



International Show Jumping Officials Club

Club des Officiels Internationaux de Saut d'Obstacles

www.isjc.com

E-Newsletter

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Introduction

Before anything else, I would like to apologise for the delay in preparing and sending you this second Newsletter of 2004. The fact that it is becoming increasingly more of a challenge to gather suitable and interesting content material coupled with the fact that since the Milan General Assembly I have been extremely busy are the causes, if not the justification! As so often happens, we have gone from struggling to assemble sufficient articles to having to decide which ones to include: appropriate topics seem to behave like busses – for wait for one for twenty minutes, then three come along together.

Our French-language members will be pleased to learn that hopefully all our translations problems have been solved, and that this Newsletter will shortly be produced for them in French. NL 10 will follow before too long. Hopefully you will appreciate that it is not merely a question of finding someone to do a translation, but that "someone" has to be not only extremely capable of writing well in French, but also familiar with the equestrian world. If any of our readers has a proposal (or, indeed, wishes to offer his or her services directly!), please contact me or Claude Bret urgently.

Perhaps you will have noticed that we have a new logo: it took some time to approve the final version, and we feel that it projects a more modern, fresh image of the ISJC. Our thanks to all those involved in its creation.

Finally, as you will read further on, we now have several Regional Representatives. On behalf of all the Board, I would like to thank them for agreeing to take on this role, and wish them every success in their contacts with current and future members in their areas.

I hope you enjoy this long-awaited Newsletter, and look forward to your comments.

Frances Triulzi
frances@hestri.com



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Milan General Assembly and Seminar



In spite of the fact that these events took place more than four months ago, I would like to thank everyone who made the journey to Milan for their time and effort, and express the hope that they found it worth their while. Our Israeli friends have written an article on their impressions and experience (I am most grateful to them). For the record, I have taken note of the points they feel could have been improved and will endeavour to ensure that, where possible or appropriate, this will be the case on future occasions.

On behalf of all ISJC members, I would like to thank the President of the Italian Federation, Cesare Croce, and the Italian NF itself, for the generosity extended to the Club. The opportunity to enter the venue on complimentary tickets was appreciated by one and all, as was the fact that – in spite of his packed schedule during the World Cup Finals - Cesare was able to find the time to come to our General Assembly on Sunday morning to welcome us personally.

Our unanimous thanks also to Frits Sluyter and Fritz Otto-Erley for their excellent presentations, and to Paul Weier and Eleonora Ottaviani for permitting (the former) and facilitating (the latter) the entry of our large group into the restricted area for Fritz's practical presentation. Now that this "Oscar acceptance speech" is over, I am pleased to inform you that the minutes of the Milan General Assembly and .pdf format files of the two presentations will be available in the members' area of the ISJC website.

We all very much hope that you will be able to make the trip to Bordeaux in February 2005 for the 2004 General Assembly. By all accounts, it is a wonderful World Cup show, the hotel accommodation caters for all budgets, and we are in the process of organizing a seminar that should prove most interesting. In the meantime, your suggestions for topics to be included or for discussion are most welcome.

Frances Triulzi
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Appointment of ISJC Regional Representatives

As a result the decision taken by the members present at the ISJC General Assembly in Milan in April 2004, the following members have accepted to act as regional representatives.



Mary Binks (Kenya) abinks@swiftkenya.com	Bernardo Lopez Davidson (El Salvador) berny_lopez_d@navigante.com.sv
Kazuya Hirayama (Japan) kazuya@kobe-hirayama.co.jp	Paul Pereech (Bermuda) peerech@northrock.bm
Nigel King (Hong Kong) kingnm@glink.net.hk	

Hopefully their appointment will facilitate contact between members in their areas, and encourage other colleagues to join the Club.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for accepting, and wish them success in their efforts to promote the Club.



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Report on the ISJC Seminar and World Cup Final in Milan, April 2004

As judges from a small NF, where it is hard to keep in touch with international activities, we found the ISJC seminar extremely interesting and educational, and we greatly enjoyed watching the Final of the World Cup. We only see top level jumping on Eurosport, not the real thing. The ISJC is to be congratulated on finding such top class lecturers for the seminar. Both lecturers were outstanding. We were impressed, not only by the depth of their knowledge and experience, but also by their enthusiasm for their respective subjects, which not even the heat wave could diminish.

