



**Minutes of the
19th Annual General Meeting at Burghley Horse Trials
Friday 31st August 2018**

In attendance: Andy Griffiths (GBR, Chairman), Sue Stewart (GBR, Secretary General), David Lee (IRL, Treasurer), David Holmes (GBR), Jane Starkey (GBR), Nicky Kelly (IRL), Nikki Herbert (GBR), Gillian Kyle (IRL), Jean Mitchell (IRL), Les Smith (GBR), Alec Lochore (GBR), Angela Tucker (GBR), Martin Plewa (GER), Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR), Richard Baldwin (GBR), Thomas Duggan (IRL), Philip Surl (GBR), Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR), Jonathan Clissold (GBR), Andrew Bennie (NZL), Tim Downes (GBR), Ronald Alexander (GBR), Lorna Alexander (GBR), Belinda Lindh (AUS), Jane Tolley (GBR), Greg Rolton (AUS), Ernst Topp (GER), Sandor Fulop (HUN), Mats G Andersson (SWE), Ludwig Svennerstal (SWE), Martyn Johnson (GBR)

Guests present: Bruce Haskell, ERA President

Apologies: David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games, Stuart Buntine (AUS), Pattie Biden (GBR), Ingrid C Macaulay (VEN), Polly Ann Huntington (AUS), Christina Klingspor (SWE), Wayne Copping (AUS), Gretchen Butts (USA), Lesley Mawhinney (RSA), Helmut Mett (GER), Donald Kear (GBR), Christian Landolt (SUI), Gerit Matthesen (GER), Mathias Otto-Erley (GER), Dave Thompson (GBR), Anthony McPherson (BEL), Gina McPherson (BEL), John Lawrence (GBR), Stuart Bishell (NZL), Ciska van Meggelen (NLD), Helen Christie (NZL), Mercedes Campderá (MEX), Joachim Dimmek (GER), Joe Carr (USA), Lindy Young (AUS), Chris Wallis (AUS), Burkhard Beck-Broichsitter (GER), Christian Steiner (AUT), Carolyn Simm (GBR), James Leva (AUS), Vince Roche (AUS), Merel Schurink (NED), Katherine Lucheschi (ITA), Margs Carline (NZL), Judy Hancock (GBR), Judy Hancock (GBR), John Lawrence (GBR), Judy Bradwell (GR)

1. Chairman's Welcome

- The Chairman opened the meeting, 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.
 - Sue Stewart, and Rachel and Dan Moore for all the work they do on behalf of the IEOC.

2. Apologies

- The Chairman advised apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from a number of people, including both David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee and Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games.
- The Chair requested notification of any further apologies.

3. Minutes of the 18th AGM of the IEOC held at Burghley on 1st September 2017

- The minutes of the 18th AGM which had already been circulated by email were approved. Proposed by Les Smith (GBR). Seconded by Jane Tolley (GBR).

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

- The IEOC renewed the Memorandum of Understanding with the FEI at the beginning of the year.
- Very important to keep members informed, every relevant communication from the FEI to NFs and other stakeholders is sent to IEOC members. Any communications sent to IEOC members can be distributed to others involved in the sport.
- The Board of the IEOC has been in close contact with Marilyn Payne who represents Officials on the Eventing Committee and is acting on our behalf putting forward the points raised by IEOC members on the proposed rule changes. It is anticipated there will be a short statement indicating the IEOC has been liaising with a representative of the Eventing Committee to put the IEOC's views forward.

