



INTERNATIONAL EVENTING OFFICIALS CLUB

E - Newsletter
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Communication Group:

Jean Mitchell, co-editor and translations: E-mail: jeans.mitchell@virgin.net

Anne-Mette Binder, co-editor and distributor: E-mail: binder-struck@private.dk

Contents:

Welcome by Richard Meade, chairman of the IEOC
IEOC regional meetings 2004
FEI Action Plan Russia, Belarus and Ukraine
Regional Representative RUS, BLR, UKR and LIT
Development in Asia / South East Asia and South Africa
The Horse Inspection
Doping rumours
IEOC Regional Meeting held at Badminton Friday 30th April 2004
2004 Concept Eventing Courses
Number of Efforts in the new format
New FEI-representatives
FEI Reports and Forms
New FEI Eventing Memorandum
New Dressage tests for 2005
New Era for Pera - PERA is changing!
Development of Dressage judging
Is this a record?
Next edition

Welcome by Richard Meade

Welcome to the first E-Newsletter of the International Eventing Officials Club. We hope it will make interesting reading and will stimulate communication between our members, and with the FEI Secretariat and ERA. Collectively, our members have a vast wealth of knowledge on all aspects of Eventing, throughout the world. So often this knowledge is not shared sufficiently, and I believe the IEOC is the forum to encourage this to happen. Seminars provide that opportunity for the sharing of experiences for some, but through the internet our Club can provide valuable co-ordination of information and knowledge, from all our members, and communicate it speedily and widely. This first newsletter is a great start and our thanks are due to those who have worked hard to get it off the ground - to Anne-Mette Binder, and Jean Mitchell. They are keen to have your comments, and contributions for future editions will be most welcome.

IEOC regional meetings 2004

- BADMINTON, UK. There will be a Regional meeting at Badminton Horse Trials on Friday April 30, 2004, in the Director's Tent, after the dressage. Minutes will be on the IEOC website soon.
- TAUPO, New Zealand. Thursday, May 13, 2004, after the Dressage. Contact the IEOC Regional Representative Peter Herrick at: hoof-toof@xtra.co.nz
- PUNCHESTOWN, Ireland - Friday, June 4, 2004, organised by Lord Carew: carewcelia@hotmail.com and David Lee: dublindleee@yahoo.ie
- MALMØ, Sweden/Scandinavian group. As usual during the CIC3*-W Ribersborg July 16.-18. More details and exact date will be announced in the near future. Contact the IEOC Regional Representative Anne-Mette Binder: binder-struck@private.dk
- PAU, France during the Final of the CIC-W on Friday 22nd October 2004. Contact the Regional Representative: frlucas@club-internet.fr
- FAIRHILL, USA - Due to the poor attendance at the meeting at Kentucky, Wayne Quarles will organise a further meeting at Fairhill, in October. Details from: waynequarles@aol.com

FEI Action Plan - Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania

As a result of analyses of the development assistance given to Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania, by the FEI, it appears that a real potential exists for a long-lasting development project in the 2004 season. Goals and methods have been described, and the following persons will be responsible to run the project in each country:

Ronald Alexander (GBR)	FEI Advisor CD
Christian Zehe (GER)	FEI Advisor CB
Guy Otheguy (FRA) or Francois Lucas (FRA)	FEI Advisor Judges
J.-P. Camboulives (FRA)	Tutor Courses for Coaches level I and debriefing with trainers and riders
Andrew Griffiths (GBR)	FEI Advisor and Coordinator of the project debriefing with trainers and riders

WELCOME to the New Regional Representative for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania:

The IEOC wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new Regional Representative - **Ms Katerina Veronova** from Moscow - who will be representing Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania. She has acted as TD at Russian and Belarussian eventing competitions over the last five years. In 2004 Ms Veronova, who owns an eventing club in Moscow, will act as TD in Moscow and Minsk at the CCI*/**'s and as assistant TD at Blair Castle and Blenheim, in the UK.

