



International Show Jumping Officials Club

Club des Officiels Internationaux de Saut d'Obstacles

[www.isjc.com](http://www.isjc.com)

# E-Newsletter

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## General Assembly and Seminar 2005

The ISJC Seminar and 2005 General Assembly will take place on 28 and 29 January 2006 in Zurich during the 5\* CSI, thanks to the kind invitation of the Swiss.

At the beginning of November we will send out the registration forms together with the GA Agenda and the topics of the Seminar.

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## Board meeting

On Monday 24 October, the Board met in Brussels. The principal topics on the agenda were:

1. Approval minutes board meeting 26 October 2004
2. Development of membership in 2005
3. Draft account 2005 / Selection of auditors
4. Draft budget 2006
5. Proposal for a revision of the statutes
6. Procedure for subscription reminders - reappraisal of cut-off point for members who do not renew
7. Draft agenda for the GA in Zurich 2006
8. Preparation of the GA in Zurich / Presentation of the items on the agenda
9. Preparation of the ISJC Seminar in Zurich
10. Next GA (where and when)
11. ISJC tie/scarf
12. ISJC Newsletter
13. Role of ISJC in general, and in particular in "sponsoring" members' activity
14. Regional Representatives: achievements, activities and reports
15. Miscellaneous

In the next NL, there will be a detailed account of the outcome of the meeting.

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## **New FEI Secretary General**

Résumé of text from FEI website

Following the resignation of Bo Helander, Jean-Claude Falciola (SUI) was appointed FEI Secretary General on 14 September 2005.



A Swiss national from Geneva, he studied Engineering at the Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich and completed his formal education with an MBA at Stanford University (USA). He started his professional life working for the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly and then joined Renardet Sauti, a major international engineering firm. For the past 27 years, Jean-Claude Falciola has been a partner with Egon Zehnder International, the world leading management consulting firm, who specialise in assessment and recruitment of business leaders. Over the years, Jean-Claude Falciola has held senior management roles throughout the world, including the Middle East, Finland and Russia.

Many candidates from the horse and business worlds were assessed, and Jean-Claude Falciola came out on top thanks to his rounded and extensive experience in many types of businesses. An established team builder and manager, he met all the relevant criteria.

A recreational rider, Jean-Claude Falciola has been involved in skiing for most of his life and has developed a keen interest in sport and the business surrounding it. Very much involved in the world of sport, he has established close contacts with the IOC.

Jean-Claude Falciola's primary task will be to manage the FEI head office in Lausanne in the context of structural changes.

His wide business experience will add significantly to the administration of the FEI, the sports side of which is managed extremely effectively by the Sports Director Michael Stone and the discipline Managers.

The Board and members of the ISJC wish him every success in his new appointment.

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## **Meeting of Footing Experts**

Excerpt from a report by Pamela Young on FEI website

FEI representatives met with leading footing specialists in Windsor on May 16 for a brainstorming session which will likely provide the criteria upon which all future championship arena footing is to be based. The meeting, which drew riding surface experts from around the world, was a proactive response to the report of the FEI Working Group assigned to assess problems associated with footing after the Athens Olympic Games.

The round table discussion covered many areas including veterinary concerns, ideal structure and components of footing suitable for the level of the sport, future protocol with regard to tenders and the role of the professional footing expert within the championship organisation

The meeting was chaired by international judge and long serving FEI Bureau member Noel Vanososte, and was hopeful that the ideas generated would prove immensely valuable to the future of the sport. His comments were echoed by John Roche, head of the Jumping Department and Simon Brooks Ward, new chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee

All agreed that the application of scientific research combined with years of experience and gut feeling should produce the best possible result. However as FEI veterinarian Jack Snyder pointed out: "We simply don't know what is the best footing for the horse's sake. We don't know what forces are going up the leg. Measuring impact, that is, horses landing off 1.50-1.60 metre jumps, on different surfaces could give us a clue which footing provides the least amount of trauma to a horse's leg, but a lot of work still needs to be done."



"A horse's foot needs to move when it hits the ground," noted Sydney Olympic course designer Leopoldo Palacios. "So what a rider perceives as a super footing may not be what is safe for the horse."

