

CPHA 3'6 Amateur Essay by Emma Dawley

“Third time’s a charm” describes my experience in the CPHA 3’6 Amateur Medal Finals hosted by Blenheim EquiSports. This was my third time competing and, as always, the courses were well designed and built – asking challenging yet interesting questions – and the group of riders and horses were competitive, talented, and polished. One of my favorite aspects of the CPHA Finals is the opportunity for NorCal and SoCal to compete together. We have such a kind and genuine group of amateurs up and down the coast, which enhances this event and offers great camaraderie and sportsmanship.

I had the special opportunity to ride my trainer’s horse, Shameless, in his second ever medal finals (his first being the Foundation finals the weekend before!), though you wouldn’t have known it. Shameless (aka “Garth”) was his curious yet brave self, marching around the ring with consistency both days. With his impressive record in International Derbies and High Performance Hunters, he gave me a lot of confidence going into all three rounds as he’s an athletic horse that you can wholeheartedly trust. Winning this medal finals was always my goal, but doing so on Garth made it extra special.

My heartfelt gratitude to my trainers – Jenifer Paris and Jeanne Paris of Cheval Farm – who are, without a doubt, some of the hardest working people I know. They steward and teach excellent horsemanship first and foremost, and always ensure I learn something and improve every time I’m in a saddle. I also appreciate the loyal support of my family, friends, and work colleagues who encourage me to ride and show whenever I can. Finally, many thanks to the CPHA Board, sponsors of the medal finals and show, and all folks involved in making Blenheim the fun place that it is to horse show.