

March 2004

**Secretariat**

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**OFFICERS 2003 - 2006****President**

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Ms. Mercedes Jimenez-Horwitz

Ms. Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen

**Executive Director**

Miss Norma Pearce

*Greetings to all FRDI members at the start of this New Year. There will be challenges for us all. We hope to meet these challenges with energy and good humour and in the spirit which characterises so much that we do in the field of therapeutic riding.*

*At the time of going to press the world news is of great concern. Our thoughts are with all those people who have been affected by terrorist activities in various parts of the world. We assure all our members in these areas and any others who may be affected of our support.*

## *Executive* **BOARD MEETING** ..... *February* .....

The Executive Board held its meeting in February – using a telephone conference call. This method is usually used for alternate meetings in an attempt to reduce cost. It has been found to be the next best thing to a face to face meeting. While there are some difficulties, they are not insurmountable and these meetings enable the work of the Board to proceed.

Matters considered at the February meeting included: Skills Bank Directory, Revision of the FRDI brochure, Terminology & definitions in use within the field of Therapeutic Riding, Enquiries from Nepal, Poland, Greece, Venezuela, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Kenya & Romania., International Congresses (2006 & 2009), Full Member application.

The financial report for the year January – December 2003 will be forwarded to Full Members together with the auditor's report.

## **2003 Journal**

The 2003 Journal (Number 9) has been posted to all members. Please advise the Office if you have not received your copy.

**Journal Editor**

Dr Olive Webb has been a member of the Journal Committee since its inception in 1995 after the Congress in New Zealand. She has been editor of the Journal since 1998. We want to take the opportunity to thank Olive most sincerely for her dedication to this task. Olive has advised the Executive Board that she wishes to stand aside from the position of Editor, due to increased commitments with her work. She will remain as a member of the Committee. We congratulate her on her past efforts and wish her well .

The Board is currently seeking a new Editor. Watch the newsletter and our website for news of the new editor.

**Journal Articles**

Members who have articles they wish to be considered for publication in the Journal should send them as per instructions in the Journal.

## **Skills Bank Directory**

It is proposed that a Directory of qualified personnel in the field of Therapeutic Riding be compiled. The Directory would enable those countries seeking assistance with Training Programs to seek the advice and guidance of qualified people within our membership. It was hoped that this information would be published in the Directory of Education and Training last year, but insufficient responses were received. A further request for this information will be sent to members shortly.



## BANK PAYMENT DETAILS

### Important Notice re:

German Account – "THERAP" gem. e.V  
Dr Barbara Kluwer reports that bank charges are much less if members remember to use IBAN and Swift-Code when making payments into this account.

### Account Details: "THERAP" gem e.V,

C/- Dr med Barbara Kluwer,  
Am Zaarshauschen 22,  
51427 Bergisch Gladbach, Germany

Kreissparkasse Koln:  
Konto No.: 0313011223  
BLZ 370 502 99

IBAN: DE67 3705 0299 0313 0112 23  
Swift-BIC code: COKSDE33

**Please use these details so that we can avoid excessive bank charges.**

Receipts are issued for German tax purposes

## CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

Members are requested to advise the Office of any change of address – postal and e-mail, or contact telephone and fax numbers. This assists greatly with our communication and ensures that you receive mail without delay.

## PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are for a calendar year from the date of joining. Renewal notices are sent to members - usually in conjunction with the quarterly newsletter. It has been our practice to send two reminders –i.e. over a six month period. It is easy to overlook payment, but if there has been no response to either of the reminders we will assume that you no longer wish to continue membership and no further correspondence will be sent. An increased number of members are choosing to pay their fees using an annual credit card deduction. This is found to be mutually beneficial. You will always be sent a reminder – to check that details are correct and that we have your permission to proceed. Please contact me at the Office if you have any queries regarding payment of your fees Prompt payment of fees enables us to manage our accounts effectively.

Best wishes  
Norma Pearce – Executive Director

## New Full Member

## ..... R.D.A. Korea .....

An application had been received from the Riding for Disabled Association of Korea.

