



**Minutes of the
15th Annual General Meeting at Burghley Horse Trials
Friday 5th September 2014**

In attendance: Andy Griffiths (GBR, Chairman), Sue Stewart (GBR, Secretary General), Wolf Gunther Mueller (AUT), Carolyn Simm (GBR), Gardie Grissell (GBR), Katie Christie (NZL), Helen Christie (NZL), Nicky Kelly (IRL), Fiona Muirhead (GBR), Mark Haughton (GBR), Sue Baxter (GBR), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Eric Smiley (IRL), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Les Smith (GBR), Chris Wallis (AUS), Roger Day (GBR), Suzie Cotterill (GBR), Jennifer Millar (NZL), Mike Bell (GBR), Jonathan Clissold (GBR), Patricia Clifton (GBR), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Martin Plewa (GER), Bev Shandley (AUS), Yvonne Morrison (AUS), Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR), Christian Landolt (SUI), Angela Tucker (GBR), Ernst Topp (GER), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Nikki Herbert (GBR), David Lee (IRL)

Guests present: Giuseppe Della Chiesa (FEI Eventing Committee), Catrin Norinder (FEI Eventing Committee)

Apologies: Anthony McPherson (BEL), Gina McPherson (BEL), Ronald Alexander (GBR), Philine Ganders-Meyer (GER), Ninnie Odenrick (IRL), Frans van Meggelen (NED), Ciska van Meggelen (NED), William Phiskie (NZL), PollyAnn Huntington (AUS), Bernd Springorum (GER), Anne Tylee (NZL), Maxine Leigh (NZL), Roger Kane (AUS), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Faith Ponsonby (IRL), Anne-Mette Binder (DEN), Christian Struck (DEN), Wayne Quarles (USA), Anton Granhus (NOR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Margs Carline (NZL), Harry Payne (GBR)

1. Chairman's Welcome

- a. The Chairman opened the meeting, thanking:
 - The Burghley President, Miranda Rock, and the Burghley Horse Trials Committee for the use of the President's Marquee for the meeting, as well as Liz Inman and Sol Sunnarvik for their assistance in organising the meeting.
- b. The Chairman welcomed Helen Christie and David Lee, fellow IEOC Board members, as well as Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Catrin Norinder of the FEI Eventing Committee.

2. Apologies

- a. The Secretary General advised apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from a number of people.
- b. The Secretary General requested notification of any further apologies.

3. Minutes of the 14th AGM of the IEOC held at Burghley on 6th September 2013

- a. The minutes of the 13th AGM which had already been circulated by email were approved. Proposed by Jane Holderness Roddam. Seconded by Eric Smiley.

4. Report of the IEOC activities from the Chairman – Andy Griffiths

- a. The Memorandum of Understanding with the FEI, which was signed in April gives the IEOC the opportunity to submit names to the Eventing Committee for future Championships, and to nominate a candidate to be put forward for consideration for appointment to the Eventing Committee

The individuals recommended for Championships were chosen by an independent panel and sent to the Eventing Committee in June. Three names were put forward for consideration by the IEOC Board to stand for nomination to the Eventing Committee. These applications were reviewed against set criteria by the IEOC Board and Andy Bowles was selected. It should be noted that Andy is not representing the IEOC, he stands as an independent candidate.

- b. There have been various regional meetings around the world this year, thanks were given to those who organised these meetings.
- c. The Chairman thanked Sue Stewart, IEOC Secretary General for all her support and work on behalf of the IEOC.
- d. The IEOC now has a voluntary subscription process in place. The Chairman thanked those who have subscribed to date, and confirmed there is no intention of making subscriptions mandatory. The funds received will be used for the production of some promotional material that can be provided at seminars etc.

5. Report from the Secretary General – Sue Stewart

- a. The IEOC acts as a conduit between those out in the field and the FEI. The Secretary General confirmed membership of the IEOC is open to everybody, Stewards, Judges, Organisers, CDs, TDs etc, and asked those present to spread the word to help ensure information gets out to as many people as possible.
- b. The Secretary General thanked Catrin Norinder for the support she provides, and for her speedy responses to enquiries.
- c. Finally, the Secretary General reiterated the Chairman's comments regarding the voluntary subscriptions. Jean Mitchell had previously secured sponsorship on behalf of the IEOC, but as this was no longer available the voluntary subscriptions are even more valuable to the organisation.
- d. The Secretary General thanked Dan and Rachel Moore, for their continued support of the IEOC, designing, hosting and maintaining the website, as well as providing vital administrative support.

