



## International Eventing Officials Club

### E-Newsletter No. 2, February 2005

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#### 1. Welcome by Richard Meade, Chairman of the IEOC

We live in interesting times. While the sport changes, the problems at the Olympic Games and at Burghley, although completely different from each other, highlight the need to have highly trained officials, who can communicate well with each other and with organisers and competitors. The Eventing Committee have not been slow to put in place certain safeguards and we must hope that these prove effective and workable in practice. The IEOC has been working closely with the Eventing Committee to produce Eventing Course Assessment Forms. Our points of contact with the Committee are Mike Etherington-Smith for TD and CD matters, and Christoph Hess for dressage. We have provided input for the new dressage tests, which are now in operation and for the content of the FEI Eventing courses for officials for 2005.

Thanks to the initiative of Peter Herrick we have enabled some members of the Club to travel to different parts of the world to officiate at established events, thereby giving them an opportunity to gain valuable experience, which would be difficult to come by in their own region. This we hope will be an on-going initiative.

So many of us are very close to the sport, and it's likely that we may wear several 'hats'! This in itself is not a bad thing, as it's better to have officials who are 'in touch' rather than remote. However, whilst officiating at an event, it is vital that we are seen to act efficiently, fairly and impartially. Therefore, whether we are acting as a Steward, Course Designer, Technical Delegate or Judge, during the event – this 'official' job must be our **ONLY** function at that event!

There should be no question of 'assisting' a competitor, at any stage of the competition, either in the collecting ring, the 10-minute box, or at any other time at the event site! The 'integrity' of our officials must never be brought into question if our sport is to be viewed as "clean and well run"!

### **ISJC – up-date.**

I attended the General Assembly and a seminar of one of our 'sister' clubs - the International Show Jumping Club [ISJC] – at Bordeaux on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February. The seminar on the 1<sup>st</sup> day was extremely interesting and informative.

On matters of rules, the question of circling was discussed in detail. The FEI Jumping Committee has set up a working party, chaired by Sven Holmberg, to make recommendations for rule changes, which will be presented to the FEI Bureau in November 2005. Thereafter, the proposed changes will be circulated to National Federations before ratification at the General Assembly in 2006.

Since FEI Eventing Rules tend to follow closely the FEI Jumping Rules, **the members of the IEOC** are most welcome to put forward any suggestions that we may have. I cannot stress enough that input is best provided at this stage, before proposed rule changes are set in a 'tablet of stone' and we miss the boat!

All submissions have to be with the 'working party' by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005. May I suggest that any points that you would like to put forward are e-mailed to **Jean Mitchell, by Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, so that she can co-ordinate them, and forward them to Sven Holmberg, in good time!

I hope you enjoy reading this, the second IEOC Newsletter, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed and, in particular, Anne-Mette Binder and Jean Mitchell for editing it.

## **2. New 2005 Eventing Tests**

***By Chris Bartle, Great Britain***

The essence of "Eventing" is the interrelationship between the three elements – Dressage, Cross-country and Show Jumping. The dressage training should prepare the horse for the special demands of the Cross-country and the Show Jumping, as well as the Dressage test itself. It must be borne in mind both by the judges and riders/trainers, that both the rider and the horse have their own responsibilities.

The training should not lead to the horse's reliance on the rider. The horse - whilst remaining obedient - must also look after himself. This is the true meaning of self-carriage. Some people have argued that too much dressage training makes a horse less safe on the cross-country course. I would argue that incorrect dressage training, rather than too much dressage training, could be a problem.

The test gives the judges the chance to assess:

- The correctness of the training leading, to self-carriage.
- The correctness of the riding.
- The accuracy of the riding
- The horse's physical and mental development.

The judge's task is to measure the performance of each movement against these four elements. Their task is not easy, as they have to make a judgement without the benefit of being able to ride the horse. In making that judgement the marks awarded for each movement are intended to be abbreviations for the words that would otherwise have to be used. (I have often thought that it would be a good idea if judges marked by 'remarks' rather than 'marks' and then allow the writer or computer to convert the remarks into marks.)

Within the training and therefore within the judging there is an order of priorities. At every level the training must build on, and develop, what has been achieved already. As the demands of the tests increase the quality of the basics should not diminish rather it is to be expected that it will be enhanced. Hence what may be considered 'fairly good' (7) at 1 Star level may be insufficient (4) at 3 Star level.

The order of priorities has been set out in many good books over the years but is frequently ignored in the haste for success in order to move up the levels. It is also encapsulated in the 'collective' marks at the end of the test. The order is as follows:

- **Regularity & Rhythm**
- **Relaxation and Connection over / through the back**
- **Acceptance of the contact**
- **Elasticity and energy of the steps/paces**
- **Straightness**
- **Collection**

No matter how experienced a horse may be, nor how many 'movements' or 'tricks' the horse may have been taught, the highest marks can only be obtained when all the elements are in place, as well as the movements being ridden accurately. The design of the dressage tests from 1\* up to 4\* is intended to reflect the logical training which is based on this order of priorities.

The 'basics' are introduced at the 1\* level and then developed as the horse moves up the levels. Exercises or movements are introduced at each level that are essentially training exercises but in the context of the competition are in fact 'tests'. Each movement provides an opportunity for the judge to mark several aspects of the training and performance. The directives that are published in the F.E.I. tests allude to these aspects.

The principle changes, to the existing tests, have been made in order to correct obvious errors - as in the 2\* test B - to make the tests slightly shorter, to make the judge's task easier, in judging the movements e.g. the flying changes in the 3 star tests, and to get the

right balance between the tests. At 4\* star level the half-pass in canter is introduced for the first time in eventing tests, but with the requirement to ride a straight centre line after the half-pass. There in lies the challenge!

At the time of the last revision of the tests, which came into use in 2002, the collected canter was introduced. It has now been generally accepted that the ability to collect the canter in self-carriage is an essential part of the training for the cross-country and show jumping. In this latest revision, collected trot is introduced from 2\* upwards. The question may well be asked whether collection is a necessary requirement for the event horse. My belief, shared with many 'top' trainers and riders with whom I have spoken, is that the degree of collection required is nothing like that required of the advanced dressage horse, but that in effect to perform the previous tests well, some degree of collection, even in trot, was required.

