

Stacey Hastings of Mooresville gets the unofficial "iron woman" prize. She participated in seven awards ceremonies on four horses. This show was just 10 days after spending a long weekend in Lexington Va. at the BLMs.

"They all worked well and did not get tired," Hastings said. "To keep them mentally and physically fresh I did not compete each horse every day...I will admit it was a little frustrating to be the bridesmaid four times before I finally was a bride!" Hastings earned four reserve championships with Lysias, Montana, Dakota, and Livingston before the latter topped the FEI

*Stacey Hastings and Tony Woodcock's Livingston topped the open FEI Intermediate I finals at the Regional Championships. (WNC Photo)*

Intermediare championship (68.8%).

Livingston, owned by Tony Woodcock, "just got better and better all weekend," Hastings remarked. "The highlight for me was his musical freestyle (72.4%). It was only his fourth time doing it in competition, and the first time I was actually with the music and it felt great. The best part was the response from the audience and the ear-to-ear smile on Tony's face when we were finished, considering he has watched me screw it up a thousand times in practice!"

One might think Hastings would be planning a break, but true to her "iron woman" image, she left a week later for Florida to train with Michael Poulin. "I am really looking forward to it as I'm wanting to get a jump start on my winter training so I can move the horses up. I am very fortunate to have so many nice horses to ride right now, with owners who are so supportive and encouraging. I believe each

*Tami Batts and Victoria Neaves' Ranko were Grand Prix Champions at the Region 1 Championships at the NCDCTA Harvest Moon Dressage Show. (WNC Photo)*

of these horses has the ability to make it to Grand Prix."

#### SANDY'S IMPACT

Hurricane Sandy brought four days of solid rain prior to the show, but by move-in day on Wednesday the sun peeked out and started drying the rings, and all show days were cool and dry.

"Riders from up North were glad to dodge the power outages at home, and loaded up with extra cans of fuel when they left," said show manager Martie Healy.

As usual, Healy and her staff ran the show with clockwork precision, and the unique entertainment offerings drew accolades.

The Taste of Martin County, sponsored by Martin County Travel & Tourism, on Thursday attracted a huge crowd to sample fare from eight area restaurants, with live music from Frankie Harrison's band. Friday night's fashion show was a hit, followed by the Vendor Walk Wine and Cheese. Saturday night saw Happy Hour at the McDevitt Sotheby's Rider Retreat and the Southern Hospitality pig-pickin' sponsored by NCDCTA and Friends.

#### PRIZES - WOW

Over \$22,000 in prize money was distributed over the four-day weekend from generous sponsors such as Great American Insurance Company, McDevitt Sotheby's International Realty, and The Jockey Club. Thursday's

Sotheby's Stakes classes were highlighted by Dawn Weniger and her Don Derrick claiming the \$1,000 Grand Slam. Weniger vowed to buy the horse a new double bridle, as he has earned nearly \$2000 in prize money this season!

Horse shopping? Don't overlook Thoroughbreds; Darcy Miller Brown earned \$1600 in TIP money at this show, and Heide Gayle won \$800 with her Thoroughbred at third level. TIP is the Thoroughbred Incentive Program, sponsored by the Jockey Club.

NCDCTA can take great pride in hosting a prestigious championship at our beautiful Eastern Ag Center, providing a significant economic impact for the region with 423 stalls sold, the largest event at the facility since the new barns were completed.

"I want to thank all the sponsors, competitors, vendors, staff, and volunteers for helping make this show a huge success," Healy said. "And we want everyone to plan to come back, same time next year, for the BLM Championships!"

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