

A Dream Come True

a Bronze Medal at the Paralympic Games in Beijing



Top: Eli Nawi on the right together with Tom Aggar (Great Britain) and Oleksandr Petrenko
Bottom: Competition Start.
Eli Nawi second from bottom.

The first Paralympic Regatta in rowing history took place in Beijing, China, from September 9th to 11th, 2008. Twenty-two countries entered their rowing teams, but only five of them, Israel included, entered crews in all four categories. This in itself is an amazing accomplishment. Who would have believed that our tiny country could train a Paralympic rowing team in such a short time, and win a medal? Nevertheless, our rowers did participate, and we did indeed win a medal: Eli Nawi won the bronze in the AM1x (men's single, arms only) category. Other team members reached significant positions in the different heats and, together with Eli, have brought tremendous pride to the Centre. The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association has supported these disabled athletes since they started training at the Centre, and shares the excitement and pride in the teams' achievements.

The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association's AGM

Early on the evening of June 5th this year the members of the FDRA gathered for a different kind of AGM experience. The budding athletes were armed with a Daniel Rowing Centre t-shirt and a bottle of water and then Eitan, the DRC Managing Director, gave a quick instruction session in the boathouse followed by manning of the Dragon Boats. Enthusiasm and high spirits contributed to the success of the first FDRA Members Boat Race. A cheese and wine get-together followed before sitting down to the business of the Association.



Background information:
Adaptive Rowing

In the spotlight:
Coach Alexander Skoblo
The FDRA supports the
Sea of Friends

Message from
Daniel's family

Message from the
Chairperson

Background Information: Adaptive Rowing?



FISA, the International Federation of Rowing Associations, introduced Adaptive Rowing (rowing for rowers with a disability) on a World Championship level at its 2002 World Rowing Championships in Seville, Spain. The sport has continued to develop since with four boat classes, which are adapted for different types of disabilities. Rowing was introduced into the Paralympics programme in 2005.

You can find further information about the Paralympic Games at:

<http://en.paralympic.beijing2008.cn/spirit/index.shtml>.

The hull of the adaptive rowing boat is identical to able-bodied boats. Adaptive rowing boats are equipped with special seats, which vary according to the disability of the rower.

Smaller boats are equipped with buoyancy devices called pontoons, which act as stabilizers attached to the boat's riggers providing additional lateral balance. Read more about adaptive rowing at <http://www.worldrowing.com/index.php?pageid=17>.



Mari and Igor Kogan



Eli Nawi

In the Spotlight: Coach Alexander Skoblo

It has become increasingly clear that the true force behind the athletes at the Daniel Rowing Centre is the Center's coach, Alexander Skoblo, who trained all four boats for Beijing. Skoblo (51) started out as a rower at the age of 15 in the Ukraine. He was recognized as an outstanding athlete during his studies at university and during his military service in the Russian Army. After completing his national service Skoblo, by then married and a new father, could not follow a career as a rower due to his financial situation. He started to coach other rowers and soon enough these athletes showed outstanding prowess, winning first place in the World Rowing Championships in 1986 and second place in the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988.

Skoblo immigrated to Israel with his family in 1991, and shortly after started working in the Tel Aviv Rowing Club. From 2003 he has been working as head coach of the Daniel Rowing Centre.

Skoblo believes in intuition. "A coach is born a coach. One cannot acquire the skills", he says. "Winning is my goal and seeing my athletes realizing their potential gives me a great sense of accomplishment".



The FDRA Supports the Children of the “Sea of Friends”

We are delighted to celebrate the third anniversary of the Sea of Friends Programme led by Yali Fogel. Every year the numbers of participants increase and they have now trebled. With the help and the support of the FDRA, this very important activity is now accessible to groups of under privileged children from the greater Tel Aviv-Jaffa area offering them an opportunity to be part of the Daniel Rowing Centre, this unique home for rowing.



The Sea of Friends and Underprivileged Children

The Daniel Rowing Centre created a multi stage programme for groups of underprivileged children. At first, they come to an introductory programme for one day at the Centre. The children who show an interest in the activities then take part as a group in a ten-session programme throughout the school year. Those who wish to continue to the third stage, integrate into ongoing youth classes (rowing and sailing).

What did The FDRA do this year for the “Sea of Friends”?

The FDRA provided the funds for two “Kadima” youth homes to participate in the ten-session programme.

The first group included children in the third and fourth grade of elementary school, and the second group, children in the seventh and eighth grade.

Fifteen children from the youth home in Jaffa, who completed the ten-session programme last year, completed an Optimist Sailing Class for beginners with the help of the FDRA. We supported another five children, who also completed the ten-session programme, and continued coming to the Centre once a week to take part in rowing classes.



The Story of O.

There are many faces behind the Sea of Friends, faces that we cannot expose, and whose stories cannot be told. O. is one of these many children who have flourished in the programme. She is now 13 years old and comes from one of the youth homes. She was first introduced to the programme three years ago, as part of the efforts to reach out to disadvantaged youth. She has been coming to the Centre ever since, and is one of the children who are now part of the regular rowing classes.

"Coming here shows that you can do something even if it is difficult. This is a place where I can get away from my schoolwork, relax and enjoy. My dream is to succeed, to believe that I can succeed. Rowing proves that I can".

A Message from Daniel's Family



A Message from the Chairperson

Dear Friends,

The activities at the Centre have been going from strength to strength, and we were thrilled with the participation of nine of our rowers at the Beijing Paralympics. When creating the Centre in Daniel's memory, our original vision was the thought that if Daniel himself could not take part in the Olympics, then we would provide the facilities and sporting environment that could nurture excellence in rowing, and hopefully give a chance to athletes to represent Israel. You cannot imagine the pride that we felt when Eli Nawi won the bronze medal – this is part of Daniel's legacy, and we hope it is only the beginning of many more incredible achievements on behalf of our rowers. Rowing is all about being a member of a team, and working together to achieve results, so our thanks also go to the Manager Eitan Gluzman, and all of his wonderful team at the Centre for their sterling work and also to Renata Shmueli for her skilful and dedicated management of the FDRA.

Wishing you all the very best,

Shirley, Linda, Joanna and John

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure and privilege to participate and to contribute to the activities and future plans for the Daniel Rowing Centre as your representative.

For the last year it has been my aim to bring awareness to organizations and business people, government and educational offices that would not necessarily have known that the sport of rowing and the Centre are open to all.

I can get away from my busy working life the hassle and bustle to volunteer in the calming atmosphere of the Centre's location on the green banks of the Yarkon, an ambience second to none in Tel Aviv. I have got to know the amazing dedicated professionals working closely to offer an opportunity to the public. Just meeting rowers after a morning kayaking on the sea, listening to their experiences or meeting children that experience what it is to be part of a team and enjoy the natural responsibility they have to take upon themselves.

Join me at the Centre to know more.

Yours,

Penny

Join the vision of the Daniel Rowing Centre through the FDRA

The Friends of Daniel for Rowing Association is an Israeli registered charity (no. 580 419 349) with the aim of furthering the sport of rowing in Israel. The FDRA is governed by a board of directors, has an external auditor and complies with all of the rules and regulations relating to charities in Israel.

For any further information about the FDRA and about the ways you can contribute, please contact the FDRA Director, Ms. Renata Shmueli, on +972-3-6990484, +972-3-7419023 or by e-mail: amuta@drc.org.il.

Additional information about the Daniel Rowing Centre may be found on its website, at www.drc.org.il.