The full article is available on the FEI website.

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<b>Useful links to the FEI website</b>	
Guide to treatment	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/GuideMedic.pdf">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/GuideMedic.pdf</a>
ID of horses	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/ID-e.pdf">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/ID-e.pdf</a>
Jumping promotion courses	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_06_01.html">http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_06_01.html</a>
Jumping rules home page	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_04_01.html">http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_04_01.html</a>
Jumping working documents	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_05_01.html">http://www.horsesport.org/S/s_05_01.html</a>
Medication Form 1	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm1.doc">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm1.doc</a>
Medication Form 2	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm2.pdf">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm2.pdf</a>
Medication Form 3	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm3.doc">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_08/MedicationForm3.doc</a>
Vet rules & miscellaneous	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/FEI/fei_04_02.html">http://www.horsesport.org/FEI/fei_04_02.html</a>
Vet/Riders meeting minutes	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_06/VC%20riders%20Paris.pdf">http://www.horsesport.org/PDFS/FEI/04_06/VC%20riders%20Paris.pdf</a>
Veterinary home page	<a href="http://www.horsesport.org/FEI/fei_04_08.html">http://www.horsesport.org/FEI/fei_04_08.html</a>

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## **Show Jumping requires fair and classical course design**

Professor Arno Gego has very kindly agreed to the publication of the following article (translated from German by ISJC member Inga Holdt-Mencke – we thank her for her contribution!), the first part of which appears in this Newsletter, and the second and final part of which will appear in NL 15 in mid-December. We hope that not only our Course Designers but also all our members will find it of interest.

*Frances Triulzi*

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An expert team consisting of members of the German Jumping Riders Club and the Course Design subcommittee of the German Judges Association recently discussed problems and topical questions concerning jumping in general and course design in particular. **Professor Arno Gego** sums some of the most important results of this meeting.

### **Part 1**

#### **Preliminary remarks**

Traditional or classical principles are not automatically bad or unfashionable just because they are old. On the other hand not everything considered modern is therefore automatically good. Albert Voorn, Olympic silver medallist in Sydney, makes a convincing argument about this: the strength of our sport is still elegance and nobility. Fashionable helmets, company logos on the horses or inferior quality commercial obstacles do not lend an especially attractive touch to our sport. Rather, the contrary is true.



Bearing this in mind, the above mentioned committees discussed topical problems and questions concerning show jumping and course design during a meeting in Langenfeld. The Club of German jumping riders proposed the meeting, and was represented by Heinrich Hermann Engemann. The chairman of the jumping committee of the German Judges association, Dr. Hanno Dohn, was also present.

### **Broad Agreement**

The discussion was very constructive and the participants agreed unanimously about the fundamental questions, future developments of show jumping and course design, and about the ethical and moral responsibilities, in particular the welfare of the horse. Here is a brief summary:

1. Freely forward cantering horses are an essential element for the beauty of show jumping (free forward movement).
2. Problems that can occur in practice:
  - asking too much of young horses during the difficult progression from 1.30 mt to higher classes;
  - copying courses or tracks built for top twenty riders/horses in basic classes, including young horses' and amateur riders' classes (young pianists do not start with Chopin, which is difficult even for experienced musicians);
  - extreme shortening of the canter which goes against the horse's nature: the horse is an escape animal, a "forward moving animal" (consequence: horses unwilling to enter the arena for the second round);
  - length of the course is not measured correctly (normal track) and the set speed is not reflected in the time allowed;
  - insufficient training and preparation of course designers for higher level competitions
3. The tracks of the courses or jump-offs must provide a clear run, and not be blocked by artificial obstacles so that only options are either an extremely short and risky way or a long way with the risk of time faults. A clear track provides an unlimited number of alternatives.

