHorseCouncil.com** and on Facebook.