



# E-Newsletter

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## ISJC Management Committee

On Saturday 8 March 2003, the recently elected ISJC Management Committee met in Brussels. All nine members were present, and I would like to take this opportunity once again of thanking those among them who managed to juggle their schedule in order to be there.

Among the points discussed were the following:

- Appointment of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer
- Definition of areas of responsibility of each member
- Venue for the 2003 General Assembly
- Examination of the Statutes and whether and how to encompass the suggestions for amendments to them as expressed by some members during the Frankfurt GA
- Development of the ISJC
- Insurance for Officials

We will shortly be sending out a full resumé of the meeting, but the formation of the new Board is available from the website. For your convenience a copy of the listing accompanies this Newsletter as a separate attachment.

The meeting was conducted in a friendly atmosphere, and the lively discussion will

hopefully result in several initiatives which we trust will encourage our membership base – currently numbering 116 officials from 34 nations and every continent - to grow.

*Francis Michielsens*  
 ([francis.michielsens@advalvas.be](mailto:francis.michielsens@advalvas.be))

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## Resume of the 2002 ISJC General Assembly

The General Assembly which was held in Frankfurt on Saturday 14 December 2002 was a great success, with attendance notably up on previous editions. It provided an excellent



opportunity for those present to meet, mingle and get to know one another in the comfortable surroundings of the Maritime Hotel, and to see the exciting showjumping at the

Festhalle. The full minutes of the GA will be available shortly in the Members' section of the ISJC website.

Francis Michielsens expressed his thanks to the German NF for their hospitality and opened the Assembly. He also warmly thanked the 32 Members present for making the journey to Frankfurt in order to participate in the Assembly, and reiterated that the main purpose of the ISJC is to provide a service to the Members. He reported that he was happy with the development of the Club over the past 12 months, and informed the GA that the number of Members had now nearly reached 100.

Patrick Boelens submitted his verbal report on the year 2002, outlining the principal matters discussed in the Management Committee's meeting in March in Brussels, citing in particular the decision to propose that the Club be opened



to International and Candidate International Show jumping Course Designers. As Treasurer, he also submitted the financial report of 2001 and 2002, from which the health of the Club's financial was immediately apparent.

Two specific requests were put forward from the floor: that all financial statements be sent to Members sufficiently early in order to provide ample opportunity study them before being asked to approve them during the General Assembly, and that the accounts be independently audited, not because of any distrust of those presently responsible for drawing up the balance sheets, but merely to ensure that correct procedure was followed.

The Chairman and the Treasurer agreed that this was necessary, and gave their assurance that this would be done in future.

Two Members who had not put their names



forward for election to the Board volunteered to count the ballot papers which were still sealed in their original envelopes (please refer to the January 2003 Newsflash for the results of the vote count). The Secretary General explained how the blank ballot papers had been produced and mailed, and expressed his belief that postal voting was the most satisfactory way to allow Members to participate actively in the election of the Board. 63 ballot sheets had been received from the 91 Members eligible to vote. The General Assembly voted unanimously to accept postal voting as a valid method of electing the Board on this and future occasions.

Following a request from the floor, the Chairman explained that during the Management Committee meeting in Brussels in March 2002, the decision was reached that all Board Members would step down. He listed the resigning Members, stating that they were too numerous and should not in his opinion exceed 9 in number. He also underlined the importance of having a truly international Board.

The General Assembly voted unanimously to open Membership of the Club to International and Candidate International Show jumping Course Designers.

The new statutes were approved unanimously, as was the decision to review the statutes in order to give them greater structure in view of the aim of increasing the number of Members.

The Chairman then spoke of Patrick Boelens' - Secretary General & Treasurer of the ISJC since its inception - decision not to seek re-election owing to lack of time because of his professional commitments. He thanked him for all the work invested in the ISJC since its foundation, and presented him with a gift of a silver stirrup in recognition of his efforts.

The question of per diem allowances paid by



Organizing Committees to Judges & Chief Stewards for their services

was discussed, as was the matter of the annual ISJC subscription fees. It was unanimously decided that for 2003 these would remain unaltered at SFr 150.00 for joining Members, and SFr 75.00 for renewals. However, as from 2004, all transactions will be executed in Euros, and the fees will be €100.00 and €50.00 respectively.

Caesar von Walzel then spoke about the work being carried out by the ILPH (International League for the Protection of Horses), and proposed that the ISJC should vigorously promote the activity of this worthy charity, in primis by becoming a collective Member and also by taking a stand regarding both the appalling circumstances in which slaughter horses are transported and all general instances of cruelty and abuse to horses. This proposal was warmly received by all present.

The Chairman concluded the Assembly by once more thanking all those present for their contribution, assuring them that all pertinent information regarding the constitution of the Board and the individual duties that would be assumed by Members would be made available to all concerned at the earliest opportunity.