R.D.A.- Korea's purposes are:

- To promote the popularising of therapeutic riding concepts throughout the country.
- To facilitate the collaboration between different organizations practising therapeutic riding programs, whose objectives are charitable, scientific and educational.
- To encourage the medical and paramedical therapists, sports expertise, and educationalists to specialize in such techniques while remaining in their domain.
- To develop the standards of practice for therapeutic riding programs.

After consideration of their application and supporting documents the Board was pleased to approve the application. We welcome RDA- Korea as a Full Member.

## PEWTER ORNAMENTS

*made in Canada by Seagull Pewter  
and designed by equine artist Susan Strachan Johnson*

Ornaments are CAD\$15.00 each. Orders can be placed through CANTRA.

Contact: Lynne O'Brien E-mail: [ctra@golden.net](mailto:ctra@golden.net)

Check the website for details: [www.cantra.ca](http://www.cantra.ca)

**GREAT VALUE!!!**

## A NEW BOOK from Dr Ulrike Thiel - Netherlands. *"Beter paardrijden kun je leren" - 6 November 2003, Wanroij*

**For more information contact:**

Dr Ulrike Thiel, HippoCampus,  
Instituut voor Equithérapie en Hippische Sportpsychologie

E-mail: [hippocampus@iae.nl](mailto:hippocampus@iae.nl) OR

Check details on the website: [www.hippocampus-nl.info](http://www.hippocampus-nl.info)

## Technical Aids for Riding with Disabled Riders CD

**Cost:**

32 Euros.

These were on sale at the  
Congress in Budapest

**Contact:**

Charlotte von Arbin, Sweden.

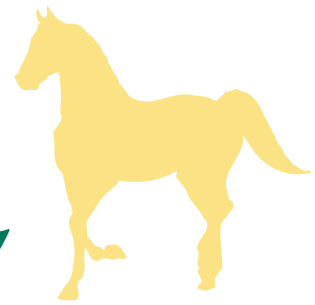
**E-mail:**

[von.arbin.charlotte@telia.com](mailto:von.arbin.charlotte@telia.com)



# Talking Point

## "Terminology in Use in the Field of Therapeutic Riding"



A variety of terms are currently in use amongst our members and others in the field of Therapeutic Riding. It is important as we seek to spread information about the diversity of our work that we are consistent in expression to avoid the possibility of misinformation and misunderstanding.

Our President, Gundula Hauser has prepared the following thoughts on the subject:

**Therapeutic Riding.** This is the first of a proposed series where the various areas of therapy using the horse will be discussed.

It is proposed that "TALKING POINT" will be a regular feature in our newsletter, to promote discussion and provide information for those who are unfamiliar with this field of therapy.

### THERAPEUTIC RIDING:

The expression "Therapeutic Riding" has been employed since the International Congress in Hamburg in 1982 as the collective term for all areas of professional help involving the horse. It has become well established and in our modern linguistic usage it would be unthinkable not to have it.

It is very important to me that "therapeutic riding" should not be taken as merely a verbal shell. This shell or casing should be filled with content, furnished with thoughts and consideration which are valid for all areas, and this concept should become a model, a vision for us.

"Therapeutic Riding" was, and is controversial, since some people ask what the word "therapy" has to do with riding sports for people with disabilities, while others who are engaged with therapeutic work do not agree with the use of the term "riding".

I have given the matter some thought and sought the advice of a Professor of classical Greek who explained to me the origin of the word "therapy". In ancient Greece a "therapist" was someone who served the gods, and since

it is rather difficult to serve the gods directly, it was someone who served the gods through other people. Devoting oneself to helping the needy whatever shape or form their needs might take, was considered – indirectly, as "serving the gods".

It is important to me what can be deduced from this conclusion. What does make the difference which determines whether I lend a person a helping hand or whether I accompany someone with the background and attitude of a "therapist"? A perception of values, of ethics, can be derived from this as to how I face the "You".

