



PARAGRAPHS

Newsletter of United States Driving for the Disabled

Fall 2012

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is Fall; the leaves are cascading across the pasture, landing on stacks of pumpkins, overseen by the scarecrow that has guarded the garden all summer. This should be a time to curl up by the fire with a stack of good books but that is not the case at USDFD.

The Board of Trustees has granted the first scholarships from the Sybil Dukehart Memorial Fund. A trust fund has been established to provide a stable foundation for USDFD and plans are afoot for fun(d) raising efforts to replenish the scholarship fund as we begin the process of training and mentoring our drivers with disabilities, preparing them for international competition in 2014. An ambitious plan is in the works to train, equip, and send a competitive team with—if we are as successful as we hope to be—their own equipment and equines.

Team USA is the only team competing in para-equestrian competition that has to borrow horses and equipment. Although we were loaned champions and excellent equipment, driving a turn-out only five or six times before entering the arena does not make one able to successfully compete with folks driving their own animals and carriages.

Our Vice-President, Diane Kastama, invented fun(d)-raising games to raise money for the 2012 competition; the judges at a CDE were asked to enter golf cart races after the event. Using whatever method of chance allowed by the state in which the event took place, folks were invited to choose the winning judge. The races certainly proved the competitive spirit of our judges; seldom were all four wheels on the ground at the same time. A fun(d) raising committee is in formation to invent and refine such activities to raise money to allow an intensive two-year plan allowing USDFD and Team USA to compete successfully, making us real contenders.

USDFD would welcome your help. We would like to be represented at every event across the continent in the next two years, inviting people to join us in funding and promoting our competition in 2014. Just imagine how much fun you will have convincing the judges to enter the golf cart race or whatever project you invent to fund our clinics, our competitors, and Team USA. ¶



Team members at the 2012 Para-Equestrian World Championships: (left to right) Pam Johnson, Karen Gorham and Diane Kastama.

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USDFD.ORG

MISSION AND PURPOSE

United States Driving for the Disabled, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, seeks to improve the lives of challenged individuals throughout the United States and Canada by providing the experience of driving horses in a safe and challenging environment.

Our mission is to provide the extraordinary benefit of therapeutic driving to as many people as possible through sharing knowledge, experience, and serving as a resource for innovations in adaptive equipment for drivers, trainers, and programs offering carriage driving.

The Sybil Dukehart Memorial Fund seeks to provide financial assistance to equip and train disabled drivers through providing scholarship funds to applicants.

USDFD fosters opportunities for drivers to compete in national and international amateur competitions by training and providing financial support for Team USA.

PARA CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

by Karen Gorham

Thanks! to the USDFD and the USEF as they organized our teams trip to the 2012 World Championship carriage driving for the Para drivers in the Netherlands. Diane Kastama, Vice President of USDFD, made most of the arrangements.

Our pony and horse leases, entries, chef de equip Boots Wright, coach Keady Cadwell and team clothing were through USEF. Boots graciously paid her own way. The lodging, cars and golf carts were arranged by USDFD and Diane. The fund raising was all year long and we got our own airline tickets and food. If we want to take our own horses we will have to have sponsors and start right now. Debbie Banfield got a harness for us to raffle off. A new driver won the harness. We have so many people to thank for 2012.



Monday we arrived at Marie and Koos deRondes (our training camp site) and found they had just gotten home from Germany. The horse that Diane was assigned had just returned from a team that Joe Yoder used to win a Bronze medal in Reisenbeck, Germany.

To drive a leased horse and two different vehicles from Tuesday to Saturday was a challenge. I drive a two wheel cart at home, so the four wheel, delayed steering marathon vehicle was different. We drove the four wheel, beautiful dressage vehicle twice before the competition. At Breda prior to the competition we drove two days.

Solo, the pony that I drove, was very manageable put to the carriage and in condition! He was a former show jumper and willingly moved forward. We could have worked on bending more. Since we are retired, I would have liked to gone earlier on my own time and competed with the pony at a few local events and driven the leased

pony a few days prior to our coach arriving. In Florida it took me two shows to get a handle on my leased pony. The length of reins is different on each vehicle and in each section of the CDE.

The first day we should have had a horse course 101 in Dutch for whoa, trot, extend, back up and Good Boy.

During our training camp time, each driver had 1-2 hours of lessons each day. Diane was first, then Pam, then me. We watched and listened in on each other's lessons and learned a lot! We started with dressage for three days, then cones and portable obstacles in different fields. Wednesday they set up a 20 cone course. I went first before anyone else was out there and knocked down 2 balls. Boots agreed that I should've walked them first to see the angles and slopes.