### **Clean sport**

The importance of clean sport cannot be disputed

1. The limits at which poles fall easily have been reached, and indeed even somewhat exceeded. The principles are:
    - light, sensitive touching must not incur faults, while
    - clear knocking must incur penalties
  2. Course designers who do not follow this guideline should be advised by more experienced course designers.
  3. Courses must be natural and varied. The use of same obstacles every weekend is fatal for show jumping.
  4. Natural obstacles are a natural part of show jumping. The representative of the course design committee has the impression that some dressage riders use the integration of landscape and natural surroundings more often than show jumpers!
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Arno Gego's 350-page book "Course Design" will be published in May 2006. With an introduction by FEI President Donna Pilar, it is billed as the ultimate course designer's bible, covering everything from the historical roots to calculating speeds, times and distances, from drawing up a master plan to addressing safety issues. Complete with photos, diagrams and chart, it will be of interest not only to course designers, but to competitors, trainers, judges, stewards and organisers.

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## New Jumping Rules

As Edwin McAuley and Caesar von Walzel have already posted on the ISJC members' Forum, the recommended proposals for the new jumping rules approved by the Jumping Committee were distributed to the NFs for their perusal some weeks ago. By the time you read this, the deadline will have passed for any comments to be made to the FEI regarding the proposals, but the Communications Group felt that it might be of interest to our members to learn what the proposed modifications are. Bearing in mind that these are indeed many, we only list the most "interesting" points:

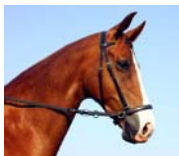
1. The 'legitimization' of the use of "all technical assistance available including official video recordings" when making decisions based on "common sense and fair play";
2. A revision of the procedure regarding the crossing of the start line in the event of "special circumstances, or when it is obvious that the rider has no intention to start" (i.e. the bell can be rung again, and the start time returns to 45 seconds);
3. Circling around the last obstacle jumped, or passing the extended line of the next obstacle to be jumped will again incur penalties (staus quo ante...);
4. First falls (horse and/or rider) incur elimination in all types of events;
5. In the event of a disobedience with a knock-down, "the clock is restarted at the precise moment when the horse leaves the ground at the obstacle where the refusal occurred" or "when the horse leaves the ground at the first element of the combination" should the disobedience and knockdown occur inside a combination obstacle; 6 seconds will be added for time corrections instead of 4 seconds;
6. Appeal Committees only mandatory at Championships
7. Stewards are now listed as Officials!

Undoubtedly the new rules will be explained/discussed during the ISJC seminar in Zurich at the end of January, but if – in the meantime – you would like to post your comments or ideas on the Forum, all input is welcome!

*Frances Triulzi*

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## The Bitless Bridle



If you have logged onto the ISJC website Forum in the last couple of months, you will have seen a thread that discusses the use of a relatively recent invention, *The Bitless Bridle*.

It has been developed by Robert Cook, FRCVS, PhD., Professor of Surgery Emeritus of Tufts University, Massachusetts, a veterinarian who, for most of his career since graduating from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in 1952, has been a faculty member of clinical departments at schools of veterinary medicine in the UK and USA.

Professor Cook believes that, compared with all other bridles, the benefits are - for both horse and man - improved welfare, better performance, increased safety, and greater pleasure. It transmits the hand aids painlessly, eliminating the fear and nervousness caused by the bit that precipitates so many accidents. It provides better steering than a bit or hackamore, and more reliable brakes than a bit or sidepull.



There is some doubt whether pony riders are able to use this device for jumping should they choose to do so. We are in touch with the Pony Department in order to establish a guideline.

For those who are interested in learning more about The Bitless Bridle, the website is [www.bitlessbridle.com](http://www.bitlessbridle.com). There is also an article by Professor Cook available in pdf format on the ISJC website. If any of you have used it, or have seen it used, please let us know, or log onto the website forum and post a message.

*Frances Triulzi*

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## Peace Offering

by Diana Willows

**Horse behaviourist Michel Peace** of Think Equus was one of the star turns at this year's CLA Game Fair ([www.gamefair.co.uk](http://www.gamefair.co.uk)) at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire (Gbr) in late July. Michael held daily demonstrations with horses supplied by Nottinghamshire Police to give an insight into his special methods of communication and show just how he puts problem horses back on the right track.



The Think Equus philosophy is based on communication not control. Michael believes in teaching people to think like horses and horses to think like people. He thinks it is vital that both parties work in unison without either adopting the "let's show him who's boss" attitude. Equal partnership and mutual respect are the key words.