Initially I think that "I help" is not so much in the foreground any more. We may help or accompany, but we are not "almighty" or "omniscient". The key to helpful action is to be found in ethics, especially in the ethics of conviction. In all my actions I am and I remain a tool, and the person who turns to me is worthy of every attention and esteem. What about our esteem? I once read the words: "esteem is the courtesy of the heart and a sister of love" In order to make this esteem felt by the person with whom you are dealing three supporting pillars must be heeded:

- That of perception, such as that called for by the Gestalt therapists, which is an open, unprejudiced perception that should be developed and practised,
- The degree of interest shown which makes it clear that at this moment nothing and no-one is more important to me than the client or the group (and no interruption of any kind should be allowed to disturb this),
- And the complete attention which enables me to register every little detail, every single change, however slight, and respond to it.

In all this it is important that the "companion" should be aware of his function and of his limitations. It is not, for example, the trainer's job in riding sports for persons with disabilities

to deal with the background circumstances. However, he/she should be aware of them and take them into consideration.

The more we are tuned in receptively to what is going on, the more we can usually allow the individuality and function of the horse to come into play.

Horses are indeed a good mirror, a fact which has often been dealt with in specialist literature. If we were to regard this "tool" merely as little more than an object for riding on and make use of it only as such, we would deprive ourselves of an entire dimension of further knowledge and perception.

It is of course clear that in many areas of therapeutic riding different aspects will be given a different amount of emphasis, but the basic considerations should be given the same degree of importance everywhere.

In all areas of therapeutic work via the medium of the horse, we have a wide range of possibilities at our disposal which we should use and which we are permitted to use. By the mutual exchange of views and experiences which can take place at a congress as well as by candid encounters in one's own country and reaching far beyond all borders, we can learn from one another and give attentiveness of the heart priority over all differences.

The ethical meaning and significance of the term "therapeutic riding" should be in evidence in all our work and should influence all our actions. This will result in this form of therapy achieving the regard and importance which it deserves, and joy in our work will ensure that our endeavours flourish!

In the following issues we shall examine the separate areas of therapeutic riding more closely.

Gundula Hauser – President

# RDA-Samsung NEWS

## Home Coming Day

On Dec. 20th, Samsung Riding for the Disabled Association held its first Homecoming Day in Korea for all clients, their families, and medical staff related to the program.

30 client families, volunteers, and others, making up approximately 170 people gathered at the Samsung Equestrian Team's indoor arena for a day of fun filled activities. Festively adorned in Christmas decorations, the staff, all dressed up as Santa Claus were ready to greet the participants.

In celebration of "Back to RDA Day" the participants took turns riding ponies, Dream and Finale, for a short period of time throughout the whole day. Even though the rides were short, all were excited to be back and to see the ponies again.

While some rode, others were assigned to four different groups to decorate bare Christmas trees, to get into the Christmas spirit as well as to challenge clients' movement. Family members joined in decorating the trees with ornaments prepared by Samsung staff and volunteers. They even shared ornaments to decorate the kicking boards near each group.

Much to the delight of all, a special presentation was given by the Samsung Electronics' Dressage team trainees, to a musical freestyle. With the motto "Hopes and Dreams for the Disabled" the tone was set for "Home Coming Day." The trainees were excited to share and prepare something to present to our special guests. They had practiced the musical freestyle for several weeks and put on a great performance.

Summing up the year and wishing for an even better year next year, participants watched a picture and video presentation to review the activities of 2003. The festivities of the day concluded with the lighting of candles and all participants gathering in a large circle to reflect on the past year. Although no one spoke out loud, we are certain everyone was hoping for better health and a happier 2004!

Unfortunately, like all good things, Samsung RDA's 1st Home Coming Day came to an end. It was truly a special day for all and we look forward to the next one where we hope to see an even greater number of participants attend.



# Open Musical Ride Competition

## RDA UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

For the past few years RDA UK has held a Musical Ride Video Competition at the National Championships. It is becoming increasingly popular amongst our groups as it allows them to compete without leaving home. This year an overseas RDA group sent a musical ride video to the RDA UK National Office. Unfortunately this was not eligible for entry into the National Competition.

