

**Minutes of the IEOC Regional Meeting held at Badminton, on  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004**

**[By kind permission of Mr. Hugh Thomas]**

**The meeting was chaired by Richard Meade [Chairman of the IEOC], with Jean Mitchell [Secretary General of the IEOC] in attendance.**

**Members present:** Susan O'Brien [NZL]; Andrew Fell [IRL]; Jennifer Millar [NZL]; Jim Dunn [AUS]; Stephanie Von Schilcher [IRL]; Nick Burton [GB]; Judy Bradwell [GB]; Annabel Scrimgeour [GB]; Jane Tolley [GB]; Gillian Rolton [AUS]; Sue Stewart [GB]; Ninnie Odenrick [IRL]; Lady Celia Carew [IRL]; Lord Patrick Carew [IRL]; Gillian Kyle [IRL]; Denis Currie [IRL]; Sally O'Connor [USA]; John Lawrence [GB]; Jane Holderness Roddam [GB]; Michael Bullen [GB]; Francois Lucas [FRA]; Mark Phillips [GB]; Sue Benson [GB]; Carl Bouckaert [BEL]; Colin Furness [GB]; Roger Day [GB]; Kees Vellenga [NED]; Angela Tucker [GB]; Alain James [FRA] – and there may be others who did not 'sign in'!

**Guests:** Wayne Roycroft – Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee; Catrin Norinder – Manager of the Eventing and Olympic Departments of the FEI; Fritz Sluyter – Manager of the Veterinary Department of the FEI; John McEwen [GB] - [FEI Vet]; Carolyn Simm – British Eventing; Amanda O'Brien [NZL]; John Kyle [IRL].

**Apologies:** Received from: Giuseppe Della Chiesa [ITA]; John Tulloch [GB]; Christian Landolt [SUI]; Andy Griffiths [GB]; Mike Etherington-Smith [GB]; Andy Bowles [NZL]; Hugh Thomas [GB]; Mike Tucker [GB]; Tim Hadaway [GB]; David Lee [IRL]; Rosemary Lowry [IRL]; Jonathan Clissold [GB]; Christoph Hess [GER]; Les Smith [GB]; Peter and Faith Ponsonby [IRL];

**Richard Meade** opened the meeting by extending a welcome to all present, and especially to Wayne Roycroft as Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, Carl Bouckaert, and to the FEI Vets. - Fritz Sluyter and John McEwen.

*Richard pointed out that 'today' was the 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary of 2 couples who have played a major part in our sport – Celia and Patrick Carew, and Sally and Michael Bullen – who had actually all 'honeymooned' together! They received the congratulations of the meeting, especially that they have had such long-lasting marriages!*

Richard then started the formal part of the meeting by saying that the IEOC is very much 'alive' and will host 2004 Regional meetings at Taupo, Punctestown, Werrabee, Malmo, Pau and Fairhill, as well as this meeting at Badminton.

**Annual General Meeting: The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM of the IEOC will take place at Burghley Horse Trials on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, after the dressage.**

**Jean Mitchell** then reminded the members that this is **THEIR** club, which gives them a voice that can be 'heard' by the FEI Eventing Committee, the facility to discuss and debate current issues that affect our sport, and that membership is open to all **FEI Judges, TD's CD's and Chief Stewards**.

Jean then spoke about the [New IEOC Newsletter](#) which is just about to be published and will be sent to all members – hopefully by E-mail - and if this is not available, then by fax. The newsletter has been collated and co-edited by Anne-Mette Binder [DEN], Diann Schrapel [AUS] and Jean. She asked for members to start now to contribute articles, items of interest for the next edition!

**Membership for 2004:** Jean explained again, that membership fees had **not** been collected for 2002 & 2003, due to the problem of re-establishing the IEOC bank account, when Dolores Bruun gave up the position of treasurer. However, all those who were members in 2000 & 2001 were kept on the list, and now – thanks to the past chairman – Bernd Springorum – we have an active IEOC bank account, in Switzerland.

Jean had the current membership list, provided by the Treasurer – David Lee - showing that there are **80** 'paid up' members, at present. This number will increase when the German memberships arrive – they are being collected, centrally, as are some other countries. Membership forms were available at Badminton, and some of those present paid their memberships.

David Lee also sent a current 'statement of account', as at the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004, showing that there is **€5091.29** in the IEOC account. All officials of the IEOC act in a voluntary capacity.