So, in effect nothing has really changed except the wording in the tests. The introduction of the collected trot reflects the increased understanding and appreciation by the majority of riders and trainers of the essence of correct dressage training. The Shoulder-in, Travers and Half Pass can only be correctly ridden with some degree of collection, and are in effect collecting exercises.

Designing tests for a committee is a definite challenge!! Everyone has their own ideas as to what is a good movement either for training, to ride or to judge. The limitations imposed by the requirement to make the tests ever shorter can also be frustrating, but in the end I am happy with what we have produced, and since I will still be 'having a go' next season, I'll be able to find out just how rideable they are!

### **3. IEOC Regional meetings and AGM in 2005**

- **Fontainebleau** [France] Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon: Contact Francois Lucas at [frlucas@club-internet.fr](mailto:frlucas@club-internet.fr)
- **Kentucky** 28<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May **or** Allentown [NJ] 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May: Contact Wayne Quarles at [waynequarles@aol.com](mailto:waynequarles@aol.com)
- **Badminton** [GBR] Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – after the dressage: Contact Jean Mitchell at [jeans.mitchell@virgin.net](mailto:jeans.mitchell@virgin.net)
- **Taupo** [NZL] 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May: Contact Peter Herrick at [hoof-toof@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoof-toof@xtra.co.nz)
- **Punchestown** [IRL] Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May after the dressage: Contact David Lee at [david.m.lee@ssa.gov](mailto:david.m.lee@ssa.gov)
- **Malmo** at World Cup Final [SWE] 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August: Contact Anne-Mette Binder at [binder-struck@private.dk](mailto:binder-struck@private.dk)

**AGM: Blenheim** [GBR] during the European Eventing Championships: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September – after the dressage: Contact Jean Mitchell at [jeans.Mitchell@virgin.net](mailto:jeans.Mitchell@virgin.net)

### **4. Eventing in Japan**

***By Barry Roycroft, Australia***

Every time a trip to Japan happens for me, it starts with a three-hour drive to the airport, followed by a ten-hour flight to Nerita, Tokyo or Kensai, Osaka. The first thing you notice is how crowded the country is, with no open spaces to be seen, just small paddy fields of two and a half acres, and you think "where will you find a cross country course"? But where there's a will – there's a way!

Japanese Eventing enthusiasts are no different to us, and are as addicted as event personnel, throughout the world. Typically there is a small number of hard working and dedicated people, who put the events together.

I have worked at two different CCI events – Yamanashi, near Tokyo, and Miki Hyogi, near Osaka. The Miki course was originally designed by Mike Tucker and has been further developed by Kensai Eto, who is the main Course Designer in Japan, and represented Japan at the Montreal Olympics. He spent two years in Australia in the late 70's. This course is at the Miki Horseland Riding Centre. This is a Japan Racing Association investment. The cross-country course runs in undulating country, on a path forged out of the forest, and actually under major freeways - which causes no inconvenience. The track has a good variety of fences that you would expect to find in a quality two star event.

The facilities at this venue have to be seen to be believed! There is a first class indoor school, with unbelievable facilities for sponsors, conferences, officials, riders and spectators. The Administration Centre is fully staffed with the most modern technology, and there is permanent stabling for 200 plus horses. This is a year round operating business for many school groups and conferences, utilising the human accommodation in the traditionally landscaped surroundings, and incorporates interesting walks around the facilities; where they can experience nature, gaze at the incredible bronze statues of horses and the scenery.

Contrastingly, Yamanashi – which is the home of Ken Ishigoro, the leading Technical Delegate in Japan, and also a member of the 1976 Eventing Olympic team – is a more rural and traditional site, and comparable to many other venues. On this site, when there is no snow on the ground, horses have the luxury of being in paddocks for some of the time. Being close to Tokyo [2 hours drive] it has easier access to the equestrian population. The venue has three large, all-purpose arenas that can withstand typhoon type rain. At one event there was 2 inches of rain during the 'inspection' of 32 horses, yet the show jumping arena provided perfectly safe and sound footing for the show jumping phase. At this site the organisers have much more flexibility in the lines that they can take with their cross-country course, because they have access to several large paddocks – by Japanese standards! There is also access to tracks in a Beech forest.

Japan is working very hard educating and promoting new officials and coaching riders, with the aim of being able to host 3 star events, in the not too distant future. To that end, officials from Japan are looking for experience outside their own country. Lakes and Craters and Melbourne International have been very supportive, and delighted with the professionalism of their Japanese guests.

The short-term aim of eventing in Japan is to defend their gold medal at the next Asian Games, in 2006, and to qualify a team, or individuals, for the 2008 Olympic Games in China.

## **5. Eventing Show jumping**

***By Peter Herrick, New Zealand***

The recent events during the Show jumping at Athens, has highlighted the need for Ground Jury members to sharpen up their act when it comes to the final phase of a CCI, the Show jumping.

I am not criticizing the Ground Jury at Athens. They appear to have made the correct decision. Perhaps, by many accounts, they could have announced it sooner. The Appeal

Committee would appear to have been wrong to become involved. Article 163-6.1 specifically excludes any appeal on a Ground Jury's decision on the time taken for a round.

I have worked on many Ground Juries, and have found my fellow members very competent while judging the Dressage, and most have a good grasp of the rules involved with the Cross country. However a large number of them throw their hands up in horror, and admit to inexperience when it comes to the Show jumping. We love Eventing because it incorporates all three disciplines, and so as Judges we must become competent in all three. This is becoming more and more important as Show jumping is playing an ever-increasing part in our sport. Competence only comes from experience, and so Judges must get out and "keep their eye in" just as they do in Dressage. One big advantage in judging Show jumping is that the Ground Jury works as a team, each member has a role, but they are all there to back one another up. The roles are:

**President:**

The President of the Ground Jury is in overall charge of the Jury Box. He is also in charge of the bell and timekeeping. If he is not actually handling the bell or the timing, he must make sure that they are carried out correctly. He must also operate a back-up stopwatch. This is imperative as there is not an automatic timer that is foolproof, and they are always subject to human error! When the timekeeper announces the time for the round, he must repeat it for the Secretaries (Writers, Pencillers) so that everyone is certain of the time. Similarly he must announce the final score for the round.