As a result of this interest from overseas, RDA UK would like to establish a new competition called "The Open Ride Competition" from RDA groups overseas. Dependent upon entries, countries may wish to have an internal competition

between their groups to select entries for the competition. The rules for the new competition will be obtainable from Kay Woodcock at the RDA UK National Office. Tel: 44-24 7669 6510 OR E-mail: [dressage@riding-for-disabled.org.uk](mailto:dressage@riding-for-disabled.org.uk)

### For more information please contact:

**Pauline Lipscomb** –  
International Liaison Officer  
Tel: 44 1753 645349 OR  
E-mail: [paulinelipscomb@btinternet.com](mailto:paulinelipscomb@btinternet.com)  
or

**Jandy Hobbs** – Musical Ride Co-ordinator  
Tel: 44 1747 812658 OR  
E-mail: [riswrda@hotmail.com](mailto:riswrda@hotmail.com)



## Brazil: I IBERO-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF EQUOTHERAPY

Members will note from the Coming Events section of the newsletter that an Ibero-American Congress of Equotherapy is being held in Salvador, Brazil in November this year. Our friends in Brazil invite any members who are interested to contact them for more details of this Congress.

### LOGO OF THE I IBERO-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF EQUOTHERAPY

To create the Congress logo, Professor Ana Maria Bonfim Coutinho, a volunteer at ANDE-BRASIL, used the real situation referred ahead, being both names of the practitioner and the horse fictitious.

Maria is ten years old and she rides the horse Guarani in equotherapy.

Her diagnostic is non-progressive chronic encephalopathy (brain paralysis) and microcephaly by citomegalovirus. As a consequence, she presents tetraparesis, hypertonia in legs and arms, with absent static and dynamic balance. In this clinical

trial, she shows herself emotionally instable about relationships with others and low level of resistance to frustrations.

After five months of equo-therapeutic practice, Maria improved her static and dynamic balance and created positive links with her mediator, with Guarani and with the equo-therapeutic environment.

Professional experiences in similar cases indicate that, with the continuity of equo-therapeutic treatment, Maria could be able to walk with temporary use of auxiliary devices, a walker for example. It is expected, yet, that Maria could develop independent walk.

The observed improvement – both in the physical and emotional aspect – is due to several factors, with special attention to the facilitating action of the horse Guarani.

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.equoterapia.org.br](http://www.equoterapia.org.br)

# NEWS from *around the World*

*In Asia, FRDI has members in Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.*

*The following reports open a window on some of their activities. We hope members will find them of interest. Contact details for any of these groups are available from Norma at the Office.*

## A WINDOW ON *Asia*

Note: FRDI Membership in Asia has been established for some time and is increasing. Significant contributions to the development of therapeutic riding programs in this area have been made by some of our other member countries - e.g. United Kingdom (RDA) & Australia (RDAA) to name two.

### *Hong Kong*

#### **RDA Hong Kong**

GRADE 3 EXAM: Hong Kong RDA held a Grade 3 exam for eight of their instructors on 24 November 2003. This was the largest RDA exam ever held in Hong Kong. Examiners Jenny Leggate and Sue Adams-Wheeler were invited from the U.K. to examine the candidates.

The exam commenced on November 24 and finished on November 27, thus ending a very busy week. The exam covered Stable Management, Medical Knowledge, Teaching then assisting in a class lesson, Teaching a private lesson and last but not least assess an able bodied lesson talking about the aids, paces and rider's general correct position.

All candidates were successful in their exams passing either the Grade 3 or the HKRDA Group Instructor's Certificate.

Grade 3 and HKRDA Group Instructor's Certificates were awarded to Carolyn Blaauw, Nicki Greeves, Sue Gazzie, Benny Kwan, Marie Lai, Paul Leung, Winnie Tung and Erica Wheatley.

Congratulations to all those who took part.

