

**Beth Barnett and Sheepcote Delight now head to the nationals after their double win**



# Two double delights for Sheepcote

**NORTH-WEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, SOMERFORD PARK, CHESHIRE**  
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**By Jo Prestwich**

DUAL winners were the order of the day at Somerford's regionals, which were held at their new complex. The weather was unkind, prompting one bystander to joke:



**Lucy Pincus's Sheepcote Sandmartin**

"Where else but England could you suffer from sunburn, frostbite and trench foot all in 20 minutes?"

The Pincus family's Sheepcote Stud took home four titles — two courtesy of daughter Lucy, who won at novice and elementary with the home-bred Sheepcote Sandmartin, and two via Beth Barnett with Sheepcote Delight at elementary and medium.

Beth did her winning the hard way. Second to go in the elementary, the rain started with a vengeance as she set off down the centre line.

"I have never been so wet," she said. "But luckily I came prepared and brought a complete change of clothes, except for the hat and boots — which were sodden. It was a very long day and a very

long wait [to see if I had won], but well worth it."

Beth bought Delight — a half-sister to Sandmartin's sire Wurlizer — as a yearling.

"I've always bought them as youngsters and brought them on and sold them, but now I have a proper job I'm hoping to keep this one," said Beth, who works on a co-operative fruit farm helping with its schools projects.

Lucy Pincus added her two wins to last year's novice restricted title with Sandmartin.

"His medium trots have really improved in the past few days and his balance is much better this year," said Lucy, who is planning to take the nine-year-old to the area festivals at medium, then work on his changes over the winter.

He's not the easiest. He is super talented but needs careful managing — if he was human he would be bordering on autistic

**Astrid Bolton** on her tricky double winner Zidaane, ridden by Hayley Colwell