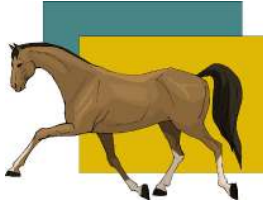
**Second Member:**

The second member is responsible for calling out what actually happens in the round for the secretaries. This is very important, and he must watch the horse at all times. When the President has rung the bell to start the round, and this member sees the horse approaching the flags, he must call out "approaching the start flags". This is a "heads up" warning to everyone, especially the timekeeper that the horse is about to start his round. From then on he calls "through the start flags" followed by "clear fence one" and any faults etc, and ends up with "through the finish flags". I always find it best to call everything so that everyone is in agreement with what is going on. If there is no electronic timer, it is imperative that this member also has a back-up stopwatch, so that there are always two watches timing the round.

**Third Member:**

The main job of the third member is to be a back up for everyone. Another pair of eyes always helps. He also has a stopwatch, called the 45-second watch. After the bell is rung to start the round, this watch is started to make sure that the horse goes through the start flag within 45 seconds. If it looks as though the 45 seconds is going to be exceeded, the timekeepers must be warned, so that all timers can be started when the 45 seconds expires. Most modern electronic timers will do this automatically; however a back up is always required. When the horse goes through the start flags this watch is then stopped. If a rider falls off, or a horse starts to resist, this watch must be restarted again, as the competitor only has 45 seconds to jump the next fence, see Article 537-10.

The Show jumping phase is fascinating, and under today's scoring, can make all the difference. So it has become more and more important for the Ground Jury to be on top of it's game. There is a lot of room for improvement in the amount of time given to Show jumping at seminars. In fact it wouldn't hurt for Judges to go to Show jumping seminars, just as they go to Dressage seminars. However it is ultimately up to the Judges to get out there, and become competent.



## 6. “Trot Ups” – Horse Inspections

**By Christian Landolt, Switzerland**

The horse inspection is, for the majority of riders, the most ‘nerve wrecking’ part of an event, and I must confess it is the worst for me too, as an official. Things can swing so quickly from one way to another: a stone, a slippery surface, a slight slope or camber... all small points that can cause a horse to trot up badly, and make our decision really difficult, having only seconds to assess whether the horse is in pain or not. As a spectator, I have witnessed inexperienced judges, or judges who are not involved enough with horses on a regular basis, struggling to make these assessments. Consequently I think the horse inspection should have its full place in our FEI courses!!

The horse inspection is there for us to assess the horse’s fitness and soundness to compete. At this point in time we can prevent a horse from running, and potentially put him and his career at risk. We must therefore be very aware that the following facts are not clouding our judgement:

1. **Riders hanging on to the horse’s mouth, or twisting their necks**
2. **Public clapping and cheering**
3. **A horse coming with just one large stud in – yes indeed, I have seen that!**
4. **A rider presenting the horse from the right hand side – although nothing is specified in the rules...**
5. **Rider’s outfits... Remember that the more outrageous the outfit, the shorter the skirts, the greater the need to look at the horse!**
6. **A national vet, who could have links to some horses competing!**

With points **1 and 2** we must ask for the horse to be represented in the correct manner, and I believe that a horse should not be accepted while the public is obviously interfering. If after a couple of attempts the public is not settled, the horse should be taken to a quieter area and inspected there. I am sure we all remember only too well, Burghley 1987... The horse was accepted having trotted very little due to the public’s interference, got placed, and was never seen again! We are here for the welfare of the horses this must be our one and only concern.

We now have a debate as to whether horse inspections should be open to the public or not. The discussion can go on and on. I believe it is good for the sport to be as transparent as possible, and for the public to be involved. Consequently in some occasions we must be more open. Let me explain:

If a horse is not quite right, and goes to the holding box, I believe we ought to somehow let the public know what the findings are, if he comes back for re-inspection. Especially if the horse is passed whilst not trotting 100% because of small injuries – over reach, bruised foot... - these ought to be disclosed. At the same time we can have a sound horse with a nicely bowed tendon. We can see it, but the public may not. So in an uncompromising way, we ought to let the public know – through a set phrase said by the announcer – that there are strong reasons to believe that this horse has sustained a bad injury and therefore, with his interest in mind, cannot go on. We must in no way be specific, but it would make the public a lot more aware, and so they and the press would hopefully leave

the inspection with greater respect for us, rather than being totally dumbfounded by some of our decisions.

Finally, I feel that the inspections at CIC's are in most cases far too slack! We must make sure that a proper inspection takes place, regardless of what some organisers – or in some cases the TD - may think. Although the large majority of riders do care about their horses, sadly some don't and so it is our duty to objectively and fairly prevent any abuse!

## 7. Thoughts about teaching adults

***By Diann Schrapel, Steward General, Australia***

As an FEI Official there are often times that we are required to 'teach' our fellow peers or members of our 'event team'. Whether you teach in an informal situation e.g. in an event team situation or in a more formal situation such as a seminar facilitator, it is important to be mindful of some of the principles relating to adult learning.

As an FEI Official one should always want to learn and improve performance.

I have listed below some points that may be of assistance to any FEI Official who finds themselves in the situation of a teaching role.

- Defuse any anxieties that the official may have – this is particularly important with the less experienced officials
- Acknowledge that the official has a vast amount of experience that they can use and share
- Create a friendly atmosphere
- Reward contributions
- Be available for additional help when officials encounter difficulties or make mistakes – after all we are all human and do make mistakes!
- Check if the official has a personal goal – what do they hope to achieve
- Have a feedback system for motivation and at the end of the event/course to see if you have been successful, need to improve, overlooked key areas etc. Use different methods - written, general discussion, comment on each others performance, action plans etc
- Be sure to help or arrange other assistance to officials who may be struggling or are found to be not so strong in some areas – this may be a mentoring program, etc

I think the Old Chinese Proverb below is worth remembering!