Development in Asia / SE Asia and South Africa

By Jennifer Millar:

The Development officers Andrew Griffiths (Eastern Europe), Jose Ortelli (South/Central America) and myself, Jennifer Millar (Asia/South Africa), met in Italy in February with Jacqueline Braissant, FEI Development Project Manager, and Jean-Philippe Camboulives, a member of the FEI Development Working Group.

I am now the contact person in my region, as the FEI have taken over the Development Officers responsibility. I have been doing this job for about 9 years - initially in South America and then Asia / SE Asia and South Africa. The status on the development in Asia / SE Asia and South Africa is as follows:

China:

Eventing will be part of the Chinese National games in 2005 - so the Chinese Equestrian Association is having an Event in June 2004. In the Southern province Trudy Boyce from NZ (ex silver medalist WG Gawler) is going to coach a team from there, in May 2004, in preparation for the Event in June.

South Africa:

I went to South Africa in October 2003 and Directed a Level 1 seminar. This was the first Eventing Seminar in South Africa and 22 officials from South Africa, Botswana & Swaziland attended. South Africans feel isolated, and so far have only been involved at National Level, but after this Seminar they are planning to run a CIC*.

They have quite a few National Events. I attended several of these, and they have a good number of riders at the One Star Level.

Malaysia:

They have a 4year plan and this year they are going to run 4 Cross Country training days, and are aiming to have a CIC* in 2004 and also in 2005. They are targeting young riders and juniors for coaching. They were competitive in 2001, and held the South East Asian Games in Malaysia, but after that there seemed to be a loss of interest. However, in 2003 they organised several training days for X/C at Novice level and an excellent A level 1 Eventing Course was held, presented by **Tom Pantapa** (Thailand).

One of their riders **Husref Malek** who has competed in both Australia and NZ, is hoping to get his remaining qualifying result so he may be considered for Athens.

Indonesia:

They held 3 National Events at Novice level in 2003. In 2004 the Indonesian National Games being held in September 2004 are going to include Eventing. At least 6 Provinces will participate. Tom Pantapa has assisted as an Official in Indonesia.

India:

India had a CCI** in 2003. 2 Officials from NZ, Susan O'Brien (TD) and Nicoli Fife (Judge) officiated there.

They also had another CCI later in the year, when Mike Creber designed the course for them. It is hoped that their Indian Rider - **Intiaz Anees** - who completed at the OG 2000 and WEG 2002, will qualify for Athens. He is at present competing in the USA.

Thailand:

Thailand are concentrating their efforts on Coaching in 2004. They have, through their NOC, applied for coaching from the Olympic Solidarity fund.

All their funding has been targeted towards **Ponsiree Bunluewong** getting qualified to compete at Athens.

The Horse Inspection

By Kees Vallenga

During the interesting TOP Officials Course and 'brain storming' sessions at Pratoni, Rome, conducted by the FEI Committee and the IEOC on 28th – 29th February 2004, much was learned, communicated and exchanged. Elsewhere in the bulletin there is a report on the TOS 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 okay - also to the public (spectators) - which is very important. The last horse was stiff all over, but not unlevel. This sometimes happens with old soliders 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 on 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 equitation. 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 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 Veterinarian before the horse inspection and to set the standard. Then, clear swift decisions can be made.

One more issue I want to mention in this article. The Vet Check at FEI one day events. At present there is a very good and straight forward ruling for this check. During dressage the official veterinarian inspects the horses. Doubtful cases can be discussed after the dressage, when the judges have seen the horses in action. I would certainly support this. No need whatever to organise special inspections.

Doping rumours

The FEI Veterinary Committee has responded to an article in the Daily Telegraph [UK] in March 2004, about the possible use of herbal calmers and tranquillisers in the dressage part of Eventing, with the purpose of improving the performance of the horses. Some of the conclusions were that:

- The Veterinary Committee of the FEI has been aware of these rumours since July 2003. It has taken steps to investigate these allegations, but as yet has no positive proof that any such drugs are being used.
- The steps undertaken by the Veterinary Committee include:
 - alerting the Bureau (the main policy Committee for the FEI that meets twice a year) to the seriousness of these rumours;

increasing the level of testing at high profile events;
taking advice from the FEI Medication Sub Committee, on what sort of agents might be being used;
ensuring that the specific categories of drugs likely to cause these effects can be detected by the FEI analytical laboratories;
investigating various avenues of research in an attempt to pursue further awareness of investigation;
continuing a programme of heightened vigilance in association with the Eventing Committee over the next few months.

