

STABLE VIEW SPOTLIGHT: MOLLY BULL



If there is a resident, boarder, or staff member at Stable View that you want to learn more about, please send emma@stableviewfarm.com an email with a spotlight recommendation.

Molly Bull is the organizer of Stable View's recognized horse trials as well as the Eventing Academies. Molly was involved in the sport as a rider first, as she rode at the Advanced level for several years as well as worked for Kim Severson.

After Molly had her son, Henry, she didn't want to ride at the upper levels anymore. However, she wanted to stay involved in the sport and got a job as a horse trial secretary. This was eight years ago at an event that no longer exists in Virginia called Kellysford. Molly shared, "I enjoyed being a secretary and got involved at Sporting Days Farm after that. When I worked at Sporting Days, I started helping Joannah Glass (the owner) with organizing in addition to being the secretary, and over time realized that I liked the organizing part more than the secretary part. The secretary does a lot of paperwork and does things like process entries and assign ride times. Most of the job involves sitting at a computer. Being an organizer appeals to me more because it's more active. There is still a fair amount of time spent at a computer or on the phone in advance of the events, but during the events it's much more active."

Molly has been organizing shows at Stable View for roughly six years. Her favorite part of Stable view is that it is a great place to work. She said, "I like staying on site, I like the people I work with there, specifically Barry and Cyndy. They are great to work for and I think the way the three of us communicate works well. I also really like the venue as it's such a quality facility and has so much to offer riders."

Molly was asked to pick some favorite memories from her time at Stable View, She shared, "My favorite part of pretty much any event is generally when the first horse leaves the box on XC as that's when I feel like it's all really happening. It's especially rewarding at an event like Oktoberfest, when the first 4* horse goes out. There is much more work that goes into organizing an FEI event so the payoff is greater when everything comes together." Molly doesn't have a standout favorite memory but she has fond memories of getting together with all of the officials in Ollie's Pub at the end of the day at Graze and Gaze. Molly said, "I love many of the people that I work with at these events and it's fun to unwind together as the event ends for the day."

With Oktoberfest coming up Molly was asked to reflect on what it is like to organize an FEI 4-star event - a feat that not too many people can say that they have accomplished. Molly says it best: "Organizing a 4 star event is a bit like juggling many balls at once and trying not to drop too many of them. There are lots of details to keep track of and so many things happening at once. For example, on the Friday of Oktoberfest we have FEI dressage, then FEI show jumping will start before dressage is over, but we will also be preparing for XC to start the next day and there will be an FEI riders meeting. On the Thursday there is no real competition but we will have in-barn exams going on, while some people are doing arena familiarization, and other people might be doing jump schooling. I need to make sure we have the vets and volunteers ready for riders at the in-barn area, have the rings prepared and a steward present for the arena familiarization, and also have a medic and a steward lined up to watch if anyone wants to jump. So even though that's not a real competition day it's still a busy one. For Oktoberfest we have a great group of officials assembled and I'm looking forward to working with them. Some of them are old friends and others I've not met before but hopefully it will be a fun mix of people. Oktoberfest is the only event at SV all year that runs BN-A plus 2-4* so it's the busiest of all the events in terms of numbers of divisions going, which makes it exciting."

Those attending Oktoberfest can enjoy the hard work Molly has put in to make this an event to remember.