**I hear and I forget**

**I see and I remember**

**I do and I understand**

### **Differences between 'teaching' and 'learning'**

- Learning is best done through active involvement – this is why seminars are best conducted in conjunction with an event to enable officials to have 'hands on' experience
- Short term memory becomes less efficient and more easily disturbed – avoid techniques such as lectures and demonstrations that do not involve activity as this creates short term memory problems
- Discourage competition
- Relevant subject matter (skills and knowledge) – it is very easy to become side tracked and talk about items that are not relevant to the proposed plan

- Reinforcement and practice – break down the skills into small sections, each leading logically to the next. Build in frequent opportunities for reinforcement and practice
- Build on the advantages and minimize the disadvantages of the rich experience officials bring with them. Use their experiences to enrich the knowledge of everyone
- Commence with an arousal ten minutes – attention grabbing – to take away any preoccupied thoughts
- Learning to learn - practice and self confidence

### **Planning**

- A list of objectives, syllabus, details of tasks/activities prepared well in advance
- Organised all the appropriate equipment – whiteboard, projector etc
- Printed sufficient handouts
- Planned the room arrangement – can everyone see the facilitator? Seating – is there enough? Is the room used to its advantage?
- Have everything ready for the arrival of the first person/s
- Housekeeping items such as food and drink, paper, writing materials, name tags etc
- How to introduce yourself, how to introduce the participants to one another

## **8. 26 participants at the FEI Seminar in Pratoni**

***By Anton Granhus, Norway***

At the same time as the Italian Federation hosted the European Championship for Juniors at the beautiful Olympic Equestrian Centre at Pratoni del Vivaro, outside Rome, they hosted a course for *new* International Eventing Officials, directed by Christoph Hess and José Ortelli.

In three days the participants got a lot of information, and I'm quite sure that if we had more time, Mr Hess and Mr Ortelli would have been able to give us even more information about the sport of Eventing. We really learned a great deal in the time.

The course was held in a very good atmosphere with lots of time for discussion. We also had a very good social time - even with 10 hours of education daily – almost. The Italians took very good care of us, and on behalf of those attending at the course may I say “Thank You” to all the smiling, friendly and sociable Italians with Andrea White in the front line.

If I should put forward a suggestion, it has to be that the FEI Eventing Committee should produce an education plan that gives the Directors of the courses guidelines about what we have to learn during the seminar to ensure, that everybody attending an FEI-seminar no matter where in the world it is held and who is teaching learns so much as I did during my time in Pratoni.

Best regards from a Norwegian Official - very much looking forward to the renewed guidelines for FEI seminars.

## **9. Experiences from the European Young Rider Championships**

***By Sylvia Svensson, Sweden***

I want to tell you a little about the European Young Rider Eventing Championships [short format] that were held at Barroca d'Alva, Alcochete, in Portugal from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2004. I was a member of the Ground Jury along with Mr. Manuel Neves Veloso, and Mr. Martin Plewa was our President.

Barroca d’Alva is a large, privately owned farm belonging to the Lupi family and it was a very nice place for a three-day event competition, with everything happening in the same place, and the hotel and show office right in the centre. On the farm they breed black bulls and Lusitano horses, and cultivate cork oaks!

When I first saw the venue it appeared to be very flat, however when we walked the course it was 35 degrees C, and I can assure you that it was not indeed ‘flat’! The course was very beautiful with lots of decorations, flowers and local produce - like fruit, and other specialities. The fences were well-built and very safe, with two large water complexes. The track was both uphill and downhill, with plenty of galloping. The Dressage and Show Jumping were held in a big green arena behind the hotel, also decorated with flowers, and having a large grandstand. The whole competition was very well organised, and there were no accidents.

The German team won both Gold and Silver medals in the Individual competition, with Great Britain claiming the Bronze, and in the Team competition Germany won Gold, with Great Britain taking the Silver, and France the Bronze.

An FEI Eventing course was organised at these Championships, for Judges – with Martin Plewa as the Director - and Tom Ryckewaert looking after the Technical Delegates and Course Designers. This was a fantastic course, with both Directors doing a splendid job, and I can only recommend colleagues to follow their guidance, learn from their experiences, especially if you are lucky enough to attend one of their courses in 2005.

We had a wonderful week at Barroca d’Alva, Portugal, and our hosts were very hospitable – I can thoroughly recommend it both as a super competition venue and a wonderful place for a vacation.

## 10. FEI Eventing Seminars 2005

Please visit [www.horsesport.org](http://www.horsesport.org) for further details and information about which level of course you should attend. Catrin Norinder, manager of the Eventing & Olympic Departments, has just sent out the 2005 ‘revision of officials’ to the National Federations, indicating those officials who need to attend a course this year.

	Date	Location	NF	Category	Level	Open	Course Dire
1	29 April – 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2005	Targu Mures	ROM	Judges, TDs, CDs	TBC		
2	12 – 15 May	Taupo	NZL	Judges, TDs, CDs, Stewards	TBC		
3	12 – 15 May	Allentown, NJ	USA	Judges, TDs, CDs	2		
4	24 – 26 June	Jardy	FRA	Judges, TDs, CDs	TBC		
5	8 – 11 September	Blenheim	GBR	Judges, TDs, CDs	2		

6	15 – 18 September	Necarne Castle	IRL	Judges, TDs, CDs	1		
7	18 – 20 October	TBC	BRA	Judges, TDs, CDs, Stewards	2 + 3		
8	TBC	TBC	GER	TBC	TBC		

**The Level 1 course at Necarne Castle, N. Ireland, will be taken by 2 FEI Directors, and is open to all National Judges, TD's and CD's who wish to upgrade to FEI Candidate status!**

#### **11. Exchange of FEI Stewards between Australia New Zealand**

***By Diann Schrapel, Australia and Maxine Leigh, New Zealand***

During 2004, four officials [two to each event] from New Zealand came over to be a member of the FEI Stewarding Team at the National Dressage Championships that incorporated a CDI-W, and at the Dressage and Jumping with the Stars, which also incorporated the final of the Pacific League of the CDI-W.

The officials each paid their airfares, and the Organising Committee looked after them from their arrival, until their departure, including collecting / returning them to the airport and accommodation and food, during the event!

This year, two Australians will be members of the stewarding team at the New Zealand Horse of the Year Show.

