



8th AGM at Burghley Friday 31st August 2007

In attendance: Richard Meade [GBR Chairman], Jean Mitchell [IRL Secretary General], Christian Persson [SWE], Les Smith [GBR], Sally O'Connor [USA], Anne-Mette Binder [DEN], Jane Tolley [GBR], Nick Burton [GBR], Jane Holderness-Roddam [GBR], Ronald Alexander [GBR], Sue Stewart [GBR], Hugh Thomas [GBR], Gillian Kyle [IRL], Christian Landolt [SUI], Frans and Ciska van Meggelen [NED], Martin Plewa [GER], Roger Day [GBR], Mike Bullen [GBR], Ronald Alexander [GBR], Katherine Lucheschi [ITA], Eric Smiley [IRL], Gillian Watson [GBR], Julia Otto [GER], Jane Tuckwell [GBR], Nicky Kelly [ITL], Elizabeth Inman [GBR],

Guests present: Chris Bartle, Catrin Norinder [FEI Eventing & Olympic Departments], Clayton Fredericks [ERA], Alex McLin [FEI Deputy Secretary General/Legal Counsel], David O'Connor [USA and FEI Eventing Committee], Eduardo Lucheschi [ITA], Andrew Hoy [AUS and ERA]

Apologies: Bernd Springorum [GER Hon. Member], Rosemary Lowry [IRL], Valerie McGregor [NZL], Stuart Stirling [IRL], Vanda Stewart [IRL], Pollyann Huntington [AUS], Helen Christie [NZL], Ann Tylee [NZL], David Moynahan [NZL], Christina Klingspor [SWE], Jillian Cobcroft [AUS], Johann Fahlberg [NOR], Tim Hadaway [GBR], Ninnie Odenrick [IRL], Marilyn Payne [USA], Annabel Scrimgeour [GBR], Jane Starkey [GBR] David Lee [IRL], Denis Currie [IRL]

1. Chairman's Welcome

- a. The chairman opened the meeting, offering thanks to Mrs Miranda Rock [President of the Committee of the Burghley Horse Trials] for the use of the President's tent, and welcoming Catrin Norinder and Alex McLin, the Deputy Secretary General and General Counsel of the FEI.
- b. The chairman reported that since the last AGM organisers of CCI and CIC have been invited to become members of the IEOC. Their membership will be of mutual benefit and will increase the expertise within the group.

Currently only 3 and 4* organisers have been included. It is hoped this will be extended to organisers of 2 and then 1* events in the future.

2. Secretary General's report:

IEOC Regional Representatives 2008:

- Jean advised the meeting of some changes in the Regional representatives, as follows:
- Sincere thanks to Francois Lucas, who has been the French representative since the start of the IEOC, and we welcome Eric Lieby, who has agreed to replace Francois.
- Thanks also to Gert Stumme who has been the German representative since the start of the IEOC, and we welcome Philine Ganders-Meyer to replace Gert.
- The other good news is that Sue Stewart has agreed to become the representative for Great Britain – thank you Sue!
- {Since this AGM, the Scandinavian members have had their annual meeting, and announced that Christina Klingspor will replace Anne-Mette Binder as their regional Representative – and the further good news is that Anne-Mette has agreed to stay on the Board of the IEOC, and also as joint editor of the Newsletters!}



IEOC Assistant Officials Scheme 2007:

- Jean gave a report on the 'Assistant Officials' who have benefited from this scheme, and thanked the International events, which have been so generous in accepting these officials!
- 13 International events offered to participate in the scheme: Burghley, Badminton: Blair Castle: Blenheim: Bramham: Burgie: Boekelo: Hartpury: Kentucky: Luhmuehlen: Necarne Castle: Punchestown and Sydney.
- Officials from: Australia: Brazil: Canada: Mexico: Scandinavia: UAE and the USA were accommodated during 2007.

Jean advised that the scheme would continue in 2008, and asked those present to consider forwarding nominations from Judges, Technical Delegates, Course Designers and Chief Stewards – especially from Eastern Europe, Asia, South America, South Africa etc. and any other 'emerging' countries, who would benefit from securing such positions at the major events in 2008.

There will also be places available for 'Assistant Officials' in other countries, who require the opportunity to gain experience outside their own country!

In 2007 the 'paid up' membership has increased, and we encourage every FEI Eventing official to ensure that they subscribe yearly!

Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of the IEOC Treasurer – David Lee – Jean advised the meeting that at the end of August 2007 there was a:

- **Total of €5689.86 in the Bank Account in Switzerland**
- **A statement of account was available at the meeting**
- Jean thanked Bernd Springorum [in his absence] for continuing to make this banking facility available to the IEOC

3. David O'Connor reported on behalf of the Eventing Committee:

- a. The committee chairman sent his regrets.
- b. The IEOC opinions are very important to the Eventing Committee.
- c. The formation of the FEI safety committee has been formalised. This committee will be looking at both safety and education.
- d. Worldwide there have been more accidents at national than international level.
- e. In the UK the biggest difference is from Pre-Novice to Novice (1m – 1.10m)
- f. Amateurs competing at PN and N level worldwide are not coming from a racing/hunting background; therefore ways to train them need to be found.
- g. The safety committee will be pushing for every national federation to have a contact person for eventing to ensure safety information is disseminated at national level.
- h. The safety committee will be meeting again over the winter and welcomes all input and feedback from the IEOC.
- i. The safety committee is currently "top heavy" with trainers and they will be looking to invite representatives of other groups to join in the future.



There were no questions.

