



Federation of Riding for the Disabled International

November 2010 Newsletter

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Lexington, KY](#)

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Dear Friends of FRDI,

as you can probably tell from the size of this newsletter, this has been a very busy time.

Watching the performances at the World Equestrian Games and reading the reports from events around the world has been very inspiring to me. The First Annual Membership Directory is in the mail and I hope it will be a useful tool for our members.

It is my pleasure to introduce God Unlimited, the latest new Full Member from the United Kingdom. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage other programs to apply for Full Membership. Please contact me at office@frdi and I'd be happy to send you the details.

I wish you a peaceful Holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Gisela H. Rhodes
Executive Director

President's Report

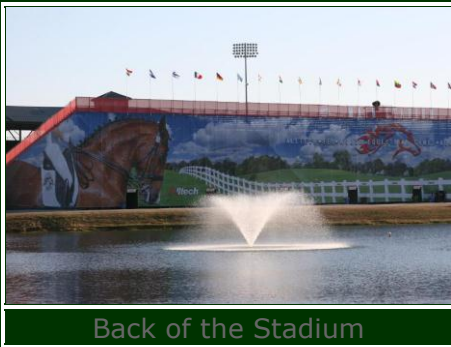
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Impressions from the
World Equestrian Games
Lexington, KY
September 25-October 10



Back of the Stadium



The International Stable

Greetings to all FRDI members,

I have had a very busy, but enjoyable time since the end of September including three overseas visits.

Prompted by my interest in Para Equestrian competition and role of Chairman of Selectors for Australia I attended the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in Sep./Oct. Whilst there I had the opportunity to meet up with Gisela where we approached companies with the trade stands we thought could be interested in having a stand at the FRDI congress in Greece in 2012.

Gisela is continuing to follow up with some expressions of interest.

Two weeks after arriving home I went to Taiwan where I had been invited to have a table at the FEI General Assembly representing FRDI and dispensing information about our organisation. I was also most fortunate to be involved in the Hope Cup where I was the Technical Delegate. I hope this will be the beginning of regular international competitions within the Asia Pacific region. This will give much needed opportunities for international competition for riders in this part of the world.

I have just returned from the United Kingdom where the Board of FRDI met at the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy for our annual face to face meeting.

We had a very intensive and productive four days where the main focus was on the review of the FRDI strategic plan and future directions.

I am very grateful to Jennifer Dixon-Clegg and all the staff at this wonderful centre for hosting this event and for their great hospitality. The FRDI board are ever mindful of managing frugally and these annual meetings would not





Philippa Mary Johnson, South Africa

be possible without the kind offers from various organisations of meeting venues and assistance to source cheaper accommodation.

I look forward to giving a more detailed report of this meeting in the next newsletter.

I wish you all a safe and peaceful Holiday break.

Pauline Perry

President



Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding Seminar in Tartu, Estonia by Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen, Finland

The first Baltic seminar about therapeutic riding and hippotherapy was held in Tartu, Estonia on September 25th, 2010. Members from Estonia, Finland, Lithuania and Latvia shared their expertise.

The seminar was arranged by the Estonian Equestrian Federation, Estonian Hippotherapy Association and Equestrian Friends of Luunja to establish contacts and co- operation in neighbouring countries. From Estonia and three other countries 18 participants attended the Seminar and from all those countries was also a presentation.

In all those countries the terminology and education is different and we wanted to make "consensus" what terminology to use for which



Warm up Ring

activity/therapy. Also possibilities for the co-operative education was discussed. For example Qualifications for riders and education for therapists.

Finland holds a long tradition for Handicapped riding and Hippotherapy education in Ypäjä Equestrian College. Also the governmental support and recognition are well established. Picture of Sanna Mattila-Rautiainen.

The Estonian Association for Hippotherapy was represented by Liina Raus, who has graduated from the only course held by Finnish Hippotherapists in (2005- 2006). Latvian rehabilitation center in Jurmala presented their private program for rehabilitation for children. Lithuania showed their expertise with video presentation.

