



Minutes of the 10th AGM of the IEOC held at Fontainebleau on Friday 25th September 2009

[By kind permission of Monsieur Francois Lucas and the Organising Committee of the 2009 FEI European Eventing Championships]

Members present: Richard Meade [Chairman]; Jean Mitchell [Secretary General]; David Lee [Treasurer]; Andy Griffiths [GBR]; Alain James [FRA]; Raf Desmedt [BEL]; Giuseppe Della Chiesa [ITA]; Ciska and Frans Van Meggelen [NED]; Robert Adenot [FRA]; Philine Ganders-Meyer [GER]; Eric Smiley [IRL]; Lars Christensson [SWE]; Fritz Otto-Erley [GER]; Sandy & Mark Phillips [GBR]; Julia Otto [GER]; Argento Campello [ITA]; Mats Bjornetin [SWE]; Roberto Censebella [ITA]; Anne-Mette Binder [DEN]; Michel Asseray [FRA]; Tom Ryckewaert [BEL]; Mike Etherington-Smith [GBR]; Hugh Thomas [GBR]; Rosemary Lowry [IRL]; José Mexia Almeida [POR]; Per Magnusson [SWE]; Clayton Fredericks [AUS]; Hubertus Otto [GER]; Dan Olson [SWE]; Cesare Croce [ITA]; Gretchen Butts [USA]; Francois Lucas [FRA]; Eric Lieby [FRA].

{These are the names who 'signed in' – there may well have been others, in attendance.}

Guests from the FEI: Wayne Roycroft; Catrin Norinder; John Roche; Sandra Lecoultre and Neerja Tannan.

- Welcome:** The Chairman, Richard Meade, welcomed everybody - especially **Bernd Springorum** - who was the first chairman, when the Club started **11 years ago** - and Wayne Roycroft, Catrin Norinder, Sandra Lecoultre, Neerja Tannan and John Roche - from the FEI.
He said that originally the Club was organised for Judges, CD's and TD's, but now it includes all Eventing officials.
- Apologies** were noted.
- Minutes.** A copy of the Minutes of the 9th AGM, which was held at Burghley on Friday 5th September 2008, was available, and they were 'approved and seconded', from the floor.
- Report from the Chairman.** Since the Club was originally formed it has been expanded to include FEI Chief Stewards and FEI Eventing Vets. The "AOCCI" [Event Organisers Club] became involved in 2008, and so it now includes the organisers of CIC's and CCI's - at all 4 star levels. In this way we have tried to incorporate the expertise in all technical aspects of the sport, and are in the process of working more closely with the Event Riders Association [ERA].
During the year "new statutes" have been drafted for the IEOC, to bring them up-to-date and to reflect the increase in membership [they are on the IEOC web site] and the IEOC is in the process of becoming a 'recognised' member of the "FEI Family" - David Holmes will expand on this later.
The FEI Eventing rule changes for 2010 have been published, and can be discussed before they are finalised and approved by the General Assembly in November 2009 - they can be seen on the FEI and the IEOC web sites.

5. **Report from the Secretary General** – Jean Mitchell. The most exciting and challenging happening in 2009 is the commencement of the “FEI Global Education Programme for Eventing Officials 2009 – 2013” for Judges, TD’s and CD’s. There have been 20 officials participating this year, and for 2010, so far, there are applications from 38 Judges, 29 TDs and 10 CDs. Thanks are due to Andy Griffiths and Catrin Norinder and especially to the “Friends of the FEI” [who have provided the funding to run this programme].

Sandra Lecoultre was introduced to the meeting, as she is the liaison within the FEI. Jean expressed her thanks to the many International Events – worldwide – who have agreed to facilitate the programme by ‘accepting’ the successful officials into their events. Andy Griffiths added his thanks to the organisers.

Dressage Diagrams for Judges and Riders: Jean thanked David Holmes [FEI Director of Sports] for liaising between the FEI and Mr John Lewis of www.dressagediagrams.com to arrange that ALL FEI dressage tests – for Dressage and Eventing – will soon be available on this web site, which can be accessed for a small fee. These diagrams will be of great use to both Judges and Riders.

Thanks also to John Roche in the FEI for all the work that he has been doing to up-date the training and education of FEI stewards.

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

Since the “Global Education Programme” [GEP] started in 2009, it was agreed that the IEOC would discontinue the ‘annual’ membership fee, as it was extremely difficult to ‘collect’, and that the G E P would look after the funding of the IEOC ‘web site’ and any other ‘approved’ IEOC expenses. There is now €898 left in the IEOC account, which is in a Swiss Bank account that was made available to the IEOC by Bernd Springorum.

Mark Phillips asked what money the IEOC requires on a yearly basis.

Jean Mitchell replied that it was mainly for running the website www.i-eoc.org – to pay the “web master” for up-dating the site on a regular basis + yearly fees for the domain name, etc. – Approximately €2,000 - €2,500

Mark Phillips suggested that it could be possible to source sponsorship to cover these costs, and he agreed to look into this.

Jean Mitchell replied that it would be an excellent idea, and that a sponsor[s] could be acknowledged on the web site.

7. **Report from the FEI Eventing Committee Chairman** – Wayne Roycroft. Wayne said this will be the last time he will be there as Chairman and thanked everyone for their help, saying that it had seemed a long time to be in office[over 10 years] but that it had been a great privilege to act as chairman of the FEI Eventing Technical Committee. The sport is great, and there are new plans evolving all the time. Wayne particularly mentioned Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Catrin Norinder who have both put a lot of work into the new concept of “safety” within the sport.