5. Report from the Secretary General – Sue Stewart

- There has been a huge response from IEOC members across the world to the proposed rule changes. All feedback is available upon request.
- The Board feels very strongly that Officials, organisers, riders and NFs must work together. There is a slight danger of splinter groups forming, and we must all try to avoid this.
- An unofficial working party convened by Andrew Bennie (NZL) met today, and had a very constructive meeting to discuss a number of the proposed changes.
- The FEI Eventing Committee are keen that the IEOC send a specific opinion on each rule, but the IEOC Board feel it is not their place to do this but forward all feedback from IEOC members. SS invited Andrew (AB) to report on this meeting:
 - AB reported this was the second informal get together of Officials, the first having taken place recently in Bromont. Discussions centred around the proposed rule changes, in particular the 50 penalty rule, with the aim of putting a workable solution to the FEI. Harry Meade joined the discussion today as he has had a lot of discussion with many of the top, international riders, all of whom are very experienced.
 - The riders feel the 50 penalty rule is now obsolete due to the changes in the rules for Championships and therefore things should go back to how they were before; ie if you don't jump a fence you get 20 penalties, if you don't jump it correctly you have to retake it or if you carry on you're eliminated, and no faults are given if you knock a flag down.
 - Tim Downes (GBR) added the group agreed a clear definition is required of what constitutes missing a flag. The riders feel this should be the shoulder up to the point of the saddle must pass through the flag. There was a very strong suggestion that if there is any doubt the decision should be in favour of the rider at the GJ discretion. Harry was adamant the riders respect the GJ and expect a correct decision.
- The following points were then raised:
 - **New format**
 - The meeting agreed it is unclear whether the proposed changes will only apply to the Olympic Games or to all Championships. The sense is the changes are intended to ensure the sport remains within the OG.
 - Having been involved in a test event Philip Surl (GBR) commented the new format event it is very different, and he feels it would be a significant step to bring it in for all Championships.
 - Alec Lochore (GBR): the focus of the 2020 agenda was to engage with as many people as possible and to make the sport simple. AL feels we may have achieved one aim but have certainly complicated the other. There have only been two test events, at Millstreet and Strzegom, which have thrown up different results and many of the new rules have been exercised at these events.
 - Andrew Bennie (NZL): the new format will not make the sport easier for the public to understand.

- Alec Lochore (GBR): on a European or World stage it's not going to make it more appealing to more nations as there are very few limitations for WEG, the Europeans and PanAm, if you're qualified you're able to go.
- Philip Surl (GBR): based on his experience at Millstreet advised when there's three in a team it's a totally different dynamic, you can have two "in the clubhouse" and it is meaningless until the third member gets home. It's a very different feeling. These elements can potentially be ironed out, however, it is hard to explain to the public how a horse that doesn't complete the dressage due to spitting blood bubbles as a result of a nicked lip, or being temporarily lame due to having knocked itself is then in the XC start box 12-24 hours later. The Officials all know the horse will have been checked by the vet, but this is hard for the general public to comprehend. They see an "injured" horse leave a phase, receive 100 penalties, but then carry on XC and potentially have further issues, which could be unrelated but the public would not realise this.
- Andy Griffiths (GBR): it was the media who suggested having more than one format makes the sport too complicated for the public to understand.
- Alec Lochore (GBR): the sport has evolved a great deal since the Sydney Olympics in 2000 in order to stay in the OG. We shouldn't necessarily continue to do so, and we may have to accept that ultimately the sport may lose its Olympic status. We should therefore have two formats, one for OG and a second for other championships. Several other Olympic sports have a different format for the Games. The OG has an anticipated TV audience of 700,000,000 people compared to 2,000,000 for an event like Burghley. Most of those watching the OG are following a flag, then a sport. Both audiences know Eventing is dressage, XC and SJ, and whilst some of the Burghley audience understand the sport as it stands, very few of the OG audience understand it. Changing the sport is not going to influence them, they are simply looking for a sport that has a flag they can follow that incorporates dressage, XC and SJ where the best team wins.
- Anne-Marie Taylor (GBR): this new OG format is not eventing, which should be a true test of one horse and one rider. Therefore, this should only be used for the OG not all other events.
- Ernst Topp (GER): it would not kill our sport if it was no longer in the Olympics. We shouldn't totally change our sport for the OG which are very focused on money.
- David Holmes (GBR): believes the changes have been accepted by the IOC with the exception of the rules on substitution as they are only being tested this year.
- Philip Surl (GBR): He and Gillian Kyle (IRL) have been involved in a number of different scenarios during the test events at Strzegom and Millstreet, eg
 1. Austrian team of three in Strzegom.
 2. First two members get 30 in dressage, the third horse has blood in the mouth during dressage, can't complete and scores 100. Team dressage score = 160.
 3. Horse with blood in mouth inspected and found to have tiny cut on lip that bled sufficiently to prevent them completing the test, but stopped within 10 minutes and allowed back into the competition with its 100 penalties.
 4. The team decided not to run this horse XC, giving her a total score after dressage and XC of 300.
 5. The horse was permitted to trot up on the final day and do the SJ, despite only having done half a dressage test and no XC. She therefore finished on 300 and her score counted for the team.
 6. The grey area is around substitution – how many hours before the competition is permissible? And a horse leaving the field of play for some reason, eg lameness or blood and then being permitted to continue. This is unlikely to be understood by the public.

