



Minutes of the IEOC Regional Meeting held at Badminton on

Friday 2nd May 2008 at 5.00pm

{by kind permission of Hugh Thomas, Event Director}

In attendance: Richard Meade [GBR Chairman]; Jean Mitchell [IRL]; Secretary General; Bernd Springorum [GER]; Sue Stewart [GBR]; Eric Smiley [IRL]; Angela Tucker [GBR]; Julia Otto [GER]; Denis Currie [IRL]; Les Smith [GBR]; Liz Inman [GBR]; Gillian Rolton [AUS]; Genevieve Pfister [SUI]; Jane Holderness-Roddam [GBR]; Annabel Scrimgeour [GBR]; John Lawrence [GBR]; Roger Day [GBR]; Jane Starkey [GBR]; Justin Llewelyn [GBR]; Gillian Kyle [IRL]; Frans van Meggelen [NED]; Francois Lucas [FRA]; Nicky Kelly [IRL]; John Tulloch [GBR]; Vanda Robinson [IRL]; Jonathan Clark [GBR]; Barry Roycroft [AUS]; Patrick Carew [IRL]; Celia Carew [IRL]; Polly Lochore [GBR]; Andrew Fell [IRL]; Andrew Fell [IRL]; Christian Landolt [SUI]; Sandy Phillips [GBR]; Mark Phillips [GBR]; Jim Dunn [AUS]; Anton Granhus [NOR]; Gill Watson [GBR]; Jenny Loriston-Clarke [GBR]; Nick Burton [GBR]; Jennifer Millar [NZL]; Mike Tucker [GBR]; Marilyn Payne [USA]; Judy Bradwell [GBR]; David Lee [IRL]

Guests: Wayne Roycroft [FEI]; Catrin Norinder [FEI]; Chris Hodson [FEI]; Andrew Hoy [ERA]; Yogi Breisner [GBR]; William Micklem [IRL]

Apologies: Jutta Koivula [FIN]; Sally O'Connor [USA]; Christoph Hess [GER]; Helen Christie [NZL]; Neil Clinton [AUS]; Gretchen Butts [USA]; Wayne Quarles [USA]; Laurie Rowan [CAN]; Lindsay Jenkins [GBR]; Joan Taplin [BER]; Jane Tolley [GBR]; Katherine Lucheschi [ITA]; Kellie Towers [CAN]; Joan Fleser [USA]; Anne-Mette Binder [DEN]; Pollyann Huntington [NZL]; Joaquim Duarte Silva [POR]; Jillian Cobcroft [AUS]; Jamie Innes [GBR]; Rosemary Lowry [IRL]; Stuart Stirling [IRL]; Fritz Von Blotnitz [GER]; Janet Plant [GBR]; Tim Hadaway [GBR]; Nancy Tapley [CAN]; Faith Ponsonby [IRL]; Ninnie Odenrick [IRL]; Pam Fillery [RSA]; Hugh Thomas [GBR]; Jane Tuckwell [GBR].

1. Chairman's Welcome

- a) The chairman welcomed Wayne Roycroft, Chris Hodson, Catrin Norinder and especially Bernd Springorum [Past Chairman of the IEOC] and felt that this was an important forum for all officials and organisers, especially as safety issues were to the fore at present.
- b) The meeting observed a minutes silence as a tribute to the late Colin Furness, FEI Steward [GBR].

2. Wayne Roycroft reported on behalf of the Eventing Committee:

- a) Wayne reported there is a lot positive happening in the sport, in spite of a couple of shadows on the horizon which Mike Tucker will explain.
- b) The FEI wants to be uniform between all the disciplines, and follow Show Jumping and dressage rules to help to improve and maintain standards. However, energy must be directed towards the Cross Country, to maintain credibility and safety.
- c) Wayne asked if training was getting through to the riders and felt that Mark Phillips' column in Horse & Hound is doing a great deal of good.

- d) Some exciting news on sponsorship and marketing. The HSBC World Cup competition is exciting for the future, and there are high hopes for its success.
- e) All FEI events should have horse inspections, and although it creates pressure in some places it has been causing the FEI concern that some horses are competing without a veterinary inspection.
- f) We must have 'good' co-operation to maintain 'good' relationships within our sport.
- g) Proposed rule changes will be circulated to NF's, the IEOC, etc. and will be available on the FEI web site. All responses are required need to be in **1st August 2008.**