**FEI Development:** Andy Griffiths [on behalf of the FEI] is presently assisting in the development of Eventing in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania. As a result of his visits to the area, we have now appointed **Ekaterina Voronova**, from Moscow, as the Regional Representative for the IEOC, in this region.

Jennifer Millar continues with her good work in Asia / SE Asia, and now in South Africa, and José Ortelli in South America - [see reports in the new IEOC newsletter].

**Fall Reports:** There was a 'plea' to all FEI Eventing "Officials" to make sure that the fence description, measurement, and fall report forms are sent back with the Event reports. These are essential to get a full picture 'world-wide' for the safety committee, and it was made clear by Carolyn Simm, that the TRL [in GB] and British Eventing, would like to have as many National statistics as possible, as well as those from the International events.

**Memorandum:** The long awaited memorandum is now on the FEI web site – under: Reference; Rules; Rulebooks; Eventing!

**2005 FEI Eventing Dressage Tests:** Thanks to Christoph Hess and Chris Bartle, there are now **8** new 'draft' dressage tests in print. It's the intention that there will be only **2** tests at each STAR level, and they may be used for both CCI's and CIC's. These tests are 'progressive' and take different 'times', within the star levels. They have been widely circulated to all those who were at the Top Officials Seminar at Pratoni, in March [including top riders and trainers] and to all the IEOC Regional Representatives, asking them to forward them to their judges, for comments. Clearly it will not be possible to **PLEASE** everyone, but Christoph and Chris have been very happy to accept constructive 'minor' comments [through the IEOC] and will probably finalise all 8 tests at the end of May 2004. More details in the IEOC Newsletter!

**IEOC Web Site:** [www.i-eoc.org](http://www.i-eoc.org) this web site is still the main method of keeping in touch with the members, and is regularly up dated. There is a facility for members to 'chat' via the **Bulletin Board**, and instructions on how to use it are on the site!

**New "ERA" for PERA!** Jean reported that there was now an excellent 'rapport' between the IEOC and the Professional Event Riders Association, which has allowed both 'clubs' to exchange ideas, suggestions etc. Carl Bouckaert has replaced Eddy Stibbe as the 'Rider's Representative' on the FEI Three Day Committee, and he reported the following:

- Dropping of the word 'Professional' – so that all levels of riders can join = **so now called ERA!**
- Membership Fee of £35
- Setting up of a 'network' of riders right around the world, to facilitate communication and get 'feedback'.
- It was Carl's opinion that the majority of riders still want the CCI [with S/C] to continue, especially at 1 & 2 star level, and also that the CCI with S/C should have exactly the same phase D.

Richard Meade then introduced Wayne Roycroft, and asked him to speak on the various item that have recently been 'approved' at the General Assembly in Paris.

**Wayne Roycroft:** reported the following:

- **Only 1 country voted against the change in format for all FEI Eventing Championships, etc. [without S/C] – Ireland!!**
- **Three Day Events [CCI'S] can be run with or without steeplechase.**
- **One Day Events [CIC] are preparatory events for the CCI's.**
- **World Cup events will continue to run under 'special' regulations.**
- **There will be no change in the age groups for Juniors and Young Riders, but there was support for the proposal to encourage a new 'under 25' category of events to cover the gap of progression of the Young Riders, from 2 to 3 star level.**
- **Slight modifications in the 'qualification procedures' were approved, with the general principles being maintained**