The Russian presenter was unable to attend but they sent their presentation in power point. The Secretary General of Estonian Equestrian Federation Siim Nõmmoja held this presentation. Aleksander Dubrovi from Vaikla had his education for hippotherapy in Leningrad and told about his riding center which gives Charity camps for socially challenged and normal children.

The next seminar will be held in Tartu in 2011. More info from Estonian Equestrian Federation.

Equine Management, Upkeep and Selection on Equine Assisted Intervention by Kati Johanna Säkkinen

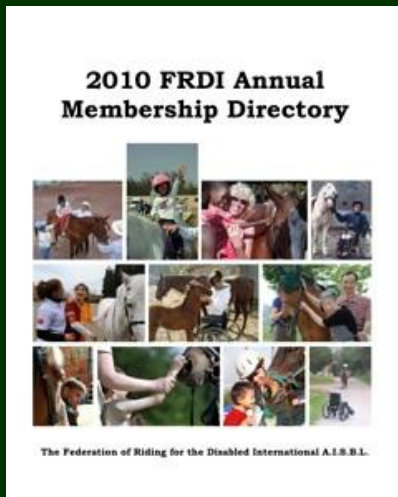
MA (Education), Specialised in Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities



Driving Team

For more photos [click here](#)
For results [click here](#)

The First Annual
Membership Directory is in
the mail



In animal assisted interventions horses, ponies (*Equus ferus caballus*) and donkeys (*Equus africanus asinus*) probably are the most often utilized animals except dogs. Equines take part in group sessions as well as in one to one interactions. They can participate in social or occupational activities as well as in therapeutic and pedagogical work. This broad working field sets slightly different requirements for management of horses, ponies and donkeys and form quite a challenge for the institutions to optimize their selection, upkeep and maintenance.

It was possible for me to take a closer look at this field as I worked with three different organizations (Green Chimneys in the United States, Oy Cavesson Ltd in Finland and Esperanza in Austria) that offer equine assisted interventions to their clients. In my research that I did to finish my studies in

If you did not receive the Directory by the end of December, FRDI might not have your current address. Please contact the [FRDI office](#)



Please welcome our new Full Member:
God Unlimited (GUL) from Great Britain

God Unlimited is a Christian charity registered in the United Kingdom. Gul runs an outdoor therapy centre from which it provides a range of activities designed to both challenge and encourage, with the ultimate goal of improving health for individuals, groups and ultimately communities. The Gul team comprises healthcare professionals, teachers and outdoor instructors. Gul also has a fully qualified Ranger who teaches ecology, sustainability and care of the environment.

The four main areas in which the team works therapeutically are physical and mental health, learning, and well-being with equine based activities as the main areas within the following:

- Walking and navigation
- Physical fitness for all
- Equine riding as a sport
- Equine assisted therapy for the four areas given above
- Cycling
- Camping
- Music therapy

Animal Assisted Therapy at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna (Austria), I collected various facts about the different ways of selection, management and upkeep of equines they use for equine assisted interventions. In comparing the successful - even if slightly different - ways in which the three target organizations manage above mentioned points and to get to know the different ways they use their equines in Animal Assisted Interventions, I was able to analyze the main facts for humanely structured upkeep and management of equines for Equine Assisted Interventions and to describe their different viewpoints about selection of equine individuals for their work that they developed.

As these organizations are stationed in different countries, the study also shows forms of Equine Assisted Interactions in international comparison. The goal of my study was to bring the various perspectives, similarities and differences that exist in the equine assisted field into the focus of awareness for the interested public. The empirical data of my study was collected in semi-structured interviews with two interviewees from each organisation and analysed according to the requirements of a study in phenomenology.

- Horticultural therapy
- Physiotherapy

Whilst God Unlimited is a Christian charity this organization is about the providers and not the provision. People of all faiths and no faith are equally welcome. The charity was registered three years ago and now has over 100 people through its activities every week. Gul's mission statement is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action through the outdoor therapy and riding centre providing challenges and pursuits design to help young people, adults and church groups discover the joy of creation. Gul is a licensed riding school and member of the Association of British Riding Schools.



