

E-Newsletter
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1. Welcome by Richard Meade, chairman of the IEOC

During the past year your Board has decided to open membership of our Club to FEI Event organisers as well as to officials. This decision has the blessing of the AOCCI. The Board felt that it would add another dimension to the knowledge and expertise already present amongst our membership. Certainly those organisers who have attended regional meetings in the past, as guests, have provided positive input, and the additional exchange of information and experiences has been of benefit to everyone. It has also helped engender closer co-operation and a greater understanding and respect for everyone's role at an event.

Jean Mitchell and I attended the AGM of the ISJC in Leipzig in mid-January. It was a useful meeting and Jean will communicate any Jumping information relevant to our discipline, as and when it is circulated to the ISJC members.

Conflict of Interest is a topic, which has been addressed by the Eventing Committee and the Bureau, and is now with the FEI Legal Department. We will continue to press for practical guidelines which are fair and workable, and which ensure that the integrity of our sport is not compromised.

We all know that the greatest value of FEI courses is in the exchange of information and experiences of members who have encountered interesting and unexpected

situations whilst officiating at events. The Newsletter provides a useful means of communicating this and we are very grateful to those who have written articles for this edition.

I would like to thank Anne-Mette Binder and Jean Mitchell for all their hard work and dedication in producing this fourth edition of the IEOC Newsletter, which I hope you will enjoy reading.

2. A view from the Eventing Committee

By Mike Etherington-Smith, Vice Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee

Looking forwards at this time of year is always exciting, since none of us know quite what is waiting for us in the future. Many people have been doing a lot of work behind the scenes in up-dating a lot of the FEI documentation, such as the Steward's Manual and the Syllabus for our courses, the production of a development programme, the on-going work on the Strategic Plan for Eventing - which needs to be part of the overall FEI Strategic Plan, and so on.

2007 sees the start to the build up to the next Olympics with the beginning of the qualifying period for all nations and the Test Event in Hong Kong in mid-August. Work on the course is well down the line, all the ground preparation has been completed on the cross-country course and the training areas at Beas River and Sha Tin Racecourse are just about complete.

There has been some debate about the level of competition at the Test Event. There will in fact be two courses, one at 1m for an estimated 25 local horses, the other at 1.15m for those NF's who send horses. Initially there was very little interest from NF's in sending horses for the Test Event but then one or two woke up and thought that it would be good to send some to gather data on how the horses cope in the climate – make no mistake, it is going to be hot and humid! We are all hoping that a storm might go through just before the competition so that the humidity disappears for a few days and we get a window of ok weather, especially for the cross country.

There will be contingency days factored into the timetable, so that if we lose a day through bad weather the whole equestrian competition can be finished during the Olympic dates – this is clearly very important.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club have done a truly outstanding job in preparing the footing. It has been a huge effort to upgrade the golf course so that it can cope with whatever weather is thrown at it and we are all truly grateful for what has been achieved. The members of the Golf Club themselves have also to be thanked for their patience during this build period.

David Evans and his team are working well and there is much local support even if the language barrier does sometimes create some interesting situations. The biggest hazard for the team is the number of low flying (and often miss-hit) golf balls – tin hats and protective netting are essential!

Back to other matters: -

In the Bulletin 4/2006 there is a summary of some of the issues discussed at our last meeting, which hopefully everyone has picked up on.

You will note that we are looking at a number of topical issues and would welcome any feedback. Historically feedback has been poor and so if any of the points mentioned in the report spark some thoughts then please do feed back to the Committee via the IEOC or direct to the Eventing Committee members. As everyone knows feedback should come through NF's but we are very pleased to receive it - whichever way it comes!

On the scoring – there is a lot of talk about putting more emphasis on the cross country, hence the thinking to go to a co-efficient of 1 in the dressage (i.e. no co-efficient)

Anyone interested in assisting at the Olympics in Hong Kong should e-mail Giuseppe Della Chiesa (the TD) expressing interest: gdc@mclink.it

One point worth drawing everyone's attention to is the dressage judging. The Committee believes that, in fairness to all competitors, all judges should be qualified to judge nationally at the level at which they will be judging internationally. For example, at 3* & 4* levels, to be able to judge at these levels a judge must be qualified to judge at the same level nationally. This is a serious consideration and we do not believe that anyone will disagree with the principle, and so any judges not suitable qualified should please try to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

The rest is self-explanatory.

We are also encouraging NF's to create suitable national training programmes to encourage younger officials into the sport, whether they be Judges, TD's, or CD's. It has to be said that many of us are 'getting on a bit now' and we need to be looking to the future, hence the need for pro-active programmes.

