



IEOC regional meeting at Badminton Saturday 4th May 2013

In attendance: Andy Griffiths (GBR Chairman), Sue Stewart (GBR Secretary General), Jean Mitchell (Retired IEOC Secretary General), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Mark Houghton (GBR), Faith Ponsonby (IRL), Andrew Fell (IRL), Chris Farr (GBR), John Lawrence (GBR), Sue Baxter (GBR), Mandy Hervieu (GBR), Christian Landolt (CH), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), Sarah Bullen (GBR), Barry Roycroft (AUS), Clayton Fredericks (AUS), Eric Winter (GBR), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Roger Day (GBR), Jonathan Chapman (GBR), Richard Meade (GBR), Jennie Lorrison-Clarke (GBR), Becky Whitcombe (GBR), Sandy Phillips (GBR), Ernst Topp (GER), Pattie Biden (GBR), Les Smith (GBR), Lord and Lady Carew (IRL), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Tissie Reason (GBR), Nicky Salmon (GBR), Jane Tolley (GBR), Angela Tucker (GBR), Tim Downes (GBR), Jane Starkey (GBR), John Tulloch (GBR), Julia Otto (GER), Jennifer Miller (NZ), Eric Smiley (IRL), Tim Randall (GBR), Tom Rychewaert (BEL), Alec Lochore (GBR), Phil Bailey (AUS), Carolyn James (AUS)

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

Apologies: John McEwen (FEI Veterinary Committee), Graeme Cook, (FEI Veterinary Department), Francis Whittington (ERA), Dave Thompson (GBR), Gillian Rolton (AU), Nigel Nichols (AU), Kate Horgan (IRL), Graeme Cooke (GBR), Helen Christie (NZ), Anne Tylee (NZ), Jim Dunn (AU), Martin Plewa (GER), Tony McPherson (BEL), Gina McPherson (BEL), Gerit Matteson (GER), Anton Grunhus (AUT), Loris Henry (US), Vanda Robinson (IRL), David Lee (IRL), Mathias Otto-Erley (GER), Maxine Leigh (NZ), Hege Trulsen (NOR), Jutta Kolvula (FIN), Ninnie Oldenrick (IRL), Bernt Springorum (GER), Nick Pyke (NZ), Jo Young (CAN), Susan Graham White (US), Marion Greene (IRL), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Andrew Bennie (NZ), José Mexia de Almeida (POR), Lynne Roycroft (AUS), Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR), Frans van Meggelen (NED), Jonathan Clissold (GBR)

1. Chairman's Welcome

- a. The Chairman opened the meeting, thanking:
 - The Badminton Director, Hugh Thomas, the Badminton Horse Trials Committee and the Duke of Beaufort for the use of the Director's tent for the meeting.
 - The IEOC's sponsors, Tattersalls Ireland and MIMSafe.
- b. The Chairman welcomed Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Catrin Norinder of the FEI Eventing Committee.

2. Presentation to Jean Mitchell

The Chairman, Andy Griffiths, presented Jean Mitchell with a gift on behalf of all IEOC members in recognition for all the work she did setting up the IEOC and enabling it to achieve the high profile it has within the sport today.

3. Apologies

- a. The Secretary General advised apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from a number of people, including John McEwen, Chairman of the FEI Eventing Committee, Graeme Cook, Director of the FEI Veterinary Department and Francis Whittington from the Event Riders Association (ERA).
- b. The Secretary General requested notification of any further apologies.

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

- a. The Chairman advised the IEOC are looking for additional sponsors to support the organisation's work, pointing out the IEOC is a non-profit organisation, no expenses are taken out by any of the officers, and funds are needed to maintain the website. Details of potential sponsors should be passed to the Chairman or Secretary General.
- b. Membership of the IEOC is free and the organisation is unique in that every FEI official is included in the membership free of charge, and therefore should be on the organisation's mailing list. The Chairman asked for details of anyone who isn't on the list to be passed to the Secretary General.
- c. The Chairman is very encouraged by the amount of input received from members, he stressed the importance of this input as the members are those "in the field", and confirmed the Board will take all communications to the FEI Eventing Committee.
- d. The Chairman reported that the FEI Family was disbanded during the General Assembly. The IEOC are now forming a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FEI which will outline the relationship between the IEOC and FEI. The MOU will be published when it has been finalised.

5. Report from the Secretary General – Sue Stewart

- a. The Secretary General reiterated the Chairman's comments expressing thanks to Jean Mitchell for all the work she put into the club during her time as Secretary General; and the ongoing support she is providing to Sue personally during the transition.
- b. The Secretary General confirmed the job of the IEOC is to keep the lines of communication open between its members and the FEI, working together for the benefit of the sport; and thanked Giuseppe, Catrin and the Event Committee as a whole for the support they provide.
- c. The Global Education Programme (GEP), which was Jean and Andy's brain child has been very successful, with many people benefitting. The Secretary General hopes this programme will continue well into the future.
- d. The Secretary General echoed the Chairman's thanks to the IEOC's sponsors, and encouraged members to contact her with details of other potential sponsors, or ideas for other income streams to enable the group to continue to provide worldwide free membership and maintain the website.

