



ERICA QUINN AND CELTIC FIRE, WINNERS OF THE \$50,000 USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY. PHOTO © AULLMYN PHOTOGRAPHY

CHICAGO HUNTER



ERICA QUINN AND CELTIC FIRE JOINED IN THEIR WINNING PRESENTATION BY NICHOLAS WALKER OF CANADIAN PACIFIC, BILL RUBE OF THE USHJA FOUNDATION AND MAGGIE SCHRAEDER OF RIDER'S BOUTIQUE. PHOTO BY AULLMYN PHOTOGRAPHY

DERBY 2016



KELLEY FARMER AND KODACHROME, OWNED BY NINA MOORE, FINISHED IN A CLOSE SECOND. PHOTO BY JUMP MEDIA

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Erica Quinn, Celtic Fire, and Non-Profits All Win Big at Chicago Hunter Derby 2016

ATTENDEES AT THE CHICAGO HUNTER DERBY ENJOYED THE COMPETITION AND A LAVISH BRUNCH IN SUPPORT OF THE ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION, THE USHJA FOUNDATION, AND HORSEFEATHERS THERAPEUTIC RIDING. PHOTO BY MARCIN CYMMER



Less than six months ago, Celtic Fire was competing in the grand prix ring, but on Sunday, September 11, it was the stallion's performance over fences more reminiscent of the hunt field that earned him the victory in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at the Chicago Hunter Derby.

After making the transition from the jumpers to the hunters, Celtic Fire and rider Erica Quinn, of Maineville, OH, both made their inaugural visit to the Chicago Hunter Derby, presented by Canadian Pacific (CP), and it did not disappoint.

"The atmosphere here is amazing," said Quinn, who rides for Lane Change Farm. "Winning my first time here is a little overwhelming! It feels great though, and I'm just very happy to get the opportunity to show here. I have to say how thankful I am for Larry [Glefke] and Kelley [Farmer] to have given me this opportunity because without them I would not be here; I would not be competing here."

While Quinn and Celtic Fire would end up with the win, it was Lane Change Farm's Farmer who gave the duo the closest run for their money aboard Kodachrome.

Following Saturday's opening round of competition, Farmer and Kodachrome, owned by Nina Moore, came into Sunday as the front runners with a score of 184, but Quinn and Celtic Fire were only one point off with a 183.

Riders returned in reverse order of their standings on Sunday, and Quinn and Celtic Fire quickly shot to the top of the leaderboard with scores from the two judging panels of 80 and 86. Those scores, coupled with high option and handy bonus points, gave the pair a second round total of 184 and set the overall cumulative score to beat at 367.

As the last pair to return, Farmer and Kodachrome would come extremely close to holding onto their lead, but with a second round total of 181 would fall just two points shy for a score of 365 and second place honors. Quinn topped off her successful day by also taking third aboard Need I Say.

Quinn was not the only one going home from the event a big winner however. The ninth annual event, hosted by Chicago Equestrians for a Cause, raised significant funds for the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation, the USHJA Foundation, and Horsefeathers Therapeutic Riding.

"We had another beautiful day. Mother Nature is always so kind to us," said Carl Weeden, co-founder of Chicago Equestrians for a Cause, the organization behind the Chicago Hunter Derby. "It looked like everybody was having a great time under the tent watching. It really takes a group effort. Everybody really pulls together. We have a great group of ladies that organize all of this, so we're extremely happy with how everything went this year, and we're excited to see how much money we were able to raise for the beneficiaries."

■ BY EMILY RIDEN/JUMP MEDIA

**Learn more about the
Chicago Hunter Derby by visiting
ChicagoEquestriansForACause.com**