#### **A RIDER FROM HONG KONG – Nelson YIP Siu-hong sent this report:**

My Experience at the Japan National Dressage Championships for the Disabled: It was almost exactly 13 years ago when my professor in University sent me a quote from the General George S. Patton, apparently intended to gear up the troops in a time of war. It said simply:

"Accept the challenge without reservation or doubt. Risk the depression of losing so that you may experience the exhilaration of victory." Since my first day with horse riding competition games, I have come to regard these few simple, but succinct, words as my horse riding creed.

Our team arrived at the guest house of Miki Horseland Park located at Miki, Hyogo in the late evening of 12th November. We were greeted by Mr Norio MIKI, the Chairman of Organization Committee of the National Dressage Championship and Mr. Hiroto Watanabe, the Vice-president of the JRDA (Japan Riding Association for the Disabled) and made to feel like at home. There were nice smiles everywhere in the Horseland Park - the count down was on for the big day. The next day, we all went up to Horseland Park, what a fantastic venue, the indoor stadium, stables, the areas and the horses. My horse prepared by Japan was a gelding called "Seika" (meaning of "Holy Fire" in English or "\_\_\_" in Chinese). He was a pretty black with a sweet nature and had white blaze down his face. He had good paces and was very sensitive to the voice, whip, saddle, and was working at elementary level.

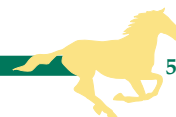
The 15th November was the Opening Ceremony of the National Competition Games and competition day had finally arrived. After the warm-up day, I knew where I had to improve on one or two things, especially on the accuracy and transition paces with Seika in the

individual competition. Being the only non-Japanese member, I understood that I have to do my best and accept the challenge without reservation or doubt.

The individual championship went well for me but so did other Japanese competitors, there was no room for errors in such a strong competition with 16 competitors in the Game. To my surprises, when the result came to the scoreboard, I had the highest percentage score.

The individual game followed by the day of the Freestyle to music. I picked the Phantom of the Opera as my music. The pressure and the unknowns of the ultimate contest began to grip and grab my emotions. It was timely for my great instructor Mr. Nick Rodgers to remind me that the very pressure and tension I was feeling was exactly the first stage of accepting the challenges in sport games.

All the scores were up except mine with Mr. IKEDA at 54%, and his fellow team member Mr. Chin JYU at 58%, was it possible to beat him or her? Then my score went up at 59%! I could hear the crowd shouting and applauding, and was proud of our team achievements with great honour. So it was time to go home after having another wonderful time at the Closing Ceremony, having to say goodbye to all our new friends. Coming home on the plane I relived my experience in my dreams, and my Japanese Dream will stay with me forever.



# Japan



Warashibe-kai

## Logo = Rider & Horse & Wheelchair

Warashibe-kai has four facilities (care centres) for the disabled in Osaka and Hokkaido. A training course for therapeutic riding instructors is attached to one of the centres in Hokkaido where 50 people—mostly physically handicapped adults—reside. The centre also provides day care services for the elderly. During the one year instructor training course, students learn basic knowledge that is required for the therapeutic riding program, as well as hands-on teaching experience under the supervision by experienced instructors from Warashibe-kai.

The training course was first introduced in April 1998. In June the same year, we had a visit by Sister Chiara, who shared not only her valuable knowledge and practical skills but also her passion towards riding for the disabled activities. Her visit has had an enormous effect on our therapeutic riding programmes and instructor training course. We also have had several visiting instructors and physiotherapists from different areas over the past six years so that we can learn different aspects of riding for the disabled activities.

While we have been trying to establish a programme that serves best our riders, we decided to include a training course that is certified by the Health and Welfare Ministry (it is called home helper training course in Japan) as part of our curriculum. This is because, even though there are

riders of different ages and disabilities in the region, most riders from Warashibe-kai are physically handicapped riders. We believe this additional curriculum will also help the students after they finish the course, as Japan is one of the most rapidly ageing societies and instruction techniques and goals for therapeutic riding programmes for these riders are different from the ones for younger riders.

