



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: KELLY O'BRIEN



Photo by Liz Crawley Photography

Kelly O'Brien recently competed at the Aiken Opener where she won the Beginner Novice Rider B Division on a score of 21.2.

Kelly began riding when she was ten years old. She had an Arabian and grew up competing in Saddle Seat Equitation and English Pleasure in breed shows. Then Kelly went to college. She

said, "Life seemed to get in the way and I wound up taking 30 years "off" from horses and riding. I rebooted my love for riding in 2022 with Susie Beale of Cairn O'Mount Stables, Malvern, PA. My goal was to simply get back in the saddle and maybe learn to jump. Little did I know I would be bitten by the eventing bug under Susie's exceptional coaching!"

Kelly's current ride is B.E. Never Say Never or as he is known in the barn, Conner. He's a nineteen-year-old Dutch Warmblood owned by Susie Beale. She shared, "I started riding him in the fall of 2022. Connor is an excellent teacher and it's been a wonderful experience to build a relationship with him." Kelly's goal is to compete at the American Eventing Championships later this year. She and Conner are already off to a great start in making that goal possible with their recent win.

Kelly was asked about her favorite part about competing at Stable View. She said, "Stable View holds a special place in my heart, as the 2023 Opener was my first-ever recognized event!! Little did I know I would be doing the "Beginner Novice Olympics" for my first time out of the box. We finished on our dressage score for the win. In general, the Stable View course is just amazing to ride and I was thrilled the weather cooperated so we could run this year."

Stable View looks forward to welcoming Kelly and Conner back for future competitions and wishes them both the best on their road to the AECs.