The FEI Veterinary Committee is determined to establish the truth behind these rumours that could so seriously tarnish the sport of Eventing
Facts about medication control in the FEI:

SAMPLING - up to 2000 samples are collected per year for testing; about 1300 of these are from Europe (FEI Groups 1 and 2) and the remainder from events in the rest of the world. Blood and urine samples are collected by an experienced vet who follows a careful protocol to ensure that no tampering of the samples can occur.

EVENTING – There has been no demonstrable increase in the positive rate in any discipline, including Eventing, over the last 12 months, nor in the types of positives detected.

The medication control programme in the FEI is kept as transparent as possible and the results disseminated widely within the FEI, and its participating disciplines.

IEOC Regional Meeting held at Badminton 30th April 2004

29 members from NZL, IRL, AUS, GB, FRA, and NED were present.

As chairman of the IEOC, Richard Meade opened the meeting by extending a welcome to all present, and especially to the guests - Wayne Roycroft as Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, Carl Bouckaert and to the FEI Vets - Fritz Sluyter and John McEwen. Many interesting themes concerning our sport were on the agenda. Amongst those were:

Report from Wayne Roycroft on changes for 2005 and general news

Veterinary recommendations from Fritz Sluyter, Manager of the Veterinary Department of the FEI

Update on the 2004 Olympic Games

Number of dressage judges at CIC's

Warm-up areas

Horse and Rider qualifications

The future of WEG

Read the minutes on the IEOC website: www.i-eoc.org

2004 Concept for Eventing Courses

The FEI Eventing Committee has reviewed the programme and content of all the courses for officials, and is endeavouring now to produce a rolling two-year programme of courses, to enable all officials to more easily:

- attend courses with minimal expense
- keep up to date with the latest developments in the sport
- maintain or upgrade their status on the FEI lists of Officials

There is a need to keep attracting **NEW** officials into the sport and it is hoped that it will also be easier for NF's to organise courses.

The Committee recognises that it can be difficult for officials to attend courses because of prior commitments, and so the FEI is asking NF's to look ahead and offer to organise courses up to two years in advance.

Please visit www.i-eoc.org for further information concerning principles, dates and venues of the courses 2004 and approved Course Directors.

Number of Efforts in the NEW format

With the new formats of CCI with steeplechase and roads & tracks, CCI without steeplechase and roads & tracks and CIC with the shorter XC distance, particularly in CIC's and CNC's, CD's and TD's are at the moment thinking about whether the intensity of efforts may get above where it should be.

Therefore suggestions have been put forward to the regions as follows:

For CCI's - an average of 4 efforts per minute (or 1 every 15 seconds)

For CIC's - an average of 5 efforts per minute (or 1 every 12 seconds)

For CCI's the feeling is that there would need to be a maximum.

A very interesting discussion, which will hopefully find it's conclusion during 2004.

New FEI-representatives

During the FEI General Assembly in Paris, 16.-22. of April the following appointments have been made:

Mr David O'Connor (USA) replaces Dr Giuseppe Della Chiesa (ITA) as member of the Eventing Committee. **Dr Della Chiesa** was confirmed as a co-opted member for 2004-2003 in order to continue his consultancy work for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, the Eventing Safety Programme and the Eventing World Cup;

Mr Carl Bouckaert (BEL) will replace **Mr Eddy Stibbe** (AHO) as the riders' representative on the Eventing Committee.

Don't forget the Fall Reports, Medical Reports and Course description Forms!