Re show jumping – how often do we hear some gripes about the jumping courses we have? It is an area that is quite often ignored and must not be. We all get wrapped up in the dressage judging and then the cross country and quite often we are all very pleased to get to the last day and it is all too easy not to pay enough attention to the quality and suitability of the jumping course. As with a cross country course the jumping course is a 'package' - a phase in its own right - and needs respecting as such. All of us need to keep ourselves up to speed on what we expect to see in a jumping course, liase with the designer in advance of the event, and work towards the best possible track that can be provided and is most suitable.

Good luck for 2007 and let us all hope for some outstanding sport.

3. WEG Aachen 2006

By Brian Ross, USA, GJ-member at the WEG

From the moment of the very first contact from the WEG in Aachen the word "efficiency" came to mind. All of the arrangements prior to arrival in Germany were taken care of with attention to detail that we might all expect from their organizing committee.

We, as officials, would not be disappointed once the final preparations were in place. Upon our arrival and our first visit to the competition grounds we were treated extremely well and it was immediately evident that we were at a top competition. What a treat it was to be able to watch the elite riders in dressage perform their freestyles Saturday night. Our schedule didn't allow us to "see" any vaulting competition but it sure "sounded" exciting!

Maybe the only disappointment was the condition of the grass arena on the second day of dressage. It is inevitable that in the future we must have arenas that can be as consistent as possible throughout the competition. Endurance had used the dressage arena in a terrific rainstorm for one of their "vet" checks and I'm sure that contributed to some of the problems although the first day held up very well.

The cross country was designed beautifully by Rudiger Schwartz. The technical aspects were "right on" as was evident in the results. As soon as we walked the course we knew it would be a fair but challenging test. Some of the approaches had been masterfully tinkered with, especially at the last two combinations. It is amazing how far we have come in the sport, and just when we think that dressage and show jumping are going to determine the outcome, we are treated to a course like the one we had in Aachen. The ground was so well prepared that when I walked around after the competition there was minimal damage.

What a thrill it was to move our show jumping into the main arena on Sunday, in front of a huge crowd, and just like the other phases, the atmosphere was electric. Although the Germans were pretty well assured of the gold medal there was a great deal of tension, especially for the individual and team medals. It is sometimes difficult as a judge to separate yourself from your home country but my hat is off to all the riders from all the countries for the masterful riding we witnessed.

I think Aachen "got it right". It could have been a missed flying change; a few seconds slow; a glance off; a dropped rail. It didn't matter. Not one thing stood out as causing the final result, it was the complete test for individuals and teams from start to finish.

4. FEI Eventing Seminars 2007

The courses planned for 2007 is available on www.horsesport.org. The IEOC is very pleased to see, that the number of international Events being prepared to host an FEI course have increased since 2006. Thank you before hand to everyone involved!

FEDERATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

2007 FEI Eventing Courses & Seminars

	Date	Location	NF	Category	Level	Course Directors
1	03-04 March 2007	Springs Gauteng	RSA	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	TBC
2	10-11 March 2007	Puhinui	NZL	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	TBC
3	TBC	TBC	AUS	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	Pierre Michelet (FRA): overall Neil Clinton (AUS): "I" TD 1 jumping director from AUS TBC 1 dressage director from AUS TBC
4	14-17 June 2007	Luhmuehlen	GER	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	TBC
5	21-24 June 2007	Strzegom	POL	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	TBC
6	23-26 August 2007	Blair Castle	GBR	Judges, TDs & CDs	1 & 2	TBC
7	13-16 September 2007	Pratoni del Vivaro	ITA	Judges, TDs & CDs	2	TBC
8	TBC	TBC	URU / ARG	Judges, TDs & CDs	1 & 2	TBC

Last update Monday, 06 November 2006

FEI Eventing & Olympic Departments

5. 3rd year of the IEOC "Assistant" Officials Scheme - 2007

By Jean Mitchell, Secretary General of the IEOC

I am delighted to report that the following FEI International Events have agreed to take Judges / Assistant TD's / Assistant Chief Stewards in 2007: Blair Castle, Blenheim, Bramham, Boekelo, Burgie, Hartpury, Kentucky, Luhmuehlen, Necarne Castle, and Punchestown.

This will give IEOC members from: Canada, Brazil, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scandinavia, USA and the UAE, the opportunity to officiate at events - at all levels!

Our sincere thanks must go to each of the Organising Committees who have supported this valuable scheme and made it all possible - by providing the places, along with accommodation and hospitality!

6. Memories from Necarne Castle 2006

By Natallia Yuranova, Belarus

One year had passed from the moment I got the invitation to judge at Necarne Castle, until the day of my flights from Minsk – Vienna – London – Belfast. All year I had lived, waiting excitedly for this visit. I wanted so much to see with my own eyes, the "Great Country".

