



## IEOC regional meeting at Badminton Friday 9th May 2014

**In attendance:** Sue Stewart (GBR Secretary General), Jean Mitchell (IRL), David O'Connor (USA), Joan Ahern (IRL), Lesley Barwise-Munro (GBR), Liz Inman (GBR), Les Smith (GBR), Tony McPherson (BEL), Gina McPherson (BEL), Angela Tucker (GBR), Mark Houghton (GBR), Mike Bell (GBR), Roger Day (GBR), Simon Bere (GBR), Donald Kear (GBR), Tim Downes (GBR), Frans van Meggelen (NED), Jane Tolley (GBR), Andrew Fell (IRL), Eric Winter (GBR), Sarah Bullen (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Martin Plewa (GER), Pattie Biden (GBR), Jennifer Millar (NZL), Judy Bradwell (GBR), Jane Starkey (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Jan Cottam (GBR), Becky Whitcombe (GBR), Jean Marc Varillon (FRA), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Bronwyn Gillott (AUS), Nicky Salmon (GBR), John Lawrence (GBR), Lorna Alexander (GBR), Ronald Alexander (GBR), Suzie Cotteril (GBR), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), Eric Smilie (IRL), Celia Carew (IRL), Patrick Carew (IRL), Francois Lucas (FRA), Roger Haller (USA), Chris Hodson (NZL)

**Guests present:** Bernd Springorum (IEOC Founding Chairman), Giuseppe Della Chiesa (FEI Eventing Committee), Catrin Norinder (FEI Eventing Committee)

**Apologies:** Andy Griffiths (GBR), Nikki Herbert (GBR), Anton Granhus (NOR), Wayne Quarles (USA), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Jutta Koivula (FIN), Des Hughes (AUS), Giulio Pocci (ITA), Maxine Leigh (NZL), Christina Klingspor (SWE), Mathias Otto-Erley (GER), Helen Christie (NZL), Stuart Bishell (NZL), Gill Rolton (AUS), Wolf Mueller (AUT), Polly Ann Huntington (AUS), Nathaly Fulda (GER), Ninnie Odenrick (IRL), Anne Tylee (NZL), Christian Landolt (SUI), Dave Thompson (GBR), Gerit Matthesen (GER), Mike Tucker (GBR), Genevieve Pfister (SUI), Sue Baxter (GBR), Andy Bowles (NZL), Ciska van Meggelen (NED), Chris Shaw (GBR), Douglas Weymouth (GBR)

### 1. Chairman's Welcome

1. On behalf of the Chairman, Jean Mitchell 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.
2. Jean welcomed Giuseppe Della Chiesa and Catrin Norinder of the FEI Eventing Committee.
3. Jean was very proud to welcome the first Chairman of the IEOC, Bernd Springorum to the meeting. Along with Frederik Obel, Bernd formed the IEOC in 1998. Jean thanked Bernd for all he has done for the sport, and expressed the appreciation of all IEOC members, confirming he was not only the first, but also the longest serving of only three chairs of the IEOC.
4. Bernd Springorum expressed his pleasure at being able to give something back to the sport.
5. Hugh Thomas, Director of Badminton Horse Trials, welcomed the IEOC to Badminton, reflecting on his comments at a meeting in Punchestown some 10 years ago when he suggested the IEOC should be abolished. He is very happy that the IEOC has flourished since then, and now recognises the important role it performs.

### 2. Apologies

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



### **3. Report of the IEOC activities on behalf of the Chairman (Andy Griffiths) – Jean Mitchell**

1. Jean Mitchell kindly chaired the meeting in Andy Griffiths' absence, reporting on the following items:
  - Thanks were expressed to the new Board, especially Sue Stewart for all the work she is doing for the IEOC. A special thank you went to Rachel and Dan Moore for development of the new IEOC website and logo.
  - The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FEI has been signed, and the new Board of the IEOC is working closely with the FEI in developing a constructive working relationship
  - Under the MOU, the IEOC has been asked to put forward names of potential officials for Eventing Championships. This process is presently being formulated
  - The IEOC will also be putting forward a name (or names) to the FEI Nominations Committee to be considered for appointment to the 2015 Eventing Committee.
  - We are also in communication with the new Event Organisers Organisation (Alliance of Event Organisers) and would like to emphasise that all Event organisers, at all star levels, are invited and encouraged to continue as associate members of the IEOC
  - The IEOC are also in conversation with the Event Riders Association (ERA) and hope that this useful working relationship will continue to grow