Saturday it rained and we had to practice in the deRonde's indoor facility. Marie says she'll ride with me which proved to be very helpful. I learned a few Dutch words! Then later Boots rode with me in dressage, which is rewarding. Keady and Boots are happy I'm aggressive in the obstacles. Sunday everyone cleans harness and washes horses. Then they load the carriages. There is always something to do.

Marie and Koos de Ronde and their children were lovely hosts. Marie organized everything from A to Z! Solo is their daughter, Anna's pony. They have 120 horses at their place and stabled some of the USA horses that were in Germany and waiting to be shipped home. Jimmy Faircloughs' horses left the 2nd day we arrived. They had been showing in Germany, also. So the whole farm is in constant motion. Marie is the photographer, chauffer, guide and COOK in Breda! Wednesday my sister and daughter arrived in Breda, Marie even invited them for

dinner! Their whole team gives 100%. We had a great experience.

The competition was in beautiful Breda. It rained two nights and a double rainbow was amazing. The mud at the wash rack was 2" above your ankles. The navigators were great grooms, also. They worked as a team cleaning everything! Thursday we went to have our FEI classification checked and approved. Thank goodness they gave us handicapped signs for the golf carts, which allowed us to drive them in the obstacles and cones. Friday we drove our dressage test. I experienced some problems but recovered well according to the head judge. After dressage we continued to study the obstacles which were long and challenging. It took many trips through them to memorize to best and safest route and Keady's experience was very helpful in picking the best route. The weather for the marathon was perfect with sun and not very hot. The course was not only on the competition grounds but traveled through the town, past manicured lawns and beautiful gardens. It was difficult to concentrate on driving and not look at the surrounding country side. The next day was also a great day to drive the cones test. The course flowed very well and included two serpentine which required us to concentrate on lining up properly for each gate. Again, driving a new pony in a championship competition is a challenge. To help overcome this, we have to drive many different horses and carriages in the next two years and learn how to make the necessary adjustments each horse and vehicle requires. Plus, I will have to drive a four wheel vehicle all the time.

I have been encouraged since WEG by Hardy Zantke and Gerard Paagman. I thought I needed a bigger pony for dressage but last week Hardy said, my pony "O'Charley was fine for dressage." Charley was placed in a tie for 1st under Hardy and at another event 3rd under Francois Bergeron against non-disabled drivers. So now we will be looking for a four wheel pony vehicle.

I guess having a backup pony might be a good idea. We've had notebooks in all our vehicles and on our evening chairs to draw the dressage tests numerous times a day. We drove the dressage tests, a couple times a day, on the golf carts.

Also, on Wednesday three Breda officials took time to visit with Bill and me. They were very positive and encouraging in their remarks to us. One even stopped us in the parking lot of the hotel and talked for 20 minutes.

In a recent conversation with Diane she said, "USEF funded training will be available in

PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS ...

2013," in three regions in the U.S. This will allow future team members to drive and learn in many different situations and conditions. Along with this training, Randy McFarland in CA., TRS in CO., and TeXas Prosthesis in Houston are looking at ways to improve my prosthetic arm and gain more control of the reins.

An additional surprise and fantastic outing was the escorted trip Gerard arranged for the team of the Royal Mews at the Hague. After security checks, Marie led our caravan to Gerard's bookstore. In his Kicking Horse Café, his daughters Nadine and Balance hosted a feast for our lunch. They gave us each a book, *The Golden Coach*, which is housed in the Royal Stables. This is another story going to the "Whip."

For Nations night Pam brought Russell Stover candy, Diane, Herseys' products and we brought USA coloring books and crayons for the children and USA TEAM hats. Most the countries brought native cheeses, wine, beer, and cookies. The Swiss had the best apple cider. The British team brought a beautiful cake decorated with a team! It looked like an oil painting. Diane and Boots brought decorations for our booth.

The marathon zigzagged, through the country

side full of groomed farms, manicured flower and vegetable gardens and green houses. This was truly a learning experience. I was able to gather many new ideas and techniques that will help me towards working on the next world championships.

AGAIN, thanks to all who gave me the encouragement to attempt this competition!

Hope to see a lot of people at the driving clinics and training for USDFD.

Thank you everyone! 🇺🇸



TEAM USA REPORT

by Diane Kastama

- Para-Equestrian World Championships. Team arrived in the Netherlands August 19, and divided up into 2 cars and made their way to Stal de Ronde, where Diane checked on her carriage. Then team made their way to the villa's where we checked in, there was a little bit of confusion on the reservations and payment but this was resolved on Monday morning.
- Monday, a trip to grocery store and then to the stables in the afternoon as the de Ronde's had arrived back from Germany and the 4 in hand championships. Karen and Pam were able to drive their horse and pony to see if they were suitable, Diane had to wait until Tuesday to let Ruby have a day of rest from travel to Germany.
- The animals were very suitable for the world championships, they were safe, and had incredible talent. The de Ronde's went out of their way to make sure the animals were suitable and to locate smaller carriages for Karen to use for her pony as the carriages that the de Ronde's had were a bit big for Karen.
- After Jimmy Fairclough's horses shipped out, Team USA was able to move our 3 animals in to a separate stall area where

we could have all of our equipment right next to our horses. This made everything very convenient, and kept us out of the way of a very busy barn. There was a grass dressage field and cones field, a dirt arena and an indoor arena along with roads all available for our use. The villa's were 10 minutes from the barn, the team ate all meals at our villa's saved an incredible amount of money.

