



**Minutes of the  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at Burghley Horse Trials  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**In attendance:** Andy Griffiths (GBR, Chairman), Sue Stewart (GBR, Secretary General), Nicky Kelly (IRL), Nikki Herbert (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Les Smith (GBR), Angela Tucker (GBR), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Richard Baldwin (GBR), Philip Surl (GBR), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Jonathan Clissold (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Jane Tolley (GBR), Mats G Andersson (SWE), Jenni Autry (USA), Emma Hickey (IRL), Marilyn Payne (USA), Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR), Paul Tapner (AUS), John Lawrence (GBR), Judy Hancock (GBR), Jan Cottam (GBR), Sally Price (GBR), Michael Barnes (AUS), Carolyn James (AUS), Jane Tuckwell (GBR), Dora Beacom (IRL), Graeme Thom (NZL), Chris Wallis (AUS), Lindy Young (AUS), Bea di Grazia (USA)

**Guests present:** David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Geoff Sinclair, Chair, FEI Risk Management Steering Group, Harry Meade (ERA)

**Apologies:** Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games, David Lee (IRL, Treasurer), Pattie Biden (GBR), Ingrid C Macaulay (VEN), Polly Ann Huntington (AUS), Gretchen Butts (USA), Helmut Mett (GER), Mathias Otto-Erley (GER), Dave Thompson (GBR), Anthony McPherson (BEL), Gina McPherson (BEL), Helen Christie (NZL), Christian Steiner (AUT), Carolyn Simm (GBR), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Christian Struck (DEN), Desmond Hughes (AUS), Sue Baxter (GBR), Christoph Hess (GER), Linda Waller (GBR), Jane Starkey (GBR), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), George Bazar (HUN), Sylvia Williams-Roberts (AUS), Fiona Muirhead (GBR), Alec Lochore (GBR), Martin Plewa (GER), Simon Bere (GBR), Anton Granus (NOR)

## **1. Chairman's Welcome**

- The Chairman opened the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM of the IEOC, thanking:
  - The Burghley President, Miranda Rock, and the Burghley Horse Trials Committee for the use of the Avebury Enclosure for the meeting, as well as Liz Inman and her team for their assistance in organising the meeting.
  - Marilyn Payne who has been the IEOC representative on the FEI Eventing Committee for the last four years and is retiring from this position at the end of the year.
  - Sue Stewart, and Rachel and Dan Moore for all the work they do on behalf of the IEOC.
- The Chairman welcomed David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee Geoff Sinclair, Chair, FEI Risk Management Steering Group, Jane Tuckwell, Badminton's new Director, Harry Meade representing ERA and Jean Mitchell who co-founded the IEOC in 1998.

## **2. Apologies**

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

### **3. Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM of the IEOC held at Burghley on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**

- The minutes of the 19th AGM which had already been circulated by email were approved. Proposed by Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR). Seconded by John Lawrence (GBR).

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

- Following a great deal of discussion on the proposed rule changes the IEOC Board has provided feedback to the FEI based on the input received from members.
- The Chairman thanked members for their invaluable feedback on the proposed rule changes.
- The IEOC tries to provide members with as much information as possible on the sport to ensure all Officials know what is going on.

### **5. Report from the Treasurer – David Lee**

- On behalf of the Treasurer, David Lee, the Chairman reported:
  - The IEOC account balance on 1 September 2019 totalled €2,710.62
  - Income = €410.00
  - Expenditure = €25.04
  - Andy Griffiths reiterated the IEOC rely on donations and gave thanks to Rachel and Dan Moore for the work they do on the IEOC website and mailing system, and to Sue Stewart for her work as Secretary General.
  - There will be some costs for the new IEOC website ([www.ieoc.info](http://www.ieoc.info)) going forward simply to cover the domain name registration and web hosting fees.

### **6. Report from the Geoff Sinclair, Chair, FEI Risk Management Steering Group**

- The aim of the Risk Management Steering Group is to reduce horse falls and serious injuries.
- The group has had a number of meetings during the course of the last few days with Mike Etherington-Smith who is a member of the Steering Group, Mark Phillips who is part of the Frangible Review Committee, Dave Vos, an aeronautical engineer who loves eventing from the US, and Jonathan Clissold who also helps with frangible devices. Meetings at Burghley will help push forward what's currently being done with safety.
- In the last year, after every event, if there has been more than two horse falls at any one fence or more than 10% of the field fall in any class, the Steering Group writes to the CD and TD to get their input on the causes of the falls. This is the first time the FEI have gone back to the CDs to ask their opinion on what has happened.
- David O'Connor has written to all CDs around the world this year giving them stats on where they sit in the world rankings, communicating statistics directly to CDs for the first time. Both CDs and TDs have provided good feedback off the back of this, identifying where they have got something wrong and will improve for next time.
- Things like rippling the water have been put into the Course Design Guidelines.
- The FEI does a lot of work with EquiRatings and the EquiRatings Quality Index (ERQI) which they are looking to use in the future.
- EquiRatings are providing new ratings and research in lots of areas, for example, if a you get a certain dressage score what is the impact on XC falls, and similarly with SJ when it takes place before the XC. The Group will then look at whether the MERs should change based on this evidence.
- Frangible devices have been used since 2011 and have provided a lot of science and learnings; for example when a horse jumps a fence at an angle about half the energy comes onto the fence compared to jumping straight on and so there is a need to think about how to get a frangible device to break at the same number of joules as if it was jumped straight on. Similarly with the back rail of an oxer, there is a lot less energy when the back rail is hit compared to the front rail, and it's also a coming down force, so we need to look at what we need to do to ensure frangible devices break when there is a serious incident at that type of fence.