Dr. Frits Sluyter, Manager of the FEI Veterinary Department, lectured on the responsibilities of the Veterinarians at FEI events – the Veterinary Commission, the treating veterinarian, and private veterinarians working for competitors, and the responsibility of the PR to declare any treatment given in the days prior to the event. His lecture covered medication control, treatments that are permitted, but must be declared, horse inspections and veterinary examinations at the event, the concept of “fitness to compete”, the holding box and re-inspections, and the procedure for handling emergency treatment of the horse at the event.

Mr. Fritz Otto-Erley, Steward General of the German Equestrian Federation gave a lecture on Stewarding in the Schooling Arena, followed by a practical demonstration of how obstacles should/should not be built, in the obstacle storage area at the showground. His lecture covered the tasks of the stewards, their attitude to the competitors, the difference between stewarding in the schooling area and in the collecting ring, and the rules for Walking Obstacles. In addition to these excellent lectures, we would have liked to also have the opportunity to discuss judging problems with the other ISJC members.

The GA on Sunday morning was short, to-the-point, and very polite. So this is how it is done in Europe.... We greatly enjoyed watching the competitions at the World Cup Final, and thank the Italian Equestrian Federation for organizing the event, with the sponsorship of Sony Ericsson, and for giving the ISJC members free tickets, and providing a very efficient shuttle service, to and from our hotel, and even to the airport, on our way home.

We seem to have been the only judges who arrived in time to watch the first section of the World Cup competition. We were glad that we did, as, surprisingly, a few of the most fancied competitors got no further. We saw some high-class performances over the four days of the event. It was a pity that there wasn't a larger audience on the first three days of the event, as the full house on the final day of the World Cup added considerably to the atmosphere of the show. Naturally, we would have preferred the winner to be one of the three elegant lady riders who finished in the top six. The ISJC Committee members were our hosts at a luncheon on the Saturday. This was our only opportunity to talk to a number of the other participants. We suggest that next time, an informal get-together be held before the start of the seminar.

We would have liked to receive information on arrival at the hotel: where to get our tags, which areas of the showground the tags allowed us to enter, details of the shuttle service, where and when the ISJC meetings would be held, what other facilities were available in the area (such as a café, supermarket), and the phone number of an Italian-speaking member of the Committee or of the Italian NF, in case any problems occurred.

We hope that the two German participants, Jacqueline Schmieder and Brigitte Nowak, arrived home safely in their battered Mercedes, without any further traumatic incidents.

*Anne Horenstein
Galit Juli, Eva Oster, Michelle Haran
Israel Equestrian Federation*



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FEI Appointments of ISJC Members

Our congratulations to the following members who have received FEI appointments, as published in Bulletin 03-04.

2004 Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Lanaken	
Jon Doney	Foreign Judge
Balkan Championships	
Peter Herchel	President of the Ground Jury
Rakshan Radpour	Technical Delegate
Lena Levidis	Appeal Committee
North American YR Championships & Americas YR Championships	
Jack Robinson	President of the Ground Jury
European Pony Championships	
Joop van Dijk	Ground Jury Member

The Horse Inspection

By Kees Vellenga (originally published in the 1st IEOC [International Eventing Officials Club] Newsletter – May 2004).



Although this article deals with Horse Inspections for the discipline of Eventing, I feel it makes interesting reading for show jumping officials as well. I hope you enjoy it and would like to thank the IEOC for allowing us to use it in our NL.
Frances Triulzi

"During the interesting Top Officials Course and "brainstorming" sessions at Pratoni, Rome, conducted by the FEI Committee and the IEOC on 28-29 February

2004, much was learned, communicated and exchanged. Elsewhere in the bulletin there is a report on the seminar and the decisions taken.