The aim is to provide officials – who are either National or FEI – the opportunity to gain experience by officiating in another country, without incurring a huge cost!

This is an excellent suggestion that could easily be 'adopted' by other 'adjacent' countries!

#### **12. IEOC Scheme to offer opportunities to officiate at European Events**

***By Jean Mitchell, Ireland, Secretary General of the IEOC***

The 2005 IEOC Scheme to offer FEI Eventing Officials from outside Western Europe, opportunities to officiate at European events, which was the 'brainchild' of Peter Herrick [NZL], has been 100% successful.

We would like to say a very sincere "Thank You" to those Event Directors who responded so quickly to our request: Sarah Phillips at Blair Castle; Harry Verney at Bramham; Mike Etherington-Smith at Blenheim; Frederick Obel at Aalborg and Tony McPherson at Boekelo.

So, through the IEOC, the following FEI officials have been placed **[those in black type are receiving the €350 sponsorship towards their cost of travel]** and they will get hospitality - accommodation and food - while at the events:

- **At the 2005 European Championships at Blenheim [GBR]: Des Hughes [Australia]** will be an **Assistant Technical Delegate**.
- **At Blair Castle Horse Trials [GBR]: Anne Tylee [New Zealand]** will be on the **Ground Jury for the CCI\*\*\*** [Travel sponsored by the NZ Eventing Committee, as a scholarship]
- **At Blair Castle Horse Trials [GBR]: Dittagorn [Tom] Pantapa [Thailand]** will be the **Assistant Technical Delegate**
- **At Bramham Horse Trials [GBR]: Rolandas Zibaidis [Lithuania]** will be the **Assistant Chief Steward**

- **At Aalborg Horse Trials [DEN]:** Yuri Valev [Bulgaria] will be on the **Ground Jury for the CIC\*\*/\***
- **At Boekelo [NED]:** Pablo Plaza [Argentina] will be the **Assistant Course Designer**
- **At Necarne Castle International Horse Trials:** Pollyann Huntington [Australia] will be on the **Ground Jury for the CIC\*\*/\*** [paying her own travel expenses]

The Board of the IEOC would very much like to repeat this exercise in 2006 – so if you are a member of the IEOC, and would like to be considered for an FEI Official position, [and fulfil the criteria of living outside Western Europe] please contact your Regional Representative – list available on the IEOC web site:

[www.i-eoc.org](http://www.i-eoc.org)

### **13. Modifications to the 2003 Rules**

***By Mike Etherington-Smith, Vice Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee***

There has been much discussion of late about various points that have been brought to the Eventing Committee and perhaps it would be appropriate to explain some of the thinking behind some of the subjects under discussion and some of the proposed changes for the future.

**Yellow flags** – the principle behind this is to reinforce the opportunities for stopping competitors on course if they are riding dangerously. This principle has to be sound as a thought process and so what we need now is to find a mechanism that will work in practice. We all recognise that dangerous riding reflects on our sport and it has to be controlled in some manner. At present there is no mechanism for following any riders who may ride dangerously and therefore potentially bring the sport into disrepute in the eyes of the rest of the world, let alone us.

Our discussions centred on how we could perhaps introduce some means whereby a competitor could be stopped, timed, and then allowed to continue, a sort of 'stop/go' penalty. The time would be taken and so there would be no penalty in this area but the competitor would be on notice to carefully consider how he/she is performing. Just waving a flag is no good; any old fruitcake could jump out!

We accepted that the principle is good. Times are moving on and what was acceptable to the layman 10 years ago is no longer palatable. We have to protect the image of our sport if we are to prosper and exercise our duty of care and the way the sport is portrayed, particularly on TV, is critical to our future.

It has to be accepted that it is extremely difficult for Ground Juries to stop anyone on course, even with CCTV. It is also accepted that this is an extremely difficult call to make and one that nobody makes lightly. Therefore, what we are debating is how to reinforce and support the decision-making process and powers of the Ground Jury by looking at empowering others (if they can be found and are happy to do so) to make a 'stop/go' decision. These 'others' are not fence judges – they may be Sector Stewards (with a well planned mechanism for stopping), they may be experienced officials, who can advise the Ground Jury or make the call; what they must absolutely not be is enthusiastic eventing supporters or helpers who may get 'power crazy'.

Clearly it needs working through but the idea is a good one and we all need to look at how it can be introduced if at all possible rather than dismissing it as a nuisance or an

undermining of the responsibility of the Ground Jury. It should be seen as a plus and embraced accordingly providing it can be integrated into an event in a positive and efficient manner.

**To this end we are asking NF's to try it at 2 events in their calendar in 2005 and to come back with some thoughts and recommendations based on experience. It may well be that it is unworkable but we feel that there is a way of introducing this into the system for the overall benefit of the sport.**

**“Jumping Judge” at the 3 and 4 Star levels** – I appreciate the sensitivity of this issue and I can assure everyone that this is absolutely no reflection on the skills of the Ground Jury. Call it a ‘belt and braces’ exercise if you want but it has to be said that there are many who support this move given that jumping judges do their job on a more regular basis than our Ground Juries. It should not be seen as a vote of no confidence in the system and those who are Ground Jury members; it is rather that we all have a responsibility to give competitors the best skills available to judge their performance.

We have been accused of a knee jerk reaction, which is perhaps a little unfair although I can understand why some would feel this is the case. We do have to recognise that there is a lot at stake nowadays in the sport and we have to move with the times. Again, let's try to see this as a positive step.

**Training of Officials** – we have listened to the comments coming back and clearly it is unreasonable to expect officials to attend courses every 2 years and so this has gone back to every 3 years.

There has been a round-robin circular to NF's about introducing officials into the systems, national training programmes, etc. We recognise that the new generation of officials is not exactly rushing into the sport and we want to address this issue now, not in 2 years time. Therefore, please could everyone try to encourage the next generation of officials and give them opportunities – after all, competition is good and not to be afraid of!

Similarly, we revised the programme for the seminars a couple of years ago and this needs to keep moving. Any ideas or thoughts as to what we should be doing with regard to the training and updating of officials are gratefully received – again, we all need to keep on the ball and our game up to scratch and collective wisdom is better than just a few of us coming up with what we believe to be good ideas.