- The Risk Management Group has proposed a sloping or round shoulder rule which it hopes will be introduced next year, and has also done a lot of work on XC design.
- The FEI is trying to listen, learn and improve safety in the sport.
- Andy Griffiths asked whether an interim report on the Group's work could be prepared and circulated every 6-12 months.
- David O'Connor advised National Safety Officers (NSOs) meet at the beginning of every year. This year around 70 CDs met at the same time as the NSOs. In 2020 there will be an Officials meeting following the NSO meeting at Aintree, UK at the end of January. This will include riders, Officials, CDs and trainers. They try and rotate these meetings that follow the NSO meetings, the riders, officials, CDs and trainers last came together in this way four years ago. A report from the Aintree meeting could be circulated. The Risk Management Steering Group will only report internally for the first year as they are learning what to track but may be able to report externally from next year.

## **7. Report from David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee**

- The rule change process takes time as it is a worldwide process. Rules come in March, are reviewed over the summer by NFs, riders and the IEOC. The closing date for comments was 30<sup>th</sup> August. The Committee will meet at the end of September to discuss the comments. The proposed rules will then be sent back out to NFs before going to the General Assembly in Moscow in November for final decision.
- Feedback has generally been good, but there are some controversial rules, for example the 15 penalty rule and the process for education of Officials. These are the big topics everyone is talking about.
- The hard part is when you've just closed a year to have a rule change process that must be in by the end of March as you have to get your head around how the rules are going to work in order to form an opinion for the next year.
- The 15 penalty rule is the most controversial. Conversations are continuing between riders and Officials and the Eventing Committee is definitely hearing this. The rule change that happened this year is based on a proposal that riders and Officials previously came up with, and there is now a proposed amendment. There is absolutely no line in the sand, we all want to fix it and make sure it works for the sport but we need to have a rule that works for everyone, not just the riders but also organisers, CDs and so on. In order for a rule change to be considered, the topic has to be included from March, otherwise no change can be made, hence the Committee put the topic back on the table in March.
- The FEI is trying to expand the rule process across all disciplines and considering only changing rules every four years rather than annually. David is not sure whether this will work as the sport is so dynamic, and so every four years may not be practical. This will be discussed in Moscow at the General Assembly.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- a. John Lawrence (GBR) raised the issue of the French link vs the Dr Bristol. In spite of the issue being resolved following a couple of events earlier in the year and confirmation having been received that the French link is legal, at an event three-four weeks later it was going to be banned. John asked why there is no system at the FEI to tell NFs when there has been a misinterpretation of the rules so they can inform their TDs and Stewards that the French link is clearly legal. Andrew Bennie further stated that he was President of the GJ at the event John refers to, he took a photo of the bit in question and sent it to three people at the FEI on the Wednesday but didn't receive any reply until the following Tuesday.
  - David O'Connor said the FEI couldn't issue a clarification on this occasion as they need to update the definition of the two bits to ensure the difference in the action of the two bits is perfectly clear. David would like to move away from just using pictures
  - David also confirmed eventing has moved away from simply following the dressage rules. He would like to look at the reining rules given the vast number of bits they use.

- Tim Downes (GBR) suggested a simplified definition is produced.
- Harry Meade (GBR) said riders have faced similar issues, including one event where quite a clear description of a Dr Bristol was pinned on the official notice board, with a photo of a French link
- Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR) thinks a lot of manufacturers are muddling between the two and a clear definition is very important as some bits nowadays look half like a Dr Bristol and half like a French link.
- Richard Baldwin (GBR) stated confusion is over new bits that have come out with control plates.

#### **9. Report from the ERA – Harry Meade**

- a. On behalf of ERA Harry Meade stressed the benefit of collaboration between riders and Officials, which has clearly been demonstrated in relation to the 15 penalty rule. There is common ground between the two groups. One of the reasons the rule has been thought to be working over the last 3 months is because it's not been applied, and riders and Officials have worked together to come up with new wording that reflects what has been actually been happening. The aim for the rule is for it to be clear to the rider as they jump the fence and fence judges and to place as little pressure as possible on TDs and GJs and get instant results that don't require too much scrutiny whilst obviously still having the cameras as back up. The proposed new wording has received positive feedback from riders, Officials and NFs. It is great to hear the revised wording is being considered.

10. The meeting concluded at 17:20.

**11. The next IEOC AGM will take place at Burghley after the dressage on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**