I want to go into one small aspect of this course, mainly because I was chosen as one of the guinea pig officials, together with Angela Tucker and Christoph Hess, and an official FEI Vet from Italy. That was the trot-up – the horse (veterinary) inspection. There were five school horses. The first one was very interesting: he was not completely clear. Instantly we, as Ground Jury, had the choice out of four: to accept, trot again, send to the holding box or reject. We had a 15 second discussion and accepted him. The second horse was sound. The third was a bit more unlevel than the first, and we decided that this was our borderline. We sent him to the holding box. There it appeared that indeed the horse had an old injury which caused him no harm, and upon representing he seemed OK – also to the public (spectators) – which is very important. The last horse was stiff all over, but not unlevel. This sometimes happens with old soldiers in Eventing and I think they can be allowed to run without harm! After the inspection our act was judged by the whole group of 50 officials. Mainly they agreed with our decisions, but the discussion pinpointed on the first horse.

- Quite a few stated that the horse should have been trotted a second time. The rider representatives were also of this opinion. In our opinion it was not correct, since the horse was well presented and was just slightly off. A second run would have focussed the attention of the public of his slight problem and would sow a seed of doubt with the Ground Jury. He would not have been expected to have been better, so we had to make the decision now!



- A few people stated that the horse should have been sent to the holding box. Sure! That was the first thought that flashed through our minds, and also in our discussion. However, you would then create a very tight standard, and many would be sent to the holding box.

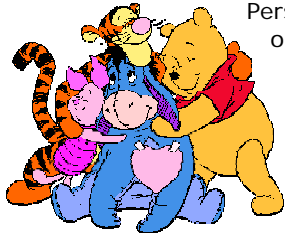


Our main concern is to prevent horses, untrained or suffering discomfort in their joints, to compete in Eventing. Eventing requires ultimate fitness of the horse, and an all-round ability to perform every aspect of equestrianism. Some horses have a history, which shows but does no harm. It is our task to distinguish these things. In case of any doubt, please decide for the good of the horse. We are lucky the veterinarians are on our side.

It is paramount that we decide both fairly and quickly. Try to avoid lengthy discussions with your colleagues. It is useful to have a discussion between the Ground Jury and the veterinarians before the horse inspection and to set the standard. Then clear swift decisions can be made."

The point of view of one International judge – Ceasar von Walzel's reply

I refer to the article from IJRC, by Emile Hendrix & Eleonora Ottaviani, regarding the "relationship" between Riders and judges. "*Judges and Riders: cats & dogs or best buddies??*", published in our (ISJC) Newsletter in August 03.



Personally I welcome and appreciate the article very much and it gives an excellent opportunity to discuss mutual matters in a collegial and professional way.

As I am not aware of any answer to the IJRC or the writers from ISJC I take the opportunity to make a personal reflection, also wishing to be able to keep up the dialogue and good initiative from IJRC. Sorry for the very late answer!

My comments:

It must be favorable to all parties and finally to our sport to have an open and collegial dialogue amongst ourselves. I must say that I approve of many of your points and certainly understand most of them. I hope to be able to bring a view of "the other side" as clearly and diplomatically as the Riders' representatives did. I will express my comments in the same order as your article.

The headline can be understood as two questions. The answer to both questions must be NO! The first part is obvious. If we are antagonists we can but do harm to each other, an event and finally the sport. The second part would be nice to say yes to, but as we know, nobody can be "best buddies" with everybody. Best buddy with *some* riders could easily lead to an uncomfortable suspicion of eventual biased interpretation in certain cases. That is not to happen. I think mutual respect and dignity would be a very good co-operation ground.

Officials, and especially judges, should definitely not be pompous and act as though infallible, and should be better listeners and more diplomatic in some cases. Riders (and other persons representing them) should also stick to similar acceptable behavior, which also could avoid many clashes. I am in perfect agreement with you that nobody should abuse his/her position.

It is certainly good for judges to be reminded of the reasons and stakes involved at a higher level and that it is not (only) an amusement to participate. It is my understanding that most judges appreciate and understand that fact and also understand the tension felt by riders, especially before a class. The reason for taking part in a show is certainly different for riders and judges. I believe that most judges are enthusiasts, who have found their way of being a part of the equestrian world. Judges have no economical interest, and do not get paid. (Cost coverage of course).



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When things do not run smoothly, it is difficult to find a general way of acting, as all cases are more or less unique. Naturally the attitude towards and respect for those involved should not degenerate. Sometimes, a judge must act immediately, at others he can wait. To have the mutual will to discuss "over a cup of coffee" is naturally productive.