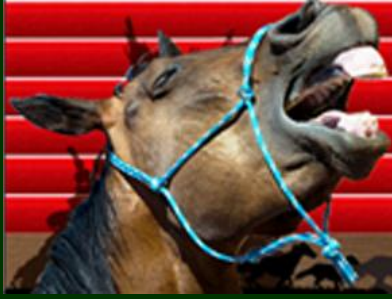
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Order your flowers through [Petals](#) Network and a portion of your purchase goes toward FRDI's fundraising efforts.

Each of the three organisation has worked with equines from the start, whereby Green Chimneys has been active in the field since the late 1940ies and Oy Cavesson Ltd as well as Esperanza first since the 90ies.. Their equines origin from different sources, yet each institution assesses prospective equines before taking them in. In Green Chimneys no breed preferences are declared as horses, ponies and donkeys are mostly donated to the farm. These offered animals then first go through various selection procedures at their original place and only those, who pass these first assessments and also correspond to size and working capacity momentarily needed, are taken into the Campus farm for an initial three months try out period. Oy Cavesson Ltd mostly works with equines that have been born in their own breeding farm for Finn horses and Welsh B ponies, but even they use an initial period for equines that gradually are to be integrated into client work, lasting three to six months. Neither in Finland nor in Austria it is possible to rely on getting equines offered as donations like in the States. Therefore additional equines have to be bought. In the smaller establishment of Esperanza only one donkey has already been born on the farm, all other equines have been purchased.

Some of the equines that have been chosen



Learn how to make a rope halter and support FRDI at the same time.

For more information, [click here.](#)

The Mary Selway - Swift Development Fund

This fund was established from a bequest to FRDI from the estate of the late Mary Selway-Swift.

Mary was involved in the field of therapeutic riding over many years - in the United Kingdom and in South-East Asia (specifically in Hong Kong and Singapore). It was Mary's wish that this fund be used to promote and improve the educational opportunities, training and quality of riding therapy through the development of therapeutic riding programs internationally. She was particularly concerned for those in developing countries or in places which have limited access to training opportunities.

Any payments from the fund will be made annually on 7

by the organisations have a background of abuse. The representatives explained that they also have disabled equines or equines with special needs in their farm. Whether these animals live only as a part of the herd as long as it seems ethical possible or if they can take part in the client work varies from organisation to organisation, depending mostly on the number of such animals and the specific therapeutic and/or pedagogical goals of the organisation. The question whether and in which ways these animals can be included in client work and whether it is ethical to utilize them in therapeutic or pedagogic interactions, when they have health issues, caused reflective discussions in each case. The same goes for so called "retirement issues" as especially with donated animals older or handicapped equines might soon make up a greater part of the herd, so that some of them might reach a point where they cannot take part in the different activities anymore.

All organisations want to act ethically in their management, upkeep and selection of equines for their programs, but there are various viewpoints to be found in what might be considered ethical. Oy Cavesson Ltd for example shows very strict standpoints in this matter and allows only mentally and physically completely healthy animals to participate in client work. The other two organisations have

OCTOBER on the recommendation of the Planning Committee of the FRDI Executive Committee.

Please contact the [FRDI office](#) for an application.

Upcoming Conferences

March 25-27, 2011
Crown Plaza
St. Louis, MO

American Hippotherapy Association 2011 Conference

The 2011 AHA Conference will feature sessions on treatment techniques, the latest in ongoing research, and related healthcare issues. You won't want to miss it!

More Information Coming Soon!

Download the Call for papers:
[Call for Papers](#)

April 29-30, 2011
Conference on
Humane Education
Brewster, New York
Building Humane Communities:
Becoming Agents of Positive Change
Location: Green Chimneys, Brewster,
New York
Information: [Click here.](#)

June 3-5, 2011
CanTRA's
2011 National Conference

special purposes for animals with special needs that play an important role in offering children with similar experiences something to identify with and in this way helping them to integrate better. All organisations agree that no animal that is in constant pain should be in direct client contact. Also euthanasia was seen as an option by all, in cases where there was no other relief to be found for a suffering equine.