Lastly, the FEI keeps a record of those who need to attend courses and this is circulated to NF's each year advising them of who needs what. Ultimately though it is up to all of us to know when we need to attend a course and quite often this means contacting the NF to find out what courses are running where and when. Please do therefore keep on top of this.

**Rider relationships** - there has been much debate about Burghley this year, what happened, why, etc. We need to move on and one important protocol that we have come up with has been seen by everyone now and will be introduced next year (2005) as a fall back position in the event of a breakdown in communication between officials and riders. It is important to keep this in perspective and understand that the protocol is there in the event of impasse. We believe that what happened this year was exceptional and is highly unlikely to ever happen again but it is important to have a mechanism to resolve any such situation should it ever come about.

We invited riders to put their views forward (after all we are all working together) and then we considered what would be practical and realistic in the event of an impasse, the result being the new Annex 10. Hopefully the protocol will never be used but it is there if needed. Again, any comments should be sent in to us but please look at this understanding why it needs to be there.

#### 14. Guidelines for trial use of the “Yellow” flag

**By Mike Etherington-Smith, Vice Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee**

**Rules for Eventing – Modifications valid 1 Jan.2005**

**Reference to Art 519 Horse & Rider Welfare**

**NOTE: new paragraph 4**

**(Implementation of this article is to be postponed to 2006, each NF/OC of Eventing competitions at any level will be invited to put into practice the rule at two International events of any level (one at a lower level competition) and TD's report back to the FEI.)**

#### **EVENTING - GUIDELINES FOR THE TRIAL USE OF THE ‘YELLOW’ FLAG**

##### **The Concept**

It has been suggested that the sport has a responsibility to introduce, if possible, a mechanism for warning riders on course that they are riding dangerously.

The Ground Jury is in a very invidious position as per the current rules whereby at present they have the sole responsibility for stopping competitors on course when in many instances they simply do not receive any information on which to make a judgement to stop a rider until it is often too late. So, if it is possible to come up with a system that compliments and meets with the approval of the Ground Jury and the TD whereby riders riding dangerously can be prevented from creating bad pictures for the sport and risking injury to their horses and themselves it can only be good.

However, it is accepted that there is no easy solution to this matter but the FEI Eventing Committee would like to at least explore the possibilities to see if it is possible to achieve a satisfactory solution.

##### **The Proposal**

The proposal is to ask **NF's/OC's** to try the following procedure, *or something similar if there is a better suggestion*, whereby riders are stopped on course, advised to be more responsible in their riding, and then restarted.

Clearly anyone who is to be considered for making any such decision has to meet with the approval of the Ground Jury and the TD in conjunction with the OC, and there obviously has to be a mechanism put in place whereby such a ‘stop/go’ operation can work in a practical and acceptable manner.

The suggestion is that only very experienced horsemen/women are considered. These officials are not necessarily going to be Fence Judges, nor will they necessarily be Sector Stewards, each event must consider who may be suitable within their team of officials/volunteers to fulfil this role and make this call.

The feeling is that dangerous riding (which is not necessarily the same as riding quickly or fast) occurs more in the first third of a course when the horses are fresher and that it also tends to happen at the lower level events.

The thinking is that a rider who may be stopped has his/her held time taken and this is then deducted from the overall time taken to complete the course.

### The Mechanism

The OC appoints in conjunction with the Ground Jury and the TD one or two such Stewards empowered to make a call to the President of the Ground Jury based in Control to stop a competitor if he/she is considered to be riding dangerously. The Eventing Committee would also like to see the TD being permitted to make such a call to the President of the Ground Jury.

When a rider is seen to be riding dangerously the Steward advises Cross country Control who will then liaise with the President of the Ground Jury before, if agreed, radioing to the Fence Judge on the first appropriate fence at which the competitor in question can be stopped. The Fence Judge then carries out a regular stopping procedure, recording the time held, advises the competitor that he/she has been stopped for dangerous riding, and then permits the competitor to restart on course, always liaising with Cross country Control. The hold should not be prolonged, it should be a simple stop, advice, and then restart, and then advise control of the held time.

### The Issues

There has been some feedback from various NF's expressing understandable concern about this, where the Stewards will come from who are happy to make such a decision, etc.

The Committee believes that it should not be beyond all of us in the sport to come up with a system that will work and will be a good, responsible, move forward.

The proposal is there for the extreme cases and is planned to support the Ground Jury where necessary. It is also for the benefit of the sport.

## **15. Congratulations to Dr. Bernd Springorum, Germany**

***By Anne-Mette Binder, Denmark***

On Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February Dr. Bernd Springorum living in Herdecke, Germany, turned 70. Dr. Springorum has since his early childhood been a devoted eventing rider with many placings at the German Eventing championships. He was the trainer of the German national eventing team from 1980 – 1984, president of the German Eventing Committee

1984 - 1997 and was a member of the FEI Eventing Committee from 1981 - 1994. Dr. Springorum studied law and has been working in the world of banking. Among many other great competitions and championships Dr. Springorum judged at the Olympic Games in Seoul, Barcelona and Atlanta and has also been the course director and taught on many FEI official seminars.

Dr. Springorum was the first IEOC-president from 1998-2003.

A very sincere "Thank You" for sharing your experience and knowledge with Ground Jury colleagues, and students on FEI seminars, and congratulations on your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## **16. World Cup Final 2004 in Pau, France**

***By Anne-Mette Binder, Denmark***

Having had the honour of being a member of the GJ and still thrilled from excitement from the very well organized World Cup Finals October 2004 in Pau, France, I wish to congratulate the president Monsieur Claude Prieur and the rest of his OC-team with the fabulous finals of the second World Cup in the eventing sport. I also want to thank

Monsieur Guy Otheguy and Mr. Christoph Hess for being wonderful and cooperative Ground Jury-colleagues, Mr. Hugh Thomas for his perfectly managed TD-work and Monsieur Francois Lucas, judging the CIC\*\*, and his sweet wife for their kind and excellent way of taking care of us all.