6. Any Other Business

- a. Motion put forward by John Lawrence (GBR) to ban pinch boots in eventing show jumping, with only boots as per Art 257.2.4 Boots for Young Horses being allowed. John advised the use of pinch boots is of concern to GBR Stewards who find it impossible to police yet feel that it is an abuse of the horse. John believes this view is taken by other Federation Stewards in the USA and NZ. John stated the fact that we follow show jumping rules bears no weight if in our opinion it is an abuse of the horse. John advised a lot of Stewards are concerned that competitors warm up without boots, putting on pinch boots just before entering the arena, sensitising the hind legs.
 - Roger Day believes the only way round this is not to allow any change of boots in the collecting ring. This would mean riders wouldn't use pinch boots as they cease to be effective once they've been on for 10 minutes. Roger feels Stewards are

currently put in an awkward position as they're seen by competitors not using pinch boots to be doing nothing about those that are.

- Nikki Salmon believes ratchet boots are the main offenders, and is aware of a recent incident at an international event where an FEI vet who works in show jumping believed the boots were too tight, asked for them to be removed, and the horse's legs were marked. The rider was then warned.
 - Jane Holderness-Roddam believes the use of these boots is performance enhancing, which is cheating and it's important to stop cheating.
 - Annabell Scrimgeour stated that if riders are not allowed to change boots in the collecting ring they will leave the ring and change them.
 - The meeting agreed this should be put forward to the FEI Eventing Committee for consideration.
 - Giuseppe Della Chiesa advised this matter has been looked at several times and confirmed a study is being undertaken by vets to see if the action of these boots is an abuse of the horse. Giuseppe indicated the situation is being monitored but he doesn't feel the Eventing Committee will be in a position to take any action until this veterinary study is complete. However, he stated that if a Steward feels a boot is uncomfortable they have the right to consult with the vet.
 - Catrin Norinder indicated this must be addressed as the matter is repeatedly raised.
- b. Sandy Phillips asked for clarification regarding fly hoods. It should be made clear that these are not to be used to keep ears straight or indeed to muffle any form of sound.
- c. On Jean Mitchell's request Catrin Norinder confirmed that a bit cannot be used if a picture of it doesn't appear in the rule book. New bits, spurs etc are continually being produced and the effects of them can be very subtle. It does not matter if someone has used the bit at a different event, if it's not pictured in the rule book it cannot be used.
- d. Liz Inman asked whether it's essential that the FEI Stewards undertakes the bit checking, and John Lawrence confirmed dressage judges who are knowledgeable on bits have been doing tack checks.
- Catrin Norinder advised tack checks must be done by Level One Stewards.
 - Catrin Norinder confirmed that these points will be taken forward to the Eventing Committee
- e. Andrew Fell questioned whether it's appropriate that a CIC 3* event can have a 1*/2* course designer (ie it's not a requirement for the course designer to be 3* / 4*), particularly as it's quite a challenge to design at this level for younger horses
- f. Document prepared by Tim Downes (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZ), Gillian Kyle (IRL) and Jane Tolley (GBR). Copy provided in Appendix.
- **1* and 2* competitions**
 - Jane Holderness-Roddam believes at least one judge must be on the FEI list, as national judges are not familiar with FEI rules and TDs are stretched enough without having to take on this additional load. She also stated it's very important that national judges are trained by FEI judges, and that she doesn't see how these competitions can be run effectively without FEI judges.
 - Jennie Loriston-Clarke stated that as some national judges have never evented they are not really competent at walking the course.

- Pattie Biden questioned the sense in having an FEI competition without any FEI judges present.
- Tissie Reason commented that it's very difficult to find judges.
- Catrin Norinder advised this is not a new rule. It was included on the request of several national federations in order to reduce costs for organisers, particularly at the lower level. She confirmed the Eventing Committee are looking at other ways of trying to bring costs down, and this IEOC feedback on the current ruling is very useful.
- **Education of Officials**
 - Sandy Phillips supported the comments made in the document
 - Catrin Norinder advised the FEI are trying to streamline how they deal with courses but given the number of officials it's quite difficult to provide financial assistance for them to attend courses. It is the responsibility of national federations (NFs) to help with the education of their officials, and Catrin knows many NFs that pay for courses, travel etc. However, not all NFs are able to provide this support, and this was one of the reasons the Global Education Programme (GEP) was set up. Catrin hopes the GEP will continue for another four years.
 - Andy Griffiths clarified that a concern was the basic cost of the course can vary greatly from location to location; to which Catrin advised the FEI need to allow for the organiser to cover their costs, and these costs vary dependent on whether the NF support the course.
 - Jean Mitchell commented that a lot of NFs don't provide any financial support, and it's the cost of courses that prevents younger people coming into the sport.
 - Barry Roycroft commented that the FEI charges every rider and every horse an annual fee, and riders expect qualified officials. However it's the officials that have to pay for their own education/accreditation. The sport needs an education system that facilitates the education of new officials, as people cannot afford the current fees. He additionally stated that in Australia they are in danger of running out of officials given the current retirement age and the cost of becoming accredited.
 - Andrew Fell commented that he gets paid for TAing at a national event, but not for TDing at FEI events. As a result he finds himself having to turn down TD jobs, and knows a lots of TAs that don't go on to be TDs for this very reason. Christian Landolt commented that TAs get paid, at national events but judges don't.
 - Catrin Norinder advised the FEI could consider putting a cap on course fees.
 - Jean Mitchell commented that they are looking at how new organisers can be helped within the GEP. Any ideas in this regard are welcomed.
- **FEI Officials Access to FEI Events**
 - Catrin Norinder suggested that the IEOC raise this point with event organisers as they form part of the membership of the IEOC.
 - Jean Mitchell advised Liz Inman has confirmed anyone wishing to attend the IEOC AGM at Burghley is always given free access to the event, and Jean extended an invitation for FEI Officials to attend Tattersalls

