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Mars Essex Horse Trials Revival a Resounding Success

Far Hills, New Jersey - June 25, 2017 - It's official! The revival of the Mars Essex Horse Trials was a resounding success! Thousands of spectators came to historic Moorland Farm in Far Hills, N.J this past weekend to enjoy top-notch equestrian competition and family friendly activities at its finest!

"We really couldn't be any happier with how everything went this week," said Ralph Jones, President of the Essex Horse Trials Board of Directors. "The support we received from the local area, our sponsors and the eventing community has been absolutely overwhelming. All the positive feedback we have received assures us that we are on the right track and we look forward to an even bigger and better event next year."

This year's Essex Horse Trials featured beginner novice through preliminary levels with riders vying for \$25,000 in prize money. Among the riders who participated was international eventing star Buck Davidson, who competed both days, sweeping the top four places in Saturday's Open Preliminary Division

"I think this event was amazing," said Davidson. "These events don't happen without the support of the community and the community showed up. It was very exciting. As much as I enjoyed this year's event, I am really looking forward to coming back again next year."



*Hallie Coon on Captain Chacco
Photo credit: Joan Davis / Flatlandsfoto*

Sunday's Competition

On Sunday, the Training and Beginner Novice Divisions took center stage. The winner of the Open Training Division was Hallie Coon on Captain Chacco. The Training Rider Division was won by Lacey Ogden riding Cooley Ground Control. Lauren Hannah and Bear Necessity captured the Open Beginner Novice Division and the Beginner Novice Rider Division winner was Alesandra Rodgers on Fernhill Cork Blues.



*Lauren Hannah and Bear Necessity
Photo credit: Joan Davis / Flatlandsfoto*

Two special awards were also presented on the final day of competition. The Jean and Elliot Haller Award, given to the rider who demonstrated good horsemanship and a superior partnership between horse and rider, was awarded to Anne Hambleton. Hambleton grew up in the Far Hills area and is a graduate 'A' of the Somerset Hills Pony Club. She also competed at the old Essex Horse Trials. Sally Ike accepted the award on behalf of Hambleton who won for her rides on Saturday, but could not be present on Sunday.



*Ann David, proprietor of Hoopstick Farm, presents
award to Sally Ike on behalf of Anne Hambleton
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*

Kira Cibak of the Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club won the Golden Nugget Memorial Trophy. The award was presented to the Pony Club rider to the lowest scoring member of Pony Club aged 18 or younger who has completed all three phases of the Essex Horse Trials in any division. The Trophy was donated by Clarissa Wilmerding to encourage the development of young riders as well-rounded horsemen with an appreciation for eventing and a commitment to good sportsmanship.

Fun for the Family

The Mars Essex Horse Trials was more than first-rate equestrian competition. Activities for families and equestrian enthusiasts of all ages took place throughout the two-day event including equestrian demonstrations a Children's Activity Center, sponsored by The Willow School, a Farmstand offering local produce and a spectacular classic car show featuring 150 cars worth more than \$50 million!



*Classic Car Show featured more than 150 cars.
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*



*Stunning Classic Car Show Trophies
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*



*Tewksbury Foot Bassets delighted the crowd.
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*



*The popular Willow School Children's Activity Center
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*



*Devoucoux Saddles in "The Market"
Photo credit: Sandy Ross*

Proceeds from the event benefit the Greater Newark LifeCamp, which provides an enriching day camp experience for approximately 300 Newark-area youths per day for six weeks during July and August.

For complete results click [here](#). For more information about the Mars Essex Horse Trials, please visit: www.essexhorsetrials.org or 908-234-9115

The History

For three decades, the Essex Horse Trials was one of the highlights of the equestrian calendar, attracting top American and international competitors as well as thousands of fans who enjoyed its social aspects as well. The trials were originally conceived in 1968 as a competition for less experienced riders and horses.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the event continued to grow. It expanded to a three-day format and eventually moved to the United States Equestrian Team headquarters at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, where riders competed for positions at both the Olympic Games and World Championships. The event ended on its 30th anniversary in 1998 when some of the USET land was developed.

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