



Nancy Jaffer

Gribbons with Steffen Peters

out of their hats when they need it.

"This is a skill that sometimes goes missing here because the riders aren't motivated or they can't afford several horses or they're too busy with their businesses," she said. "Whatever the problem is, it needs to be solved. We need to start training our own horses. We have an educational program now that I hope gets expanded. It will take time. All good things do."

Anne believes sponsors should demand the riders who are showing their top horses also train young horses. "It makes no sense to have just one Grand Prix horse to ride around on. You need

more ring time. Almost every weekend the Europeans are at a horse show. We should get organized and disciplined." There is no time to waste if we want medals at the 2014 WEG or the 2016 Olympics in Rio. She once asked **Maarten van der Heijden**, secretary general of the Dutch Equestrian Federation, how long it took that nation to achieve the ability to win the best medals. The answer was a decade, plus funding from Rabobank, a longtime supporter of equestrian sport in the Netherlands.

The British started a laser-like focus on London more than six years ago, and they have national lottery money to help fund them. "The beauty of it was that really talented riders could just ride," said Anne. "They didn't have to train other people's horses to earn a living. They didn't have to buy or sell horses or spend time on the road. They could concentrate on perfecting their riding."

The U.S. government does not support equestrian sport. Equestrian gets money from the U.S. Olympic Committee. Losing that money "is a big fear, of

course," Anne said. "With no medals, they give us less." Even in the best-case scenario, the amount does not compare with what riders in many other countries receive from government and/or special-interest groups. She sympathizes with "young people who can train and ride, but can't afford the board and upkeep on a horse, so the whole thing falls apart. It's a vicious cycle. You see this young person and horse and think, here's the future, and then they tell you they can't afford to go to the horse shows."

In the overall picture of the sport in this country, Anne is looking forward to seeing our dressage riders apply themselves with some more discipline and willingness to accept honest advice and appreciate it. After all, criticism is difficult for us all to deal with, but it cannot always be delivered in a very flowery and positive way. "Being a judge, I know when a movement will not receive an 8 or a 9, and a 7 is not good enough any more. I would love to see us get beyond the seven some time soon."—Nancy Jaffer

2012 Dressage at Devon Breed Division

The 37th annual Dressage at Devon (DAD) Breed Division was held last September in Pennsylvania. Beatrice VDL (Prestige VDL/L'Actrice), a 6-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare, was named Grand Champion as well as Mature Horse Champion. She was bred by VDL stud in the Netherlands and is owned by **Pieter Ruig** of Shelter Island, New York.

High Valley Hanoverians' Don Frederic HVH (Don Frederico) won the Materiale Championship, and its Coeur D'Amour (Conteur) was Stallion Champion.

The Great American/USDF Breeders Championship for Foals was won by Heirloom (Vinca) owned by **Phoebe DeVoe-Moore, MD**. The filly championship went to Floraya ISF (Florianus II) owned by **Iron Spring Farm**, and the colt champion was Damocles HLF (Diamond Stud) owned by **Meagan Davis**. Find all results at dressageatdevon.org.



SusanStickle.com

Beatrice VDL was crowned Grand Champion.