

**Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM of the IEOC, held at  
Burghley International Horse Trials on,  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Chairman:** Richard Meade [GBR]  
**Secretary General:** Jean Mitchell [IRL]

**Present:** Gillian Kyle [IRL]; Jane Holderness-Roddam [GBR]; Sue Stewart [GBR]; Michael Bullen [GBR]; Helen Christie [NZL]; Julia Otto [GER]; Les Smith [GBR]; Marilyn Payne [USA]; Mark Phillips [GBR]; Hugh Thomas [GBR]; Jennie Loriston-Clark [GBR]; Andy Bowles [NZL]; Giulio Poggi [ITA].

**Guests:** Wayne Roycroft [Chairman FEI Eventing Committee]; John C McEwen [GBR & FEI Veterinary Committee]; Jane Atkinson [USA & Kentucky International Horse Trials]

**Apologies:** Ataide Pereira [BRA]; David Lee [IRL]; Nick Burton [GBR]; Tim Hadaway [GBR]; Jim Dunn [AUS]; Christina Klingspor [SWE]; Val McGregor [NZL]; Ninnie Odenrick [IRL]; Mike Manning [NZL] Annabel Scrimgeour [GBR]; Susan White [USA]; Anton Granhus [NOR]; Christian Landolt [SUI]; Faith & Peter Ponsonby [IRL]; Katherine Lucheschi [ITA]; Yuri Valev [BUL]; Joan Taplin [BER]; Bernd Springorum [GER]; Lord & Lady Carew [IRL]; Sandy Phillips [GBR]; Christoph Hess [GER]; David Moynahan [NZL]; Anne Tylee [NZL]; Jim Wolfe [USA]; Ciska Van Meggelen [NED]; Andy Griffiths [GBR]; Eric Smiley [IRL]; Jane Tolley [GBR]; James Rooney [IRL]; Kees Vellenga [NED]; and Tony & Ginnie McPherson [BEL].

The chairman, Richard Meade, welcomed members and guests and especially Wayne Roycroft [FEI Eventing Committee] and John McEwen [from the FEI Veterinary Commission]. He also thanked Malcolm Wallace, Liz Inman and the Burghley committee for allowing the IEOC the use of the facilities!

Richard also thanked Peter Herrick [NZL] - who has retired as the Regional Representative for New Zealand – for all his hard work, and welcomed Helen Christie, who has taken over, from Peter. He also thanked Jennifer Millar who has also retired, and has worked so hard and achieved so much in Asia, Malaysia, South Africa, and indeed worldwide! Natasha Mustapha from Malaysia has taken over as Regional Representative, from Jennifer.

The chairman also thanked Anne-Mette Binder and Jean Mitchell for their hard work in editing the IEOC newsletters!

- **The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> AGM** – held at Blenheim on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, were available - and considered ‘as read’ – proposed by Mike Bullen and seconded by Hugh Thomas. No matters arising!
- **Report from the Secretary General:** Jean hopes that the IEOC continues to serve a useful purpose, and that one of the most important ‘topics’ to be considered, is to find ways to encourage new officials into the sport, and to provide opportunities for IEOC members [mainly from outside Western Europe] to officiate at events in Europe and indeed in the USA and Australia! In 2007, Jean hopes that there will be at least 8 International events offering places as Ground Jury members, ‘assistant’ TD’s, CD’s and Chief Stewards! Special thanks are due to all these events!