6. Report from the Treasurer – David Lee

- a. The Treasurer reported that the IEOC bank account is now held in Ireland. At the time the previous account, which was held in Switzerland was closed, the account balance was €521.90.
- b. There was no subscription income for a couple of years, but now, as a result of the generous voluntary subscriptions received, the balance has gone from €521.90 to €1,240.41
- c. The Treasurer expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to all those who have paid the voluntary subscription. This contribution is very much appreciated and really will help the organisation carry out their work, producing promotional materials.

7. Report from the Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee – Giuseppe Della Chiesa

- a. Giuseppe Della Chiesa advised he was not only attending the meeting as a member of the IEOC, but also to answer any questions he is able to.

8. Any Other Business

- a. The Secretary General advised, as is only fair, Catrin Norinder is normally given notice of items submitted for AOB. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons it hadn't been possible for everything to be passed to her this time.
- b. Rule changes
 - Clarification would be appreciated on the proposed changes in FEI General Regulations Point II D – Per Diem – Officials.
 - Please confirm the proposed text only applies to multi-disciplinary events (such as the Pony Europeans). The intent being that all officials of the same category (ie judges) of dressage, jumping and eventing should be paid the same per diem. The same

would apply for all stewards. But, it does not mean that stewards should be paid the same per diem as judges. This would seem reasonable for judges and stewards, but it is more complicated for TDs and CDs between disciplines at multi-disciplinary events (of which there are only a few), and this may require a little thought.

Catrin advised multi-disciplinary events also applies to Games in Africa, Asia etc. Per diems in this case are for officials appointed by the FEI, not those appointed by the organising committee. Catrin will need to check whether or not this applies to stewards in general, but can confirm it does apply to all disciplines. Catrin confirmed that at the moment the per diems vary quite widely across disciplines, and the FEI are simply trying bring them in line for events like WEG.

c. Procedures/practicalities regarding future doping policies (Liz Inman)

Giuseppe acknowledged that as an organiser Liz has had some problems with the current FEI procedures. He has raised this with the FEI Legal Department. There is now some thinking going into this as they realise that whilst they need to meet the legal requirements they also need to be practical when it comes to running the sport. Giuseppe doesn't know what the outcome will be, but the current procedures are certainly being reviewed.

Catrin commented that certain procedures cannot be avoided, but confirmed clarification on these will be provided. The FEI are going to try and making it a little simpler for everyone to follow.

d. Would be possible for the FEI to create a contact information area for listed officials. It would make it much easier for Organisers to inquire about hiring if they had listed emails. (Margie Molloy)

Catrin advised data protection laws prevent the FEI from providing contact information on the internet. Lots of organisers ask the FEI for this information, and the office are happy to respond to these requests.

The Secretary General commented that it's a challenge to gather details of newly appointed officials in order to add them to IEOC membership/ mailing list, and asked existing members to pass this information to her whenever possible.

It was agreed that Steward Generals, and Course Directors can provide the Secretary General with names and contact details after courses. National Federations could also be contacted to get details of all those attending seminars.

e. Description/expectations for shadow judging; whose permission is required etc. (Helen Christie)

Catrin confirmed that anyone wishing to shadow judge must seek the permission and approval of both the organiser and President of the GJ. It is vital the GJ are happy to have a shadow judge, and this must be arranged in advance of the competition.

Catrin will check whether shadow judging is permitted at championships, although she doesn't feel it is a good idea. She confirmed it is ok at 4* level, but stressed the GJ must be happy.

f. What is the policy on providing NFs/individuals with copies of reports for upgrading officials (Helen Christie)

Catrin Norinder confirmed these reports should only go to the FEI, copies should not be given to individuals or NFs.

g. Seminars.

- Officials would really appreciate having at least 12-24 months notice on the proposed venues, these can then be published by the IEOC.

Catrin/Giuseppe confirmed the course calendar is published one year in advance. However, seminars have to be initiated by NFs, and the FEI can only provide information when they receive it. The Eventing Committee are proactively asking NFs to organise seminars. They asked officials to push their NFs to organise seminars, and plan them well in advance.

