

42nd Annual 2023 Massachusetts Horsemen's Council "Days of Champions"

The celebrated 42nd Annual Massachusetts Horsemen's Council "Days of Champions" hunt seat medal finals held every fall in Northampton, MA Three County Fairgrounds, hosted competition for the many qualifying exhibitors September 29 through October 1st.

Horse show chairman Felicia Knowles, Seabrook, NH and Manager Tom Hern Plymouth, MA, along with Secretary Charlene Brown, and a diligent staff produce an organized and fun final with daily raffles for prizes and a drawing for free stall each day. Judges this year were Patrick Rodes Argyle, TX also the course designer, Andrea Wells Ocala, FL, Geoffrey Case Loxahatchee, FL, and Scott Hofstetter - Ocala, FL.

Thursday was sunny and bright during afternoon warmups for the 230 competitors attending this year's Final. The USHJA Equitation Clinic and Q&A sponsored by Zone one, held in the arena following the warmups was well attended and lively. USHJA Judges Andrea Wells and Scott Hofstetter provided an entertaining and informative session, live streamed by Clip My Horse as beverages and sandwiches were served to the enthusiastic crowd.



2023 MHC-DOC Person of the Year
Monique Proux

Friday brought 3" worth of pouring rain for the stalwart 42 Older Adults and 31 Younger Adult competitors this year.

As part of the show, the **2023 MHC-"The Mish Atamian" Person of the Year** award went to **Monique Proux**, and the 2023 MHC DOC **Horse of the Year** was awarded to well-known favorite **Predikaate** ("Lester")!

The President's Dinner, hosted by the MHC, was served up to an appreciative crowd to warm everyone up. Catered by Spoleto's Restaurant, the warm buffet, salad, dessert, and refreshments was enjoyed by all.

Wining their Adult Over 30 open eq's respectively, congratulations 1A **Joanna Prager Johnsen**, and 1B **Mariel A. Saccucci**.

Sponsored By Back Bay Farm, winning her open eq then riding to the top of the first round and staying there to win, congratulations to **2023 MHC Adult Over 30 Medal Champion, Mariel A. Saccucci** who trains with **Ann Dotoli**!



2023 MHC Adult Over 30 Medal Champion, Mariel A. Saccucci

Reserve Champion was awarded to **Rori Z. Fiebart** training with Carl D. Catani.

Following the older adults, the 18-29 adults had their time in the ring. Congratulations to the Op Ad Eq 18-29 winners, 3A **Taylor Goodridge**, 3B **Elizabeth Chenelle**.



2023 MHC Adult 18 - 29 Medal Champion Madeline A. Ahern

Sponsored by Woodridge Farm, steadily moving up the standings through the afternoon congratulations to **2023 MHC Adult 18 - 29 Medal Champion Madeline A. Ahern** also riding with **Ann Dotoli**.

Holding the lead over two rounds till the test, **Reserve Champion** was won by **Elizabeth Chenelle** who trains with **Armand J. Chenelle**.

Saturday wasn't pouring rain, just wet as the 56 Juniors competed over Patrick Rode's interesting and flowing courses in open equitation and the Medal, grateful for the covered warmup ring next to the arena. The Open Eqs rolled along smoothly through the morning. Congratulations to riders Op Eq 14-Under 5A **Carys Murray**, 5B **Lulu Carney**, Op Eq 15-17 6A **Nalina Atamian**, 6B **Anna Leighton!**

Sponsored By Corinthian Insurance, battling it out while rising in the standings after each round,



2023 MHC Junior Hunt Seat Medal Champion Anna Leighton

congratulations go to the **2023 MHC Junior Hunt Seat Medal Champion Anna Leighton** riding with **Sheryl MacLeod!** A well-earned **Reserve Champion** to **Anna Klee** who trains with **Kristen Chance.**



2023 MHC Junior Hunt Seat Medal Champion Anna Leighton
Photo by Jess Windhurst

Sunny Sunday brought a full schedule of Mini Medals with 56 Junior and 22 Adult Mini Medal contestants to show in their respective open eq and medals!

Congratulations to the open eq winners Op Eq 11u 8A **Fiona Fitzgerald**, 8B **Finley Mattos**, Op Eq 12-14 9A **Bryn Graham**, 9B **Brooke Kelly.**

Sponsored By Horseworks Insurance, winning a clean sweep of her open then called on top of two rounds and the test, congratulations to **2023 MHC Junior Hunt Seat Mini-Medal Champion, Finley Mattos** also training with **Ann Dotoli!**



2023 MHC Junior Hunt Seat Mini-Medal Champion, Finley Mattos

Reserve Champion awarded to a strong ride from **Kara Horvath** riding with **Amber J. Viera.**

The Adult open Eq and Hunt Seat Mini Medal championship closed out the Sunday's afternoon performance, winning their respective Open Eq's were 11A **Grace McWilliam**, and 11B **Madeline Papitto.**

Sponsored by Sheila & Shirley Murphy, called back on top of the first round and staying on top the **2023 Adult Hunt Seat Mini Medal Champion is Carrie Bennett** training with Jennifer A. Phelan!



Adult Hunt Seat Mini Medal Champion is Carrie Bennett

Nearly pulling off a hat trick this year for trainer **Ann Dotoli**, **Reserve Champion** was awarded to another of her students, **Beth Sylvia.**

Please visit the Massachusetts Horsemen's Council on the web: <https://www.mahorsecouncil.com/> for all the information. Find the MHC on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/MaHorseCouncil>