

FEI HYBRID EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mexico City (MEX), 21 November 2022

The FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2023 took place on 21 November. The main decisions taken by the General Assembly are summarised below.

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OPENING BY THE FEI PRESIDENT

In his opening speech to the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2023 in Mexico City, the FEI President extended greetings to members, friends, and equestrian enthusiasts worldwide. He expressed his gratitude to the Mexican Equestrian Federation for hosting the event and acknowledged the diverse representation with 69 National Federations attending in person and 34 registered to participate online.

President De Vos introduced new key hires, such as the FEI Director of Jumping and the FEI Director for Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting, and recognised the absence of the Chair of the Athletes Committee and the Chair of the FEI Dressage Committee due to unforeseen circumstances. He emphasised the importance of addressing global conflicts, expressing support for the equestrian communities in these times of hardship in line with the Olympic message: one of hope, optimism, and solidarity.

The President's speech covered topics such as the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission's final report, scientific research initiatives, sustainability efforts, and accessibility in equestrian events. The President reassured the community of the FEI's financial health but acknowledged the financial challenges faced by the organisation in 2022.

The speech highlighted sporting achievements, outlined upcoming events, and especially the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games with iconic equestrian venue at Versailles, and discussed the launch of the Longines League of Nations™. The importance of collective effort, good governance, and sustainability were emphasised to secure the sport's social license and ensure a bright future.

The President concluded his opening speech with gratitude to stakeholders, sponsors and in particular Top Partner Longines with whom the FEI celebrated its 10th-year anniversary in 2023, and volunteers. He invited delegates to join him in remembering cherished [members of the FEI and Olympic Family](#) lost in the past 12 months.

The full text of the FEI speech is available [here](#).

QUORUM

The Secretary General confirmed the required quorum is 66.

National Federations voting in-person in Mexico City: 69

National Federations voting online: 27

Total: 96

ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS FOR EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tatiana Gutierrez (BRA) was approved as Chair of the Scrutineers, with Rocio Echeverri (CRC) and Gerald Kuh (HKG) confirmed as members.

FEI HYBRID EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FEI Hybrid Extraordinary General Assembly approved the [proposed modifications to the FEI Statutes](#) with a result of 79 votes in favour and 2 votes against. A 2/3rds majority was needed for approval. The updated version, effective 21 November 2023, will be published on [this page](#) in due course.

MEMBERSHIP

The National Federations of Algeria and Lithuania have been provisionally suspended due to non-payment of the Annual Membership Subscription Fee.

MINUTES FEI HYBRID GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

The [Minutes of the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2022](#) were approved.

FEI ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The [FEI Annual Report 2022](#) was approved.

FINANCE

The FEI Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented the 2022 audited financial statement to the Board. Revenues in 2022 amounted to CHF CHF 48,487,110 and expenses to CHF 50,984,538.

The CFO explained that although the year had been very good operationally, the war in Ukraine, the inflation that had followed and the rapid rise in interest rates had driven the financial markets in the red zone as of March 2022 and had had a negative effect on the FEI portfolio. The effect of the rapid rise in interest rates by central banks across the world to fight inflation had been two-fold.

On one hand, it had provoked a recession fear and a slump in the stock market as profit expectations had been lowered for companies due to more expensive borrowing conditions, which had been particularly felt in the tech sector.

In addition, it had driven bond valuations down as bond values move in the opposite of interest rates. Therefore, the valuation at 31 December 2022 had resulted in a loss of CHF 2'497'428 for the FEI financial year 2022.

The CFO clarified that bonds would be reimbursed at 100% of face value when they expired. Consequently, as long as the debtor was of good quality, the loss remained mainly on paper. A loss would be realised if a bond were to be sold, which was not the case.

The General Assembly approved the [audited financial statement for 2022](#).

The General Assembly released the Board and Secretary General for the year 2022.

The General Assembly appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers, Lausanne (SUI) as the Auditors for 2024.

The CFO presented the [budget for 2024](#), which contains a slight deficit of –CHF 391'115. This highlights the need for the FEI to perform a closer analysis of its priorities, expenses and revenues and to ensure that the structure is adequate and in line with the spending capacities of the organisation. This work will be performed during the first semester of 2024 and proposals on the way forward will be made to the in-person FEI-Board meeting in June 2024.

The General Assembly approved the [financial charges for the year 2024](#). The financial charges for 2024 remain unchanged compared to the previous year.

