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EQUIBUDDY JUMPS FOR JOY!

NEW FUNDING WILL HELP EXPANSION PLANS

Equestrian charity, Equibuddy, is delighted to announce that it has secured funding from two major national Foundations – The Rank Foundation and Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland. The funding, amounting to £83,000, will support Equibuddy's ambitious plans to increase the number of people who are able to benefit from one of the most challenging of all team sports, equestrian vaulting.

Equibuddy is a charity that trains horses to the highest level so that they can participate in equestrian vaulting. Equibuddy believes that

equestrian vaulting is unique in that it caters for both able bodied and special needs young people working together in teams. Based on the success the charity has had over the past four years in Scotland, it is now looking to expand its reach by setting up satellite groups in other parts of the UK.

The Rank Foundation will provide three years of core funding, providing £75,000 to allow Equibuddy to develop and expand its coaching and training services. Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has ring fenced £8,000 worth of professional consultancy help for Equibuddy to use in formulating its future sustainability plans.

Jenny Leggate, co-founder of Equibuddy, acknowledges that "without the help of these two Foundations we would not be able to plan to expand nationally. This funding provides stability and gives us the opportu-



Jumping for joy! James Miller and Masterkey (Softie) celebrate while they work.



Murray and Alice working together.

"This funding will allow us to train more horses—and with more horses we can help more people."
 Jenny Leggate

nity to take this increasingly popular equestrian sport on to a new level that can reach and engage people from all walks of life."

In recent weeks, two equestrian centres have sadly had to close due to lack of usage and poor cost effectiveness in the current difficult economic climate. Jenny believes that "vaulting presents the answer as it provides a cost effective alternative, with only one horse needed to a group of eight people. We hope to be able to forge partnerships with underused centres in order to take up the slack and make sure they are more fully used as a valuable community resource. We will also be looking to work with others, such as the mounted Police, to take our ser-

vices into inner city areas and make a real difference to the lives of many people there. This funding will allow us to train more horses - and with more horses we can help more people."

Ultimately, Equibuddy plans to become self sustaining through a range of wider commercial services it provides such as corporate team building days and coaching. Caroline Broadhurst of the Rank Foundation says "We are very happy to give this enterprising charity the time and funding to build its capacity and sustainability so that it will be able to fund itself in the future."

Social Entrepreneur Awards

Equibuddy has been invited to enter the Bank of Scotland Corporate competition for Social Entrepreneur with the hope of winning a £500,000 donation.

There was the opportunity to win a £6 million interest free loan, along with other monetary rewards, however Equibuddy felt that this was beyond their needs!

The competition looks at the innovative way an organisation uses its assets to benefit the community .

This year John Bird, the founder of the "Big Issue" is the figure head of the campaign. His publicity expertise allowed him to set up the "Big Issue" as a social element to his business.

The finalists will be announced on 22nd May. In the meantime HBOS are keen to have a team building day with Equibuddy to see how vaulting benefits everyone first hand.



The Bank of Scotland's Social Entrepreneur Awards in conjunction with the Sunday Times

Runners up at Solihull

The first selection trial of the vaulting season got under way on the 7th of March and saw the South of Scotland Select Junior and Senior teams travel down to Solihull near Birmingham.

It proved to be a very successful trip for all concerned with very encouraging scores all round.

The newly formed Senior team made up of Jim Pate, Angus Runciman, Stacey McPherson, Katie Nimmo, Lucy Younger, Shannon Purves and Rebecca Kinghorn came a close second with an average age of 13 ½. They vaulted on Equibuddy's Masterkey or Softie as he is affectionately known, finishing on 6.477 behind the experienced English Vaulting Squad (EVS) team.

The Juniors made up of Kelly Grieve, Laura Runciman, Jeannie Robertson, Sophie Aitchson and Izzy Kyle were running out together for the first time and also finished in second place with a score of 5.337.

They vaulted on Andi Miller's Bart Simpson.

Both teams are coached and lunged by Rebecca Morgan, who was delighted - "I was really pleased with both teams especially as they are new together this season."



The Senior team in action at Solihull.

"I was really pleased with both teams especially as they are new together this season."

Rebecca Morgan

RDA Quiz

On the 4th March an Equibuddy team competed in the RDA Quiz at the Corn Exchange, Melrose.