### **4. Report from the Secretary General – Sue Stewart**

1. Sue reiterated the thanks to Hugh Thomas, the Badminton Horse Trials Committee and the Duke of Beaufort for the use of the Director's tent for the meeting
2. There are a number of IEOC initiatives under discussion, details of which will be circulated in the next few weeks and months
3. Sue provided information on the new options available for individuals to donate to the running of the IEOC. In the past the club relied totally on sponsorship, but this has become harder and harder to find, so the Board decided to setup this new facility. Full details can be found at [www.ieoc.info/donate](http://www.ieoc.info/donate)
4. The Board is liaising with the FEI to try and arrange IEOC meetings at every seminar throughout the world. This would provide the opportunity to disseminate information to more people, and enable more people to attend IEOC meetings

### **5. Giuseppe Della Chiesa, Chairman, FEI Eventing Committee**

1. On behalf of the FEI, Giuseppe thanked IEOC members for all they do for the sport. He is very happy to work with the IEOC and have the MOU between the two organisations signed. Giuseppe feels the relationship is working well.
2. Re meetings at seminars, Giuseppe is happy to work with the IEOC on this, recognising timing can be a challenge at seminars.

### **6. Any Other Business**

1. Nicky Salmon (GBR) asked whether the racing hood, as shown on her iPad would be allowed for any phase. Catrin Norinder will confirm after the meeting, as she has only just seen the photo. However, she stressed it's always important to establish the effect of any piece of



tack, whether its effect is different to what is already in the rules, and whether it will enhance performance.

2. The same applies to the Equi Smart Control, which was recently referred to Catrin. Jean Mitchell reiterated that if there is a tack query Catrin needs as much information about the piece of tack in order to respond.
3. Catrin clarified that the Equi Smart Control, although not actually approved by the FEI for SJ could be accepted. It would be unlikely to be used competitively as it is a training aid. She further stated that SJ rules allow just about everything.
4. David O'Connor (USA) requested clarification on whether a rider can ask if they have jumped a corner, at the moment the information is not getting to the rider in the right way. The rule should be looked at and either the process or the way the information gets to the rider changed.

Eric Winter (GBR) suggested this can sometimes be caused by language issue – eg a Spanish rider in the UK or vice versa, so perhaps there could be an internationally recognised hand signal used by the fence judge, so the rider knows who will give them the feedback, and how it will be communicated, with no possibility for language issues.

Catrin Norinder indicated it was very clear in the TD reports from recent events that this is an issue, so it will be discussed by the Eventing Committee.

5. Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR) asked what officials should say when asked about the Jock Paget situation. Catrin Norinder confirmed a press release had been issued just before Kentucky confirming Jock had been disqualified. The FEI has now reviewed the procedures of all international sports federations and discovered they use the same procedure as the FEI. This requires that the athlete be allowed to go through full process before any decision is taken. Catrin confirmed the FEI are looking at updating the tribunal process, but it would be the first international sports federation to do this. She further commented that in racing the process is quicker because the sanctions are less important, and they go into less detail.

Chris Hodson (NZL) commented that it took a considerable time to put the case together because of the complexity of the issues relating to the scientific evidence, and that the delay since then is truly regrettable and will be followed up after the case; and asked everyone to refrain from gossip and speculation until the facts are known in the Tribunal decision to be expected in June.

6. Joan Ahern (IRL) asked if there is any way to make the FEI rule book easier to navigate. Catrin Norinder confirmed that if you have the rule book on an iPad it's possible to jump straight from the table of contents to the appropriate page. She also suggested the search/find option is very useful. Catrin is open to suggestions on how to improve the layout.
7. Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR) commented that seminars are getting very expensive for delegates to attend, and there's also a problem with courses clashing. He asked whether it would be possible to have more flexibility in maximum delegate numbers.

Jean Mitchell confirm the IEOC now receive minutes of Eventing Committee Meetings, which will be circulated to IEOC members. The minutes of the March meeting show some issues relating to courses are already being addressed by the committee.

Catrin Norinder confirmed getting Directors can be a challenge, the FEI are reviewing the feedback from each course, it's difficult to meet everyone's needs, and it's difficult to get NFs to run courses. In order to run a course an event must be 2 and 3\* and if possible 1\*.



Jean Mitchell asked people to encourage their NFs to run courses, getting their applications into the FEI as early as possible.

Catrin Norinder confirmed there is one FEI staff member dedicated to courses.

8. Les Smith (GBR) asked for clarification on the hat rule; ie it must be fastened at all times, but during prize givings competitors gallop around with their hat undone. Catrin Norinder confirmed the rules state the hat must also be fastened during prize givings.

The meeting concluded at 6pm.

**There will be a regional meeting at Chatt Hills, USA on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May.**

**The IEOC AGM will take place after the dressage on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Burghley.**