3. Catrin Norinder:

- a) Proposed rule changes are to be finalised by mid May
- b) Some rules may be approved and implemented by 1st August 2008
- c) The remainder will [after approval] be implemented from 1st August 2009
- d) There will be a new 5***** category introduced resulting in a lower 1*.
- e) A proposed cross country time change, from 0.4 to 0.5 second.
- f) It has been proposed to take the multiplying factor out of dressage.
- g) For horses to move to the next level they must be clear cross country.
- h) The ground jury may stop a rider going cross country for safety reasons, if the dressage score is insufficient
- i) Mark Phillips', Chairman of the advisory group linked to the safety committee, clarified measurements with top spreads and oxer/ditch type fences.
- j) Black flags. There have been too many different rules in the past and these are to be clarified.
- k) Proposed elimination after one fall on the cross country, and after second refusal on the cross country.
- l) 2009 will see new dressage tests, for all levels.
- m) Yellow cards must be accepted by riders, and two yellow cards will be automatic suspension.
- n) They are going to develop a DVD, to show examples of tired horses etc.
- o) Ann-Mette Binder will be making proposals for the promotion of officials.
- p) There is to be an FEI budget for course designers and officials.
- q) YR, Juniors, Ponies etc will all come under the same rules, and the 'steeplechase phase' will be in an annex.
- r) Christian Landolt asked if we could have more courses for higher officials.
- s) Wayne Roycroft was reluctant to discriminate but maybe 4**** officials could be segregated, to go to a higher level course.

4. Mike Tucker:

- Chris Bartle is already well down the road of producing a coaching 'Master Plan' to improve the coaching of eventing, in all countries that participate throughout the world. This is seen as a crucial – but longer term – plan.
- A CD is already being put together by Hugh Thomas and others, of incidents at events, that will set out to educate and clarify various aspects of dangerous riding – and of horse welfare issues. This is aimed at all those groups in the sport [Officials, Riders, Trainers/Coaches, Owners, etc.] that have the responsibility of ensuring that we run a safe sport. Clearly, it can never be 'black and white', but hopefully can bring about discussion that will make it easier for everyone to play their part.
- Each country will be asked – in addition to collecting data from the International competitions – to collect data from all their National classes as well, so that the FEI can have a better understanding of what's going on in the sport, throughout the world.
- Each eventing nation is being asked to nominate a "National Safety Officer" who can co-ordinate all of the above data, as well as communicating via the network of N.S.O's any information that relates to a rider riding dangerously, offending any of the welfare rules or details of a rider who may have suffered concussion, that may involve 'cross-border' competition – or even changing countries in which they are competing.

5. Yogi Breisner

- a) Yogi said eventing will always be a high risk sport, but much work was being done towards reducing accidents and it is the trainers/coaches job to educate riders.
- b) Riders must take responsibility for their own actions. However, many young or novice riders do need education.
- c) He feels videos will help, as in racing, and will help underline the causes of accidents and what is an 'acceptable' risk - or not.
- d) Yogi highlighted the fact that eye witness reports can often give different views.
- e) Safety officers will help to educate the coaches in every country, and riders' equipment, bits, saddles, gadgets etc, is often mooted as a cause of accidents. Maybe too many gadgets are used to hasten the progress up the grades, before the horses are ready.
- f) Christopher Bartle and Andrew Nicholson have already provided a lot of input in this regard

6. William Micklem

- a) Circulated copies of his article on 'safer riding' to the meeting.
- b) For those who were not in attendance, further copies of this very interesting publication are available by contacting: William Micklem: william@enniskerry.net

7. Eric Smiley (rider/coach)

- a) Said we must ask riders to pay attention to detail in the dressage, and look for simple qualities throughout, including the cross country.



- b) We must encourage training at the lower levels, as if there is insufficient 'basic' training the cracks will appear as the horse moves up the levels.
- c) The horse will look after the rider - if he is looking after himself.

8. Comments from the floor:

- a) Lord Carew:-
 - a. When two judges only are needed in CIC dressage tests [using the 2005 tests] the judge on the long side is often left 'guessing'. Would the judges not be better at the C end?
 - b. Hopefully when the 2009 tests are finalised they will take care of these anomalies!
 - c. World Cup Qualifiers – the wording about 'veterinary inspections' is ambiguous and organisers find it difficult to translate exactly what is needed, so it appears to vary enormously from one qualifier to another
- b) Jane Holderness-Roddam:-
 - a. Felt that the 'speed qualification' is too loose and often causing failure of qualification.
 - b. The measurement of courses can vary considerably, and surely it would be better to ride according to the conditions. The time should be related to the fastest horse on the day.
 - c. This was endorsed by the chairman

9. Any Other Business

The Secretary General of the IEOC - Jean Mitchell - thanked Hugh Thomas for all his kindness and superb hospitality – once again - and those present for their attendance, which had resulted in such a worthwhile meeting.

**The 9th AGM of the IEOC will take place at Burghley
on Friday 5th September 2008**

In the President's Marquee

[After the dressage]

**Notice to this meeting [with the agenda and further details] will be
forwarded to members, in due course!**