- Karen drove her pony 7 times, Pam her horse 8 times and Diane 6 times before we shipped to the show. Most of the training focused on dressage as Karen did not know her dressage test and also did not understand the outside rein. Pam knew the test but had difficulty with driving an unfamiliar horse. 1 day was spent on cones and 1 day in a portable hazard. Keady did her best and Boots arrived on Wed and helped out with the training by setting up cones, measuring them riding with Karen. But our drivers need to be better prepared! It is difficult driving an unfamiliar horse but we can not expect our coach to teach some one to drive in one week! It is difficult for the whole team.
- The show. The de Ronde's loaded everything up, Team USA had their own lorry and flatbed trailer and Koos drove it to the show. Koos was also showing so we set up camp etc with the de Ronde's and

cooked lunch and dinner with them every day at the show. All grooming, harness and carriages were provided in the lease, along with appropriate paperwork. An FEI passport was needed for the pony and they got that in the 2 weeks prior to the show.

- A few things, when leasing horses it would be beneficial to take the horses to a small national show if possible and at least do dressage and cones.
- We discovered while at the show that the USEF had not paid the entry fees. We need better support from the USEF in team selection criteria and application. The USEF still has not reimbursed Keady's fees.
- The drivers each received \$500 from the ADS Fund and appreciate the support! 🇺🇸

FINAL RESULTS

The Netherlands in First, followed by Germany Second, Great Britain Third, USA Fourth, and Ireland Fifth. Diane Kastama ended in 14th place as an individual, Pam Johnson in 19th place, and Karen Gorham in 21st place. First place individual went to Heiner Lehter of Germany, Second place to Jacques Poppenof The Netherlands, and Third place to Jan Ranzijn of The Netherlands.

WINNER OF THE TEAM USA HARNESS RAFFLE!

Countryside Manufacturing generously donated a Comfy Fit Harness to be raffled in support of USEF's Team USA. The drawing was held in July at the Duck Club CDE.

The winner was Stephanie Axelson, who shared this bit with the photo... Took me long enough but I finally got a photo for you. We tried to make it appear

that Sunny was harnessed to the cart but he's not. He's only 17 months old. However, I did ground drive him and he did really well for his first time. I'm not complaining. We also had the cart shafts in the loops and pulled the cart while he walked. It didn't phase him a bit. My boyfriend, Rowdy, has been working with him since he was very small. Rowdy has been using some of Clinton Anderson's techniques with Sunny and they've worked well for us.

Sorry it took so long but I'm very happy with the harness. Thank you VERY much! 🇺🇸



PARA-EQUESTRIAN DEMO IN LAS VEGAS, NV

I was competing my pair of Section D Welsh Cobs Rupert and Heather Hills Llyod George in the open Carriage Classes at the California Saddlebred Futurity held Oct.19-21 at South Point Casino in Las Vegas. Patti DeVault a wonderful supporter of carriage driving and of Disabled Driving asked me to do a demonstration after the carriage classes were held on Saturday morning. As the last class left the arena, I stayed behind and Jody cutler climbed on the back step with an American Flag, handing my Niece Kelly Kastama another Flag. I proceeded to gallop around the arena while the announcer talked about United States Driving for the Disabled and Team USA. He talked about the team competing in Breda, the Netherlands and that we leased horses in the Netherlands as we couldn't afford to ship our own horses. He read our mission statement and brought awareness of driving for the disabled to

the Saddlebred community along with the spectators who had come to watch. I unhitched in the main aisle so the competitors could view my modified carriage and how I got in and out of the carriage. I had many people throughout the weekend comment on how well behaved my horses were as they saw me in my wheelchair leading them, washing them and harnessing them. I left the USDFD brochures on show office table right by the coffee and halloween candy. My mom Pat Kastama sat in the stands and talked to quite a few people, one from British Columbia who volunteers at a therapeutic riding center and was very excited to go back and tell them about USDFD and driving. A few of the spectators came back specifically on Sunday to watch the cones classes. I love promoting our sport to able-bodied and the disabled! — Diane Kastama 🇺🇸

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Diane Kastama, Rupert, Heather Hills Llyod George, grooms Jody Cutler, Kelly Kastama
Photo by Rick Ott

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