FEI RULES AND REGULATIONS

The General Assembly approved the proposed modifications to the

- Internal Regulations of the FEI ([proposed modifications](#));
- FEI General Regulations ([proposed modifications](#)). Separate votes were held on Appendix M "Social Media Policy" and Art. 156.4 on provisions regarding Integrity/Ethics matters.
- Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes ([proposed modifications](#));
- Para Equestrian Classification Rules ([proposed modifications](#));
- Paris 2024 Paralympic Regulations ([proposed modifications](#));

The updated documents will be published [here](#) in due course.

JUMPING

The Chair of the FEI Jumping Committee provided a brief overview of the Jumping Report.

In 2023 and for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the FEI Jumping Calendar had suffered only minor disruptions.

The Chair reported on the in-person meetings and teleconferences the Committee had held in 2023; the meetings with various stakeholders; the revision of the FEI Jumping Rules; the FEI Jumping European Championships and Continental Games for Seniors, which had taken place in 2023; the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™; the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup™; the Longines Ranking Working Group; the appointment and education of Jumping Officials, the membership of the FEI Jumping Committee; as well as the contributions made to the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database, and FEI TackApp.

The Chair paid tribute to the late FEI Jumping director Marco Fusté who sadly passed away at the start of year at the age of 60. He expressed his special thanks to outgoing Jumping Committee Deputy Chair Henrik Ancarkrona (SWE) and welcomed the newly appointed FEI Jumping Director Todd Hinde.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Jumping Rules.

All changes to the Jumping Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

DRESSAGE

In the absence of the Chair of the FEI Dressage Committee, the Secretary General referred to the Dressage Report.

The report referenced the revisions of the FEI Dressage Nations Cup™ 2024 and the FEI Dressage World Cup™ Rules 2023-2024; minor changes made to the FEI Dressage Rules; the use of tack; key Championships and Games, which took place in 2023; and key projects planned for 2024.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Dressage Rules.

All changes to the Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

PARA DRESSAGE

The Chair of the FEI Para Equestrian Committee reported on the strong increase of the number of registered athletes in Para Dressage and Para Driving. The number of registered horses in both Para Dressage and Para Driving had gone up significantly.

2023 had been a record-breaking year for Para Equestrian sport with 43 FEI events – 41 in Para Dressage and two in Para Driving – being hosted by 22 NFs from five Regional Groups.

The Chair reported on the successful FEI Para Dressage European Championship organised in Riesenbeck (GER), the Judges Supervisory Panel project, the inaugural FEI Para Dressage World Challenge, classification, Test Working Group, and education.

The Chair expressed her appreciation to outgoing FEI Para Dressage Committee Deputy Chair Michel Assouline (USA).

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Para Dressage Rules.

All changes to the Para Dressage Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

EVENTING

The Chair of the FEI Eventing Committee presented a comprehensive report on the Committee's activities. In 2023 the Committee met via teleconference and in-person to receive updates on preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and discuss the Eventing Risk Management Programme; proposed modifications to the FEI Eventing Rules 2024; documents supporting the Rules such as The Cross Country Guide for Officials, Memorandum and Equipment & Tack FAQ; and education of Officials.

Since its inception in 2000, the FEI Eventing Risk Management Programme has amassed 23 years of data, showcasing a consistent improvement in data quality. The collected information, including fence descriptions, fall reports, and fence analyses from each competition, has facilitated significant data mining for the Risk Management Steering Group, aiding in queries related to Athlete and Horse qualification and addressing technical issues in the discipline. Looking ahead to 2024, there are plans to transition from a manual data collection process to an online system, aiming to enhance accuracy, streamline data entry for Officials, and simplify database management for the FEI Headquarters.

Where key statistics are concerned, in 2023, the number of competitions increased by 7.8%, totalling 858 compared to 796 in 2022.

Horse falls have shown a decreasing trend over the last decade, with a continued reduction of 70% in rotation falls. A 16% reduction in horse falls has also been registered since 2016. It was noted that 25% of falls were non-fence related which would require further study. The Chair encouraged other disciplines to make similar studies on falls to better understand their causes and help the horse industry move forward.

The Chair provided an update on the FEI Risk Management Policy and Action plan, the FEI Eventing Forum and NSO Seminar held in January 2023, which had allowed active discussions regarding the strategy for the future of the discipline.

A mention was made of the implementation of the updated Education system for Eventing which was created to enable the discipline to adapt positively for the future. As any change, implementation and a balanced outcome would will take time.

In addition, the Chair reported on the activities of the Eventing Risk Management Steering Group (RMSG); the Eventing series, championships and Games; the FEI Eventing Nations Cup™; the FEI Eventing World Athletes Rankings; and the Eventing Development Programme with special mention of the launch of the Eventing Challenge in 2023. It will be a valuable tool for the discipline's growth in the future.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Eventing Rules. A separate vote on the extension of the transition period for National Officials in Art. 513 until 1 January 2025 was held.