All aspects that came up in the research are influenced by various facts. Certainly the diverse target groups and settings as well as the different programs that each organisation offers have a modifying influence on each point. For example: Green Chimneys works daily with almost 200 children from the age of five till the age of 18 (in some cases 21), who are either in residential care or day students in the special education school at the campus.

Basics & Beyond
Prince Edward Island, CA
Location: The Joyriders T.R.A.,
Stanhope, Prince Edward Island, CA
Information: [Click here.](#)
Phone: (519) 767-0700
Contact: Louise Niven
Email: ctra@golden.net

September 28- 30, 2011
V Brazilian Congress of
Equotherapy and
II Iberian-American Congress of
Equotherapy
Official languages: Portuguese and
Spanish
Location: João Pessoa city, state of
Paraíba, Northeast Brazil, Brazil
Information:
www.Equoterapia.org.br/congresso.
Email: congresso@equoterapia.org.br



Calendar Updates

Remember to send your
important dates - workshops,
trainings, competition etc. in
English to the office.

The children take part individually in the wide range of programs and animal assisted interventions that are offered by Green Chimneys, such as hippo therapy, therapeutic riding and vaulting, driving program or Learn & Earn chores. These programs form part of their school day according to their individual possibilities and treatment goals.

Esperanza also offers residential services, although in a much smaller setting. They do not offer any special therapeutic animal assisted programs for the children, as the human-animal interactions there take place as on a family farm, according to the interest of the children. The Esperanza principle the representatives present is said to take the history of both human and animal into account, which they feel need to be acknowledged and accepted and any pedagogical work is planned according to these facts. This means that some of the children are in contact with the equines on a daily basis, some interact more with other animals in the farm and some are offered a professional education as helper in their upkeep and management.

Oy Cavesson Ltd does not have any long term residential treatment, but offers daily or weekly interactions with its equines to a wide

**We will promptly publish them
on the website!**

**FEI General Assembly
and
2010 Hope Cup**
International invitational
dressage competition for
physically and mentally
challenged riders

The first week of November was an extremely busy week for the Chinese Taipei Equestrian Association (CTEA) hosting the 2010 FEI General Assembly, at which FRDI president Pauline Perry had a table to introduce the organization and Therapeutic Riding to the international Equestrian world. At the same time FRDI EC member Uta Rindfleisch-Wu, CTEA director for PE sports and program director of the Therapeutic Riding Centre of Taiwan (ThRCT), organized the 6th Hope Cup as an International Dressage competition in connection with the FEI GA. The aim was to follow FEI rules as far as possible in an effort to establish FEI PE competitions in the Asian region. With 17 riders from 4 different countries this competition actually would have fulfilled the prerequisites for a CPEDI* competition. Judges Mr. Ulf Wilken, Chairman of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee, and Mr. Nick Rodgers, FEI PEI Judge, guaranteed that the riders would

range of target groups from children to families and to adults, all with quite different goals. They organise workshops for equine facilitators as well as programs for social welfare and leadership. The framework for this work the created of Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Equine Assisted Experiential Learning (EASEL) and Adventure Education. The human-animal interactions are organized mostly as one to one ground work with different obstacles, in which the horse is at liberty.



Since the organisations work in different ways it is only natural that there are differences between the policies that they have for the management, upkeep and selection of their equines. However, every organisation keeps their equines in an as natural conditions as possible to ensure mental and physical wellbeing of their animals, meaning that the

standard.

When sending out the invitation letters, ThRCT had no idea what the response would be, so it was a big surprise when the first registration of two riders came from the Australian Equestrian Federation. When registration ended, there were nine riders from Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore



Hong Kong
Grade II Rider
Timothy Tsan

entered into this competition, a number never expected and forcing ThRCT to organize a qualifying competition for its own riders, after which eight riders were chosen to join in. As Taiwan is not a horse country, borrowing enough horses suitable for each grade was not an easy task, but in the end all riders were happy about their mounts and were able to perform up to their standard. The riders expressed that they would be more than happy to come to Taiwan again for



competition.