As there were no points left on the Agenda, the meeting was closed.



## STEWARDS' CORNER

Selecting and retaining officials is not as simple as it used to be. Recruiting young officials with adequate equestrian knowledge is sometimes difficult, and retaining them often proves a challenge. Contributory factors to this situation are professional/work pressure, family pressure and, last but not least, hours on duty at events are becoming longer and longer, and we certainly cannot claim that the remuneration is tempting! Our thanks to Di Schrapel who - in her final contribution - provides some ideas on how to approach this task.

### Selecting Officials (Stewards)

Selection policies should be developed for the accreditation of officials (stewards).



Criteria for selection may include the following:

- Assessment of past & current performances
- Current position
- Future potential
- Officiating experience and skills
- Technical knowledge of sport
- Personal profile - enthusiasm, integrity, fairness, physical presence (dress etc.), attitude, ability to deal with people, quick thinker
- Availability & punctuality
- Willingness
- Ability to cope with crisis situation and conflict management skills
- Leadership skills
- Team worker

Selection policies should be reviewed regularly to ensure they meet the needs of the sport and the officiating personnel

### Retaining Officials

It is important to have well defined career paths. Steps involved to progress from local to regional to state to national to international level should be clearly outlined. Do not forget that it is important for experienced and competent former officials to remain involved with non-active officiating roles. Some actions that may assist keeping officials involved include:

- Support for new and inexperienced officials.  
How often are officials trained at a seminar and

then "thrown to the wolves" to do the job without any further assistance?

- Appoint the right official to the right event. Give new officials an assistant role with an experienced official.
- Establish a 'buddy' system. This not only helps the new official, but also helps the experienced official too
- Provide leadership opportunities for more experienced officials (job satisfaction)
- Provide a positive learning environment
- Provide feedback on performance
- Assist with strategies to improve performances
- Introduce an appropriate coaching style - positive and supportive
- Have an open communication process
- Have clear selection policies
- **Make officials feel appreciated and that their contribution is valued**

## Combination obstacles

As we of course know, combination fences, more commonly called doubles and triples, consist principally of 2, 3 or more obstacles placed in a line at a distance of 7 mt to 12 mts between the elements. Occasionally we might find a combination built at an inferior distance in certain competitions, such as a hunting class. These are



generally known as "in and out" combinations.

It is essential to remember that the distance between the elements is measured from the rear of the first element to the foot of the second element, and so on, and the choice of distance is dictated by whether the Course Designer wants the horse to take one or two strides between the jumps. The exception to this is naturally the "in and out" obstacle mentioned above, where the distance is insufficient for a stride.

The effort required over combinations built with two strides is not as great as those with a single stride, because they allow the horse more time to recover from any mistake made while negotiating the first or central element.



In general, it is better to use the two stride distance in difficult combinations, such as a double of oxers or those with ditches or water trays, and also when building for young horses. The distance chosen by the Course Designer will depend among other things upon:

- Position of the combination in the arena - if it comes immediately after a turn, it should not be too long;
- Direction: slightly longer when towards the arena entrance, slightly shorter if leading away



from the arena entrance;

- Lay of the ground: shorter if uphill, longer if downhill;
- Height of the obstacles: the distance increases slightly the higher the obstacle;
- Type of competition: slightly longer in speed classes;
- Nature of the ground: shorter if the ground is heavy, longer on good, elastic footing;
- Construction elements: shorter if they are imposing and solid
- Type of elements: inviting, fairly transparent first element (ascending oxer, treble), longer distance: technically demanding first element (planks, square oxer, water tray or ditch), shorter distance;
- Distance from the preceding obstacle: if the combination is part of a line, it will be somewhat shorter, but if it is "stand-alone", it can be a little longer.

It is important to remember that in competitions for young horses, combinations must not pose particular difficulties, and it is especially important that they learn to jump in and above all out of them without fear.

While by their very nature combination obstacles represent one of the principal difficulties along a course, this must never be excessive. A good Course Designer will never accumulate several difficulties at the same combination, for example, a complicated distance between a technical first element and an imposing second element could well cause serious problems for horses and even compromise a promising future. Fortunately a treble bar may now only be used as the first element of a combination.

The questions a Course Designer asks must be distributed all over the course, and not at one specific point.



The following table is useful as a reminder of what are generally accepted to be the "correct" distances for building combinations, but as I have said above, many factors will come into play when deciding. For two-stride combinations, it is necessary to add around 3.00/3.20 mts. If water trays or ditches are used under any of the elements, the distance should be shortened by around 10/20 cms. However in this case, especially if the second or last element is an oxer, I would recommend building with two strides, and preferably towards the arena entrance to assist the horse.

