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Molly Ashe-Cawley and Kennzo Take All

In \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby at FTI WEF

MOLLY ASHE-CAWLEY OF NEWTOWN, CT, rode Kennzo to the top of the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby on the final Sunday afternoon at the FTI Consulting Winter Equestrian Festival (FTI WEF). Kennzo and Ashe-Cawley's win wrapped up the last week of the FTI WEF, after 12 weeks of top-notch competition. The hunter derby consisted of two rounds over fences over two days of competition, with the top 25 being called back for the final handy round. Ashe-Cawley and Kennzo sat in third place after round one, earning a total score of 178 from the judges. She and Kennzo laid down a second round worthy of a score of 193, totaling 371.

In a highly unusual scenario for the hunter ring, Ashe-Cawley's second round score tied her with eventual second place finisher Kate Ross, who earned scores of 172 in round one and a high score of 199 in the handy round with Friday Night. The tie resulted in a jump-off round, but with an unfortunate rail, Ross had to settle for second.

Ashe-Cawley was quite pleased with both of her rounds with Kennzo, a 12-year-old Finnish Warmblood gelding (Anita x Coriano) owned by Kristen Abbatiello-Neff.

"Yesterday he was super," Ashe-Cawley said. "They made a very exciting course today that had us all quaking in our boots. I thought he was good in the handy. I didn't get

[TOP] Molly Ashe-Cawley and Kennzo jumped off for the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby win. [BOTTOM] Kate Ross and Friday Night battled for second place. »



the inside turn after the one line that I wanted to get to the trunk jump. He was great; he was with me the whole time, did his part perfectly."

A tricky course designed by Maryland's Ken Krome led to competitors taking on several variations of the course. A tight inside turn to one of three high options for the course had many opting for the lower height. Sandy Ferrell tried a longer approach to the high option with Mayfair in the round before Ashe-Cawley, but after Ferrell lowered a rail, she decided to go for the lower option with Kennzo.

"I don't know if it helped me or hindered me, but I definitely took the low option. Not that Kennzo usually knocks a jump down, but the way our week has been going, it could have happened," Ashe-Cawley acknowledged. "I wanted to do the inside turn to the trot jump, I even got up in the (nine strides) easy, but there was no chance. I would have become one with the standards of that number two jump! So I figured rather than be a bug on the windshield, I would go around."

Second place finisher Ross was thrilled to be in the company of two



highly regarded professional riders. The junior rider admitted to being a little bit nervous going into round two being in seventh place, but Ross and Friday Night, owned by KAR LLC, excelled under pressure to jump into the top three with a win in the handy round.

"I was so happy! I was really nervous going in because I did better than anticipated yesterday, so I was feeling a little bit of pressure. But coming out I was so excited, I just felt a huge relief. My horse is amazing," Ross beamed. **E**

Hunter/Jumper contact listings

Beacon Woods Stables (tsl), Mick & Laurie Paternoster, Owners, Kris Bramley, Trainer, 99 Beacon Woods Lane, South Glastonbury, CT 06073, 860-430-2606 barn; 860-601-0670 cell, beaconwoodsstables@yahoo.com, beaconwoodsstables.com

Crossen Arabians and Warmbloods (bs), 1209 South St., Coventry, CT 06238, 860-742-6486, crossenarabians.com

NewChance Farm, 18 Mason St., Rehoboth, MA, Kristen Newton Chance, 860-918-0269
b=breeding, t=training, s=sales, l=lessons

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NH Hunter/Jumper Assoc.

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to compete, along with our younger riders! Kids will jump the course for time and faults. There will be height and age divisions for every level jumper. It was well-attended last summer and really fun to watch! New this season will be the Team Jumper, to be held on Friday, July 4. The exhibitors' party will coincide with this exciting new event. Saturday will be the traditional "Pink Day," in consideration of breast cancer aware-

ness. There will be hunter classics at every height and fantastic derbies on the grass as well as in the sand ring. With over \$25,000 in prize money, those classes should be exciting to watch as well as compete in.

Officiating at the summer festival will be judges Scott Alder, Mary Dreuding, and Amy Eidson. Come and win your share of great NHHJA swag!

As always, we are welcoming sponsors and vendors to help with this endeavor. We are anxious for another year of competition, and look forward to seeing you ringside. **E**