



**Minutes of the 9th AGM of the IEOC, held at
Burghley International Horse Trials on
Friday 5th September 2008**

In attendance: Richard Meade [GBR Chairman], Jean Mitchell [IRL Secretary General], Les Smith [GBR], Jane Tolley [GBR], Jane Holderness-Roddam [GBR], Sue Stewart [GBR], Gillian Kyle [IRL], Frans & Ciska van Meggelen [NED], Alec Lochore [GBR], Lord Carew [GBR], Lady Carew [IRL], Jonathan Clarke [GBR], Sue Baxter [GBR], Sandy Phillips [USA], Polly Lochore [GBR], Eric Smiley [IRL], Eddy Stibbe [NED], Eric Winter [GBR], Sally O'Connor [USA], Brian Ross [USA], B Beck-Broichsitter [GER], Francisco Glycerio de Freitas [BRA], Jonathan Clissold [GBR], Alec Lochore [GBR], Mike Etherington-Smith [GBR], John Lawrence [GBR], Martin Plewa [GER], Christian Struck [DEN], Mary Robins [NZL], Tim Downes [GBR], Andrew Bennie [NZL], Sue Carson [GBR], Lars Christensson [SWE], Mike Tucker [GBR], Augusto Cunha [BRA], Nicky Kelly [IRL], Janet Plant [GBR], Rüdiger Schwartz [GER], Christopher J Shaw [GBR], Mike Bullen [GBR]

Guests present: Catrin Norinder [FEI Eventing & Olympic Departments], David Holmes [FEI Director of Sport], Richard Johnson [FEI Communications Director], Carl Bouckaert [ERA], Andrew Hoy [International Rider AUS], Stuart Buntine [AUS], Chris Bartle [GBR], Jacqueline Legendre [FRA], David Tolley [GBR], J V Hale [RSA], Uwe Meyer [GER], Candy Burnyeat [GBR / FEI],

Apologies: Alex McLin [FEI], David Lee [IRL Treasurer], Annabel Scrimgeour [GBR], Anton Granhus [NOR], Helen Christie [NZL], Mercedes Campdera [MEX], Lindsay Jenkins [GBR], Jutta Koivula [FIN], Tim Hadaway [GBR], Anne Tylee [NZL], Barry and Lynn Roycroft [AUS], Bernd Springorum [GER], Andy Griffiths [GBR], Jane Bennett [NZL], Anne-Mette Binder [DEN], Karen Winn [USA], Wayne Quarles [USA], Stephanie V Schilcher [IRL], Hugh Lochore [GBR], Roger and Anne Haller [USA], Susan Graham White [USA], Pam Fillery [RSA], Katherine Lucheschi [ITA], Giulio Poggi [ITA], Ninnie Odenrick [IRL], Vanda Robinson [IRL], Joachim Daum [GER], Gretchen Butts [USA], Susan O'Brien [NZL], Andrea White [ITA], Val McGregor [NZL], Joan Taplin [BER], Justin Llewelyn [GBR], Marilyn Payne [USA], Genevieve Pfister [SUI], Kristina Klingspor [SWE], David Moynahan [NZL], Neil Mosley [NZL], Maxine Leigh [NZL], Jane Atkinson [USA], Michael Creber [AUS], Kees Vellenga [NED], Christian Landolt [SUI], Jenny Loriston-Clarke [GBR], Pattie Biden [GBR], Juan Carlos Nunez Araujo [URU], Nancey Tapley [CAN], William Micklem [IRL], Neil Clinton [AUS], Liz Inman [GBR], José Mexia De Almeida [POR], Ingrid Macauley, Christoph Hess [GER], Nick Burton [GBR], Sarah Phillips [GBR]

[Please advise Jean if your name has been omitted from any of these lists]

1. Chairman's Welcome

- a. The Chairman opened the meeting, thanking the Burghley President, Miranda Rock, Malcolm Wallace and Liz Inman for use of the President's marquee for this meeting, Rachel Moore for taking the minutes; and welcomed both David Holmes, the new Director of Sport at the FEI and Richard Johnson, the new FEI Communications Director to the meeting.

2. Apologies



- a. The Secretary General advised a number of apologies had been received in advance of the meeting, and requested notification of any others.