All changes to the Eventing Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

ENDURANCE

The Chair of the FEI Endurance Committee reported on the Committee's meetings throughout the year, which had taken place via teleconference and in person. The Chair updated the General Assembly on Championships results; allocation of future Championships; the FEI Sports Forum; the FEI Endurance Rules, which this year are undergoing full revision; the revision to the FEI Endurance Rankings Rules; the Vet-Endurance Working Group; and hyposensitivity testing.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the revised FEI Endurance Rules.

The new edition can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

DRIVING AND PARA DRIVING

The Chair of the FEI Driving Committee reported on the activities of the Committee, which had met via teleconference and in person throughout the year. The first edition of the FEI Driving Forum, which had been held in April in a hybrid format – online and in person - and had gathered 88 participants from 24 nations. The sessions had focused on equine ethics and wellbeing, development projects, the current state of the discipline, and strategy for the future. The Chair also reported on the year's Championships and education of Officials.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Driving Rules.

All changes to the Driving Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

VAULTING

The Chair of the FEI Vaulting Committee reported on the increase of Vaulting events, which had taken place in 2023.

The Committee had dedicated considerable effort to formulate the 2024 rules and guidelines, successfully publishing both documents within the planned timeline. The primary focus of proposed changes for 2024 revolved around Squad and Pas de Deux, with a significant emphasis on implementing new qualification criteria for horses and squads to participate in the FEI Championships 2024.

The Chair provided information on the online Vaulting Forum, which had taken place in February and had attracted 50 participants from over 20 countries. The topics of discussion had been the outcomes of the survey on the future of the sport.

The annual Vaulting seminar had taken place in November and had concentrated on horse score updates for 2024; FEI Veterinary Rules and processes; and horse inspection.

The Chair outlined the key future projects for 2024 and 2025.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Vaulting Rules.

All changes to the Vaulting Rules can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

VETERINARY

The Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee reported on the activities of the Committee, which had met via teleconference and in person throughout the year. The report covered the FEI Veterinary Regulations, biosecurity; Games and Championships; Clean Sport; pony measurement; FEI Equipment Expert Group; education; the Veterinary Working Group on Endurance; research; and the International Movement of Horses.

The Chair expressed her gratitude to FEI staff members Caterina Termine for her work on the Veterinary Courses contents update and Gonçalo Paixao having follow up on reports from Veterinary Delegates. She recognised the Technology and Sport Support Department for their continued development of the FEI HorseApp.

The full report is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the modifications to the FEI Veterinary Regulations.

All changes to the Veterinary Regulations can be viewed [here](#) in due course.

MEDICAL

The Chair of the Medical Committee presented a report on activities covering

- Medical coverage at Events;
- NF Medical Advisor project
- Personal safety equipment
- Human anti-doping programme
- Medical Committee focus for 2024

An innovative project is the cooperation of the Medical Committee with the FEI Solidarity department to establish a National Federation Medical Advisor programme, aiming to improve athlete safety and well-being. This initiative seeks to create a communication channel between the NFs and FEI, particularly benefiting smaller NFs with limited resources. The program envisions volunteer Medical Advisors, experienced in sports medicine, who will facilitate communication on health matters, assist in anti-doping

education and compliance, and coordinate medical coverage for FEI events in their respective countries, with an educational programme slated for development in 2024.

In 2023, the FEI Medical Committee, in collaboration with the Eventing Risk Management Group, convened experts in helmet and air vest safety standards and design to enhance performance levels in equestrian sport. Recognising the importance of minimising serious injuries in horse and athlete falls, the Committee established a working group to review helmet standards. The international expert panel, comprising engineers, standards experts, medical professionals, athletes, and representatives from other equestrian disciplines, concluded that additional testing measures and new energy transmission limits to the brain should be implemented in helmet standards. The findings are set to be communicated to FEI stakeholders by the end of 2023, with ongoing updates based on evolving materials and research. Additionally, the Medical Committee is coordinating the formation of an expert task force to address safety and effectiveness in air vests.

The full report is available [here](#).

ATHLETES

The FEI Secretary General referred to the report of the Chair of the FEI Athletes Committee, who could not attend in person.

The report provided an update on the competitions, which had taken place in 2023; social media; the comprehensive array of tools and resources created by the FEI and made available to all athletes online. These included ways of creating an interesting online FEI biography, the rules governing each discipline, clean sport initiatives, safeguarding measures, medical and safety guidelines, public profile management, and more.

The report also contained an outline of key future projects.

The full report is available [here](#).