4. Chris Bartle reported on the work he and Christoph Hess are doing reviewing dressage tests:

- a. The tests have developed a lot over the last 10-15 years and one could question how much further to go in demands of the test.
- b. They are reviewing all tests from 1* on to ensure horses are brought forward from one level to the next.
- c. Each time revisions are made the trainer, rider and judge learn something new.
- d. The aim is to keep the tests as short as possible. A 4.5 min test has been approved for the Olympics in Hong Kong, to fit in to the time available. However, it is difficult to get a horse to show everything within this time. They must keep the basics and flow is very important.
- e. 1* B test for Juniors (for use in Junior championships in 2009). The previous 1* wasn't testing enough for junior riders on experienced horses, but it's important to keep the test at 1* level. Leg yielding has been added along with more demanding counter canter.
- f. Other tests have been amended slightly, with the intention of making them easier to judge and better to ride.
 - 1* A has been slightly tweaked
 - There have been significant changes to 2* A and B, with marks being given purely for transitions (as requested by judges) and a coefficient on collective marks at the end of the test. All feedback is welcomed; Christoph likes the coefficient, whilst Chris is not so keen!
 - In the 3* A test. It's difficult to position the flying changes so all judges get a clear view.
 - Major changes have been made at 4* based on requirements from Wayne and David to go one step further, introducing tempi changes, ie 3 four times with 3 unrelated changes on the diagonal. It's important to keep a balance of marks in the test.
 - Chris posed a question for judges, trainers and riders. Do we take the next step towards pure dressage? Should we introduce medium canter with flying changes over the centre line, and series changes, which are good preparation for riding narrow/corner fences on the XC?

All feedback to be sent to Jean Mitchell who will forward it to Chris/Christoph for consideration.

There were no questions.

5. Frans van Meggelen reported on behalf of event organisers:

- a. Frans commented on discussions that took place at both Ballindenisk and Badminton around the hard going.
 - He was concerned about the way these discussions were handled at Ballindenisk where most 3* riders decided to retire. The organisers had done their utmost, but Frans felt the riders blamed the organisers for the state of the going. He had a similar feeling about the discussions at Badminton.



- Frans is concerned that very few normal events are able to prepare perfect going and riders have to accept this, knowing organisers have done their best. Likewise organisers accept that at times riders will decide to retire due to the going.
 - b. Frans thanked the Eventing Committee for the work of the Safety Committee. Organisers are looking forward to seeing the report and are hopeful improvements can be made.
 - c. Frans has spoken to Julia Otto regarding membership for 2 and 3* organisers, and also commented he would like to visit the BE AGM. He feels there is a lot of expertise in BE that could be drawn upon.
- 6. Clayton Fredericks reported on behalf of the Event Riders Association (ERA):**
- a. Andrew Hoy will represent event riders on the FEI Athletes Committee
 - b. Many riders and their reps, particularly from Germany, are keen to change the way they respond to the FEI's desire for changes. Therefore, ERA will hold a meeting at Pratoni, prior to the FEI meeting, in order to present a united response.
 - c. Riders are very concerned about the number of deaths in the sport. This has been discussed with David O'Connor. Whatever the rider level, ten deaths in one year are clearly unacceptable. Therefore, safety must be continually improved.
 - The design of helmets and back protectors should be reviewed. They believe there is a flexible back protector that locks when a rider falls. ERA would like to research this and present their findings to the IEOC.
 - d. Clayton commented that at the test event in Hong Kong some riders didn't behave in the best way. ERA support the rider-licensing proposal in the Hartington Report. They would like to discuss the implementation of this with the FEI.
- 7. Alex McLin, Deputy Secretary General and General Counsel for the FEI addressed the meeting:**
- a. **To follow**
- 8. Anne-Mette Binder gave a very useful and informative presentation about a potential mentorship programme for FEI candidate officials**
- a. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on request.
 - b. This proposal was agreed with the following comments/suggestions made:
 - Christian Landolt suggested the mentorship programme is publicised on the FEI and IEOC websites along with relevant contact details
 - It was suggested shadow judging is made available to others; ie not just to FEI Candidate officials
 - Sue Stewart commented many people don't feel they have the time/expertise to officiate, therefore we need to encourage people to put themselves forward
 - Sally O'Connor was pleased to see the formalisation of what has previously been an informal process
 - Catrin Norinder advised there are usually 10-20 new candidates each year, but some drop out, as they're not used. It was agreed we must ensure they are used, particularly at 1 and 2 * level.



- Frans van Meggelen commented that organisers rarely invite someone they have never met. Therefore organisers that don't travel a lot don't invite new officials. He therefore suggested the number of judges at each event is increased with the FEI assigning a Candidate, to shadow judge.
- Jane Holderness-Roddam suggested Candidates/Organisers might be concerned about increased costs, so sponsorship should be considered.

9. Any Other Business

- a. The FEI approve of the use of safety cups in show jumping
 - Are there recommended Suppliers?
 - Could the FEI Eventing Committee provide some guidance?
- b. New safety flags: David O'Connor confirmed this will be on the agenda at the ERA meeting at Pratoni
- c. Mike Bullen asked why even after Athens, and looking at Hong Kong, people are trailing around Europe trying to qualify for Hong Kong. David O'Connor advised the IOC request an 18-month qualifying period.
- d. Christian Landolt commented the IEOC would welcome more Ground Jury members providing feedback on their experiences. There was open discussion as to whether a web-based discussion forum, or even a blog on the IEOC website would be appropriate. No decision was reached.

It was agreed that the:

9th AGM of the IEOC will take place at:

Luhmühlen on Friday 13th June 2008