Just one example is that the judges, in addition to following the rules, have an animal protection duty too. If, for instance, in front of spectators an abuse of the horse occurs, such as excessive whipping, most likely the rider will be asked to come to the judges' box by the announcer. The main reason is in order that the spectators realize that something is being done. To be able to discuss afterwards is of course most welcome.



Judges should, and will, understand that a decision can hamper – or benefit – a rider substantially. That fact should, however, never affect his fairness and regard for the rules. Sometimes there might be options that can be discussed, sometimes a decision is – must be - made in fractions of a second. That puts a great demand on the judges and their abilities, and also great pressure sometimes. Judges are not (or should not be) pompous, unmistakable, prominent people. They are human beings too, and quite capable of making a mistake. Such cases should also be possible to discuss with same earlier mentioned dignity and understanding. Maybe in some in cases mistakes are difficult to admit. In my opinion a judge is mature when a mistake can be admitted (because they occur) and he is doing his best to correct it. Your description of a good judge I can agree with fully. Only the phrase of applying the rules is a bit sensitive, as some rules give the possibility of interpreting while others do not. The sense of your argument I find totally correct.

Your example however, regarding 30 minutes time for an objection and just few minutes of delay, leads to the question; how much delay is acceptable? 5 minutes, maybe 10? And next time, as delays obviously is accepted, maybe 35 minutes? And then we end up in uncertainty and different interpretations. I think your proposal of prolonging to 1 hour should be seriously looked at.

Your last example, of letting the rider wait too long for the bell in the arena.

I do not know one judge who lets the rider wait in the arena on purpose. Unforeseen circumstances however do occur. It can be technical; it can be something not clear in the arena or the result of the previous rider, etc. If TV or other schedules intervene, we hope not to have the rider in the arena while waiting, so we are fully in agreement on this matter too. Having said that, sometimes judges wait for the long preparation time it takes for some riders to stick to rule of saluting. Also in that case our watchword is "priority to the sport"!

I repeat my appreciation for your initiative to start this dialogue and hope that this is only the beginning and it could be more frequent. Specific matters and general development of both rules and interpretations will most likely arise and I at least welcome the Riders / Judges dialogue very much.

Finally, I suggest that the IJRC and ISJC could mutually invite a representative from the respective clubs to participate at least at the yearly general assemblies in order to have a more "official" cooperation.

I stress that these are my personal opinions and not an answer from our club.

Wishing success to your club and your members I remain with
Kindest regards

Caesar von Walzel
International Judge
Finland



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Stewarding, MCP and boots and bandages control

An integral part of the stewards' role is to assist the veterinarians in charge of both the Medication Control Programme and, when necessary, boots and bandage control and. Although these two activities might not be undertaken at every show, nevertheless one or the other – or indeed both – is ever more frequent. It is therefore worthwhile examining some important aspects of good stewarding in similar circumstances.



Let us firstly deal with the boots and bandages control. The Veterinary Rules clearly outline how the procedure is to be carried out. While it is not necessary for a Veterinarian to be present at the control point itself, he or she must be informed and available at the drop of a hat in the event of any problems. In top-level competitions (Olympics, Championships etc), however, it is probable that the stewards will not be the people checking the horses; in general, members of the Veterinary Commission do this themselves. In this case, the stewards are present to assist the Vets, by ensuring that the correct horses are called to the control point, that a list is kept of the results of the check, that the control point itself is kept clean and clear of any debris, and other such tasks. It is not the job of the stewards to tell the Vets how to go about the business of checking the horses limbs, boots, bandages or tack.

Assisting the Testing Vet is a role that is regularly undertaken by stewards, especially in Groups I and II where the Medication Control Programme is in effect. It is essential to remember that – since the introduction of dope testing – much time, effort and patience have been invested by the Testing Vets in order to win round the majority of competitors and grooms and get them to submit their horses for testing with a modicum of grace. Stewards too have played a major role in this acceptance: in most cases, they are the people who break the news to the competitor that his horse has been selected for testing, and it is they who accompany the horse at all times before consigning it to the Testing Vet, often remaining in situ until the completion of the testing procedure. It can be time-consuming, as the horse does not just leave the competition arena and go straight to the doping boxes. Especially in warmer climates, it is permitted that the horse be cooled off, allowed to drink and washed down before being accompanied to the MCP boxes. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that certain horses will not even see the inside of the dedicated MCP box: the ever-increasing number of stallions in competition sometimes means that the more difficult customers will be tested in their own stable where – with a bit of luck – in a familiar environment they will at least not try to kill the Testing Vet or run the risk of seriously injuring themselves!