3. Minutes of the 8th AGM, held at Burghley on Friday 31st August 2008

- a. Lord Carew proposed the minutes of the 8th AGM be approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Jonathan Clarke.

4. Report from the Chairman - Richard Meade

- a. The IEOC, having been formed as a forum to facilitate communication between eventing officials and the FEI is now 10 years old. The Chairman reiterated the aims of the club, as laid out in his recent letter to the Secretary General of the FEI.

5. Report from the Secretary General – Jean Mitchell

- a. Jean reported that the IEOC 'Assistant official' scheme is continuing to give opportunities for FEI Eventing Officials [mainly from outside Europe] to gain experience at major International Horse Trials.
- b. She thanked the following events for participating in 2008: Badminton: Tattersalls; Bramham; Burgie; Hartpury; Blair Castle; Burghley; Necarne Castle and Boekelo.
- c. She encouraged everyone to pay their memberships – and advised that the Board would be looking at some more 'efficient' way to collect these
- d. She complimented Helen Christie [Regional Representative for NZL] on her recruitment of members – including some from Australia.

6. Report from the Treasurer of the IEOC – David Lee

- a. Jean Mitchell reported on behalf of David Lee who was regrettably unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Jean reported the club currently has around €4,500 in the bank.
- c. All members were asked to pay their subs, and any officials that haven't yet joined the club were encouraged to do so.
- d. Membership forms for 2009 were available

7. Report from the FEI Eventing Committee – Catrin Norinder and Carl Bouckaert

- a. Catrin Norinder offered apologies on behalf of the Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee and welcomed Carl Bouckaert, the rider rep on the Committee, to the meeting
 - i. Olympic Games
 - Catrin was pleased to report the eventing discipline at the Olympics was a great success, and all involved in the sport can be very proud.
 - On behalf of the FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin thanked all those officiating at the Games along with the large number of course designers and technical delegates who acted as volunteers
 - David Holmes will be conducting a debrief of the event
 - ii. Safety



- Every National Federation now has a national safety officer who liaises direct with the FEI. This direct contact has proved to be very useful in recent incidents
 - A statistical database, which links with the existing calendar of events, results system etc, should be finalised in October
 - Thanks were given to all officials who have submitted reports to the FEI, these are proving very useful in the statistical analysis
 - The decision to eliminate competitors after one fall on the XC was brought forward and implemented at the Olympic Games. Statistics are currently being collected. All information will be shared with the IEOC as soon as it's available
 - A DVD, to help educate judges with regard to dangerous riding, tired horses, and the procedures to be used in such situations, has been produced with help from Hugh Thomas
 - Anne-Mette Binder and Andy Griffiths are working on an officials education programme. It is hoped this will be completed next year
 - Catrin thanked the IEOC for all their input on the FEI rule changes. The revisions have been finalised and sent to National Federations for final review, with implementation planned for next year
- b. Carl Bouckaert, the rider rep on the FEI Eventing committee and Board Member of ERA offered thanks to the officials on behalf of ERA, and reported riders feel there has been a significant improvement in communications between riders and officials
- i. Olympic Games
- The eventing discipline in Hong Kong was a great success. However, the equestrian sport as a whole is now under great scrutiny from the IOC and there is no guarantee it will be part of the Games in 2012 and beyond. This is partly due to the doping issues in the sport of show jumping, and controversy surrounding the judging of the pure dressage. Everyone must continue to make best efforts to ensure everyone is aware of the value the equestrian sports add to the Games
- ii. Safety
- Safety is vitally important, and the number of fatalities that have occurred in the last 18 months is totally unacceptable. We must do whatever it takes to eliminate rotational falls, and although some measures may not be liked by everyone, hopefully consensus can be reached before the end of the year so the sport can be made a lot safer
 - The Eventing Committee are committed to improving the safety of the sport, and are reliant on receiving the input of the IEOC in order to ensure this happens
 - Carl offered thanks to Catrin Norinder for the pivotal role she plays in communication between the committee and the IEOC, and ensuring all items are actioned
- c. Jean Mitchell commented that the mentoring system for new officials, as proposed by Anne-Mette Binder at the IEOC AGM at Burghley in 2007, has not yet been implemented. This system is reliant on the FEI Eventing Committee notifying the IEOC as and when new candidate officials are confirmed. Catrin confirmed budget has been set aside for this, but the finer details are still to be finalised to ensure representation from around the world is achieved



There were no questions.