- David O'Connor has replaced Giuseppe Della Chiesa as a Member of the Eventing Committee, but Giuseppe will stay on the committee as a co-opted member until the end of 2004 to continue his consultancy work for the 2004 Athens Olympics, the Eventing Safety Programme and the Eventing World Cup.
- There was then a discussion about the new format, which had been run at Kentucky the previous weekend.
- Apparently, the horses running in the CCI\*\*\*\* [normal format] had, overall, finished in much better shape than those in the 'modified' competition [also at 4 star level, but with only a 20 minute 'unmarked' phase A, and some practice fences].
- In the modified competition the horses were finishing very tired, with high temperatures [although quick recovery rates], and indeed there had been a bad picture at the Horse Inspection, on Sunday morning
- These horses seemed to cope well for the first 6 or 7 minutes of the course [which was around 10 minutes with 44 jumping efforts], then appeared to 'hit a wall', from which they were never able to recover.
- Basically many of them were 'off the bridle' and indeed some of the riding left a lot to be desired.
- Mark Phillips was of the opinion that the horses were indeed "fit enough", but this was not agreed by others who were present at Kentucky.
- The warm-up requirements and facilities for this type of event were discussed, and a variety of suggestions given.
- The number of 'jumping efforts' per 100 metres [or per minute] would appear to be crucial and clearly needs to be reduced from that used at Kentucky.
- A formula must be worked out to give the ratio of fences, to the distance travelled.
- Lessons learned at Pau in 2003 [final of the CIC World Cup] and at Kentucky 2004, must be used to benefit Athens, where the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the course is 'up-hill'!
- The subject of 'realistic' course measurements was also discussed, and it was agreed that it's now extremely important that these are very accurate, and attainable by those riders going the direct routes, under normal weather conditions!
- There will now be an 'education policy' required to communicate these 'lessons' to riders, especially at the lower levels, and in the lesser countries.
- It was agreed that this 'modified' competition needs much more research into 'rider skills', fittening of horses, nutrition, etc.
- The rules for Veterinary 'inspections' at CIC's were approved at the General Assembly.
- **Mike Bullen voiced his concern that there would be a 'bad picture' at Athens.**
- Wayne said that we need the programmes to work well in the 'developing' nations to give **universality** to the sport.

Richard then asked Fritz Sluyter to address the meeting on veterinary matters from the General Assembly.

**Fritz Sluyter:** The following recommendations were approved:

- The use of **Regumate** for mares will be permitted in FEI competitions, under certain conditions. Regumate is a method to regulate ‘**abnormal**’ oestrus behaviour.
- The threshold for salicylates [aspirin] in urine and blood is to be **reduced** following an extensive study conducted with 650 medication control samples. Over 625 mg’s will now be a ‘positive’. This will make it much more difficult to treat with aspirin.
- **Twice yearly ‘booster’ vaccinations against equine influenza will be required from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005!** There will be a 14-day ‘leeway’ at competitions. Apparently, the annual vaccination is not giving enough protection in the latter months.
- **Tranquillisers:** Many rumours, but very few facts. The FEI veterinary committee has already stepped up the percentage of horses to be tested per event, and will continue a rigorous programme of research into the types of ‘sedatives’, that might be used in the dressage phase. All testing is becoming more sophisticated.
- Contrary to the rumours, Colin Furness [FEI Chief Steward, GB] stated that he has NEVER seen syringes in the stables!

**Up-date on the 2004 Olympic Games:**

In the absence of Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Mike Etherington-Smith, Wayne Roycroft gave this report.

- As far as the Cross Country course is concerned, Giuseppe and Mike will now have to have a complete re-think about it, in light of the lessons learned at Kentucky. **Possibility to re-think the number of “Jumping Efforts” and the effect of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the course - being up hill!**
- Unfortunately the Course Designer – Albino Garbari [ITA] has broken his ankle – we all wish him well!
- The stabling, and arenas are ready, and good – although the dressage competitors apparently didn’t like the surfaces and they are being replaced.
- The jumping for the “Individual” medals will be at night, **under lights.**
- Security will be exceedingly ‘tight’.
- There are some accommodation problems.
- Mike Bullen [Pedens] stated that there ‘could’ indeed also be transportation and parking difficulties.
- **On the ‘Good News’ side – Rosemary Barlow has just managed to secure a ‘Hospitality Tent’, which will have ‘air-conditioning’, closed circuit TV, and food and drink [available on a paying basis]. The cost to use this facility will be €200 / person / discipline and places are limited. Rosemary can be contacted at: [rosie.Barlow@btinternet.com](mailto:rosie.Barlow@btinternet.com)**

**Any Other Business:**

### Number of dressage judges at CIC's?

- Francois Lucas [FRA] asked why, when we are trying to encourage and train new FEI Eventing Judges, the rule for CIC's now 'limits' the number to 2? He had applied for 3 judges for the CIC\*\*\*, and CIC\* at Fontainebleau in March, and was told that he could only have 2 judges per class.
- This question was referred to Wayne, and then to Catrin. She said that it was to keep down costs for the Organising Committees. However, they both agreed to have a look at the ruling.
- **Those present agreed that each Organising Committee should be able to choose to invite 2 or 3 judges.**

