



IEOC regional meeting at Badminton Friday 4th May 2018

In attendance: Sue Stewart (GBR Secretary General), Bernd Springorum (GER), Roger Day (GBR), John Lawrence (GBR), Christian Landolt (SUI), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), Nicky Salmon (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Les Smith (GBR), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Judy Bradwell (GBR), Tissie Reason (GBR), Mandy Hervieu (GBR), Pattie Biden (GBR), David Holmes (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Angela Tucker (GBR), Liz Inman (GBR), Jane Tolley (GBR), Philine Ganders-Meyer (GER), Gina MacPherson (BEL), Alec Lochore (GBR), Tony MacPherson (BEL), Faith Ponsonby (IRL), Sarah Bullen (GBR), Michael Barnes (AUS), George Bazar (HUN), Linda Waller (GBR), Thomas Duggan (IRL), Tomio Ogawa (JPN), Keiko Kabashima (JPN), Richard Baldwin (GBR), Sue Baxter (GBR), Katrin Eichinger-Kniely (AUT), Francois Lucas (FRA), Polly Ann Lochore (GBR)

Guests present: David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games; Paul Tapner, ERA Vice President

Apologies: Andy Griffiths (GBR Chairman), Helmut Mett (GER), Christian Steiner (AUT), Julia Otto (GER), Maxine Leigh (NZL), Roger Kane (AUS), Geoff Sinclair (AUS), Jill Sinclair (AUS), Victoria Lymbery (AUS), Christina Klingspor (SWE), Dave Thompson (GBR), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Jane Starkey (GBR), Lynn and Barry Roycroft (AUS), Peter Ponsonby (IRL), Vince Roche (AUS), Gerit Matthesen (GER), Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR), PollyAnn Huntington (AUS), Donald Kear (GBR), Zara Pawley (GBR), Helen Christie (NZL)

1. Chairman's Welcome

- On behalf of the Chairman, Sue Stewart opened the meeting, thanking the Badminton Director, Hugh Thomas, the Badminton Horse Trials Committee, the Duke of Beaufort and the Royal Wessex Yeomanry for the use of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry tent for the meeting.
- Sue welcomed:
 - Bernd Springorum, who along with Frederik Obel and Jean Mitchell formed the IEOC in 1998.
 - David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee; Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games; and Paul Tapner, ERA Vice President

2. Apologies

- 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 on recent IEOC activities on behalf of the Chairman – Sue Stewart

- Sue passed on Andy's apologies for missing the meeting due to unavoidable business commitments.
- The IEOC are about to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FEI, and are currently the only organisation in the eventing discipline to have a MOU with the FEI.



4. Report from the Secretary General – Sue Stewart

- Sue Stewart advised the IEOC endeavour to keep members updated with all FEI news via direct email wherever possible.
- Sue once again asked members to keep the IEOC updated with any changes to email addresses and to encourage others to join the organisation. Due to data protection laws it is not possible for the IEOC to obtain contact details of officials via any other source.
- Sue encouraged members to send any concerns or questions they may have to her to enable the IEOC to ensure members opinions are put forward to the FEI Eventing Committee.

5. Report from the FEI Eventing Committee – David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee

- David reported:
 - The work of the risk management and officials working groups continues
 - The FEI will be introducing an e-learning platform for officials, however it's currently unclear when this will launch due to the complex nature of developing such a platform
 - The new rules for Olympic Games were discussed at the Eventing Committee meeting in March. There will be test events in Strezgom and Millstreet. It is hoped the new rules will be in place for these test events.
 - David stressed all rule changes being discussed will only come into force in 2019, they do not apply to the current season. Therefore all existing rules should be applied to 2018 competition. Due to governance procedures it takes a long time for new rules to be implemented.
 - Photographic evidence. The GJ and TDs must have a designated source for photographic evidence at skinnies etc, evidence cannot be taken from any other source. Riders need to be aware of the designated source, this information should be included in rider briefings.
 - The Committee are considering tack issues, particularly the action of bits, and the length of leverage. Dressage limit this and the Eventing Committee are considering doing the same.
 - The Committee has agreed the time has come for eventing to have its own rules for dressage and show jumping. The rules are currently being developed and will be implemented for 2019.
 - Two new members will be elected this year, the athlete representative and TD representative. The athlete representative must have ridden in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships or Olympic Games.
 - David stressed it's important to ensure the IEOC views are put forward so the opinions of its members are heard by the Eventing Committee. These opinions will be considered by the Committee when matters are discussed.
 - Catrin Norinder advised the Global Education Programme came to an end in 2017 as there was no more budget available. Thanks to the Officials Working Group the FEI has secured new funding for a worldwide officials exchange programme. National Federations will be sent details of the programme in the next month. Officials to be included in the programme will be those identified through courses as needing more experience.



- Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR) asked whether double bridles will be taken out of dressage. David advised that is not currently planned.
- John Lawrence (GBR) asked how soon the online campus will be available for Stewards.
Catrin Norinder reiterated it's a very complex development process which not only includes the initial setup of the platform but also the yearly revisions. It's currently unclear how long this will take to complete. It could take 2 years or 10 years.
The FEI have started with an app for fence judges, based on one already in place in Germany, which should be ready this autumn, this is both a course and an onsite reference.
John indicated the German federation has some materials translated into English that would be valuable for use by Stewards now. It was agreed the web address for these materials could be shared with Stewards in advance of the online learning platform launch.
- Sue Baxter (GBR) asked why the widely supported option discussed at the Tattersalls Safety Seminar to give 10 penalties for dangerous riding has not come into force. Catrin could not recall and it was agreed Sue Stewart will follow up with Catrin via email to obtain this information.
- David Holmes (GBR) asked whether there would be any changes regarding CPD / the assessment of officials.
David O'Connor confirmed there was a lot of discussion on this at the Sports Forum. These discussions also encompassed the age limit. The FEI are currently working out how to assess officials in each different role given the variety of requirements, for example some are more physical than others.
Catrin advised it's not possible to remove the age limit if there is nothing to replace it, but HQ are actively looking at this.
David commented that the Officials Working Group had made 12 recommendations, most of which have already been implemented, including the code of conduct, rotation of officials etc.
- Christian Landolt (SUI) commented he feels the option for level 2 officials to officiate at 3* events should be reviewed given these events are qualifiers.
David advised there is ongoing discussion on this topic, but no decision has yet been made.
- Paul Tapner (AUS) requested clarification on the 50 penalty rule.
It was confirmed clarification of this rule was provided in November 2017:
<https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Clarification%20ER%20Art%20549.2.pdf>

6. Report from the ERA – Paul Tapner

- Paul Tapner reported the following items were discussed at the ERA meeting which took place at Badminton on Tuesday 1st May:
 - Election of an athlete representative to the FEI Eventing Committee.
 - ERA has encouraged all athletes eligible to stand to put themselves forward, and all those eligible to vote to do so as are aware the number voting previously was very low despite it being an important role.
 - The newest eligibility rules for both the rep and voters make this more challenging than usual. These concerns have already been raised in writing with the FEI.



David O'Connor advised the new rules will stand for this election but will be reviewed and potentially changed for the next cycle.

- Technology and presentation in the sport.
 - ERM have put a lot of tech into the sport including XC tracking devices, drones, cameras for jump judges etc. The general consensus is that riders like XC tracking devices, head and body cams if they're allowed to wear them. All riders wish to encourage organisers to have as many cameras as possible in strategic locations to help with judging. A jump judge in attendance at the ERA meeting indicated cameras should not be seen to be devaluing their role and opinion, but should be used to back them up.
 - The riders therefore welcomed the information provided at Wednesday's briefing that there would be multiple cameras on the Badminton XC course for judging narrow fences.
 - The general consensus was that the positioning of these cameras is very important. Side-on cameras are deemed to be pretty useless, and those placed front-on or directly behind can give a false opinion if used in isolation. To be 100% cameras need to be positioned both front-on and directly behind fences.
 - The meeting briefly discussed personal protection equipment, and only older riders say they don't want to see an increase in standards of body protectors and crash hats, all others welcome any improvements in minimum standards for this equipment.
- ERA restructuring.
 - The Pro Riders association in the US is now becoming the ERA of USA.
 - ERA would like to have an association in every country, with each association having a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with their National Federation.
 - ERA International will be the overarching organisation with a MOU with the FEI.
 - Bruce Haskell now has more time available to dedicate to ERA and so it is hoped they can move forward quickly with the implementation of this new plan.
 - David Holmes (GBR) enquired about the status of ERA's MOU with the FEI. Paul confirmed ERA has some internal governance issues they have to address first, but it is hoped Bruce's renewed vigour will lead to this being resolved in the next few months.
- Trial by social media.
 - Paul advised discussions inevitably centred around the recent situation with Marilyn Little in Kentucky.
 - Paul stressed ERA supports the decisions made by the Officials in Kentucky and has encouraged riders not to post derogatory comments on this or any other incidents as it only serves to undermine the sport.
 - Paul reported these discussions were quite heated, but ERA did and will continue to encourage members to use social media for the good of the sport and to support their fellow competitors, organisers and officials.
 - Christian Landolt (SUI) asked how we can control social media. He expressed particular concern that a lot of the comments made and photographs used following the incident in Kentucky weren't even from that event, and some were not genuine,



which is not fair to the rider. As an official he would like to be able to defend a rider and advise when comments/photos are incorrect.

The meeting agreed it's a very difficult situation and does raise concerns around aggression towards individual riders, and the image of the sport globally. It is difficult to control as the FEI and National Federations have no jurisdiction over many of those commenting (ie the general public).

The FEI already has a social media policy in place for officials, and it was agreed that National Federations should be encouraged to develop a code of conduct for the use of social media in relation to national events, as per the existing British Eventing code, and the FEI should develop a blanket social media policy/code of conduct for riders that would apply to all FEI competitions. If officials and riders don't engage in social media they will not be "whipping up" the public.

The advice to everyone was not to even look at any social media posts that contain negative commentary as social media uses algorithms to determine which posts to promote. The more a post is viewed, the more it will be promoted.

The meeting concluded at 18:10.