- Tissie Reason confirmed BE officials are given free entry to Chatsworth, and this can be extended to FEI officials if they can provide confirmation of their position.
- **Short format (CIC) competitions**
 - The Secretary General confirmed this question was tabled before the latest clarification was provided by the FEI, however, she believes there is still some confusion in this regard, and she has received letters expressing concern in this area from Jo Young (CAN) and Loris Henry (USA).
 - Giuseppe Della Chiesa confirmed the purpose of the veterinary examination at the end of the cross country section is to confirm the horse is fine to go to the stables and ultimately travel, and secondly to establish if there are any signs of possible abuse of the horse, in which case the vet must call the Ground Jury to evaluate the case. Giuseppe stated the recent clarification stipulated that a simple unsoundness of the horse after the finish of the cross country, for example because of the loss of a shoe, is not necessarily a sign of abuse. Giuseppe further stated the same situation could happen at the end of the show jumping in CCI competitions.
 - Jennie Lorrison-Clarke questioned whether a horse that pulls a tendon after the last fence, and goes through the finish should win the competition. In this situation where would the Ground Jury stand? Les Smith queried if a horse has badly broken down after the cross country, should it be the winner? Giuseppe, indicated in both cases we need to ask if this situation had occurred after the show jumping in a CCI competition would the combination be eliminated? He believes not.
 - Barry Roycroft stated he believes if a horse is lame after the final phase it's still the winner, and regarding the running order of the CIC, in Australia they are dead against a rule saying an event must run in a certain order. When the new rules come out in 2014 they want the option to run a CIC competition in the traditional order.
 - Giuseppe suggested the question maybe whether there should be a test at the end of the event, as they have in endurance, to see if the horse is still fit.
 - Giuseppe also indicated that if after a year the majority of people prefer to have show jumping at the end of the competition, then the Eventing Committee will re-evaluate this.
7. The Chairman thanked everyone for their input on the discussions, particularly Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Catrin Norinder.
 8. Catrin Norinder expressed her thanks to the IEOC for including her and Giuseppe in the meeting, and confirmed she believes the exchange is very useful and the more communication there is between the IEOC and the Eventing Committee the better for all concerned.
 9. The meeting concluded at 6:30pm.
 10. **The next IEOC AGM will take place after the dressage on Friday 6th September 2013 at Burghley.**

Appendix

AOB Item for IEOC meeting at Badminton 2013.

Points raised by Tim Downes [GBR], Andrew Bennie [NZ], Gillian Kyle [IRL], Jane Tolley [GBR].

The above members from various Federations have raised the following points for discussion, with the hope of the IEOC making representation to the FEI in order to make positive changes.

1 1* and 2* competitions

There is concern that the ground jury members at 1* and 2* can now be all national judges. As these competitions are effectively a learning ground for riders, the bulk of the “educating” is going to be left in the hands of the TD, as potentially the only trained FEI official available. TD’s are already stretched to capacity, it is therefore strongly felt that there should be at least 1 FEI ground jury member at the level in order to ensure that there is access for riders to sufficient trained and knowledgeable personnel. This may also be a role that could be very usefully filled by newly retired judges.

2 Short format (CIC) competitions

There is still concern about a lack of clarity in the rules regarding the finish point of CIC classes. It is not defined clearly when the competition ends. In some cases it is interpreted as when the horse crosses the finish line of the final phase. Others feel that a combination should be eliminated if the horse is found to be unsound having passed through the finish and been seen by the Veterinary Surgeon on duty. It is strongly felt that this needs a definitive ruling.

3 Education of Officials.

There is concern regarding the disparity of costs involved for FEI Officials to attend mandatory update and maintenance courses. The costs of similar levels of course varies considerably causing many to feel a lack of consistency.

It is also felt that the costs incurred to attend courses by active officials can be punishing, and that the FEI should investigate a mechanism whereby those Officials who are fulfilling a minimum requirement of attending and officiating at FEI events should be able to access update courses without incurring cost.

4 FEI Officials Access to FEI Events.

FEI Officials frequently attend FEI events in a non official capacity, for their own education and enjoyment. Many would like to see a facility whereby they were issued with an “FEI Officials” card and that organising committees be asked to admit them to event sites