8. Memorandum sent to Secretary General of FEI

The Chairman read out his recent letter to Alex McLin, Secretary General of the FEI, along with highlights of the reply received. A copy of both letters is provided. It was agreed this was a positive reply with the Secretary General taking on board all comments and suggestions made

9. Comments and discussion with David Holmes, FEI Executive Director of Sports

- a. David Holmes offered apologies on behalf of Alex McLin who was unable to attend the meeting as he is currently involved in tribunals regarding the doping cases in Hong Kong
- b. David hopes, in his new role as Executive Director of Sports, to attend as many IEOC meetings as possible. He believes it is important for him to meet key stakeholders in the sport, such as the IEOC, in order to gain a good overall view of opinions
- c. David believes a key part of his role is to improve communications in the sport, developing mechanisms to ensure the whole of the FEI, not just those at the headquarters in Switzerland, but also officials, committees, national federations, volunteers etc are all involved in the decision making process. This is particularly important when it comes to technical issues
- d. The recent cases involving Amy Tryon and Madeleine Brugman/Andrew Hoy highlighted the need for communications to be improved; not only in getting the message through, but also looking at how the information is handled and how the FEI committees can better support the sport as a whole

Comments and Questions:

- Jane Holderness-Roddam expressed concern over the length of time currently taken to deal with incidents, which she believes is far too long. Whenever possible, these matters must be dealt with much more promptly, and perhaps minimum and maximum time frames introduced

David Holmes agreed time is an important issue in the judicial process, and confirmed he will pass this feedback to Alex McLin

- e. Sue Baxter commented that evidence, especially in abuse cases, is crucial; and asked whether the FEI are considering having specially trained officials who can gather this evidence; eg taking digital photos etc

David Holmes agreed the education of officials is crucial, ensuring people know how to act in any given circumstance

- f. Jean Mitchell expressed concern that the Pony and Children's Committees were disbanded in April, but there doesn't appear to be anything taking their place. As a result, it is unclear to the individuals working on the rules for 2009 whether or not these will be annexed to the Eventing, Dressage and Show Jumping rules. Clarification is required.

David Holmes confirmed the intention is to amalgamate the ponies with each of the senior disciplines, rather than having a separate Pony Committee dealing with all disciplines. The rationale behind this change is to avoid duplication of rules between the seniors and ponies.

To help ensure a smooth changeover, it has been suggested that there is a representative with experience of ponies on each committee. Specific issues, such as



the Pony Europeans next year will be assessed, and if there is a gap in knowledge in the existing committee someone will be assigned to take specific responsibility for ponies.

Jean Mitchell commented the Pony European Championship is a very unique event and the federations involved are keen to see it continue.

Lord Carew feels we're going down a dangerous route amalgamating the ponies with the seniors, as ponies are quite different. He is concerned there will now be a lone voice for ponies on each committee.

10. Comments and Questions from Event Organiser's Association (AOCCI) – Frans van Meggelen

- a. Frans asked for clarification regarding any proposed changes to the procedures for inclusion of rider and organiser representatives on the FEI Eventing Committee in 2009.

Carl Bouckaert advised there is a slight procedural change as there is now a nominating committee in place, to whom names must be provided. This committee then makes a recommendation to the General Assembly. However, it is important to note that the result is still the same; ie the rider/organiser that is proposed will be the representative appointed to the committee. It is only the procedure that has changed.

Catrin Norinder agreed to provide Frans with the exact wording of the statute.

11. Report from Event Riders Association (ERA) – Clayton Fredericks

- a. Clayton Fredericks was not in attendance
- b. All comments from ERA were incorporated in Carl Bouckaert's earlier comments in item 7 above

12. New FEI Eventing Dressage Tests for 2009 – Chris Bartle

- a. Chris Bartle and Christoph Hess have been working on revised dressage tests for nearly 4 years now. The tests have been designed with the input of several 100 officials, and it is important to remember that not all feedback can be incorporated.
- b. The main focus of discussion was the proposed Championship 4**** B Test, which is currently only intended for use at the World and Olympic Games. This test incorporates flying changes every four strides, and medium canter with a flying change over the centre line. Chris is aware some people believe eventing dressage shouldn't get any more complex. However, he believes this devalues the sport of eventing, which in his opinion is the pinnacle of equestrian sport. We should celebrate our sport, and not hold back and say we can't do it. Ultimately, however, the committee must decide whether this test is used

Comments and Questions:

- Jane Holderness-Roddam stressed the importance of ensuring competitors are made aware of any changes. Historically this notification has come very late in the day.