In my childhood I heard and read so many things about it. I wanted to see how competitions of the highest level are held. I wanted to meet the famous people who are the organizers, and the judges with the highest qualifications. At the same time I was really worried about my judging, because it was my first experience in Western Europe! I realized that it was not going to be a simple visit.

I was so much impressed by it all! I liked absolutely everything: nature, architecture, castles and especially your hearty welcome!!!

For me – as an FEI International judge – it was an invaluable experience, especially to see the Junior European Eventing Championships, where riders from Belarus & Russia were competing against the best in Europe. But my biggest impression was the people! All these nice people who lavished care upon me!

I would like to thank everybody who helped me in some of the difficult moments – particularly when my suitcase didn't arrive – and to let everyone know that I've now got it back – many weeks later!

Thank you again to the Organising Committee of Necarne Castle International Horse Trials, for everything, and especially to the IEOC and Andy Griffiths, who helped to make it all possible for me!





7. IEOC Judging in Scotland and Ireland 2006

By Helen Christie, New Zealand

The IEOC scheme of seeking appointments for officials is a great idea. Few events in Europe are going to engage a foreign official, at thousands of dollars, when they have a huge pool of 'foreigners' on their doorstep!

In 2006 New Zealand hosted three CCI events, and while I had jobs at all of them, it's hard to be a judge when you have a member of your family riding. From my home to the closest International neighbour is a minimum of 8 hours, which includes a 4-hour plane trip – to Australia.

For a resident New Zealander to be able to get to 9 CCI's in one year [both judging and viewing] is a real privilege!

While there are lots of National dressage competitions and events to judge at home, it's the exposure to the numbers, and to the knowledgeable folks, that all adds to the experience abroad.

I was slightly in awe of some of the names I was to work with – both at Blair Castle and Necarne Castle – where several of these were my absolute heroes / heroines when I was growing up. I needn't have worried – everyone, without exception, was

welcoming, kind and more than willing to share their expertise and knowledge, to make me feel comfortable.

The hospitality at both events was really special. The Lodge on the estate at Blair was fantastic, and we were superbly looked after. Val McKenzie and Peter Herrick had told me about Necarne, and Belle Isle lived up to their stories – and well beyond, as we were incredibly spoilt, and had so many laughs!

Both events ran smoothly, with wonderful facilities and presentation, and have already been written up by folks more qualified than me! Being on the Jury of Appeal for the Junior European Championships was a massive learning curve. Thank goodness for my legal advisor – David Lee! It's fair to say that, until you leave New Zealand / Australia, you have no idea about passport irregularities, due to vaccinations!!!

To all of you who gave help and advice so freely, thank you once again. You are all most welcome to come here – probably not all at once, but indeed that might be fun!

Jean thanks for everything!

8. New FEI Eventing Tests

The editors of the Newsletter have been informed, that Christoph Hess and Chris Bartle has agreed to follow up their previous very good work with a revision of the new dressage tests. The dressage experts have already discussed several alterations and further development of the tests. Chris Bartle and Christoph Hess will try to integrate the ideas, which are present for the revision of the tests, into the existing tests during the end of January. Chris and Christoph have to do this in two phases.

Phase 1: A new 1 Star B test for possible use at the Junior Championships in 2007 plus a shorter 4 Star B test for use in Hong Kong in 2008. These will be ridden and corrected in January and the draft versions sent out for comments. (This phase is finished and the suggestions will be presented to the FEI Eventing Committee at the end of February 2007)

In the last week of January 07 the 2. phase started with the work on modifications to the other tests at all levels will then commence with a view to testing ideas in March. Afterwards the corrected versions will be forwarded to a large group of judges, riders, coaches, etc. for an intensive discussion. After the European Championships 2007 the results of the discussions will be integrated into the new versions of dressage tests. Final versions are expected to be ready for presentations at a Level 3 seminar in the beginning of 2008.

9. Event Directors join the IEOC

By Frans van Meggelen, Holland

The editors have received the following letter from the Chairman of the AOCCI Frans van Meggelen and Event Director Julia Otto, CCI4Star Luhmühlen, to Organisers of CCI's and CIC's to be published in the IEOC Newsletter:

Dear Fellow Eventing Organisers.

The reason.

I'm writing this message in my capacity as Chairman of the AOCCI – the association of Organisers of CCI's and CIC's – and mostly because of the situation within the AOCCI.

The AOCCI was formed in 1996; to be able to keep contact between eventing organisers and now the time has come to tell you about the PRESENT situation.

The Purpose of the AOCCI.

The main purpose was to give organisers a voice within the FEI. Up until that time, organisers did not have a say in anything happening within the FEI. That was very quickly realised by getting the possibility to elect a member to the Eventing Committee, on behalf of the Organisers.