- Many TD's are finding the FEI paperwork to be quite a burden, and it was noted that Ground Jury members no longer seem to be required to 'give an opinion' on events! It was suggested that this should be a 'joint' report – involving the TD and at least the President of the Ground Jury, to get a really 'fair' report for the FEI and the Event Organiser.
- **The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the IEOC newsletter will be published in early 2007, and Jean asked for 'articles' from IEOC members - and indeed the FEI Eventing Committee to be forwarded as soon as possible!**
- **Treasurer's Report for 2006:** Jean presented the accounts [on behalf of David Lee] which showed a balance of €5739.90. David asked her to say that it's really important that members pay annually [and it's less expensive to pay through the respective Regional Representatives, who will collect the fees, and send as one payment]. More money in will enable the club to support more 'oversees' officials to travel, for experience! David also asked the meeting to express their continued 'thanks' to Bernd Springorum, who continues to facilitate the IEOC through the bank account in Switzerland!
- **FEI Eventing Committee Report: [Wayne Roycroft]** Wayne started by thanking the OC of Burghley Horse Trials for hosting such a brilliant 4 star event, with wonderful dressage and a great cross country track. He mentioned a new scoring system, but felt that it had thrown up an inconsistent result in Kentucky, so there's a definite need to take things steadily! We must bring on more 'young' officials so that we can become completely comfortable [but of course never completely satisfied] with how things are. The "New Format" is now meeting with less resistance – it's not perfect, but is working, and the risk of requiring another 'type' of horse has gone. They still need to be athletic, supple, brave, alert, and able to gallop – and of course good for the final day! The Final Horse Inspections are presenting good horses, with the quality and fitness appearing to be much improved. Now we all need to put the shoulder to the wheel for Hong Kong 2008, to make it a success. They have good people in place, but it must be an event for all nations. The conditions are not ideal, but our knowledge will make it a good event to ensure that Eventing is secure in the future. The FEI Standing Committee will address any problems.

#### **Any Other Business:**

**Jane Holderness-Roddam** queried the welfare of the horses and the future of the Sport, regarding horses that are competing 'back to back' in CIC's and CCI's. Jane felt that Ground Juries should have a list to show where horses have been running, in the past few weeks. Wayne said that horses could be checked on the Internet. However it was not quite clear as to WHO should be doing this.

We should also look at the 'top age' of horses competing, and ask ourselves if the Short Format allows for an extension of horse's competitive careers. [British Eventing used to have a cut off point of 18 years of age]

**Hugh Thomas** pointed out that as every passport is checked and stamped [Internationally] it would be easy to set up a 'check system' with Vets, TD and GJ - so that we can keep a watching brief, and the riders will also be aware!

**John McEwen [Vet and Guest]** advised that welfare was discussed at the recent Veterinary Conference, but it was felt that, as yet, not enough is known. However it is an issue and should be quietly examined.

**Jean** mentioned the situation where combinations that had not 'completed' at WEG, at Aachen [for various reasons] were immediately trying to get LATE entries to **Burghley**,

who had already finalised and ‘gone to press’! Riders should realise that if they want to ‘keep their options open’ they should ‘double enter’ – as indeed quite a few riders had done, in this occasion and they were OK.

- **Mike Bullen** asked why Bramham had over 20 falls, having gone short format, which looks quite serious and in need of investigation. He also commented on the fact that the Course Designer in question has made mistakes before, and this is bad for the image of the sport – so what is being done about it?
- **Wayne Roycroft** stated that it is being investigated to see if there is a problem, or it’s just a ‘one-off’ and he assured Mike that it will be dealt with accordingly. If there should be continued evidence of a problem, then action will be taken.

**John McEwen:** [member of the FEI & GBR Veterinary Committees]

**Jean then officially introduced John McEwen who said how delighted he was to have been asked to attend on this occasion. He felt that there is a great need to link all equestrian disciplines, and the officials within them, and agreed that the IEOC, along with the ISJC and IDC, provide great International forums for communication.**