Wayne expressed concern that, upon his departure, the long and short formats would merge to become a shortened version of the sport. His belief in the importance of endurance, and courses being up to 12 minutes, is as strong as ever.

He also said there were so many people to thank that he didn’t want to mention names, in case he left anyone out.

Richard Meade then mentioned that in the wording of the 2010 Eventing rules, under “Objects of the cross country test” it says:

*“The Cross Country Test constitutes the most exciting and challenging all-round test of riding ability and horsemanship where correct principles of training and riding are rewarded. This test focuses on the ability of athletes and horses to adapt to different and variable conditions of the competition (weather, terrain, obstacles, footing, etc.) showing jumping skills, harmony, mutual confidence, **and in general “good pictures”**.*

- Richard then questioned whether it should say “Good Riding” rather than “Good Pictures”.

- Wayne Roycroft felt it should be saying ““Good pictures””.
- Mark Phillips stated that he felt, from the course description point of view, it must allow the riders to give good pictures.
- Giuseppe said that part of the rules of the sport is to give a good picture, from the outside, and therefore to see a nice thing happening.

It was agreed to leave the definition unchanged.

8. **John Roche – FEI Director of the Jumping Department** gave an up-date on the training of FEI Eventing Stewards.

This presentation is available - in full - on a separate document, and John agreed to take any questions.

Mike Etherington-Smith expressed his concern about the costs of “training and education” of Eventing Stewards and the “bureaucratic treacle”! The National Federations have many costs, and he felt that this would be an ‘unnecessary’ extra one. Concern was also expressed that by forcing more qualifications on a volunteer “work force” this could discourage people from helping.

Mike E-S further asked if the Eventing Committee would now be involved in the planning of the ‘stewarding training and qualifications’.

John Roche replied “yes” in that, when the procedure is in place, the Eventing Committee will be encouraged to contribute the details.

Mike E-S then said [going back to the cost] “is stewarding not up to standard at present”? Officials are volunteers. People need to get trained - however some people are leaving because they find that getting training is too expensive for them, when they are expected to pay for their training “out of their own pockets”

Mike E-S also asked “Will the Honorary Steward General have a position on the FEI Board?”

John Roche replied “No, the restructure of the FEI Bureau will become “The Board”. We have to make sure that the officials have the required knowledge. We are aware of the costs and it’s not our intention to drive any officials away from the sport.”

Jean Mitchell said she would publish John Roche’s presentation on the website, along with these minutes.

- Mike E-S asked when it was going to the Eventing Committee.
- John Roche said this has not yet been discussed with them, but they have done the Dressage and are doing the Show Jumping - and then they will start the Eventing.
- Mark Phillips expressed concern that this is exactly what so many countries are worried about. That the sport is being taken over by the FEI Board.

John Roche explained that the decisions are being taken over the “**Structure**” - but not the ‘**content**’.

9. **David Holmes, the FEI’s Executive Director of Sports**, was asked to speak. He thanked the Chairman and had the following points to say:-

A] Associate Status [FEI Family] for the IEOC will be recognised by the FEI at the General Assembly this year (in 2008 the IEOC, along with other similar dressage and jumping clubs, had temporary recognition). This means that 'one body' is recognised by the FEI, and as a result communications will be better in the future. The Website is the key information for everything; however we must continue to look at other ways to work together.

B] The role of officials is clear, trying to move forward and professionalise.

C] The FEI needs to do more 'relating to officials' by:

- i) Recruiting, developing and training officials to the highest level
- ii) Improving the recognition of the work that officials do
- iii) Using the internet far more in the future. I.e. for entry systems

Questions to David Holmes:

Anne-Mette Binder thanked David Holmes for his supportive comments for officials and offered him a suggestion which was that **"FEI listed officials should be given free access to the FEI TV"**.

David Holmes thanked Anne-Mette and it was generally agreed that this was a good idea.

Hugh Thomas asked was David Holmes sure that the Event Riders Association [ERA] had satisfied the criteria, set by the FEI, to have Associate Status [FEI Family].

David Holmes said that he couldn't answer that.

Hugh Thomas said he felt that many were sceptical about this situation.

10. **Frans van Meggelen** then spoke for the Event Organisers Association [AOCCI]. He said they were happy with the Global Education Programme and the Organisers Club. Perhaps Mark Phillips and he would be able to secure sponsorship for the IEOC website.

He then gave personal thanks to Wayne for all that he had done during his tenure of office.

11. **ERA: Francis Whittington**, the new chairman of the Event Riders Association, was not able to be present but had given the Chairman [Richard Meade] some points to read out:-

- 1 **ERA** wishes to work closely with the **IEOC**
- 2 Francis intends to develop a system [through ERA] for disseminating info to riders worldwide, and to encourage feedback, so that ERA can represent a 'collective view' rather than the views of a few individuals. ERA wishes to work globally, and not just in the UK.
- 3 He requests that in future, when the FEI Eventing Committee propose major rule changes, these should be accompanied by the reasons for such changes, so that a proper and informed debate can take place within the sport, before the proposals are finalised
- 4 In the past new rules have sometimes been "either impractical or have had unpleasant side effects".

Richard Meade then gave the date for the **next AGM of the IEOC**, which will be:

Friday 3rd September 2010 - at Burghley Horse Trials.

He thanked Sue Smiley for agreeing to take the minutes, and Rosemary Lowry for 'signing in' those present. Richard also particularly thanked Jean Mitchell for all her hard work, enthusiasm and dedication over the past year.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 18.30hrs

Jean S Mitchell [Secretary General of the IEOC]

{With special "Thanks" to Sue Smiley}