Also the Association provided the possibility for members to contact each other, for example to discuss how fellow organisers solve certain problems, or any queries that may arise. Also the possibility to get invitations to other Events was another reason, especially to be able to look behind the scenes.

In the beginning several meetings were held for these purposes, and various Organisers did attend. For various reasons this did not happen during the last few years and as a result the whole organisation came more or less to a standstill.

The Future.

This development is disappointing. Also, in 2008 we will have to elect our next representative, as successor to Mr. Tom Ryckewaert, our present member in the Eventing Committee. And the way things are now, we are not able to organise a democratic election.

This might affect our credibility – within the FEI.

The Opportunity.

For the reasons above Mrs. Julia Otto, organiser of Luhmuehlen, and myself made contact with the IEOC, the International Eventing Officials Club. The idea was to propose to the IEOC cooperation between the two organisations. The IEOC organises meetings at various events every year – in many countries – and they are well attended, send out a newsletter twice a year, so their communication system does work. Also some of their members are organisers too. We are very happy and proud to say that the Chairman of the IEOC, Mr. Richard Meade, and the full Board, immediately supported our proposal, so organisers can become a member, from 2007 onwards.

In the administration of the IEOC, organisers will be recognisable, so in case of the necessary election of the new Eventing Committee member, **only** organisers will have a vote.

If you want to become a member please contact Miss Jean Mitchell, E-mail: jeans.mitchell@virgin.net for a 2007 membership form. The annual membership fee is Euro 25, US\$ 25, or GBP £15

How do we go on?

To start with we will make contact with all 3 and 4 star CCI's and CIC's, sending this message. We do hope that many of them will become members of the IEOC/AOCCI. Then we will look into the option to contact the 2 star events, as well.

We do hope that this message will be clear to all of you, as it's our opinion that it is time to organise much better contact with each other, and Julia Otto and I, think this is a really good start.

Please support us and we look forward to your reactions.

The AOCCI now has its own E-mail address – info@aocci.nl – so you can contact us directly.

10. Inaugural CIC* at Wit's End, Canada**

By Kellie Towers, Canada

Inaugural CIC* at Wit's End, Canada**

During the last weekend in September, in the rolling hills of Mulmur County in Ontario, Canada the inaugural CIC*** was held at Wit's End Farm, the home of Jo Young and Bill McKeen. This was the third year they held an Advanced level event; the only one in Canada, and their first FEI sanctioned competition.

The nature of the land at Wit's End makes it difficult to design a 'horse friendly' course because of the lack of level ground. However, this year David O'Connor met the challenge, working with many of the original jumps built by Laurie Rowan of Canada, creating a course that was greeted with enthusiasm by the riders. Twenty-two CIC riders took on the questions asked along with 7 Advanced riders. In addition to the 'main event' there was a preliminary level (one star level) horse trials and Young Event horse classes for four year olds and five and six year olds. Jean Mitchell from Ireland took on the job of judging the dressage for the Young Event horses along with her duties as President of the Ground Jury for the CIC.

A chilly and rainy dressage day was marked by competent tests with Phillip Dutton putting in a relaxed, rhythmical test on Tru Luck to be at the top of the division. Darren Chiacchia closely followed him on both his horses with last year's winner, Bruce Davidson on Jam, sticking to Darren's heels. Kristen Bond split the men's placings on Are You Ready. Later in the day, the stadium course on undulating ground caused few jumping problems but resulted in minor changes in placings due to time faults.

Sun shone on the hills with their beautiful fall colours, on cross-country day. Most of the CIC riders successfully completed the course with no jumping faults but no one managed to finish within the time allowed. Phillip regained the lead he lost in the stadium, by coming closest to the optimum time, tackling the fences with a positive rhythm, making the course look eminently rideable. The most fun to watch was Jessica Ruppel on her 15 hand appaloosa gelding, Naughty by Nature, who lived up to his name in the dressage ring but redeemed himself by putting in huge leaps over the jumps, making light of them. In the final ranking, less than 1.5 penalty points separated Phillip and second placed Kristen Bond. Darren and Bruce had only

minimally more penalty points to finish third and fourth. Fifth, and top Canadian, was Penny Rowland on the ex carthorse, Roundabout, who put in an exuberant cross-country round which brought a big smile to Penny's face.

Many thanks are due to Jo and Bill who have put in mountains of work to give our riders an opportunity to gain experience at this level in their own country. It is gratifying to them to also be attracting competitors from our neighbour to the south. Their hope is to have a World Cup qualifier next year and they are certainly heading in the right direction. All the best to them.



Phillip Dutton and Tru Luck at Wits End 2006 / Photo: Anthony Trollope