



## IEOC regional meeting at Badminton Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**In attendance:** Sue Stewart (GBR Secretary General), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Annabel Scrimgeour (GBR), Nicky Salmon (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Angela Tucker (GBR), Jane Tolley (GBR), Alec Lochore (GBR), Sarah Bullen (GBR), Thomas Duggan (IRL), Emma Hickey (IRL), Jan Cottam (GBR), Sarah Verney (GBR), Helen West (GBR), Tina Cook (GBR), Linda Waller (GBR), Sue Baxter (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Marie Durin (FRA), Pascal Sayous (FRA), Christian Landolt (SUI), Sasanne Lindahl (SWE), Judith Eisnecker (AUT), Andrew Temkin (USA), Elin Henberg (GBR), Helen Bowler (GBR), Adrian Ditcham (GBR), Tissie Reason (GBR), Andrew Fell (IRL), Frans Van Meggelen (NED)

**Guests present:** David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games; Geoff Sinclair, Chair, FEI Safety Committee, Mats Bjorneton, Mim Founder, Bruce Haskell, ERA President

**Apologies:** Andy Griffiths (GBR Chairman), Wayne Quarles (USA), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Carolyn James (Australia), Pierre Le Goupil (FRA), Roger Kane (AUS), Vince Roche (AUS), Anne-Mette Binder (DEN), Helmut Mett (GER), Christian Steiner (AUT), Christina Klingspor (SWE), Anton Granhus (NOR), Francois Lucas (FRA), Xavier Le Sauce (FRA), PollyAnn Huntington (AUS), Zara Pawley (GBR), Helen Christie (NZL), Wayne Copping (AUS), Faith Ponsonby (IRL), Peter Ponsonby (IRL), Stuart Bishell (NZL), Lindy Best (GBR), Mike Etherington-Smith (GBR), Seppo Laine (FIN), David Lee (IRL)

### 1. Welcome

Sue Stewart, IEOC Secretary General passed on Andy Griffiths apologies and read out a message from Andy.

The IEOC Board has been very active behind the scenes, keeping members abreast of situations that have arisen and working closely with the FEI to continually put forward the view of Officials to the FEI Eventing Committee.

Andy thanked Sue, and her daughter Rachel Moore for the work they have both done for all IEOC members over the last difficult two years.

Sue welcomed David O'Connor, Chair of the FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games, Geoff Sinclair, Chair of the FEI Safety Committee along with Mats Bjorneton of Mim and Bruce Haskell from ERA.

### 2. Report on recent IEOC activities

Sue Stewart, IEOC Secretary General welcomed Members and guests to the meeting. She thanked Jane Tuckwell and Rupert de Mauley, RGH for providing facilities for the meeting, and Jane Tolley for taking minutes.

Sue explained that due to the global pandemic, the decision had been taken to draw back from activities other than continuing to forward FEI updates etc as basically, the sport throughout the world had contracted and there was little to report.

It had also been decided to delay the elections due in 2021 to 2022.

Sue noted the IEOC relies on voluntary donations and thanked her daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and Dan Moore for their continued support of the website. She confirmed the Board, on behalf of the IEOC members sent flowers to Liz Inman on her retirement as Burghley Director. Both Liz and Ann Whitton will be missed but are ably replaced by Martyn Johnson.

Sue (SS) then opened the meeting to the floor.

### **3. Report from Bruce Haskell, President, ERA**

Bruce (BH) reported that there was a strong feeling amongst competitors that more education was needed to explain that safety systems are intended for rider safety, with clarity on the difference between red and yellow MIMs. There is a need to move away from the dialogue to a clearer understanding that it isn't just a fall penalty but a safety issue.

BH also confirmed that ERA is to be made more official in the next six months or so

### **4. Report from David O'Connor, Chairman, FEI Eventing Committee**

David (DOC): Change in Rule process: Can be every year but Rule Revision still every 4 years.

Eventing Committee want Officials, NF's etc to look at proposals, consider and suggest so a satisfactory consultation process can take place.

DOC stated that horse falls need to be reduced and it's not solved yet. The statistics are available and it is clear that since the introduction of MIM and Pins falls have reduced but more work needs to be done. He explained that the yellow clip is designed for angled jumping which is working. Science drives these designs and is ongoing.

Geoff Sinclair (GS) advised the aim is to make XC safer and not a SJ exercise.

We now understand the research and science and the detail of frangible technology. The angle and pressure applied, and type of fences are all taken into consideration eg Badminton Vicarage Vee at 45 degree open corner needs the yellow pin.

Cameras on XC tend to highlight falls and important to have a safe image for the public.

He cited several examples of different fences and fittings and hopes that progress is being constantly made towards a safer sport and accurate riding. He is also very happy to receive any enquiries.

BH said riders are concerned the 'trickle' factor around safety could make extreme changes to the sport.

SS asked what the best approach would be to educate riders regarding use of frangibles.

