

# ESSEX

## HORSE TRIALS

### Essex Horse Trials Kick Off at USET Headquarters with Sara Kozumplik leading the Open Intermediate after Dressage and Show Jumping

**Gladstone, NJ, June 1, 2024:** It was a beautiful day at The United States Equestrian Team to kick off the 2024 Essex Horse Trials!

Over 115 riders, almost half of which are NJ local, joined us at the historic United States Equestrian Team Headquarters where many Olympians and top riders have trained. We started off the day with Dressage, beginning with Beginner Novice and ending with Intermediate.

Sara Kozumplik and her veteran horse Rubens D'ysieux, a 2005 Selle Francais gelding, lead the Open Intermediate heading into Morgan Rowsell's Cross-Country track at Moorland Farm.

Sara is thrilled to be here at Essex saying, "This is such a high quality event and we want to support. There are a lot of options on the calendar but we made the trek from Virginia because its exciting to ride here at the USET, the footing is great, and Morgan's Cross-Country course is amazing. We are looking forward to tomorrow". She also said of her veteran partner, "He did his final International 4-Star at Terranova this spring and is very special to me. He's a great show jumper and doesn't do many horse trials any more but I will run him occasionally in the Intermediate at certain events".



*Sara Kozumplik and Rubens D'ysieux. Photo by AK Dragoo.*

Chris Barnard's track was tough to make the time in the Open Preliminary, but we had one double clear with Hannah Sue Hollberg and Hachi, our winners in 2023. They head into Cross-Country on a 35.0 in 7th place. Our overnight Preliminary leader is Lillian Heard Wood aboard Bellines Quality Lady, a 2016 Irish Sport Horse, on a 26.3.

The Training Show Jumping shook up the scores, but our leaders in all three Training divisions remained steady throughout the day. Our overnight leaders are Open Training A: Lillian Heard Wood aboard Cooley Maestro; Open Training B: Jessica Ebzery riding Absolut Cooley Quality; and our Training Rider leader is Marina Cassou on Castleturvin Mungo.

Olympic Dressage Judge, Marilyn Payne and Rock Me Mama, a 2016 Irish Sport Horse mare, lead after the Open Novice Show Jumping.

Marilyn said of her ride here today, "It's a very spooky ring and Mama handled the atmosphere very well. She's a great partner and we have fun together!" As for the riding at the USET, Marilyn said, "We love it here! All the riders love it here. Everyone waits all year for Essex, it's our destination event. We look forward to running and jumping on the fabulous Cross-Country course tomorrow!"



*Marilyn Payne and Rock Me Mama. Photo by AK Dragoo.*

Local rider, Kylie Stangle aboard Redfield Mike, held the lead through the Open Beginner Novice division today. She and the 2013 German Riding Pony/Warmblood, owned by Janina Parmelee, head into Cross-Country tomorrow on a 25.9.

For full scores, please visit <https://evententries.com>.

Cross-Country tomorrow will be held at Moorland Farm, home of the prestigious Far Hills Race Meeting. We'll start with Beginner Novice at 9am. Tomorrow will also feature the Peter Chesson Memorial Car Show from 9am-2pm.

Additional information on the Essex Horse Trials is available at <https://www.essexhorsetrials.org>. Proceeds of the event benefit the Greater Newark Life Camp which brings 300 inner city youth to summer day camp in the country in Somerset County for six weeks for an enriching educational experience. For more information on the Greater Newark Life Camp please visit <https://greaternewarklifecamp.org>.

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2024 Essex Horse Trials