- **Vaccination:** The wording of the vaccination rules is presently being **simplified / clarified** to cover flu ‘jabs’, whilst still allowing horses to come in and out of competition more easily. This means that while horses must still have a ‘yearly’ vaccination [as by the maker’s recommendation] they only require to have the **further** vaccination **within 6 months of a competition** – so not - as many of us [Vets included] thought - ‘every 6 months’! There are also ‘windows’ of time to allow for competitions.
- **Doping:** The new doping rules are still causing some problems, but will be dealt with. The systems need to be simplified to make sure that there is actually a doping problem, rather than failed medication control. He emphasised that all Chefs D’Equipe and Riders, must clearly ask and officially declare any medication **before** it’s used!
- **Jean** asked if the FEI Veterinary Committee have any ‘rules / recommendations as to when [and how often] the MCP attends an International Event? She quoted the case at the 2007 Pony European Championships at Saumur, where [in the Eventing competition] the MCP was only present on XC day, which is not very user friendly to the ponies, after a really hot XC run, and better avoided - and more importantly BEFORE they may have been given any medication to hide any injuries for the final Pony Inspection the following day. Surely it’s essential to test the winners?  
**Jean** also asked if it is no longer the ‘done thing’ for the MCP to meet and discuss the testing with the President of the Ground Jury, as in this case it did NOT happen, and also on other occasions?

**John** explained that there is a fixed budget to sample 5% of the runners, possibly more – but not less. The sampling days are left to the MCP Vet, who should certainly be in communication with the President of the GJ, and the Veterinary Delegate. The process should be seen to be ‘in place’ – transparent – and indeed the officials should have adequate English to explain the procedure!

So, any issues that IEOC members may have would be welcome and John would bring them to the next Veterinary meeting. He also pointed out that, so far, no case has been lost due to procedure, but agreed that communications need to be better, with test days being at ‘random’ and preferably not on XC day. He also advised that their intelligence indicates that there may be some issues regarding sampling, etc.

**Hypersensitivity** in Show Jumping is being investigated, and he wonders if there is any evidence of such practices in Eventing, saying that the Vets would appreciate some guidance in this area.

**Richard Meade** felt that if such an issue should be coming into Eventing, then it must be addressed!

**Jean** also mentioned the ‘weighted’ and ‘tight’ elasticised, hind boots that are also being used in SJ, and that we may need a ruling for our sport!

**Hugh Thomas** expressed his opinion that the MCP officials should not liaise with the Ground Jury, other than as a courtesy introduction, and that it’s grossly unfair to ask for horses to be tested, as the Organising Committee pays for the MCP, and should not be asked to pay extra.

**John McEwen** advised that there **is already** an FEI protocol in place, whereby the MCP officer asks to meet the President of the Ground Jury, to make it known that he is in attendance, and to ask if they would like any particular horses to be tested. This is paid for by the FEI, and indeed the GJ are entitled to ask for testing to be carried out and the FEI pays.

**All shows must carry testing kits**

**Hugh Thomas** advised that he was quite sure that the FEI does not pay – the OC pays – and John McEwen agreed to check this with the FEI.

Jean advised that the entry fee at most International events includes an MCP levy of CHF 12.50 to cover these costs and John agreed that as this fee is paid into the MCP, then the system must be used correctly.

Richard agreed that the present protocol is correct, as stated by John, and if the GJ want to have a horse tested they communicate with the TD and Vet Delegate – a system that works extremely well in most cases.

**Conflict of Interest:**

This topic had been discussed at great length at the IEOC Regional meeting at Badminton, and on other occasions. Richard read out the IEOC Policy statement, which he had already sent to the FEI Eventing Committee.

Catrin Norinder has agreed that it will be considered at the next meeting of the Judicial Committee [and by other bodies], as it will affect the other disciplines!

**Mark Phillips** asked if, as a trainer, it is OK to train riders beforehand, and officiate – but not to ‘interact’ during the competition? Also what about ‘relatives’?

**Mark** felt that it’s not correct to ‘train and judge’ a competitor, but it should be possible to teach a rider at an occasional clinic, and still judge.

**Wayne Roycroft** was of the opinion that all these situations need careful consideration, as in **Dressage - trainers cannot be judges**, and it’s important to understand that this may mean restrictions – perhaps seemingly unfairly – on family members!

