

As riders walked the course for the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby, spectators seated under an expansive white tent sipped champagne while dressed in their Sunday best. Younger guests enjoyed face painting or a delicious breakfast from the Belgian waffle bar, and they all enjoyed seeing some of the best hunter competition in the United States. It's all part of the Chicago Hunter Derby, presented by Canadian Pacific (CP) – a stand-alone hunter derby unlike any other.

On September 10-11, the Chicago Hunter Derby hosted its ninth annual event, welcoming equestrians and non-equestrians alike to Rush and Caroline “Carl” Weeden’s Annali Farm in

Antioch, IL, to watch many of the nation’s top hunters and to support four charitable beneficiaries.

Hosted each year by Chicago Equestrians for a Cause, the Chicago Hunter Derby raised 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 in 2016.

The Chicago Hunter Derby’s philanthropic efforts not only raise significant proceeds for the selected non-profit organizations, they also help attract spectators from Chicago and the surrounding area who may be enjoying equestrian sport for the very first time.

# CHICAGO HUNTER DERBY

## Showcasing Best in Sport & Charity



By Emily Riden/Jump Media



**Erica Quinn and Celtic Fire**  
\$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby winners.  
Photo by Aullmyn Photography



**Caroline Weeden and Corvine**  
Winners of the \$7,500 International Welcome Stake on the opening day of competition.  
Photo by Aullmyn Photography



**Natalie Jayne and Exquisite**  
Winners of the Chicago Hunter Derby’s inaugural \$2,500 Pony Hunter Exhibition class.  
Photo by Aullmyn Photography



**Doug Boyd and Calido's Son**  
Doug Boyd and Calido's Son, owned by Mimi Rothman, won the \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby held on Saturday, September 10.  
Photo by Aullmyn Photography

"It looked like everybody was having a great time under the tent watching," said Carl Weeden, co-founder of Chicago Equestrians for a Cause, the organization behind the Chicago Hunter Derby. "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."

This year guests had the opportunity to watch Erica Quinn and Celtic Fire, owned by CF Partners, take the victory in the \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby.

Just 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 win. 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 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."

To learn more about the Chicago Hunter Derby and Chicago Equestrians for a Cause, visit:

[www.ChicagoEquestriansForACause.com](http://www.ChicagoEquestriansForACause.com).



**University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation Womens Board**

(left to right): Tina Wardrop, Kristi Nuelle, Annette Carroll, Lidia Devonshire, Margaret Benjamin, Karen McEniry, Terry Brumfield, Nichole Niemann, Wendy Chronister, and Mary Ellen Connellan. Photo by Jump Media



**Sara Gentry, Stacey Lefton Glick, and Lynn Jayne**  
Photo by Marcin Cymmer



**Meagan Murray and Editorial**  
Meagan Murray rode Editorial to the fourth place finish for owner Rebecca Price. Photo by Jump Media



**Kelley Farmer and Kodachrome**  
Second place finishers Kelley Farmer and Kodachrome. Photo by Aullmyn Photography



**Carl Weeden and Santa Purze**  
Carl Weeden, the co-founder and host of the Chicago Hunter Derby, with longtime best friend Santa Purze. Photo by Aullmyn Photography



**Elise Stephens and Rockefeller**  
Elise Stephens gives her pony Rockefeller a celebratory hug after their third place finish in the \$2,500 Pony Hunter Exhibition. Photo by Marcin Cymmer



**Caroline Smith and LN Durand**  
Human spectators were not the only ones able to enjoy the Chicago Hunter Derby. Pictured are Caroline Smith and LN Durand with dogs Cooper and Dublin. Photo by Jump Media



**Brian Lookabill**  
Emcee Brian Lookabill introducing each of the horses and riders participating in the Chicago Hunter Derby and giving attendees the opportunity to participate in a calcutta benefiting the event's charitable beneficiaries. Photo by Marcin Cymmer



**Bill Rube and Annie Weeden**  
Bill Rube, of the USHJA Foundation, and Annie Weeden ring the bell in center ring to signify a high scoring round. The bell is an antique railroad bell used by the grandfather of event host, Rush Weeden. Photo by Jump Media