Stuart Tailor, David Swanston and Thomas Seabrook receiving their prizes from Meg Roper

The team was made up of Stuart Tailor, David Swanston and Thomas Seabrook and all vault with Equibuddy through Earlston school.

The team finished 7th after having to answer questions on all aspects of equestrianism. Jenny Leggate was thrilled - "They did very well to finish 7th especially as a lot of the questions were aimed at people who use saddles and such things!"

"Both have been a great success and very versatile!"

Heidi Hutchinson

Across: Robbie's portrait for his card to adoring fans.

"Robbie is very much appreciated and has his own polo plate."

Liz Mackay

Equibuddys

"Equibuddys" is the name given to the horses we train.

Through the expertise of Rebecca Morgan, the experience of Jenny Leggate alongside the involvement of the Lauderdale Vaulting Club, the horses are trained up to international level.

The fitness, flexibility and rhythm this needs alongside their security in many situations means the horses become reliable, professional therapy partners.

Recently we have quite a move around of Equibuddys and are eagerly looking for more to train.

Chocy the rescue horse we took from the World Horse Welfare (formerly ILPH) has gone to the Unicorn RDA centre with Charlie, one of our Fjord ponies.

Both have been successfully competing in RDA dressage competitions. Chocy has competed with several people in dressage and been a great success in lessons.

Charlie has now had his name changed to Spike and has competed in RDA dressage on the lead rein and also in novice jumping competitions. Heidi

Hutchinson says "Both have been a great success and are very versatile!"

Ash has been bought by the Younger family to be used by the Border RDA group weekly. His arrival means that the capacity will double at Monteviot.



Finally Robbie has gone to the Eagles Centre where he is involved in an active schools project. He competed for the first time on 22nd March with the 2 pre-novice teams who were also having their first outing.

They did extremely well and finished 6th and 7th out of 11 teams - their scores only separated by 100th of a mark! Liz Mackay, the initiator of the project, said, "Robbie is very much appreciated and has his own polo plate where the children put polos after each training session followed closely by Robbie's nose!"

Winners All Round

The hard and relentless work of the co-founders of Equibuddy has been acknowledged this month by receiving five awards between the two of them!



Winners all round: Stacey McPherson (from Lauderdale Vaulting Club) helps Finlay Lindores on Pabay.

Jenny Leggate and Rebecca Morgan made real the dream of Equibuddy in

- 2005. By training horses for vaulting with the help of the Lauderdale Vaulting Club, the club has a lot more horses available to them while
- helping to train the horses themselves.



Rebecca Morgan receiving her prize for Coach of the Year from Berwickshire Sport's Council.

The work with the Lauderdale Vaulting Club ensures the horses have the knowledge, strength, flexibility and depth of experience to deal with any situation that can arise from vaulting with people who have never done it before or have difficulties.

The very concept of Equibuddy ensures that everyone is a winner! The concept and Jenny Leggate's work for the charity has been recognised by the Berwickshire Sports Council for Services to Local Sport and the James McLean Trust for Ambassador of the Year.

Alongside this Jenny received Volunteer of the Month from the Scottish and Northern Equestrian Magazine for her hard work in promoting vaulting by organising this year's FEI Vaulting Seminar at Ingilston Equestrian Centre.

The Equibuddy concept would be nothing without trained horses and the training is thanks to Rebecca Morgan. Her work and ability has been again awarded by the Berwickshire Sports Council for Coach of the Year and the James McLean Trust for Sports Coach of the Year.

Well done to everyone!



Jenny Leggate receiving her award for Services to Local Sport from the Berwickshire Sport's Council.

Ronan Brown in Profile



Ronan Brown , the new BEV Chairman and an initial member of the Lauderdale Vaulting Club

"Without a shadow of a doubt vaulting has helped develop my riding skills."
Ronan Brown

Ronan Brown, who was undefeated in the UK has become the new British Equestrian Vaulting Chairman.

He was one of the initial members of the Lauderdale Vaulting Club which started with a trick ride for Macmillan Cancer, and went on to be a member of the first British team in 1988.

1. How many championships did you attend?

I was lucky enough to go to 4 World Championships: 1988 in Ebreichsdorf, Austria; 1990 in Stockholm; 1992 in Heilbronn, Germany and as an individual in 1994 in The Hague.

I also competed in France, Sweden and America.

2. What was the British team training like?

When I was a member of the British team one club did not represent Britain but an assorted team from around the country. It meant we had to travel a lot to attend team training which made it quite costly and more difficult to get to know your team mates.