- Gillian Kyle (IRL): the team vet should write a report confirming the horse has been WD. The horse should then be inspected by the FEI vet who can verify it is a genuine rather than tactical withdrawal; eg withdrawing a horse after XC that is known to be a poor show jumper.
- Philip Surl (GBR): there is a risk a team will put less effort into the recovery after the XC of a horse that is poor at SJ.
- Philip Surl and Gillian Kyle are putting together a factual report for the FEI on their observations at the test event at Millstreet. Frederique from the FEI was also at Millstreet and wrote a lot of notes.

The meeting agreed the new format should only be used for the Olympics and all other championships should retain their current format. It was agreed clarification is required from the FEI as to whether this is the intention.

○ **50 penalty rule**

- The suggestion the 50 penalty rule is obsolete only applies if the proposed changes are to apply to all Championships.
- Les Smith (GBR): the 50 penalty rule is a very grey area and as a result causes the most trouble and needs addressing for every format not just the OG.
- Andrew Bennie (NZL): an awful lot of ideas have come from all around the world, but there is no consensus for a proposal to go to the FEI from the IEOC. This led to the discussions at Burghley and in Bromont. The riders would be far happier for the rules to go back to how they were before the 50 penalty rule came in, and they would accept that if they didn't go back and represent having been deemed to have had a run out they would be eliminated.
- Bruce Haskell, President, ERA: the feedback he has had from the riders is that they want to revert back to the previous rules, and what we currently have is only to keep the IOC happy. The riders feel there should be no follow through to the rest of the sport, this ruling should not apply to lower levels or other championships. They want a non-contestable decision. They stand by the need for an instant decision but are clear they would like any decision to be backed by a technical solution, which would help Officials, ie visible cameras. At high level championships such as the OG this should be possible. Riders don't want to see decisions taking forever to happen, which also contravenes the 2020 agenda which wants instant decisions in line with other sports.
- Tim Downes (GBR): most riders are anti asking the fence judge due to language barriers. The preference is, if the rider decides they have not passed through the flags they jump the fence again and don't pick up any penalties. If however they believe they have cleared the fence they carry on and if the fence judge states otherwise they are eliminated. Harry Meade made it quite clear the riders would rather be eliminated than have the issues that arise with the 50 penalty rule, and are happy to take responsibility for deciding whether they need to represent or risk elimination.
- Alec Lochore (GBR): we're beyond that now as we've started using video at events throughout the world, even at 1* in order to be fair and create the correct image, and this can create an issue where a rider does/does not qualify for the Olympic, Asian, PanAm Games etc and then a team bring up video evidence and ask Officials to look at the official video taken at that fence and the issue is then taken to CAS. The issue is a judge makes an instant decision which may or may not result in elimination, and then someone brings up camera evidence to show the decision was wrong.
- Les Smith (GBR): Harry felt riders would respect a decision taken on the field of play.
- Martyn Johnson (GBR): in cricket they stick with the original decision unless there is definitive evidence to overturn it.
- Les Smith (GBR): a combination should only be eliminated where it is clear they did not pass through the flags, if it's unclear we should come down on the rider's side.

