



at the heart of horse sport

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**Closing Ceremony Speech
FEI World Para-Equestrian Dressage Championships
Sunday 21 July 2007**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Para Equestrian Athletes and newly crowned World Champions!

This is a proud moment in the history of the FEI. Hartpury 2007 has hosted the first ever World Para-Equestrian Dressage Championships to take place under the umbrella of the FEI - and boy have you needed an FEI umbrella this week! But seriously, by hosting this Championship, Hartpury has joined the Roll of Honour of historic competitions in Equestrian sport.

I am also particularly proud that the President of the International Paralympic Committee has joined us. Sir Philip Craven is the greatest ambassador for Paralympic sport and he is also a true friend to horsesport and to me personally. Thank you Sir Philip.

This World Championships has been a focus for competitive spirit and a living demonstration of the bond between nations and on behalf of the FEI and you the athletes I would like to thank everyone involved for their outstanding work in producing this truly memorable Championships.

The work of the team here to keep this show going has been extraordinary and I was particularly touched to hear that the riders in the CDI had volunteered to cancel their competition realising the importance of the World Championship to all of you. Let us ensure that this spirit of Fair Play and recognition of each others needs as athletes is never lost in horsesport.

Para Equestrian and the President of the FEI have had a lot in common this year – we have both been the new kids on the block in horsesport, you as Para Equestrian athletes and officials and myself as President of the Federation. I think between us we have rattled a few cages and given the FEI something to think about!

After my first year as President I have been asked by people what advance I am most proud of and I tell them, honestly, that the inclusion of Para Equestrian is one of the finest moments not only of the last year but in the history of international horsesport and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of horsesport to welcome all of you into the family of the FEI.

The Hand in Hand trophy which was a sad casualty of the rain is a step down the road towards full integration between Para Equestrian and able bodied horsesport but when this Championships meets again at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010 we will have achieved total unity and horsesport will be the richer for it.

President
HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein



From wherever you have travelled to reach this Championships, whether near or far, you have reached the highest pinnacles of equestrian sport but when you return to your countries and whether you carry with you medals or memories you must promise me that you will repay the memory of this Championship and the loyalty of your horses by seeking out those who have yet to discover the possibilities of Para- equestrian and encourage them to follow your path to international glory or just to enjoy riding for the fun of it.

I hope that the flame of this World Championships will burn within you for all time but now in the final act of this Championships I must declare this FEI World Para-Equestrian Dressage Championships 2007 – closed.

Thank you