Apart from the perfect facilities for horses, riders, spectators and officials the successful cross country day carried out on the daily training area for around 600 racehorses with Pierre Michelet as responsible for the design of the course proved how magic the eventing sport can be. On the 4.310 m. long Phase D the CD challenged the intelligence of the riders and their capability of managing the horses and their ride on the day in a very fascinating and impressive way.

Already on fence no. 4 the riders spent lots of time discussing and planning which way was the best to go. And on the day, their worries proved to be unnecessary. The degree of difficulty proved to be absolutely perfect for a World Cup Final. A great cross-country day with very limited major problems and no serious accidents what so ever. Absolutely perfect!

Being only in its second year in 2004 the World Cup-concept proved to be a challenging and perfect concept in the development and marketing of our sport, and I am absolutely confident, that riders, horses, spectators and officials will have another great World Cup Final-experience in Malmö, Sweden, 2005. The OC-group and event director Lars Christensson supported by Malmö City did a wonderful and promising job in promoting their event during the finals in Pau. Please visit [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#) for further information.

## **17. "Two Hurricanes and a Palace" – and "2 Castles" in between ... What an experience!**

***By Mercedes Campdera, Mexico***

There I was, in the beautiful Caribbean - the Dominican Republic, judging a Dressage competition, with a tight schedule to get back to my home in Mexico City, to change luggage and fly to England. But oops!!! Miami's airport (the viable connection) is closed as the huge "Hurricane Francis" is approaching. Fortunately, I am able to get home by taking **four** different connecting flights over 14 hours - and God knows how many thousands of miles - actually crossing the U.S.A, as the area covered by this 'horrendous' hurricane, besides being a type 4 - was larger than the State of Texas.... Really scary!!!

The next day, I'm comfortably sitting on a direct flight to London, then a train to Paddington, another train to Oxford and from there, a taxi to a Hotel near Woodstock, and the incredible Blenheim Palace. That same evening at 6:30, I was invited to a 'welcome reception' at the breathtaking Blenheim Palace, every guest being introduced by a footman, and greeted by the owner - His Grace the Duke of Marlborough. We were in a magnificent room, with an adjacent terrace from where you could overlook the beautiful gardens and forests, complimented by a wonderful sunset!



On entering the room, I find Mike Etherington-Smith – who is both the Director and Course Designer at Blenheim, and actually **my** host - he had very kindly agreed, and arranged, that I could be an “observing Judge” at the famous Blenheim CCI\*\*\*.

Mike was chatting with the President of the Ground Jury, David Lee from Ireland, and the two Members - the renowned and elegant ladies Sue Baxter and Jane Tolley - the experienced Technical Delegate [and always lots of fun] - Andy Griffiths, Stewards, etc. making my visit a fantastic opportunity in everyway! So, with a glass of champagne in hand, I started to stroll round, enjoying the magnificence of the Palace and actually met many people from different countries with diverse interests in the Sport, and indeed some friends that I had not seen in a while... lot's of fun and extremely useful!!!

Early next morning – Dressage - with a high level in general, and some quite outstanding tests, gave me the opportunity to listen to the expert judging of the three Ground Jury members – a veritable treat!!! Later I accompanied Mike for his last look at the Cross Country course – a truly magnificent venue with fair obstacles and a fantastic design, but certainly lots of questions for even the most experienced competitors.

That evening there was a very fine dinner, hosted by Mike with all the Officials, their partners and some other guests.... A gourmet delight!!

On Saturday morning, with increasing tension in the air, mild cold weather and a huge crowd around the course, my day started with David Lee - at Control. Everything was managed in an excellent way, by the team of true professionals, Monsieur Le President... David, calm and always in focus ... perfectly in his position as head of it all.... Later on, I was 'roving' with Jane Tolley, and then with Sue Baxter - It was a blast to watch the course being ridden. Some of them were truly fantastic - like Pippa Funnell - actually attacking the course.



It was a true show, watching the horses progressing round the course, encountering a downward hill that finally led to a bounce into the water - but not a regular one. It was a water complex (one of two) with a pathway of approximately 75 Metres - a true gallop into the water, actually crossing a branch of the lake within the property (of course not deep, but quite a test, anyway) and stepping out of it they would face a pair of angled houses with a stride in between, and from there, push on up-hill. A real beauty!!!! Another demanding question was a big log pile (maximum width) after which there was a difficult turn to the left to encounter two small hills (four strides in between) each with a quite narrow triple brush on top of it... thus demanding a really accurate ride... Another great one, was the set of two fences (with a tough angle)... the direct route asking for one big stride – for truly accurate and forward power - very few made it the short way, With the view of the Palace right in front, and after a really nice gallop there was a couple of huge off-set corners ..... and so on and so on.... It would take me several pages to try to describe the beauty of this fantastic course, with it's well designed and original fences, many of which not only carried the difficulty of their technical dimensions and positioning, but also having to cope with the environment, crossing the trade fair, a huge crowd, etc. – It was demanding but with fairness. A feast to any lover of this passionate sport!!!

The Show Jumping arena was within the gardens overlooking the Palace and was beautifully designed, with due difficulty. However, now the 'classical' rain arrived, which gave the final British touch, together with a parade of hounds - in an effort to support the very old hunting tradition of this Country and finally, all the protocol and emotion at the prize giving ceremony.

May I say a very sincere "Thank You" to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, Mike E-S, the OC, Officials, participants and everything surrounding the Blenheim Palace Event for allowing me to have this fabulous experience!

The very next day, I flew to Belfast City Airport, to fulfil a long desired wish – my very first judging in Europe - and not only that - I was having the honour of being "Madam la President" at the Necarne Castle International Horse Trials in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, where the 6 classes on offer included CCI\*\* / CCI\*, CIC\*\* / CIC\*, CCIJ\* and a CNC\*\* Pony class. I was 'in charge' of the CCI\*\* [long format] and the ponies! What a fantastic venue, what an organization, what super hospitality... truly, what an honour it has all been!!

There were almost 250 entries - clearly they try very hard to avoid any balloting out, and of course it makes life easier for many of the riders with more than one horse, in that they can compete at 2 different star levels, and at CCI and CIC, at the same venue!