- Alec Lochore (GBR): we should look at other sports to see how they manage similar situations.
- Sue Stewart (GBR): Mike Etherington-Smith suggested having one/two stipendiary stewards who would watch the video evidence while the competition was in progress and come back to the GJ with a consensus of opinion.
- Ludwig Svennerstal (SWE): the 50 penalty rule is not the most popular, but as a rider he wants to know the decision of the jump judge; ie next time he passes a checkpoint someone should raise a flag so he can make a decision whether or not to continue, even if this could result in a rider pulling up when there is only a suspicion they did not pass through the flags which may later be overruled.
- Andy Griffiths (GBR): agrees this could be quite effective but it was trialled at a couple of events with the fence judge raising a flag if they deemed the rider had not passed through the flags so they could represent, but the riders advised they didn't like this method.

The meeting agreed the 50 penalty rule needs replacing but there is currently no consensus on what should replace it.

The meeting agreed the conclusion of the meeting be sent to Marilyn Payne to put forward to the Eventing Committee (EC) on behalf of the IEOC. It is hoped Marilyn's comments for the EC can be circulated amongst IECO members in due course.

6. Report from the Treasurer – David Lee

- The Treasurer, David Lee reported:
 - The IEOC account balance on 1 September 2018 totalled €2,330.66
 - Income = €648.57
 - Expenditure = €5.10
 - Andy Griffiths reiterated the IEOC rely on donations and gave thanks to Rachel and Dan Moore for their contribution to the web and IT costs and to Sue Stewart for her work as Secretary General.

7. Report from the FEI Eventing Committee

- Apologies were received from both David O'Connor, Chair, FEI Eventing Committee, and Catrin Norinder, FEI Director, Eventing & Olympic Games. No report was provided.

8. Report from the ERA – Bruce Haskell, President

- ~Bruce Haskell reported:
 - ERA is at the end of a four year period where the previous administration had to dissolve the company and had to keep a low profile. There were quite a few high profile riders who were Directors of a previous company that was trading insolvent with about £100,000 of debt. As a result, ERA has been fairly quiet, they have been actively involved but with no official capacity or organisational structure. This period is behind them and the accountants have advised they can now move forward officially.
 - Social media activity is slowly increasing through Sarah Skillin at EquiConsulting and going well.
 - Daisy Berkeley is trying to set up a WhatsApp group to enable riders to work with her directly.
 - Bruce hopes to put a voting structure in place to formally appoint the ERA President as Bruce was handed the role as a fill-in from Francis Whittington.
 - ERA will at some point sign an MoU with the FEI, but the restriction on the use of social media is a sticking point for ERA as it is their method of communication with members. Until this issue is resolved ERA are likely to remain a little on the outside.

- There are some very strong candidates to replace Daisy Berkeley as rider rep, the downside being the voting will be split. Bruce will therefore talk to a few candidates to discuss whether they wish to withdraw to avoid the wrong person being elected.
- Issues for ERA remain around the standardisation of construction of fences and use of safety devices.
- As mentioned at previous meetings, ERA is concerned there has been no movement from the FEI regarding standardisation of personal protection equipment. They are very concerned that body protectors remain unregulated and helmets are still on the lowest form of regulation. ERA have discussed this extensively with the FEI, but there has been no movement.
- ERA represent any FEI registered rider, with no membership fee.
- All rider comments are channelled through Daisy as the rider rep.
- The organisational structure will be set up so the rider rep is independent from ERA so if they feel the wrong person is in place, or they fail to attend meetings ERA will still have a voice.
- Unfortunately, the FEI structure means that if any member of the Eventing Committee is not in attendance one of the major voices is lost. ERA is concerned that the FEI doesn't offer any substitution option.

