

**Minutes of IEOC Regional Meeting at  
Badminton on  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2002.**

**Present:** Jane Holderness-Roddam; Michael Bullen; Mark Phillips; Ninnie Odenrick; Lindsay Jenkins; Judy Bradwell; Gillian Watson; Jane Tolley; Annabel Scrimageour; Jose Ortelli; Colin Furness; Justin Llewelyn; Jane Whitely; Jack Le Goff; Guy Otheguy; Francois Lucas; Patrick Carew; Celia Carew; John Tulloch; Joaquim Duarte Silva; Sally O'Connor; Richard Meade; Bjorn Kastellman; Carolyn Simm; Jane Starkey; Sue Stewart; Jonathan Warr; Frederik Obel; Mike Etherington-Smith and Jean Mitchell.

**Apologies:** Sue Harry-Thomas; Andy Griffiths; Bernd Springorum and Hugh Thomas.

Patrick Carew opened the meeting and handed over to Jean Mitchell who welcomed everyone and said that she was especially pleased to see so many members from all around the world.

Jean then explained that the new IEOC Web Site was now 'up and running' at [www.i-eoc.org](http://www.i-eoc.org) and advised that in the future the Board would intend to use this web site for a speedy way of communication with members. There will be a 'Bulletin Board' which will allow members to ask questions, receive answers and generally to 'chat'!

There was a very good discussion about the 2002 rule changes, and the fact that the Board of the IEOC have been able to influence some of them, but were not consulted about the change to the FEI Eventing Courses, before the Three Day Committee decided to replace the existing Judge's Course Directors with Pure Dressage Judges [Grand Prix level] for 2002. The Board of the IEOC will be meeting the Three Day Committee on Monday next, to further discuss this situation.

It was agreed that there is a need for more FEI courses – worldwide- especially as all officials are going to be required to attend a course every 2 years [3 years at present] and that there should have been a course for Top Officials early this year because of the new dressage tests, and the rule changes. Also mentioned was the possibility of including top riders and trainers in some of the courses.

The IEOC were pleased that the Three Day Committee decided to change the rule concerning elimination for the 1<sup>st</sup> fall in the jumping, but were unhappy that the change was not immediately notified direct to the Spring Event Organisers – like Kentucky. More communication with Event Organisers would be helpful, as many National Federations are not good at passing on important information.

CIC rules also need to be made clearer, and there was some thought that in 2003, CNC's would take over as they are less expensive to organise, and will still provide the riders with qualifications.

Another topic was 'the correct way to present dressage scores' on result sheets and on electronic scoring boards.

There was quite a lot of feeling that the new 'qualifications' might need to be adjusted for 2003, as some countries are finding that they do not have enough suitable competitions, and also if events have to be cancelled [like with the Foot & Mouth problem] or due to bad weather conditions.

Mark Phillips said that there was difficulty with the '4 week' qualification period – would suggest that 10 days would be more suitable. Also 4 star horses were being 'drummed out' after injuries and having to go back to 3 star competitions to qualify.

There was also a worry that events are being reduced to shorter distances, and less 'severity' so that riders will be tempted to compete at 3 '3 star' events in the year.

Jack Le Goff gave a very comprehensive talk about the new CIC\*\*\* World Cup series which will start in August 2002, with the final at Pau in October 2003. He emphasised that the intention is to "heighten the profile" of eventing.

Patrick then clarified that the present rule changes are for 1 year only, and were strongly encouraged by the IOC, with the decisions taken by the Three Day Committee, to save the sport. This was supported by the FEI.

Richard Meade endorsed Mark's worry about reducing the endurance emphasis, being afraid that we are producing 'glorified' dressage competitions, although he applauded the fact that the committee have taken action, but suggests that it all needs further thought.

Show jumping cups were then discussed – the feeling was that they should not be ‘flat’ as used in pure jumping competitions, and that TD’s should be made aware of this. It was said that the cups used at Kentucky and in Spain were not satisfactory.

Jane Starkey suggested that there is a need for more 4 star events, as many horses were balloted out at Badminton, and also more 3 stars, perhaps more evenly spaced throughout the calendar.

Mike Bullen posed the questions “is anybody listening to the top riders in our sport?” and “has the Three Day Committee panicked into making too many changes too quickly?”

In reply, Jack Le Goff stated that the Committee were extremely disappointed that so few National Federations actually responded to the request for ‘proposals and suggestions’ when requested.

There was a request that officials and competitors would be given any rule changes well before the beginning of the season, and that all ‘revisions’ would be clearly dated so that they are easy to ‘spot’. This should happen when the 2003 rules are published, and hopefully remain in place for the following 3 or 4 years.

Mark then mentioned that the TD’s now have far too much ‘paperwork’ to contend with, making it essential to have at least one Assistant TD at every event, and maybe 2. Also slightly worrying that the evidence of inexperienced officials can be unreliable, and give incorrect decisions.

A discussion took place about the positioning of judges, using B and E, and it was agreed that at some events this would be a very good idea, but that not all venues would be suitable, and that the judges as well as the TD’s should be consulted.

They’re being no further business; Jean thanked Hugh Thomas for providing such a suitable venue and the wonderful hospitality, and closed the meeting.

Jean Mitchell [ Secretary General IEOC ]