Every acting official is aware of the various forms and reports that come with the job as CD, TD or GJ member. Sometimes we find it tiring after an event to have to fill them out – or to make sure that the person responsible will do it. The FEI Eventing department is doing a great job to make sure, that every official receives the forms by post, often months before the events. However, should we forget, where we've put them, we can always find a fresh copy on the FEI web-site! To continue the work with the FEI Safety Program it is absolutely **essential** that these reports and forms are filled in accurately, and sent back to the FEI, **immediately** after the event!

New FEI Eventing Memorandum

Tony McPherson has updated the memorandum, which is available on the FEI web-site: www.horsesport.org and then click on to

Reference

Rules

Rulebooks

Eventing

Included now are Stabling **Guidelines** and the Jurisdiction of the Judges.

New FEI Eventing Dressage tests 2005

Christoph Hess and Chris Bartle have designed 8 new 2005 dressage tests for eventing - at all levels. The philosophy behind the proposed new tests was discussed with the **Christoph Hess** [unfortunately Chris Bartle could not attend] and the Judges, Trainers and Top Riders who attended the FEI Eventing Top Officials Seminar at Pratoni, in February 2004. There will be two tests for each star level. They will be lettered A and B. A will be easier than B at each level. For the One Star level, Christoph Hess and Chris Bartle have designed two short tests. For the two and three star levels, they have chosen different versions. The one and two star tests will be ridden with **no** salute at the beginning.

The existing four star test will become the "A" version, where the walk movement has been shortened. The new test will become the "B" version. It has two 'half passes' in canter, and Christoph and Chris have suggested four flying changes. This test will be the most 'advanced' test - at "Olympic Level" - hopefully, for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

In all tests it is the **riders** decision to ride the **medium trot** 'sitting or rising'.

At the one-star level, only a **snaffle bridle** is allowed, and spurs are **not** compulsory. The maximum length of the spurs is already prescribed in the rules. However, the riders may decide how short they want to have them.

In one and two-star tests it should be left to the riders discretion to wear a short jacket. In three and four star tests, the tail coat should be compulsory.
The correct way for men to salute is expected to be discussed with the FEI Dressage Committee, but it was agreed that it is not actually compulsory to remove their hat!
Having recieved comments about their work by the end of May 2004, Christoph Hess and Chris Bartle will then run through the tests again in June. They expect the whole project to be finished by the end of July. The tests will then be available on the IEOC website. However, if you would like to receive draft copies now, then please contact the Secretary General of the IEOC – Jean Mitchell at: jeans.mitchell@virgin.net

Suggestions about developing and understanding Dressage Judging

By Anne-Mette Binder:

At the Pratoni-seminar for FEI Eventing Top Officials, the IEOC presented some ideas and thoughts concerning the development of the dressage judging:

- Regular de-briefing between the judges - after the dressage as is now done by the pure dressage judges.
- Where conflict of interest might occur, this should clearly be declared before the beginning of the competition. If a judge has been (or is presently) a rider's coach, this should be announced before the competition. The IEOC also finds that judges need to be extremely careful not to favour the riders / horses from their own country.

Dialogue between involved parties has always been an important ingredient when it comes to development. A good example is the dressage seminar for Swedish top eventing Riders, Judges and Trainers with Christoph Hess which was held at the National Horse Sport Centre at Flyinge, on 24th –25th of January 2004.

The clinic was held in two parts:

On Saturday the training sessions with Christoph Hess were video recorded, while personal trainers of the riders - together with the best Swedish juniors and young riders - attended as spectators. On Saturday evening, Christoph Hess talked to Riders and Trainers about his ideas and issues on what he had seen - from a Judge's point-of-view.

On Sunday the clinic was open to spectators, and Swedish Dressage and Eventing judges were invited to watch the programmes ridden, and listen to the suggestions from Mr. Hess. The clinic was very well attended, and the spectators from Sweden and Denmark were allowed to ask questions. Also the riders spoke, with the help of a microphone about what they felt about the advice from the International Judge.