Testing Vets are highly professional people who are briefed regularly on how to carry out what is expected of them. They know when to use flexibility, and when to adhere to the rules. We must work with them and we must learn from them. As with the Vets who check boots and bandages, the role of the steward is to assist, not to tell them how to do their job.

Common sense, a friendly approach and horsemanship must be the thread that runs through all stewarding activities. Stewards are not policemen. They are Officials who know the rules, and must work **with** these rules in the attempt to provide a level playing field for all competitors on all occasions, from the lowly one-star event to the heights of the Olympic Games or World Championships, allowing all participants – riders, grooms, owners, trainers **and** Officials - to fulfil their roles with maximum efficiency and serenity. The right attitude – a smile, politeness, understanding, cooperation, a “please” and a “thank you” – will go a long way to ensure that the job gets done with a minimum of stress.

Frances Triulzi
(frances@hestri.com)



Veterinary Matters

1. Update on Testing Issues

Recently our Medication Control Programme has reported several cases of tests, in which low concentrations of sedatives were found in competition horses. In this respect the substances Acepromazine, Detomidine, Reserpine, Fluphenazine and Guanabenz have been detected.

These substances are being used, in low dosages, to improve the manageability of "hot" horses and are therefore regarded as serious attempts to influence the performance of the horse by medication. Several of the above substances have no regular place in the horse and are considered as serious infringements of the FEI medication rules. In addition, a substance such as Acepromazine can have a long detection time.

Apparently many riders, trainers or veterinarians were under the impression that horses treated in this way would not test positive. This is not the case. More than seven cases have already entered the legal system of the FEI in a few months, which indicates that the use of these substances is widespread.

Riders, trainers and veterinarians should be alerted to the fact that these cases are seen as serious attempts to influence the performance level of the horse.

(from the FEI website)

2. Authorization of treatment with altrenogest

The General Assembly approved a proposed rule change enable the treatment of mare with excessive oestrus behaviour with Regumate® (altrenogest), under the following conditions:

1. only for mares
2. at the manufacturer's recommended dosage and
3. after completion of Medication Form 2. This permission, as is the case for gastric ulcer treatment, will be reviewed annually.

To this effect, a new version of Form 2 has been designed and will shortly be sent out to FEI Veterinary Officials. Testing laboratories are advised to report any altrenogest positives to the FEI, although the test result will not be followed up by judicial action. The FEI would like to monitor the number of altrenogest positive test results to get a better idea how much this medication is being used.

3. FEI requirements for Equine Influenza vaccinations

The recommendation by the FEI Veterinary Committee, advising to move from an annual booster vaccination to bi-annual vaccinations (once per six months) was approved by the General Assembly. This means that as from 1 January 2005, all horses participating in FEI competitions should have received a booster vaccination within 6 months prior to the event. The year 2005 will be used to get riders and vets used to the new system by only issuing warnings in case the new requirements have not been met. Only as from 1 January 2006 will sanctions be applicable similar to the current sanctions for infringements of the influenza requirements. "

Our thanks to Dr Frits Sluyter for allowing us to use the text from the FEI Vet Department Quarterly News (items 2 & 3)



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Current Projects of the ISJC

- A Board meeting in October 2004
- The ISJC brochure: a leaflet for distribution among potential members, informing them about the Club, its activities, and how to join
- The ISJC tie and scarf
- Preparation of the General Assembly, to be held in Bordeaux on 6 February 2005
- Preparation of the Seminars, to be held in Bordeaux on 5 February 2005

The Last Word

Finally, many of you might well be wondering why there has not been an article about the Bettina Hoy incident during last month's Athens Olympics. The explanation is simple: those whose responsibility it is within the ISJC to monitor FEI activity resulting from similar circumstances are doing so, and the Club does not wish to officially comment and, even more importantly, provide clear indications on how to deal with so-called "false starts" until these are forthcoming from the FEI itself.

We hope you have enjoyed NL 11: please let us have your comments.

The Communications Group

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!