FEI SOLIDARITY

Report on activities

The FEI President presented a report on the activities of FEI Solidarity in his capacity as Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee.

The report, which is very comprehensive, includes the:

- FEI Solidarity Department activities, projects, and programmes;
- overview of NFs projects,
- FEI Coach Education Programme;
- FEI World Challenge Series;
- FEI Campus;
- cooperation with various FEI Departments, including Communications and Veterinary;
- FEI Solidarity Relief Fund for Ukraine;
- horse welfare; and
- gender equality of equestrian sport.

The President called on the NFs to send applications for hosting the FEI World Challenge Finals.

The full report is available [here](#).

The presentation made by the FEI President is available [here](#).

Appointment of FEI Solidarity Committee Members

The General Assembly approved the FEI Solidarity Committee Members as proposed by the FEI President:

- Group I Ingmar De Vos (BEL), FEI President and Chair (term started in 2018)
- Group II Marjukka Manninen (FIN) (2022)
- Group III Sadyr Mamytov, President (KGZ) (2021)
- Group IV Catherine Ramsingh-Pierre (BAH) (2021)
- Group V Juan Manuel Melgar (GUA) (2022)
- Group VI Diego Iturralde Aponte (BOL) (2023)
- Group VII Badr bin Mohamed Al Darwish (QAT) (2022)
- Group VIII Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski (PHI) (2021)
- Group IX Mary K.B Binks, Deputy Chair GRIX (KEN) (2022)

The FEI Solidarity Committee Members are appointed for a term of one year and may serve a maximum of four terms. As the FEI President is the Chair of the FEI Solidarity Committee, the terms of his mandate is in line with the presidential terms

NOMINATIONS

The FEI Nominations Committee report can be viewed [here](#).

ELECTIONS

Regional Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs

FEI Regional Group III: the re-election of **Marina Sechina (RUS)** as FEI Regional Group III Chair was approved by the General Assembly for the four-year term 2023 - 2027. **Sergey Buikevich (KGZ)** was also approved by the General Assembly for the position of FEI Regional Group III Deputy Chair for the four-year term 2023 - 2027.

FEI Regional Group VII: the election of **Sultan Al Yehyaae (UAE)** as FEI Regional Group VII Chair was approved by the General Assembly for the four-year term 2023 - 2027. **Hussam Zummit (LBA)** was also approved by the General Assembly for the position of FEI Regional Group VII Deputy Chair for the four-year term 2023 - 2027.

FEI Driving Committee Chair

Joaquín Medina (ESP) was elected as Chair of the FEI Driving Committee for the four-year term 2023-2027.

Audit and Compliance Committee Member

Vicki Glynn (NZL) was re-elected as a member of the FEI Audit and Compliance Committee for the four-year term 2023-2027.

FEI Nominations Committee Members

The following persons were elected as FEI Nominations Committee members:

- Dorottya Strobl (HUN), EEF Regional Group, term 2023-2027
- Andrea White (ITA), EEF Regional Group, term 2023-2026
- Hossein Shafiee (IRI), Regional Group III, term 2023-2027
- Jaime Masters McDowell (BER), Regional Group IV, term 2023-2026
- Elena Couttenye (VEN), Regional Group V, term 2023-2027
- Guillermo Valente (URU), Regional Group VI, term 2023-2027
- Waleed Aljasem (KUW), Regional VII, term 2023-2027

Linda Chen (TPE), Regional Group VIII, term 2023-2026
John Paton (ZAM), Regional Group IX, term 2023-2026

The FEI Board took the decision to apply staggered terms at its teleconference on 11 October. The terms were determined by a draw overseen by the Nominations Committee Chair after the election.

FEI Tribunal Chair

José Alfonso Rodríguez (MEX) was re-elected FEI Tribunal Chair for the four-year term 2023-2027.

FEI Tribunal Members

Three positions were in contention for the FEI Tribunal:

- **Yuri Yagi (JPN)** was elected FEI Tribunal member for the four-year term 2023-2027.
- **Harveen Thauli (CAN)** was re-elected FEI Tribunal members for the four-year term 2023-2027.
- **Agustin Fattal Jaef (ARG)** was elected FEI Tribunal member for the four-year term 2023-2027.

JOINT STATEMENT FROM EUROPEAN NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

The National Federations of Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden made the following statement:

“In response to the FEI Board decision of 18 November 2023 on protective measures regarding Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials, the Nordic, Baltic and Central Europe National Federations are obliged to address the equestrian community with a following statement.

“With all due respect, we cannot support the FEI Board decision on lifting the protective measures to allow future participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials as neutrals.

