



Trinidad & Tobago Equestrian Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

: A STRONG T&T TEAM FOR WORLD DRESSAGE CHALLENGE.

February 16, 2013: Wednesday, February 27th will be a very exciting day for our local Dressage riders. The T&T Equestrian Association (TTEA) will host the first major International Dressage competition for 2013 at the Saddle Valley Stables (formerly Hidden Valley Stables) in Santa Cruz. The FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) World Dressage Challenge 2013 is the long awaited annual event, and there will be two visiting international FEI judges - Mr. Mariano Santos Redondo, President of the Ground Jury / Spain and Mrs. Elke Ebert / 4 Star Judge Germany - to oversee the event. For the benefit of our riders, these esteemed judges will conduct a clinic at each of the individual stables, to continue the riders' and horses' development in the art of Dressage. The clinic follows the competition, on Thursday, February 28th, and is for selected riders who place among the top 10 adult riders and 4 best placed children.

The aim of this FEI Competition is to give the less experienced Dressage riders who, under normal circumstances, cannot take part in International Dressage Competitions and live in the more remote countries, the opportunity to compete internationally without having to leave their own country.

The Competition is currently divided into twelve geographical Zones, made up of between four and six countries. It offers five performance levels and two age groups (12-15 yrs; 16 yrs and older): Prix St. George / Advanced / Medium / Elementary / Preliminary. Trinidad & Tobago falls within Zone 10, competing against Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Barbados, Haiti and Jamaica. Within the competition there are two classifications, Individual and Team, with the Individual based on the results obtained by each rider throughout the competition, and the Team based on the highest total percentage obtained by the 3 best riders of a country's team.

The final trials to determine this year's T&T team were held recently on January 26th, and the FEI Four Star International Dressage Judge for that competition was Mrs. Victoire Mandl. The rider/horse combinations for this competition turned in some very impressive scores, generating some high expectations for the upcoming FEI competition.



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The high score of the trials went to Ambriel Weatherly riding "Nobil LX". Weatherly claimed the high score for the day, and possibly the highest score ever set by a T&T National, with 73.27% in the Preliminary Adult category. Other very impressive scores were turned in by Patrice Stollmeyer on "Monte Carlo" with 69.13%, in second place following Weatherly. Stollmeyer also came first in the Elementary Adult category, riding "Claudio". In the Advanced Adult Category, Margaret Auerbach on "Takeover" took first place with 60.94%, and the top score for the day in the children's category went to Brynn English on "Zimbu" achieving a score of 67.241 %. The results from the tests ridden at the final trials along with the accumulated scores from tests ridden throughout the year, contribute to determining the country teams for the FEI's World Dressage Competition. Following the dressage trials, Judge Mandl remained in Trinidad for four days, where she lead dressage clinics at each of the participating stables, in order to prepare the riders and horses for the upcoming international competition.

The TTEA is proud to announce its Team T&T for the FEI World Dressage Competition on February 27th:

Mrs. Patrice Stollmeyer
Miss Mariel Lanser
Miss Chelsea Thomas
Miss Olivia Xavier-Harford

To see T&T's best Equestrian Dressage riders, come to the Saddle Valley Stables on February 27th, from 10.00am.

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FOR PHOTOS, SEE NEXT PAGE:



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Patrice Stollmeyer on "Claudio"



Ambriel Weatherly on "Nobil LX"