CTEA had invited WEG gold medal winner, Mrs. Angelika

horses, ponies and donkeys live in the pasture or in paddocks in a herd situation and have access to a running shed as shelter from sun, wind and rain. They are taken inside only for medical reasons or for feeding concentrates individually or in extreme weather conditions. The organisations have different ways of managing safety issues, while their clients interact with the equines, yet safety for the humans and for the animals likewise were pointed out to be of great importance by every institution.

These organizations and their equine assisted work have all been developed from the vision of a single person, but this person has needed the backing of others (whether the collaboration of a spouse or of colleagues) to support them. The working with national and international associations, acknowledging the achievements of others and implementing international and national guidelines, methods and standards into their own equine assisted work, were also mentioned as being of importance by each of them. Additionally, interest in participating in further developments concerning cooperative activities was pronounced by all three, which in my opinion is very important in this relatively young and fast growing field of animal assisted interventions, as a continuing flow of information about new ideas and

Taipei, teach Taiwan's PE riders, hold a speech for all participants about "The Long Way to the Top" and joining the Hope Cup's opening ceremony, not knowing, that she also would be presented



A. Trabert, A. Becker, P. Perry,
U. Rindfleisch-Wu

with the "Against All Odds" Award at the FEI Gala.

So everything came together just perfectly and it was a good learning experience for everybody involved.

Hope that this event encouraged the participating nations to organize international PE competitions and promote Para Equestrian riding in the region.

FRDI Executive Committee meeting at FCTR, UK

individual experiences will be of advantage for each participant.

Unfortunately, it seems that in some fields of Animal Assisted Interventions competition rules more often than co-operation. It would be crucial to change this in order to further the public recognition of this important work that is already being done in various countries with often rather small financing. To strengthen the co-operative bond should not mean creating universal standards, but would open a more intense way of exchanging ideas to develop wider possibilities for each participant, enabling them to transport more information about the work with animals to the general public and also to underline their important role in the protection of animal rights - as all their work circles around the worth of human-animal interaction.

People need animals, because humans are part of nature too and survival in modern times will be easier with more intense and consciously led contact to fellow beings, transporting a deepened knowledge about nature to children during their development, furthering abilities of interspecies communication and helping different kinds of people to develop their social skills by giving them a chance of experiencing sensibly guided



left-right: M.-T. Kuypers (BEL),
A. O'Shallie (USA), P.Perry
(AUS), J.Baillie (UK, Cofounder
of FRDI), G.Rhodes (USA),
U.Rindfleisch-Wu (TWA)
front: J. Dixon-Clegg (UK) J.
Dzwonskowska (POL)

During Thanksgiving break the Executive Committee met at the Fortune Centre of Therapeutic Riding in the UK. Jennifer Dixon-Clegg, the director of FCTR and vice president of FRDI invited us and we enjoyed the company of the FCTR students and staff, who even treated us to a Thanksgiving dinner.

It was a pleasure to meet up with Mrs. Jenny Baillie, who co-founded FRDI and spear-headed last year's initiative to change the name of the organisation.

interactions with different animals. Equine assisted interventions form an important part of this. Through professionally led encounters with animals people can develop the ability to live an emotionally balanced life. They can further their ability to interact successfully with people as social and communicative skills are brought to a new level by professionally led contact with animals. A wide range of clients can profit from this.

A strictly positive way of working and training and a humanely correct way of upkeep is essential for success in Animal Assisted Interventions of any kind. Bonding with the animals, showing them respect as well as trust are some of the key elements to get adequate results with these activities and therefore they should be cherished both in equine assisted activities and in other areas of animal assisted interventions. The further development of this rich field in the best possible way is a goal of many already engaged there, be it in education or therapy.

I am glad to be part of this future!

We welcome your feedback!
Share your information, stories and photos with us!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Gisela Rhodes, E.D.

Federation of Riding for the Disabled A.I.S.B.L.

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