We had some good news and some bad news in 2003. Sadly, Urakawa had a major earthquake with Magnitude 8.0 and a couple of typhoons which directly hit the region. However people here worked hard together to overcome the situation and luckily we did not have any serious effects on our activities. The good news is that with a newly built indoor arena we can have riding lessons without worrying about the weather.

By the end of March, the number of instructors who finished the course will reach over 90. Most of them are involved in the therapeutic riding programmes in their region throughout Japan. As riding for the disabled activities are fairly new in Japan, the work they are involved in is more to do with establishing programmes, setting up new centres and attracting more support by local residents, than actually teaching riders and taking care of and training horses.

Under these circumstances, Warashibe-kai and its school started to put emphasis on supporting the students who finished the course by building a network and holding workshops for advanced level instructors. We believe these efforts will make an impression on expansion and improvement of riding for the disabled activities and winning support from a variety of people in Japan.



Top: One of the riders from Warashibe rides proudly during an "Exhibition Ride" in the Ceremony.

Above: Completion Ceremony of the indoor arena



RDA Japan

RDA Japan was founded with the wish to spread the idea of riding for the disabled within the nation. It began with a small group activity in 1991 based on the RDA UK principles, and was recognized as one of the international RDA groups in 1997. The national organization "RDA Japan" was established in the following year. Later in 2000, the organization acquired status as a non-profit organization (NPO) recognized by the city of Tokyo.

## Group Activity History

As in other nations, there are a number of groups within Japan that offer riding activities for the disabled. To name a few categories, there are groups like RDA Japan which are based on the RDA UK principles, groups which are focused on dressage competition riding, groups which are conducting activities in conjunction with research such as the National Institute of Special Education which has a program working with German instructors and physiotherapists, and individual groups which have started activities on their own domestically.

Within these groups, the groups associated to the RDA Japan and RDA UK principles are called "Units" RDA Japan assists and cooperates with these units to conduct RDA activities throughout the country. Currently, there are 20 Units in total across the nation, and the organization offers seminars approximately eight times a year for the volunteers who help at each group.



## Japan continued

Visitors from overseas are invited several times a year as well to continue learning about both instruction related and medical related matters. In the past, Sister Chiara, Josephine Pringle, Sandra Kreutzer-Brett, and Mary Longden have been invited to help expand knowledge on RDA related activities. Last year, the chief classifier for I.P.E.C (Chris Meaden) also visited RDA Japan for lectures on classification, and 4 new classifiers were certified at this time.

RDA Japan has also established its original domestic certification for instructors.

Currently 10 instructors who have fulfilled the requirements have received this certification.

- Certified Instructors - 10
- No. of Units - 20
- Registered riders - approx. 750
- Registered volunteers - approx. 1,200
- Seminars by overseas guests - 10 times

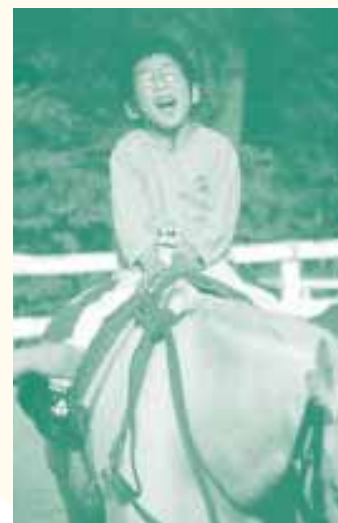
- Seminars for instructors by Japanese lecturers - 2 times
- Seminars for volunteers - 17 times

### RDA Activities in the Future

RDA Japan's aim is to offer more assistance to the Units across the country. The quality of the activities of the Units is essential to achieving the goal of expanding RDA activities widely through the country and is the key to success.

Training is also an important factor which the organization will continue to offer through lectures and seminars.

Preparation also has begun towards holding an "RDA Asia-Oceania Conference" in 2005 in Japan by inviting various groups from within the region. RDA Japan was honored to be able to send 2 of its members to the Education and Training Committee at the FRDI Congress, and look forward to being able to contribute more to the FRDI activities in the future.