“The situation with the war in Ukraine has not changed. Therefore, we stand firm in our position, not to open the participation for Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials in international sports. Now is not the right time to consider their return. The neutrality of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials cannot be defined, checked and supervised effectively.

“Nordic, Baltic and Central Europe National Equestrian Federations take this opportunity to reaffirm our steadfast support once again with the Ukrainian people and the demand for peace.”

The FEI President took note of the NFs’ statement and referred to the explanations provided in connection with the [decision taken by the FEI Board](#).

EQUINE ETHICS & WELLBEING COMMISSION

The Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission Chair addressed the General Assembly and handed over the Commission’s final report “A Good life for horses. A vision for the future involvement of horses in sport” to the FEI President.

The President thanked the Chair and the Commission for their work and dedication over the past 18 months and presented the Chair with a token of recognition.

The full presentation is available [here](#).

CLEAN SPORT

The FEI Veterinary Director presented the report from the FEI Global Equine Anti-Doping Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP), which includes data on FEI Global EADCMP 2022 testing, Hypo Sensitivity and Limb Sensitivity Control (HSC) examinations, as well as information on Doping and Controlled Medication Cases.

The Veterinary Director expressed concern over the numbers of medication and doping violations in Endurance, which remain at a high level, and urged NFs, Athletes and Grooms organisations to use the new [FEI Campus](#) course on Prohibited Substances as well as the material in the Respect Your Horse campaign.

The full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION (IHSC)

Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas for the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH, previously OIE) made a presentation on the successful outcomes of the Public Private Partnership between the IHSC and WOAH. The collaboration has resulted in tools to facilitate international movement of horses such as Equine Disease Free Zone and updated international standards for equine diseases. Dr Barcos also reported on ongoing projects and the next steps in the field of international horse movement.

The report on the IHSC activities can be found [here](#).

FEI MANAGEMENT

The FEI Management report on the activities of the non-sports Departments at FEI Headquarters – Education & Officials, Technology and Sport Services, Commercial, Communications, and Human resources – can be viewed [here](#).

FEI TRIBUNAL

The Chair of the FEI Tribunal provided an overview of the FEI Tribunal decisions in 2023, as well as information on the Hearings, Preliminary Decisions, Agreements, CAS Appeals and Decisions. More details can be found [here](#).

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY INTEGRITY UNIT

The Secretary General referred to the report of the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit, which is available [here](#).

WORLD HORSE WELFARE

Roly Owers, Chief Executive Officer of World Horse Welfare, addressed the General Assembly, highlighting the global charity's work in improving the welfare of working horses worldwide and its role as an independent welfare advisor to the FEI for over 40 years. Owers discussed the establishment of the independent Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, emphasising the need for a collective effort to implement a new welfare strategy. He stressed the importance of prioritising equine wellbeing, transparency, and gaining public trust to ensure a bright future for equestrian sport. Roly Owers also touched

on upcoming events and emphasised the need for unity and action in response to societal shifts in the use of animals.

Roly Owens referred to the precautionary principle which is widely accepted in veterinary medicine, and entails taking action proactively/pre-emptively even when the available evidence and science points in different directions, and to err on the side of caution when the welfare and/or wellbeing of the horse could be threatened.

The full presentation is available [here](#).

FEI SPORTS FORUM AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

The FEI Sports Forum 2024 will be held in Lausanne (SUI) on 29 and 30 April.

The sessions for the FEI Sports Forum 2024 will include discussions on the action plan in connection with the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission report, sustainability, gender equality, update on preparations and communications for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, anti-doping rules, athletes' safeguarding, as well as a follow-up session on the cost of Jumping events.

Delegates were also informed that the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2024 will take place from 9 to 13 November in Muscat (OMA).

RECOGNITIONS

Outgoing Board Members:

- Karoly Fugli (HUN) – Chair, Driving Committee, term in office 2011-2023
- Sami Alduhami (KSA) – Chair, Regional Group VII, term in office 2019-2023

The General Assembly confirmed the FEI Board's decision to appoint both Karoly Fugli and Sami Alduhami as Honorary Board Members.

New Board members elected at the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2023:

- Joaquín Media (ESP), Chair of Driving Committee
- Sultan Al Yehyaee (UAE), Chair of Regional Group VII

The FEI President acknowledged FEI Chief Financial Officer Claude Praz, who has decided to step down from his position at the end of June 2024 to dedicate his time to personal projects.

The FEI President offered special gifts to the President of the Mexican Equestrian Federation Juan Manuel Cossio, Secretary General Patricio Zambrano, and FEI General Assembly 2023 Organiser Daniela Garcia Nigaglioni and thanked them for their welcome and warm hospitality.

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