However we were lucky because there was a reasonably continuity in the team and a number were from Scotland and trained together all the time.

Vaulting was a very young sport in this country and we were nowhere near as good, but we had great fun and learned an enormous amount.

3. What have you been doing between your vaulting career and now?

I left university in 1996 and went to Sandhurst where I was commissioned into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. I served in the UK,



The first competition for the British at WEG 1990 . From left: Rebecca Townsend, Louise Townsend, Helen Barr, Rachael, Kim, Jenny Leggate, Sally Locke, Benji Leggate, Suzan Zeigler;. Kneeling: Lorna Barr, Kate Leggate, Vicky Brown

Cyprus and Northern Ireland before leaving in 2003.

I then worked down south for a while before setting up StorageXpress in 2005.

4. What are your pastimes?

Having my own business means I don't have that much spare time unfortunately! But I do ride out

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most mornings and am a point to point/amateur jockey.

Without a shadow of a doubt vaulting has helped develop my riding skills; its helped me understand horses and balance whilst working with the horse

which is essential in all equestrian sports. Learning to work as part of a team, of varying ages and abilities has also been a massive advantage throughout my life and career.

5. What is your involvement with vaulting up to now?

I have been teaching the Borders RDA vaulting on a Wednesday night for 3 years now

WEG 1990 team competition. From left: Kim with Louise Townend, Benji Leggate and Ronan Brown.



and even occasionally get on the horse to help the kids out in canter. Although every year it gets a bit harder!

It is great how the kids bond with each other and how their confidence grows alongside the fantastic physical benefits that they gain from vaulting.

6. What are your visions for the BEV?

I would like to expand membership especially in city riding schools.

I would like to see vaulting becoming a feeder for all equestrian disciplines and I would like to see the expansion of RDA vaulting, not only as a separate entity, but as an inclusive part of the sport in the UK.

"I would like to see vaulting becoming a feeder for all equestrian disciplines"

Ronan Brown

Kirsty and Purdie join Equibuddy

Equibuddy started off the New Year with two new members of staff; Kirsty Fitzgerald and Purdie Burnett

Kirsty has been sponsored by The Rank Foundation to help us with administration and marketing. She has just graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in History and Politics and is hoping to get into marketing and public relations.

Purdie has joined Equibuddy as part of her work experience from the Borders College where she is studying to do her NVQ Level 2 in Horse Care. Purdie helps Rebecca with the horses and their care. She allows Rebecca some well earned holi-

days and relief now that the competition and demonstration season is upon us!

Jenny Leggate is quick to acknowledge The Rank Foundation - "The funding from The Rank Foundation ensured that we could double our workforce which is great. This has taken the pressure off whilst meaning more people are actively involved with the day to day running of the charity."

"The funding from the Rank Foundation has ensured that we can double our workforce which is great."

Jenny Leggate



Purdie and Spotty at Duns Hunter Trial



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*"challenging children and young adults
to achieve through equestrian sport."*

Equibuddy is a registered charity that identifies and trains horse for use in equestrian vaulting for special needs and able-bodied young people alike.

It combines the work of the Scottish Borders Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) with the world class equestrian skills of the Lauderdale Vaulting Club to produce some of the most highly trained horses in the country.

Equibuddy has trained 12 horses to date and had hundreds of participants, including people with special needs, international vaulters, hen parties and corporate team building clients.

For more information please feel free to contact Kirsty Fitzgerald at kirsty@equibuddy.org.

www.equibuddy.org

Equibuddy's Must See Event: Dancing with Horses



Equibuddy, a registered charity that trains horses for equestrian vaulting for able and less able bodied young people, would like to invite you to the spectacle of **"Dancing with Horses"**.

A one off chance to see celebrities, vaulters, parents and siblings vault in the same team performing aerobatics on the back of a moving horse. Our panel of carefully chosen well known experts will range from a number of equestrian disciplines.

So forget Strictly Come Dancing - come see the live, awe inspiring real version of people learning and achieving at a challenging, astounding and truly magical sport.

This exciting evening will take place at Greenlawdean, Greenlaw, Duns, TD10 6XP on **Tuesday 16th June, 6.30pm** with a hog roast and music after. Feel free to bring your own picnic and a bottle. Tickets are £15 and to book please call 0845 241 1398 or email kirsty@equibuddy.org (child and family discounts available)