His achievements include helping police horses to overcome a range of fears, from barriers and riot shields to clippers. Michael stopped a racehorse from pulling so badly no jockey could ride him and a Grand Prix dressage horse from rearing when the audience clapped. He is working with the Blue Cross to re-home more rescued horses.

Michael believes that doping is one of his biggest competitors with too many people "resorting to this quick fix" when the problem could often be solved forever with his methods within the hour. Common problems are a fear of clipping, loading or shoeing.

The Think Equus method means working systematically through a problem, always keeping below the horse's tolerance level. For example, if a horse is frightened of clippers Michael will introduce a small pair some 5 metres away and gradually move closer, using reward for improvement.



He has just finished a series of road safety demonstrations with the Metropolitan Police Force in a bid to reduce the number of horse and rider road accidents – an estimated eight per day according to BHS (British Horse Society) figures. The approach is to get the horse to stop and think and refer to its rider rather than spinning round and bolting for home. By expanding its ability to rationalise, that split second could save a life.

As horse owners turn increasingly to equine psychology and behaviour experts to unlock the secrets of the equine mind, Michael finds it is not just owners of young and problem horses who are seeking his help but riders wanting to find how to get 100% from their horse.

For more information on Michael Peace and his books, videos and DVDs, visit [www.thinkequus.com](http://www.thinkequus.com), or contact me – Diana Willows – at [diana.willows@btinternet.com](mailto:diana.willows@btinternet.com).

(Diana Willows is a UK-based freelance writer and event press officer)

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## Annual Subscription

Another reminder about payment of the annual subscription of 55 Euros for those of you who have not already made provisions.... for those who have already paid: thank you!

It is now possible to pay the 60 Euro 2006 subscription via the on-line payment facility.

While you can renew via the website, wherever possible, we would ask you to either pay in cash (any of the Board members, Regional Representatives or Jean Pierre Quisquater will be more than happy to receive your payment), or make a bank transfer to



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ING Bank at Apeldoorn (NED)

Account name: Circle Assist, inzake ISJC / Emst (NED)

Account number: 66.08.20.900

IBAN: NL41 INGB 0660 8209 00

BIC: INGBNL2A

Although the on line payment facility is the most hassle-free method for many of our members, in point of fact it does have a disproportionate cost, and we lose approximately 10% of the renewal figure to credit card and host's levies, so – after hard cash - the bank transfer would be the most beneficial to the ISJC's coffers, providing your bank does not levy a high transfer fee.

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## The Last Word

Many of you had probably given up hope of ever receiving another ISJC Newsletter, considering that the last one dropped into your email box all that time ago! The reasons for the delay are several, but the two principal ones are an ever-increasing lack of time, and an ever-decreasing inspiration regarding fresh material to publish. While (unfortunately) none of you can assist with the former, each and every one of you could help with the latter. I and other board members have received emails from a few members querying why they should renew their annual subscription, as they do not feel that they are getting enough value for their money. Others feel that the ISJC does not do enough for them, or that the Club does not create judging opportunities for them.

As you will have noticed from the short piece concerning the recent Board meeting, that particular point was addressed in Brussels, and the outcome will be published in the next Newsletter. However, I have two questions to put to our members: what are your expectations from the ISJC, and what do you think your input into the Club could be? Each member possesses a wealth of experience, both personal and collective. Why then are there so few postings on the forum? Surely the more we share our experiences, the better the service we render to our sport. In spite of numerous requests in past editions of the Newsletter, and indeed during the past two General Assemblies, I regret to say that only a very few members have come forward with content for the NLS. Every one of us, from the most recently promoted to the status of Candidate International to the revered Official officials is in a position to make an active contribution, so please, let us hear from you with ideas or, better still, articles about your experience. For example, Anne Horenstein emailed me recently about her correspondence with Jack Robinson: she has been amazed to learn about his judging experiences in the States, where at times he is alone in the judges' box and has to do everything, including the timing and the commentary. It would be interesting to hear more about that!

I know from meeting and speaking to many of you that you could make a valuable contribution, so please, don't be shy!

*Frances Triulzi*

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**We are more than happy for you to use any or all of these articles for your own purposes, but would ask you to quote their source if you do!**