

NFU Mutual National Quiz Final 2nd April 2017

The NFU Mutual National Quiz Final returned to Addington Manor Equestrian Centre again this year, along with the Dengie Winter League Championships. A total of 29 teams competed from across the country, with 18 Branches and 11 Centres taking part.

The quiz consisted of 9 rounds of questions on the following topics; The Pony Club & Ex-Pony Club Equestrian Celebrities, Non Equine Achievement Badges, Competitive Sports & Competitions within the Pony Club, The Spanish Riding School, Individual Practical Round – The Tack Room, Pairs Round – Juniors & Seniors – Keeping a Pony at Grass, Worming & Paddock Maintenance, Picture Round – What is This?, Equestrian Sports at the Olympic Rounds and New for 2017 a Music Round.

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 room, this year we dismantled a Double Bridle for the seniors and a Single Bridle for the juniors, and asking them to name the parts. It is surprising how different the parts look when they are on their own. The junior stayed where they were for the Pairs round, Keeping a Pony at Grass, Paddock Maintenance and Worming. They then swapped over and the juniors went to the practical round and the seniors went back in for their pairs round.

The Branch competition was hotly contested, with teams including the Cheshire Hunt North who won the National Quiz Final back in 2007. They were a massive 6 points ahead of the Croome Hunt at the interval, but by the end of the competition the Cheshire Hunt North, consisting of Ellie Thomas, 11, Cailin Williams, 12, Hannah Pedley, 13, Georgina Hayward, 24, had steamed ahead with a total of 213 points, followed by the Vale of York on 205.5 and the Croome Hunt team came in 3rd place with a total of 200.5 points.

In the Centre competition the team from Finchale View Riding School, stormed ahead to a strong lead and by the interval were 4 points ahead of second placed Lavant House Stables. The Finchale View Riding School team, consisting of Esther Walker, 11, Mia Tait, 13, Sophie Collings, 15, Lauren Craggs, 23, kept up their form to clinch the top spot with a score of 218.5; a whopping 9.5 points ahead of runners-up Lavant House on 209 and third place Tumpy Green on 204.5. Finchale View also beat the Branch winners by 5.5 points, which is outstanding!

The home made displays were exceptionally good this year with the Burton Hunt winning first place.

Very special thanks must go to NFU Mutual for sponsoring the National Quiz for the last ten years and for providing the lovely rosettes, sashes and the additional prizes of Holdalls, Hat Bags, Draw String Bags with Goodies and Mascot Teddy Bears. Each competitor also received a pen, a notebook, a hoof pick and NFU Mutual Bag.

I would also like to thank Ruth Walker and Anna Goodley for composing the questions, Clare Boardman, Stefanie Brazier and Warwickshire College for providing the practical round items, Martin Wright being our excellent Quiz Master and Andrew Brown, Marty Bibby and Becky Davies 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