1 <sup>st</sup> Element	Vertical	Parallel oxer	Ascending oxer
Vertical	7.80 - 8.10	7.60 - 7.70	7.50 - 7.60
Parallel oxer	7.50 - 7.60	7.50 - 7.60	7.40 - 7.50
Ascending oxer	7.60 - 7.70	7.60 - 7.70	7.40 - 7.60
Triple bar	7.80 - 8.00	7.70 - 7.80	7.60 - 7.70

I hope that you will not have found this short revision of combination obstacles too simplistic, and that it might help some of you gain better insight into the courses you will be seeing during the 2003 season.

Uliano Vezzani  
([mail@artec-srl.com](mailto:mail@artec-srl.com))

## French edition of new Jumping Rules

Although it is possible to download the French version of the new Jumping rules and its Annexes (in effect as of 1 January 2003) from the FEI website (as well as from [www.ajsosf.com](http://www.ajsosf.com)), A4 paper can hardly be considered a pocket edition! For this reason, the AJSOF has arranged to have the new rules in French published in the traditional FEI rulebook size, with holes punched



for standard small ring binders. It has been available from February at the price of € 7.40.

Please spread the news of this initiative among your colleagues and your national FEI contact judges. For all enquiries regarding purchases,

please contact me via email, or write to the AJJOF, 12 Rue Popincourt, 75011 Paris, France.

Claude Bret  
([c.bret@wanadoo.fr](mailto:c.bret@wanadoo.fr))

## CLARIFICATION of some GR ARTICLES

### Article 160.5 - Status and liability of officials

All Officials at an international event are acting on behalf of the FEI and therefore are not liable financially or otherwise for any acts, omissions or decisions undertaken in good faith in connection with their duties.

Q Who has to cover the consequences of their faults or mistakes? What about civil court actions?

A The FEI has insurance for Officials; however the insurance does not cover negligence.

### Article 162.2.1, 2.3 - Conflict of interest

The owners and riders of horses taking part in the event

Q Is a Judge authorized to officiate in a class where no horses owned by him participate even if he owns horses which are participating in other classes of the event?

A This entire rule must be reviewed by the Working Group to revise the General Regulations. Some NFs would like this rule to be more flexible and others would like it to be more strict.

Close relatives of owners, competitors, Chefs d'Equipe or team Officials

Q What are "close" relatives?

A Close relatives are mother, father, wife, husband, sister, brother, daughter, son. Can also include grandfather/mother, grandchild, cousins.

### Article 163.2, 3, 3.4, 3.5, 4, 4.2, 4.3, 5, 6, 6.4 - Ground jury - Duties

The period of jurisdiction of the Ground Jury commences one hour before the beginning of the first horse inspection and terminates, so far as each discipline is concerned, half an hour after the announcement of the final results in that discipline

Q Why not the same wording, adapted to Appeal Committee, in art 164?

A The language of the rules will be reviewed

The Ground Jury may impose the following penalties on Officials (other than those appointed by the FEI), owners of horses, Persons Responsible, competitors and team Officials

Q "Owners of horses" = horses present at the event or participating in the class?

A Horses participating in the event or in some cases present at the event (e.g.: if a horse that is travelling with other horses participating in the event is the subject of a problem).

Suspension with one or more horses for the following 24 hours of a competitor whose horse has left without permission the restricted area. The horse in question will automatically be disqualified for the rest of the event

Q The same sanction is, for the Ground Jury, foreseen in the SR for show jumping for rapping of horses. Is it possible for the Ground Jury to apply it?

A Rapping should be reported to the Appeal Committee

Immediate disqualification during the competition with a referral to the Appeal Committee if the case is serious.

Q In this case there is no appeal possible? Or is appeal possible by the Judicial Committee?



The Ground Jury shall refer the following to the Appeal Committee	Q	<i>Is it necessary to impose disqualification during the competition before referring the case (if is serious) to the Appeal Committee?</i>
Any case, within its jurisdiction but which it considers deserving of penalties not in the competence of the Ground Jury		
Any matter under Article 169.1 the decision of which is not immediately required for the purpose of judging a competition and which, having regard to its primary duty to judge the competitions, it deems more appropriate to be dealt with by the Appeal Committee		<i>Appeal Committee (see art 164 § 5.1) can also do it, to Secretary General for the Judicial Committee without taking the decision of disqualification from the event.</i>
A		No appeal is possible against a decision taken by the AC from an appeal against a decision taken by the GJ. If the case was referred to the AC without a decision having been taken, then it is possible to appeal to the CAS. It is not necessary to impose disqualification. The Ground Jury may refer the case to the Appeal Committee (163.4.2) Yes. Art 164.5.1 gives the AX the possibility to pass the JC without disqualifying.
Decisions must be notified in writing to the parties concerned. Cases involving penalties must be recorded by the Foreign Judge	Q	<i>Oral is not longer enough?</i>
A		Must be written
There may be an objection under Art 167, but there is no appeal against decisions of the Ground Jury in the following cases:		
Immediate disqualification during a competition	Q	<i>What is the difference between "immediate" disqualification and disqualification?</i>
A		Immediate disqualification is applied for 163.6.1 where there is no interpretation of the rules.