## Singapore

### RDA Singapore

RDA Singapore operates from facilities adjacent to the Singapore Polo Club. They were pleased to be able to gain expertise from Australia - another country in the region, with a visit from Sally Francis, RDA State Coach for Victoria, Australia.

Sally visited RDA Singapore to mentor their recently appointed Stable Manager Zulkifli and Wee Hwee Bee the new Head Instructor. Sally will be outlining a training programme for Zul and Bee and will be coming back later in the year to monitor their progress and do the necessary assessments. RDA Singapore report that they are delighted to see Sally again as every volunteer seems to benefit in some way from her visits.

Two RDA riders were entered into the Walk/Trot test. Both riders had previously entered the Best Turned Out Horse and Rider class so this was a huge step forward for both riders. They coped extremely well. Three RDA exercise riders entered the competition as part of the on-going training of their new RDA horses. They were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd. They entered four RDA riders in the best Turned Out Rider and Horse class and achieved a 1st and 2nd placing for this class.

### Well done!!

Anyone wishing to learn more about Singapore and their activities should check - <http://home.pacific.net.sg/~rda>  
Tel: 6250-0176



Sally Francis with Zulkifli and Bee

## Taiwan



### Riding for the Disabled Association of Republic of China:

David Wang, Secretary General of RDA of R.O.C. sends this report.

Riding for the Disabled Association of the Republic of China was established in 1998 and approved by the Ministry of the Interior.

The three main objectives of the Association are:

1. Rehabilitation - called Hippotherapy.
2. Recreation - called therapeutic exercise.
3. Sport - called Equestrian.

In the past six years they have provided various courses to PT, OT, physicians and volunteers. The total trainees were up to 43 persons. People being trained or therapeutic cases were over 238 persons. For the third time a Hippotherapy course for CP will commence on March 7, 2004. RDA of R.O.C. wishes to thank FRDI for the opportunity to introduce themselves. On behalf of their Association David thanks all the sponsor groups and tutors who have assisted them in the past few years. Their kind support is greatly appreciated.



# Coming Events 2004/2005...

## MAY 2004:

26-30 May, 2004

### RDA Australia National Dressage Championships

Venue: Sydney International Equestrian centre, Horsley Park, New South Wales, Australia

This is the same venue that was used for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games equestrian competition.

Contact: Mrs Susan Cusack, RDA Australia, P.O. Box 424, Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032, Australia

Phone: 61 3 9372 2126  
Fax: 61 3 9376 6698  
E-mail: scusack@rda.org.au

27-28 May, 2004

### Symposium: "The Topical Questions of Non-Medical Intervention, Therapy and Rehabilitation"

Venue: Georgia - supported by Physiotherapy & Medicinal Tourism of Georgia, Ministry of Labour, Health & Social Defence of Georgia & State Dept. of Tourism & Health-Resort.

The symposium will highlight the intervention of Hippotherapy in the system of physical rehabilitation, together with other non-medical methods for prevention, therapy and rehabilitation purposes.

Those wishing to present papers, reports or display posters and exhibits are encouraged to make contact promptly. Conditions and rules of participation and bank requisites for transfer of money can be obtained.

Accommodation in either hotel or hostel is available.

Contact: Prof. Manana Rukhadze  
E-mail: mrukhadze@posta.ge OR ioram@vebery.net

## JUNE 2004:

27 - 30 June, 2004

### European Meeting: France

THEME: "The Best from Everyone and the best for All"

Association Regionale d'Equitation Therapeutique d'Alsace (ARETA) - An Associate member of FRDI invites interested persons to attend a European meeting on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Therapeutic Riding in Alsace.

The meeting will include a Welcoming Reception at Hotel de Ville de Rouffach on Sunday June 27. Other items on the program will include Equestrian Activities - including Games and competitions for riders with disabilities;

Workshops: Therapeutic Riding; Practical application and Case Studies; Planned topics and discussions about problems arising in practice; Pedagogic or tourist visit.

They look forward to meeting others with the same interests and exchanging ideas.