- It is also felt that a broader calendar split would be better as well as geographical spread
Catrin confirmed there is currently 1 course each in North and South America, 2 courses in Australia/New Zealand and 3 courses in Europe, and reiterated they must be initiated by NFs.
- It is felt that the so called tests take up too much valuable time and the suggestion is that they be done online beforehand. This would give more time for discussion and input.
There was general agreement from the floor that it would be preferable if tests were done online in advance.
Giuseppe advised the tests can have different uses, dependent on the course director.
Patricia Clifton commented it can be good to do the test as a team, but it can be a challenge for those whose first language isn't English.
Catrin confirmed this would be discussed with course directors and it may be possible to have a mix in future.
- Is there anyway costs and length of days can be capped?
Catrin advised delegates usually say courses aren't long enough, and she's not sure how you could cap costs given the variation around the world.
Mike Etherington Smith indicated each NF has costs they have to cover.
Helen Christie suggested it's useful for delegates to be given information on other attendees in advance so they investigate sharing a hire car, accommodation etc in order to keep costs down.
- Ernst Topp asked whether the FEI could get more involved in the logistics of courses, eg ensuring delegates are staying in the same hotel, and provided with information on what transport is available.
Martin Plewa confirmed the FEI do provide organisers with minimum requirements.
- John Lawrence commented there is no set syllabus or format for Stewards courses. As far as he's aware the TDs, CDs, and GJ have this.
At the request of Catrin, John agreed to help the FEI put this together, but stated it won't be possible to do it as a one day course, bearing in mind a Level 1 Steward can be the Chief Steward at a 1* event.
- Christian Landolt asked if the FEI could help overcome situations where candidates attend a course (supported by their NF) looking for promotion, receive positive feedback and then their NF do not support their promotion.
Catrin confirmed this had been an issue with one NF, and it is being discussed. However it's important to note the FEI cannot oblige an NF to support a candidate's promotion, but in such situations they will provide whatever assistance they can.
- Jean Mitchell advised she is hoping to run two courses at Tattersalls next year, but the FEI haven't yet been able to confirm who the course directors will be. This causes her issues given the number of officials she requires for the event.
Catrin confirmed course directors are appointed in October. Jean asked if this could be done earlier. This request was supported by Chris Wallis who has the same situation in Melbourne.
- Mike Etherington Smith asked whether there can be some flexibility on the maximum number of course delegates. The current limit is 20, and he asked for flexibility to take 21 or 22 rather than rigidly adhering to 20. He understands it's not possible to take 30.
Giuseppe confirmed if there are more than 20 attendees the FEI are happy to double up on directors.
- Ann-Marie Taylor commented it can be very expensive to attend a course in another country.

Catrin confirmed one of the points of the courses is to have officials go to another country, even if it's only from GB to Germany, as they've realised it is much more beneficial when people go abroad.

Mike Etherington Smith agreed the principle is right, but stated it not right to insist someone attends a course in Japan, Australia etc or they'll be thrown off the list.

Catrin confirmed people shouldn't have to travel that far.

Mike indicated he is very concerned about the lack of officials coming through, and he feels this is an additional barrier, with the biggest issue being outside Europe, because it's so far for those individuals to travel.

Giuseppe confirmed Australia and New Zealand have one course every year, so Australians can go to New Zealand and vice versa. There are three courses in Europe. He reiterated that if there are more than 20 attendees for a course they can double up on directors, but it's not feasible to run a course for three people. South and North America have one course each, and there is one in Asia.

Bev Shandley commented that many officials in Australia and New Zealand are working when the seminars are held over there.

- Martin Plewa commented there are currently not enough courses, there are more officials needed as the sport is lacking TDs in most countries.

h. Stewards.

- In response to questions raised at the regional meeting at WEG, Giuseppe indicated for 1* and 2* events only one Chief Steward is needed, all others can be national Stewards.

John Lawrence commented that at 3* and 4* events they must now all be Level 1 Stewards to perform any role, and this is why all TDs and Judges were made Level 1 Stewards.

Nicky Kelly stated she approves of all the jobs on the ground being filled in with Level 1 Stewards.

Catrin advised the rules state there have to have a certain number of Stewards, and then you fill in as necessary dependent on the competition; eg you don't need the same number of Stewards for an event in South America with just 5 runners as you would for an event with 250 runners.

Giuseppe believes it's up to the Chief Steward to decide how to run it, but the feeling from the floor was that this is not the case. Giuseppe and Catrin will check.

- Jane Holderness Roddam commented she was not clear what a Level 1 Steward is.

Catrin indicated the problem is the rules apply to all disciplines, with the same system being used for vaulting etc where there is no concept of 1* and 2* star etc. As she understands it this could result in something lower than a 1*. Clarification would be appreciated.

- Helen Christie asked how often Stewards have to attend seminars.

Catrin confirmed the requirement is every 5 years. However, those who are made Level 1 Stewards as a result of being Judges or TDs don't need to do any additional courses, but they will only stay as 1*.

- Wayne Quarles asked whether can 3* and 4* doubly qualified Judges and TDs maintain their status at the one seminar

Giuseppe confirmed TDs and CDs can do the same seminar, but judges must do two separate courses because of the dressage judging.

Anne-Marie Taylor commented that some courses do very little dressage judging.