## All's well that ends well...

It was around 1.00 pm on the third day of the show. Everything was going well during this extremely well organized CSI-C, until a German rider fell heavily when her horse tripped on landing after a simple vertical fence.

The show doctor was on the spot immediately, and the emergency services followed his

instructions impeccably. The rider, who had a broken collarbone, was transported without delay to the nearest hospital. The whole incident was dealt with in copybook fashion –



who could ask for more?

About 30 minutes later, the President of the OC knocked on the door of the jury box, and came in accompanied by two Gendarmes.

"Who is responsible here?" they enquired in a less than civil tone.

I was President of the Ground Jury, but not of the class in progress, so I introduced myself to them. I will spare you the details of the interrogation that I was subjected to (I doubt whether true criminals are treated any worse), but I will be more precise regarding the nature of the enquiry that our 2 representatives of the law felt if necessary to conduct

- Who are you?
  - Prove to me that you have the necessary qualifications to judge this competition
  - Do you have a document that proves you are an international judge?
  - How can you be sure that the injured rider has the necessary capability to participate in this competition?
  - And the horse? Was it in a fit state to compete?
  - Was it qualified to compete?
- and so on...

Fortunately, as I mentioned above, this show was remarkably well organized. I was able to show



them the German NF's fax of their entries, the approved schedule detailing the characteristics of each class, and the horse's passport, stamped listing all the events where it had competed. The FEI Veterinary Delegate confirmed that the Horse Inspection had taken place in a regular fashion and that the horse had passed with flying colours. The Gendarmes left, apparently satisfied (for the moment...)

But is this always the case? Do you always have at your disposal the means to support the answers to the questions that were posed during this incident?

Is it really as unnecessary to have a sound knowledge of the rules as some claim? Is it really

as unnecessary to have as many competent Judges at each show as some of us would assert? Is our interest in all aspects of event security as tedious as some would lead us to believe?

This story brings to the forefront the possibility of our involvement with the law in the event of even a minor accident.

*Fortunately our colleague was able to manage the situation in a satisfactory manner, but – especially in lower level events (both international and – above all – national events) would he have been so lucky?*

Our thanks to the French Judges Association (AJSO) for allowing us to use this article.

## Appointments

Our congratulations to ISJC members who have been appointed by the FEI to officiate at international jumping Finals/Championships during 2003.

European Championships (Seniors)	Sven Holmberg (Swe)	President GJ
	Jan Willem Koerner (Ned)	President AC
European Championships (YR)	Rogier van Iersel (Ned)	President GJ
European Championships (J)	Jean-Loup Caplain (Fra)	President GJ
European Championships (Ponies)	Dervilla Campbell-Grieve (Irl)	Member GJ
	Ronan Sugrue (Irl)	Member GJ
	Kirsten Barnow (Swe)	TD
Pan American Games	François Ferland (Can)	President GJ
	Guilherme Sarmiento (Bra)	President AC
NA & American YR Championships	David Distler (Usa)	President GJ
World Cup Finals	David Distler (Usa)	President GJ
	François Ferland (Can)	Foreign Judge
Breeding Championships (Lanaken)	Francis Michielsens (Bel)	President GJ
	Handried Haring (Ger)	Member GJ

## The Last Word

Firstly - on behalf of the Communications Group - I would like to thank all of you who have renewed your subscription for 2003, as well as those who have joined us since the last Newsletter was sent. I know that some of you had to try several times to execute payment via the website before it went through successfully: the procedure can sometimes be a bit temperamental. And for those who have not yet renewed - we **really** hope we haven't lost you!

I recently emailed all members a copy of the December 2002 General Assembly minutes,

together with the current Members Directory. If for any reason you have not received that email, or are having problems opening the attachment, please contact me. More importantly, if there are any errors in the Directory (inaccurate email address, name spelled incorrectly or wrong qualification) please let me know: I will make all necessary corrections and send the amended version in a couple of months.

In the next few weeks we will be sending out the 2003 Membership cards. We are a little late on these this year not only because we have been redesigning the format, but also because we have been looking for someone to print them on plastic credit-card sized cards for a reasonable price. We



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have finally found a good resource, and will be putting the cards into production in the next few days. For those of you who have not yet emailed me your photograph, you will receive the card printed with your name only.

We hope that you have enjoyed our seventh Newsletter, and look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions for future editions.

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Si vous préférez recevoir la version française du newsletter de ISJC, envoyez une e-mail à **Sietske**.

**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!**