My very good friend - Jeannius - sorry Jean S. Mitchell MBE - a true eventing enthusiast and an exceedingly hard working woman, has greatly contributed to make this – a piece of heaven on earth for Eventing - become a reality.

**The Ulster Lakeland Equestrian Centre [Necarne Castle]** started 15 years ago as a dream of the then Chief Executive of Fermanagh District Council, when they purchased the estate in a very run-down condition. After huge efforts and enormous work, overseen by an amazing equestrian enthusiast – David Morrison - Jean and her team of wonderful volunteers ran the 1<sup>st</sup> event 10 years ago. Since then it has become a fabulous venue, with fully 'all-weathered and grassed' cross-country and steeplechase tracks, on 300 acres of gorgeous County Fermanagh rolling hills, incredible as it may sound!!...But of course it was a must, as in this beautiful part of the Emerald Island they truly get their fair share of the 'soft stuff' – rain!



We certainly had a fantastic group.... Jean directing the orchestra...with all the fine help from Liz Pottie and her secretariat, and a very nice team helping throughout - the Officials – a great group, all made the whole experience very rewarding. There was such a great spirit and camaraderie, at all times!

The members of **my** Ground Jury proved to be wonderful 'team mates' and the nicest ladies - Jane Tolley (GBR) and Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), the excellent Technical Delegate, Dennis Curie – a true professional with an excellent sense of humour, fantastic to have him - Jonathan Clissold, our very good Course Designer - another great personality and the very experienced Rosemary Lowry, as Chief FEI Steward! In the other classes - CCI\* / CCIJ\* the Ground Jury, was Stephanie Von Schilcher [IRL], with Les Smith [GBR] and Vanda Stewart [IRL] and Stuart Stirling [IRL] as their TD – and the very experienced 'duo' of David Lee [IRL] and Nick Burton [GBR] were in charge of the CIC\*\* /

CIC\* classes. So 8 Ground Jury members at this one event, along with the experienced and knowledgeable FEI Vet – Hugh Suffern – himself a past International eventer and Irish team vet, who headed the panel of vets, a plethora of stewards, and of course the famous Paul Harris [GBR] who controlled the computer scoring!



Cross Country day was under the fabulous ‘Control Group’ headed by Nigel Moore, which definitely made our lives easier, by handling everything with acute efficiency ... always in great communication with the different Presidents of Jury, and all the people involved.... Real good job!!!

Now, let me describe the site.... Although it is so difficult to express in few words this very special place.

The Castle [at present a ruin, but about to be brought back to life] acts a “Walt Disney” style backdrop to the prepared strip for the Horse Inspections, cross-country, steeplechase courses, etc.

All parking is on ‘hard’ surfaces, and there are over 80 permanent stables in beautifully restored courtyards, with the temporary stables situated on a purpose built area, with all facilities laid on!

The ‘walled garden’ provides a ‘secluded’ area for the all weather arena, which can easily hold 2, 20 X 60 dressage arenas, an excellent show jumping course, spectator accommodation, and best of all a magnificent ‘fully equipped’, elevated Judge’s box, which also houses the scorers, sponsors, etc! The event has also wonderful support from the staff and students of Enniskillen College, who are resident on the site during ‘term time’, where they run the practical side of their extensive equestrian courses!

What a joy it must be to be able to have an event on a ‘purpose built’ site, and not to have the struggle of setting up facilities in a ‘green field’ site!

As already mentioned, the Cross Country and Steeple Chase courses have the benefit of a ‘prepared all weather’ track, and running towards the end of the Autumn season, they are indeed true 1 and 2 stars.

Most of the Officials were staying at the wonderful Belle Isle Castle - in the Hamilton wing of this impressive “17<sup>th</sup> Century” castle, overlooking part of Upper Lough Erne, with amazing accommodation, which has been sensitively refurbished with original period grandeur!

In the evening we would all meet in a large, cosy sitting room with a great fireplace [burning gigantic logs] to have drinks, before and after dinner; which was served in a beautiful dinning room, sitting up to 30 persons. Jean had invited different, interesting guests each night, and it provided a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and converse with a diverse number of Irish equestrian personalities. We had the services of a fabulous cook – Aileen Lombard - for the week, and I learned to enjoy her famous “Ulster” cooked breakfasts every morning, and of course, the fine wines that accompanied dinner!

I was not at all surprised that some of the top names in eventing had chosen to compete at Necarne Castle, including Pippa Funnell, Andrew and Bettina Hoy.

Now, before going back home to Mexico, I was spending three days holiday with close friends, and three more 'working' days in Florida, U.S.A. However, this time I was **truly trapped by hurricane "Ivan"** - the one that was so destructive and so awful in so many places...Bad thing.... I tell you!!! We were left without electricity, no air-conditioning with very high temperatures, the house with panels covering all windows (thus no light), on curfew for many hours and really scared of what might happen. Fortunately we were OK, but it makes you wonder – how lucky can you be!!!

I have been told that to be able to really enjoy and appreciate "the good" you have to have experience "the bad". What do you think?

I just know, I really had both, and that I would definitely rather stick with somewhere in the "middle" - between the two "hurricanes"!!!!

Enjoy Life and of course, the Horses!!!!

## 18. FEI Corporate Identity - and a new Logo

The horse is in the 'heart of the F' in the new brand identity



The FEI has evolved greatly over the last few years. It has become a more global organisation and has demonstrated a firm will to involve all stakeholders of equestrian sport in its action. In the dynamic context of today's sport scene a strong recognisable brand has become a key element to ensure both the competitive element of the sport and of its revenue. Therefore the FEI is working on a new FEI corporate identity followed by a new logo. Read more about this new, interesting initiative on [www.horsesport.org](http://www.horsesport.org)

## 19. Thank you from the editors!

A very big "Thank You" to those of you who have taken time to contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the IEOC Newsletter. We also wish to send our special thanks to those of you who forwarded photos with your article. We have tried a few this time to see if they are possible!

We have received suggestions for improving FEI Eventing Courses, from members who have attended Courses in 2004. In turn Jean has passed these on to the FEI Eventing Committee, who are working on the syllabus for 2005. **Christoph Hess will give us an update in the next edition of the E-Newsletter.**



*Jean Mitchell, and*

*Anne-Mette Binder*