

NFU Mutual National Quiz Final 2nd April 2016

The NFU Mutual National Quiz Final moved to a new venue this year, along with the Dengie Winter League Championships. The move took us slightly further south to Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. A total of 30 teams competed from across the country, with 19 Branches and 11 Centres taking part.

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds of questions on the following topics; The Pony Club, Rider, Tack & Turnout for Rallies, Competition and Hunting, Equestrian venues in the UK, Numbers Game & Missing Words, Practical Round - Individual, Juniors – Points of the horse, Seniors – Know your ailments, Picture round and All The Queens Horses.

Following a short Team Manager briefing, the quiz got under way led by our Quiz Master, Martin Wright, Area 11 Representative. Teams battled it out the first four rounds before breaking for lunch.

After the lunch break we split the teams into their junior and senior pairs. The seniors went off to do their individual practical round, identifying a range of items normally found in and around the tack and feed room. The junior stayed where they were for the Pairs round, identifying Points of the Horse. They then swapped over and the juniors went to the practical round and the seniors went back in for their pairs round, Know your Horses Ailments. The practical round this year saw a wide mix of results across the board.

The Branch competition was hotly contested, with teams including the Hampshire Hunt who took top honours in 2012, 2013 and 2015 and the Chipping Branch who were victorious in 2014. Just one mark separated them at the interval, with Chipping lying on 104 and Hampshire Hunt on 103, but the team from Chipping – brother and sister Jack (16) and Charlotte Mellin (12), Charlotte Gibb (13) and Victoria Hargreaves (19) – finished on 271 points taking the win and beating Hampshire Hunt by just six points. The Croome Hunt team came in 3rd place with a total of 253 points.

In the Centre competition the team from Silvermere Equestrian Centre, who qualified for the finals for the first time, stormed ahead to a strong lead and by the interval were 10.5 points ahead of 2nd placed Friars Hill Stables. The Silvermere team, consisting of birthday girl Cadence Webley (12), Kayleigh Lubin (12), Maddie Skelton (14) and Georgia Stanton (17), kept up their form to clinch the top spot with a score of 234; just 3.5 points ahead of runners-up Friars Hill Stables. Last year's 2nd placed team, Tumpy Green Equestrian Centre, finished in 3rd position on 222 points.

The home made displays were exceptionally good this year with The Mill Riding Stables winning first place with their windmill display which cleverly featured moving parts.

Very special thanks must go to NFU Mutual for sponsoring the National Quiz for the last nine years and for providing the lovely rosettes, sashes & salvers and also the additional prizes of Saddle Cloths, Boot Bags, Over Reach Boots and Travel Mugs. Each competitor also received a small pot of jelly beans, a hoof pick and NFU Mutual Bag.

I would also like to thank Ruth Walker, Anna Goodley and Angela Craddock for composing the questions, Becky Davies and Ruth for providing the practical round items, Martin Wright being our excellent Quiz Master and Andrew Brown, Marty Bibby and Becky for being our scorers on the day. The day would not have been possible without the help of all involved.

Kirsty Hubbard,
Events Executive & National Quiz Secretary