Every Eventing enthusiast attending the clinic in Sweden would agree, that this way of creating an open dialogue and forum between Riders, Trainers and Judges, under the guidance of a top qualified FEI International Judge, is absolutely to be recommend for the future development and understanding of the sport.

This way of communicating between involved parties is, from my personal point of view, not to be compared with Judges acting as personal, professional trainers for riders, who they also meet at events as judges. A discussion concerning this matter – if it is acceptable to do both - is very welcome.

Is this a record?

At the CIC* at Fontainebleau, France – at the end of March 2004 – Jean Mitchell and Francios Belz judged 145 tests – 22 on Wednesday afternoon, and the remainder on Thursday and Friday!

New Era for Pera - PERA is changing!

By Emma Hunter:

It has been decided to open up for all eventing riders and owners, and so, from now on the Professional Event Riders Association becomes ERA - the Event Riders Association. There will be one annual fee for all members of £30. In its new approach, ERA will cater for all, from the real amateurs to the international riders, and all owners. Each group will get at least one representative on the Board. For international matters, ERA will work closely together with other international rider clubs from the USA, Canada, Sweden, Germany, France and Italy to name but a few. Those countries that do not have rider clubs will be encouraged to install them. Carl Bouckaert will represent the international riders from Belgium, and also David O'Connor from the USA, will be on the FEI Eventing Committee for the next 4 years. For National matters, close contact will be sought with British Eventing, to discuss matters that arise. We hope to work closely with Event Organisers and to get extra eventing days for Novice level and below, by helping to sponsor the extra days required. We also hope to help organise three-day events at Pre Novice level as we feel there is a great demand for the real amateurs.

On the owner front, we will be working closely with the EHOA, although previous attempts have not received the desired response.

ERA's aim is to combine efforts as much as possible and we feel that more can be achieved by working together. We also appreciate that certain owners' matters are specific, and might have to be dealt with separately, but in many issues owners and riders have the same interests and we aim to work together on them.

Preliminary discussions with people from all corners of Eventing have been very positive and made us decide to go full steam ahead. Eventing has entered a new era, and we feel strongly that this is the way ahead. For more details please visit the website www.peraworld.com, or contact Emma Hunter on 01767 650516 or email: ej.hunter@btopenworld.com

FEI Officials

Over the last 2 years we have been proactively trying to encourage NF's and all officials to try to identify and then encourage new officials into our sport, whether they be Judges, TD's, CD's, or Stewards. This message has been sent to NF's on at least two occasions and we regularly make the request at seminars.

Our concern is that there is not enough 'young blood' coming through the programmes and on to the FEI lists and that we are going to be in real danger of having a major shortage of officials within the near future.

We all know that it needs commitment and a willingness to become involved. It also needs opportunity to gain experience and the understanding and recognition that there is a future for those who are good enough and interested enough to make this commitment. What we need to please ask is that we all try to encourage those who we know are interested in becoming officials. We have stated that experience as a competitor is seen as an advantage and this is no secret, but equally it is not compulsory.

Clearly there must be support from NF's in their own national training and the opportunities that can be made available to help bring on the potentially good officials and this is where we can all help. If you know people with a good 'feel' for what we are lucky enough to be involved in then please do encourage the NF's to make an effort. Often it is left to the individuals to make their own way and on occasions this works. Other times though this is simply not enough. We all need to remember that we all started somewhere, some time, and probably/perhaps had the benefit of a lucky break or a 'leg up' on to the ladder.

This is an important issue and so please do help.

We must not stifle those who might be interested, nor make it too difficult for them to become FEI officials if they are good enough. Additionally, we need to make sure that all our training programmes, whether domestic or FEI, are not overly demanding and/or expensive.

Thank you in anticipation.

Mike Etherington-Smith

Next edition

With this first edition of the **E-Newsletter** from the IEOC we ask all our readers to help us with feed-back and suggestions to make the Newsletter better. Please forward your thoughts to Jean Mitchell or Anne-Mette Binder on the mail addresses mentioned above. Please feel free to forward news, articles and issues which can be helpful and interesting to all IEOC members.