Contact: Monsieur Jean-Claude MURAT-Secretary,  
F.A.S. 30 route du Neuhoif - F-67400 ILLKIRCH, France.  
Fax: 00 33 (0) 3-88-66-89-41

## AUGUST 2004:

4 - 11 August, 2004

### International Riding Holiday for Adult Riders

Location: Clwyd Special Riding Centre, Llanfynydd, Wrexham, North Wales, U.K. LL11 5HN

This holiday is for adult riders from the U.K. and abroad with a physical disability and will provide an opportunity for likeminded adults from various countries to meet together in a relaxed atmosphere. Clwyd Special Riding Centre is a purpose built riding holiday centre with excellent wheelchair friendly facilities. There will be a varied riding programme to include instruction from Liz Potter RDASI, BHSI, as well as hacking out. A full social programme will also be arranged.

Riders must be able to ride independently at walk and rising trot and be capable of hacking out with a mounted helper. By way of introduction all applicants will be asked to send a video showing themselves mounting and riding.

Cost: (Including Full Board, Riding and Social Activities) - £250 payable on acceptance of the application.

Contact: Liz Potter RDASI, BHSI and Rosamund Gladstone ...at above address for application form - or fax or email.

Tel: 44 (0) 1352 770446  
Fax: 44 (0) 1352 771693

E-mail: info@clwydspecialridingcentre.org.uk

Check the website for more information:  
www.clwydspecialridingcentre.org.uk

## SEPTEMBER 2004:

1 - 3 September, 2004

### Queretaro, Mexico

Contact: Angel Talamantes, President AMARE

E-mail: amare@queretaro.com OR aboyzo@fisio.cinvestav.mx

## NOVEMBER 2004:

15 - 20 November, 2004

### NARHA Conference and Annual Meeting Kansas City- USA

THEME: "Fountains of Reflection"

Location: Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri, USA

Pre-Conference Workshops, Special Interest Forums & Regional Caucuses, Seminars, NARHA Horse Fair & Awards Banquet - Reception & Annual Meeting make this an event not to be missed.

Contact: NARHA, P.O. Box 33150, Denver, CO 80233

Tel: 1 800 369 RIDE (7433) www.narha.org

25-27 November, 2004

### Iberian-American Congress of Equotherapy and III Brazilian Congress of Equotherapy

THEME: "Horse: Facilitator of Human Rehabilitation"

Location: Salvador -BA, Brazil The conference will be organised by ANDE BRASIL

Interested people are invited to present papers to the Congress. They will receive with special satisfaction studies developed on the main theme.

Abstracts should be sent no later than April 30 on the specific form provided via the website

(Link item VI - form).

For more information check website:  
www.equoterapia.org.br

## 2005 Advance Notice:

### RDA ASIA-OCEANIA Conference 2005

Preparation has begun towards holding this conference in Japan. Invitations will be sent to groups and countries in the region. Watch this column for more information OR

Contact: Machiko Okumura,  
Overseas Contact -RDA Japan  
55-12-18-1023 Mita, Manato-ku,  
Tokyo 108-0073

Tel. & Fax: 81 3 3455 5033  
E-mail: machiko@au.wakwak.com

## OCTOBER 2005:

14 - 16 October, 2005

### CanTRA 25th Anniversary Conference

Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA)

THEME: "Tools to Teach ...to Learn...to Lead"

Location: University of Guelph,  
Ontario, Canada.

Put the date in your diary.

Contact: Ms Lynne O'Brien,  
Administrator, CanTRA  
P.O. Box 24009, Guelph,  
Ontario N1E 6V8 Canada

Tel: 1 519 767 0700  
Fax: 1 519 763 0304  
E-mail: ctra@golden.net  
Website: www.cantra.ca

**Note:** Copy for June edition of this newsletter should be at the Office by FRIDAY, May 28, 2004.  
If possible send by e-mail. Photographs, drawings, logos etc. are welcome

## Thank you

FRDI gratefully acknowledges the support of Samsung in the publication and distribution of this newsletter.