### Warm –Up areas: this subject was continued as follows:

- Mike Bullen asked for more clarification.
- Mark Phillips said that the facility of a 20 minute Phase A [unmarked as far as the competition was concerned] at Kentucky, with steeplechase, permanent and jumping fences had been used in 'many ways' by the competitors in the modified class. Some had jumped up to as many as 17 times – others as few as 2.
- In his opinion there needs to be a 'galloping area' of at least 500 - 1000 metres, to allow for a 'pipe opener', followed by the ability to have a 'recovery period' – then 'jumping' before the start of phase D.
- Fences should include at least 1 [but possibly 2] steeplechase fences; some solid XC type fences like roll tops, roofs, etc., and then about 10 uprights [**rustic type**] with 8" poles, to allow riders and trainers to choose the type of preparation for that particular course, and small, medium and large oxers. Clearly there must be adequate space for these, and there was a suggestion that the 'galloping' area could be in a horseshoe shape, with the fences 'in the 'open area'.
- If a 4 star competition has less 'let-up' fences, then there is no opportunity to catch up on time, and the rider has to be up on the clock 'all the way!
- **Probably not correct to alter the distance, but can certainly alter the number of "Jumping Efforts".**

### Sally O' Connor gave her 'thoughts' about Kentucky. As follows:

- Sally was covering a sector that included fences on the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the course, and fences on the way home.
- She agreed that the horses were fine on the 1<sup>st</sup> half, however, when they arrived at about the 7-\_\_ minute 'mark' they clearly 'hit the wall' – like a marathon runner, and started to appear tired!
- Sally agrees that the relationship between the distance and the jumping efforts needs to be carefully re-assessed.

**Mark Phillips** agreed that there will need to be more experience in the horse [and possibly rider] 'fittening regime' for the competitions without S/C, and that riders will have to realise that they won't be competing in these 'modified' competitions every 3 weeks. There will indeed be a considerable recovery period!

**Wayne Roycroft** repeated that the horses for Athens will have to be CCI\*\*\*\* fit, and while riders may be able to do more of these competitions [per horse] than previously in a year, they certainly won't be doing one every week!

### **Horse and Rider qualifications:**

#### **Rider:**

- **Wayne Roycroft** advised that the FEI Eventing Committee are looking at the rider qualifications, and hope to have a revised 'formula' for 2005.

#### **Horse:**

- **Patrick Carew** brought up the subject of horse qualifications for 2005, when - **for 3 and 4 star competitions – only XC scores will count** – not including the dressage and jumping, as now. It was agreed that this is a sensible decision. However the qualifications at 1 and 2 star will remain unchanged – including all three phases, and this was also approved.
- **Mark Phillips** made a suggestion that the National Federations should be allowed to say that a **RIDER** is qualified, because **after 2006** the FEI are apparently not going to allow **any exemptions!**

There was then a fairly heated discussion about the present 'qualifying' system for the Olympics, which centred on the fact that Brazil had qualified, without actually finishing a team [in their zone] and at that time had NOT ONE horse / rider combination, qualified. However, miraculously, through organising suitable competitions they do now have a selection of qualified horse and rider combinations!

There was some feeling that the FEI Eventing Committee should retain the 'ability' to continue to give 'individual exemptions'.

- At present it would appear that riders are fairly 'open-minded' about retaining the 'old' format, and perhaps in order to keep phases A, B, C and D the Eventing Committee might look at shortening the Steeple Chase phase, at all levels.

### **The Future of the World Equestrian Games!**

- There was quite a lot of support for the idea that these games should be 'split up' into individual disciplines, or even running 2 together.
- This could make them more commercially viable, especially for TV.

- Would allow the specific disciplines to be held in countries, which really have a suitable climate, an infrastructure, and understand that sport.
- Wayne Roycroft disagreed with this proposal, and said that we should **all** stay on the “same path”.

**At this point in the meeting, Mark Phillips expressed his appreciation for all Wayne Roycroft’s hard work, on behalf of Eventing – in one of the most difficult periods in the history of our sport, and Jean thanked Catrin for her patience and understanding when dealing with the IEOC. All those present agreed with a sustained ‘round of applause’.**

**Richard Meade then finished by thanking all the members, and especially the FEI ‘guests’, for taking time to attend the meeting, and a special thanks to Hugh Thomas for allowing us, once more, to use the facilities at Badminton, and brought a very worthwhile meeting to a close.**

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

**[With notes kindly provided by Jennifer Millar]**