Carl Bouckaert agreed it is important that riders don't have the excuse of saying they haven't been made aware of changes, and suggested David Holmes looks into the communication of decisions made by the FEI committees, through the National Federations, to the riders.

David Holmes confirmed Richard Johnson, the new Communications Director will keep this in mind when reviewing communications.



Chris Bartle advised if this championship test is approved it will not be used until 2010. The other new tests, if approved, will come into effect in 2009.

- Andrew Hoy questioned the intention to limit the use of this new test to championships, rather than also using it at 4**** events like Burghley. At the Olympic Games you don't have the top 75% of riders in the world, whereas at Burghley, you probably have the top 30 or 40 riders in the world.
- Sandy Phillips felt these changes should be delayed as it's important that we present a positive picture to the public, and at the moment she feels the majority of competitors are unable to handle these changes.
- Alec Lochore suggested that if this new test was used at all 4**** events, the level would also need to be increased at all stars below; and expressed concern that this may present a danger as the less able riders spend too much time concentrating on getting their dressage up to scratch, at the expense of getting their jumping right.
- Eric Smiley suggested there is a need to consolidate, rather than keep stretching the boundaries, as there are a lot of people out there who need to improve what they're doing before we make further changes.
- Eddie Stibbe agreed with the principle of having a championship test, but feels it may be more appropriate to keep to one 4**** test which is also ridden at qualifiers.
- Sue Baxter commented that correct training improves jumping, but the removal of the coefficient from the dressage brings competitors closer together.

The general consensus was that the number of changes made to the dressage tests should be kept to a minimum, as there is a risk that horses will become more on the aids and therefore unable to react and think for themselves on the cross country. We need to try and encourage horses to take responsibility for jumping fences across country. The focus should be on eliminating those horses that don't jump rather than those that don't go on the flat.

The Chairman requested that any other feedback was sent to Jean Mitchell who would ensure this was passed to the Committee.

13. Any Other Business

- a. Andrew Hoy made the following comments with regard to the recent legal case in which he was involved:-
 - If correct bandage control had been followed, as per the manual, there wouldn't have been a hearing
 - With regards to the training of officials around legal procedure and legal hearings, there is no need for this – all you have to do is tell the truth. In his opinion this is where the case fell down
 - All witnesses called had a full file of all witness statements. This is illegal. Witnesses were trying to match what they were saying to these statements
 - There was one FEI official brought back in to be questioned by the tribunal and it was proved that this official was lying
 - This case was about nailing people rather than concentrating on the facts

Richard Meade replied that the tribunal had heard the evidence and come to a conclusion. Reopening the case would not help Andrew or anyone else. The case was heard in accordance



with the law, and was dismissed. Richard advised that it was inappropriate for Andrew now to raise evidence to try and exonerate himself from something from which he had already been exonerated.

- b. Mike Etherington-Smith asked whether there was any truth in the suggestion that the proposal that, from 2009, all CICs should have horse inspections, had come from Ground Jury members

Nobody was aware of this. The Chairman confirmed this point would be checked with Jean Mitchell

- c. A suggestion was made by Eddie Stibbe and Gillian Kyle that the FEI give both riders and officials the option to sign up to receive automatic email notification of all rule changes

David Holmes expressed concern that this could lead to people claiming they had signed up for this service but hadn't been sent the information. He did however acknowledge the importance of effective communication

- d. Lord Carew indicated there is a problem with the flow of communication from National Federations to each affiliated discipline, and suggested affiliates are sent a copy of all communications from the FEI to National Federations

It was agreed that this is procedure needs to be agreed with each National Federation, and was suggested that affiliates approach their National Federations in this regard

- e. Patrick Carew gave thanks to both Richard Meade and Jean Mitchell for all their work on behalf of the IEOC
- f. The next IEOC AGM will take place at Burghley on Friday 4th September 2009

Jean S Mitchell [Secretary General of the IEOC] very kindly assisted by Rachael Moore