**Hugh Thomas** stated that no one ever wants to school over Badminton!! It’s important to come up with a fair decision. Maybe resolutions need to be stronger – but at least it’s all being looked at and Richard suggested that we might **canvass our** members for their suggestions, etc.

**Wayne** pointed out that ‘such is our sport’ that many of us are affected by the conflict of interest.

**Jean** mentioned that she had been advised that an FEI judge had actually judged at an International event, and had also ridden in another class at the same event! There was a really strong feeling that this should not have been allowed to happen.

**Wayne** remarked that hopefully that person had neither been injured nor had ridden dangerously, at that event. Clearly - as FEI officials - we are expected to be professional at all times, by the riders – so can we do both?

**Hugh** reminded the meeting that rules need to be ‘globally’ sensitive, as it’s a worldwide sport, and where there may only be one judge in some of the lesser nations, we must be careful not to over restrict.

**Jane H-R** felt that this could be unfair to an Organising Committee

**Richard** advised that an Organiser may also be a rider, and Hugh didn't feel that this was necessarily a conflict of interest – but rather raised different issues.

**Helen Christie [NZL]** pointed out that with only 3 FEI judges in New Zealand they could have problems, and that common sense should prevail.

**Marilyn Payne** asked Wayne if she fills in a 'conflict of interest form' is it then OK to go ahead and judge? Wayne's answer was "yes" but that if at all possible she should also move to another section, so as not to judge her rider.

**Wayne advised the meeting that the FEI Eventing Committee are presently working on this subject, and hope to have some clear guidelines in place as soon as possible – probably having a 'grading' system that would make it possible to officiate at the 1 and 2 star levels with a 'degree' of conflict of interest, which would not be tolerated at 3 and 4 star levels. We will await the publication of this document!**

**Jean** asked about the distribution and use of **Yellow Cards**, and queried if they now have the correct article on them, and if they are 'followed through' by the FEI?

**Wayne** agreed that they have never really worked, in spite of what should have been quite a good system. At present the Yellow Card is purely a 'warning' – maybe it should be a **RED CARD**?

Any abuse of officials is usually dealt with 'on the day' and unfortunately some riders treat the yellow card as a JOKE! Perhaps 2 yellow cards [within a certain time frame] should equal a RED CARD – which could have some 'bite'?

Wayne was still of the opinion that prompt action 'on the day' is what is **required!**

**John McEwen** remarked that he felt that there is no rule to deal with 'abuse of the horse' on the day, other than reporting to the Secretary General, which could result in bad publicity. He felt that we need a simpler system – i.e. refer it to the Ground Jury, who can deal with it immediately, and then if it's serious enough it can be referred to the Secretary General. He feels that this needs to be explained to those who implement it. **Some members felt that this is already covered in our rules.**

- **Communication:** **Giulio Poggi** asked if the FEI Eventing Committee could make more use of the IEOC to communicate with officials, rather than through the National Federations – many of whom are either too busy or not interested enough to forward information, when it's received. He also asked if the IEOC could also be of help with Seminars, and if details of vaccinations could be stored in the FEI computer [John McEwen felt that the present database could not cope at present, with this suggestion] **Wayne** felt that it was a good idea, but we have all responsibilities to keep in touch, and of course NF's can be very busy.

**Jean** mentioned that Catrin is very good at sending her [on behalf of the IEOC] all the relevant memos that go from the FEI committee to the NF's. On receipt, Jean copies them to the Regional Representatives of the IEOC who are responsible for letting their fellow countrymen know, sometimes to every member - and usually arranges to have them put on the IEOC web site! So it looks as if this is already in place!

**They're being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.00pm.**

*Jean S Mitchell [Secretary General of the IEOC]*

{Once again - Sincere thanks to Sue Stewart for providing the comprehensive notes, for these minutes, and my apology for their late presentation!}