Sue Stewart advised some NFs insist their dressage judges do a lot of training to stay on their list.

Catrin said they are now reaching the end of a three year cycle when they are able to assess how each judge has done, not only on the courses but also at events and when requesting promotions and this might be a good time to review the policy.

Giuseppe advised that every year there is a discussion about how much time should be spent on dressage judging during courses, and there are two separate views; those judges who come from countries where they receive a lot of pure dressage training are more interested in spending time with CDs and TDs, but in countries where there isn't as much focus on dressage judging, it's important they get this on their course.

David Lee commented he thinks it's a very important part of the course, and it's important to bear in mind that this system applies to the whole world.

Wolf Gunther Mueller suggested the course for judges could be three days long, with 1 day of dressage and 2 days spent with CDs/TDs. Going to a three day course, rather than 2 separate courses would be cheaper.

i. Global Education Programme

- Helen Christie advised she had been asked to mention a case where somebody with very little experience was asked to do two full days of judging, which was good experience for him, but not for the competitors who had someone who was struggling judging such a large class.

It was agreed this is not fair to the competitors.

- Sue Baxter commented it's very difficult if someone is sent to an event to assist the TD, but the TD doesn't take responsibility for them.

It was agreed it is important people are aware of this role, and organisers must make sure their officials will support this person. The FEI must notify officials that they have a GEP candidate at their event.

j. Course designers

- Mike Etherington Smith expressed concern about the proposal to stop national CDs designing CIC 2* courses.

Giuseppe advised this was brought in to ensure right from the very beginning levels are the same all over the world, not only at the higher levels. He continued, in many countries the entry level is the key level to get right in order to help get a better standard globally.

Mike asked whether this could just apply to CCIs, as CICs are a major development opportunity for national CDs, and the current proposal will undoubtedly increase costs to many organisers. He stated this view is held by GB, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Giuseppe confirmed the idea is to have more course designers that become international.

Mike stated this rule will prevent this from happening.

Suzie Cotterill and Gardie Grissell who are both CIC 2* star stated they don't support this ruling as it will prevent them from running CIC 2* competitions.

k. National dressage judges

- Sue Stewart expressed concern that the sport can have national dressage judges judging 1* and 2* events star as long as they have an FEI TD. In many cases these people know nothing about the sport, she has been in a situation where they don't know they have to do a course walk, or that there is a horse inspection. Sue stated this is a big issue in GB, and she believes the rules should be changed so that the president of the GJ must be an FEI judge.

Carolyn Simm advised British Eventing ran a course for national judges who wanted to be FEI judges, this included half a day of talking them through their duties, walking the course, doing trot up etc – this was very popular and she believes more of these should be run.

Les Smith commented that sometimes it is cheaper to fly judges in than use a national judge, because flights are cheaper than mileage. If organisers are clever at looking at flights it can be cheaper than paying for someone to travel half way across England

l. 1* qualification

- Jane Holderness Roddam asked what the Eventing Committee's thinking was behind requiring 1* horses to qualify with their riders as a combination, given most of these horses are old school masters. She understands riders need experience, but does it really need to be a combination at that level? Jane stated she feels this leads to abuse of the horses.

Giuseppe stated the principle is the categorisation of riders, and those that are not categorised should have the experience with their horses as a combination. The principle, which the Committee feels is quite sound, is that riders with less experience should come up through the levels with their horses. Giuseppe understands this can be abused, but feels the principle is sound.

Jane reiterated she feels this ruling is at 2* level, but she feels it's a lot of wear and tear on many 1* star horses.

m. Asian Games

- Anne Marie-Taylor asked for the Eventing Committee's views on Olympic horses competing at the Asian Games which is CIC 1*.

Catrin advised the Asian Games is not an FEI competition, it is organised by the Olympic Council of Asia who set their own rules about eligibility. The FEI are involved in all technical elements; ie the appointment of officials, setting the dressage test etc.

Catrin also confirmed a 4* horse cannot run in this competition if they've competed in the current or previous year.

n. Safety

- Christian Landolt commented there is a lot of talk about safety and the standard of riders, and whilst we have categorisation which is great, the GJ at Burghley were surprised that at 4* level riders can compete on a catch ride. Thinking about the safety of the sport, and that if there is an accident the press could pick up on the fact that the rider has never sat on the horse before, should combinations (even category 1a riders) have one run before coming to a 4* star event?

Giuseppe stated he agrees with the sentiment, but confirmed that this is a NF rather than FE policy.

The meeting suggested that where an NF approves this policy the FEI should block it.

9. The meeting concluded at 18:25

10. The next IEOC AGM will take place at Burghley after the dressage on Friday 4 September 2015.