9. Any Other Business

- Bruce Haskell (ERA): The standardisation of the testing of nose bands by Officials, mainly Stewards coming through from America is causing riders concern.
 - Sue Stewart (GBR): believes a gauge from Denmark has been trialled and put forward to the FEI for approval.
- Andy Griffiths (GBR): The IEOC has asked for some standardisation on disciplinary matters as per the Jockey Club, so Officials have specific guidelines on what disciplinary action should be taken in certain circumstances; eg do you have to give a yellow card after three refusals if someone goes on to have a fourth refusal?
- Les Smith (GBR): it would be preferable if a vet was present at the dressage so in the case of any blood they can advise instantly if the test can continue. If necessary, eg in the case of a bitten tongue, the competition could continue and once the bleeding has resolved the competitor could restart their test, as per the XC.
- Andy Griffiths (GBR): believes the proposal is for Officials (including CDs and TDs) at the age of 70 to have the option to apply for a maximum of a two-year extension but would need to have done ten 3* events in the last two years, and a seminar in order to qualify. Competency testing will also be brought in.
 - The meeting agreed it would be impossible for many Officials to meet this criteria, particularly those in Australia and New Zealand.
 - It is not clear who will undertake any assessments.
 - Alec Lochore (GBR) believes the current rule requiring all Officials to retire at 70 should remain.
 - Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR): agrees so long as there are sufficient new people coming through, which doesn't seem to be the case.
 - Alec suggested the reason people aren't coming through is because they don't see any opportunity if the more mature Officials don't move on.
 - ***The meeting agreed in order to get more people coming through there should be a restriction on the number of competitions at each level that a person can do. A maximum of 5 (long and short format) events per season was suggested.***
 - Sue Stewart (GBR): it has been suggested that before people are invited to officiate at the higher level competitions their names should be put forward to the FEI so they can

check what other competitions they are already committed to and thus avoid the same people being used too often.

- Alec Lochore (GBR): as an organiser this could be challenging if it only leaves the option of a GJ member from far afield. Organisers should also have the option to work with whom they choose.
- Richard Baldwin (GBR): The FEI have proposed for upgrade from level 2 to level 3, assessments are needed from two mentor judges (there are only about 10-12 of them throughout the world) whilst you are on the GJ of a 3*, with the mentor judge present, who must be from a foreign country. This is incredibly difficult to achieve. Richard has been unable to apply for an upgrade this year as he couldn't find an event this year with a mentor judge as President who isn't from GBR.
 - Andy Griffiths (GBR): a similar issue exists with TDs.
 - Sue Stewart (GBR) : NFs should be expected to run a level 1 course and prove the candidates they are putting forward for an FEI seminar are competent in XC and SJ, and have that background and knowledge. As the rules stand, in GBR can have a list 6 judge, ie the lowest level, on a 1 or 2* GJ who has never been trained to judge sitting trot, any sideways movements or the beginning of collection, and in a lot of cases they have no knowledge of XC or SJ. They don't even realise they have to stay for and judge the SJ or realise there will be a trot up.
- **Gillian Kyle (IRL): for the new 105 introductory class neither of the Judges has to be on the FEI list, they can be national judges. The TD has to be on the FEI list.**
 - **The meeting agreed this is totally wrong, it places too much responsibility on the TD, and if there is an accident or rider death it leaves the FEI wide open**
- Jonathan Clissold (GBR) and David Lee (IRL): the FEI need to align the pony 2* dimensions with the 105 dimensions for seniors.
- Jean Mitchell (IRL): asked whether event organisers are going to be asked to take people from the programme that has replaced the GEP.
 - Richard Baldwin was told by Catrin that candidates should apply direct to the FEI with a CV, their country, what they're missing, where they'd like to go and how much it will cost. The FEI will then advise whether they can provide funds. If approved the candidate approaches the venue advising they have approval/funding from the FEI.
 - Alec Lochore (GBR): has two candidates from the programme at his events this year, one in the US later in the year and one at Blair last week. The candidates wrote to him advising they had funds and asking if they could attend.
 - **The meeting agreed confirmation should be sought on where information on the new education programme can be found.**
- Jane Holderness-Roddam (GBR): asked for the meetings opinion on the neck strap rule.
 - **The meeting agreed neck straps should be allowed from a safety perspective.**
- **John Lawrence (GBR): the FAQs have not been on the FEI website for several weeks. When will they be reinstated?**

10. The meeting concluded at 18:08

11. **The next IEOC AGM will take place at Burghley after the dressage on Friday 6th September 2019.**