DOC said important to keep talking and spread the word at rider meetings.

Tina Cook (TC) said vital for riders to attend rider meetings and get the message across especially to the young riders.

Mats Bjornetun, Mim Founder (MB) said that he appreciated the value of this meeting and explained the clip mechanism in relation to the weight of the timber eg the Vicarage Vee is twice the normal weight so needs twice the energy of impact to activate the mechanism.

BH: Officials must also understand the technology and processes and influence on competition.

GS: There is a Working Group, including Mark Phillips, applying the science in the field.

New technology is being implemented all the time.

TC questioned the fairness of the pin breaking at Bicton, and GS stated it had been tested as queried by Sarah West.

MB asked for ideas for the future.

Annabel Scrimgeour (AS) said riders must be responsible to put horses in the correct gear and correct approach.

Helen West (HW) felt riders approach could change and may lead to a softer track.

## 5. Update from Mats Bjorneton, Founder of Mim, on the future of deformable technology in the sport

Mim started investigating falls in 2008 and had a good 5-6 years research before starting the development of the Mim systems as we know them.

MB stated the future is already here. He thought that it was to be a long journey but safe XC is now the future of the sport.

The weight of the rails needs to be looked at and need to find the technology to accommodate heavier rails. Science is hard to explain and for the layman to understand, but the integrity of the sport is the most important.

DOC said that an aeronautical engineer was aiding research and the specifics already mentioned.

## 6. Any Other Business

- Catrin Norinder (CN): Regarding the proposal that FEI registered riders undergo similar CES to that of Officials to show better awareness of the Rules with 50% pass requirement. The FEI doesn't have jurisdiction over this, but NFs could implement this.

BH: It's the younger audience that need to be influenced.

Sarah Verney (SV): Detailed emails aren't recognised or responded to so maybe a WhatsApp quiz or similar would receive a better response.

CN: We are testing a system. We can only improve so any comments would be appreciated.

Annabel Scrimgeour (AS): Non-English speaking riders have an added difficulty.

SV: Younger riders are IT savvy and modern technology is more acceptable to them.

- Question regarding relationship of XC with 20% variation between Long/Short format or equivalent National level.

DOC stated this is now on FEI questions.

Alec Lochore (AC) said this is a National question.

Helen West (HW) felt there must be clarity from Novice upwards with National progression from level to level.

DOC said in US responsibility lies with the NF.

- Why aren't tables required to be frangible?

GS: This is not yet a fence considered to cause an undue number of falls. What is the difference between a table and a filled in obstacle?

We can't overdo this. A table is a C2 fence and 145,000 were jumped in FEI competitions with 34 falls which is a low ratio. 80 falls would be considered low.

DOC: The dimensions would define what actually make a table fence.

AL: It takes a full day to build a frangible table and costs £1400.

- Recruitment of Stewards

Too few listed at present time and more online courses needed please due to expense.

CN: The Education structure is changing to come in line with the other disciplines. Level 1 will be online at NF level and hopefully the FEI Education Dept who are working to simplify the system will have it finalised by the end of 2022.

DOC: The old system within the Eventing Dept is now in the Dept for Education and online is being introduced as the way forward.

CN: they are trying to reduce effort and costs but not at the cost of quality of education. The Assessment structure is also undergoing change

- Request for more courses especially in relation to areas

CN: The whole structure of Courses is based on them being run during Events. Please encourage and press your NFs to put the courses on as the FEI can't arrange these without the co-operation from NFs

It isn't easy to find Course Directors.

Ballindenisk may be able to host a Course.

Jan Cottam (JC) pointed out that Stewards working at events where a course took place weren't able to attend.

CN reiterated need for NFs to put the Courses on.

Nicky Salmon (NS) stated where an event had offered to host a Course no Foreign Director could be found.

CN said International Sport needs International input as a priority and this has its difficulties.

AL: With the drive to educate, more Course Directors are needed but not easy to implement. It is very difficult in GBR

NS: Reminder that all Official Stewards are volunteers and mustn't be forgotten. They are generally totally self-funded.

Is there a way to reduce the costs and effort required to attend Courses whilst still maintaining standards.

Note: Online questionnaire needs to be clearer and with correct answers.

- SS: It would be good to integrate communication from members, queries that come through to the IEOC will be put to the Eventing Committee if required.
- Francois Lucas submitted a lengthy document outlining the arrangements and his concerns surrounding the Paris OG Eventing plans. A copy is available here today, and it can be circulated on request.

CN: Regarding the above, the FEI are part of the working group with the Modern Pentathlon who haven't been very constructive or helpful and the FEI needs to be more independent. The two disciplines will be using shared facilities so therefore there will be time constraints.

## **7. Venue and date for 21<sup>st</sup> IEOC AGM**

The 21<sup>st</sup> IEOC AGM will take place at Burghley. Members will be notified of any other regional meetings that are scheduled in the meantime.

The meeting concluded at 18:50.