



IMGA NEWSLETTER






FEBRUARY 2024

Our New Year sees plans already being made for the Northern Hemisphere season - while our Southern Hemisphere gamers will look back at their season and take pride in the massive successes of hosting a fabulous World Teams Championship in Australia and a wonderful Nations Cup in South Africa.

The reputation of hosting a successful Championships lasts a long time and is built upon the huge effort of its volunteers.

Perhaps this is something we could all ask ourselves: what can we do to help make the 2024 season a memorable season?

Programme 2024

World Team Championship	Italy Arezzo	 July 15 Arrival July 16 Practice July 17-20 Competition July 21 Departure
World Individual Championship	Italy La Scuderia	 July 22 Arrival July 23 Practice July 24-28 Competition July 29 Departure
World Pairs Championship	France Domaine Équestre de laBonde	 August 5 Arrival August 6 Practice August 7-10 Competition August 11 Departure
European Team and Individuals Championship	France Parc Équestre Fédéral Lamotte-Beuvron	 August 12 Arrival August 13 Individuals start August 14 Teams start August 17 Finals August 18 Departure
Nations Championship	New Zealand Taupo Central North Island	 October 12-19



**Our new Chief Referee,
Mark Crowe**



**Our new Development Officer,
Andrea Piazza**

**Mark Crowe – Elected to the role of IMGA Chief Referee,
November 2023.**

I came to the discipline of Mounted games in 2009-2010 when my 3 children commenced Mounted Games through the Meath Hunt Branch of the Irish Pony Club. Since then I have followed their development through this fantastic sport at all age groups in Pony club and into the Mounted Games Association around 2014.

I trained as an IMGA referee in 2016 and progressed up the ranks from 1* to 4* referee. I have refereed at a number of IMGA events including World individuals 2018, 2019, World pairs 2019, Europeans (Teams and Individuals) 2019, World Teams 2021, World Individuals 2021, World Pairs 2021, World Teams 2022, World Pairs 2022, European Teams / Individuals 2022, Nations Championships 2022, World Pairs 2023, World Teams 2023 and Nations 2023. I also referee at all Irish Competitions since 2016 and have done so at a number of MGAGB and Italian MGA competitions during that period also.

I was elected to the rules committee in November 2020 when a vacancy arose where I have actively contributed to rule changes over that period. I am a member and Chair of the IMGA training and qualification committee where we have revamped the assistant referee and full referee courses, with Liaison referees now in each country delivering these courses with input from a few of us to help when appropriate. The training and qualification committee are also trialling courses for IMGA coach development which will hopefully be an exciting initiative.

My day job is reproductive biology specialist in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. I focus predominantly on research and teaching Veterinary Students in the areas of breeding, reproductive management and fertility treatments for cattle, sheep and horses!

I have just completed a 4 year term as Chair of MGA Ireland, thus giving me the necessary time to move to the next challenge in Mounted games for me (IMGA Chief Referee). In taking on the role of Chief Referee for 2024 to 2025 I am excited for the responsibility and trust being given to me by IMGA, as I give back the sport I have grown to love with a passion. Those who know me will be aware that fairness to the competitors is my absolute priority and I will endeavour to continue the great work of my predecessors in this role. It will be my aim to get the correct decision for the riders at all times. I look forward to seeing everyone at this years' competitions.





Nations 2023 South Africa

by Tanya, Secretary South Africa MGA

Wow, what an amazing experience. I can't believe it all went down more than a month ago.

From a mum's point of view watching both my sons compete on the same field and then having my heart burst with patriotic pride seeing SA bring home the trophy. That was very special. The SA teams and riders did their country proud.

Being part of the organising committee, each one in this great group have Mounted games etched deeply in their hearts and for each and every one of them I am truly grateful.



When I think back to the visiting team riders, parents, coaches and supporters, there was such ‘a Nation's family’ comradery and good healthy competition. I am really thankful for your support that made this competition possible.

Your riders did their Nation proud, they rode well and cared for their ponies as if they were their own. Beautiful horseman and compassion, thank you New Zealand, thank you USA and thank you Australia !



Was it hard work?

More than most would know who hasn't done this before, not to mention the long hours, total respect!

**Did things go wrong?
Absolutely!**

**Will you do it again?
For sure!**





I am sure there are many who will call me crazy but there are definitely many more who understand this passion we have for mounted games and horses. There are so many committed people who work hard to make this fast fun discipline worth participating in.

And I am honoured to say that I met two amazing dedicated men, Nations Head Referee, Mark Crowe and IMGA Official, Jens Martin. I am incredibly grateful for their help, advice and support throughout the competition challenges and highlights. Thank you just doesn't seem enough.

But “ Ubuntu “ comes to mind.

“ I am because you are”, humanity towards others, and the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity.

Until next time.

Sala kakuhle,stay well.

Rider Height and Weight Restrictions **A Reminder!**

Ponies GR2.1. **Ponies must not exceed 1m52cm** excluding shoes. If the referee believes a pony exceeds that height then that pony will be excluded from the competition from that point on and any points scored by the Team, Pair or Individual concerned will be lost unless: A: The rider can provide a dated height certificate for that pony signed by an independent qualified veterinary surgeon showing that the pony does not exceed 1m52cm. The height certificate must have been issued after the pony attained seven years of age or within the last twelve months for ponies under that age, or B: The referee measures the pony at the venue and is satisfied that it does not exceed 1m52cm excluding shoes.

Rule : GR2.4. The size, weight and experience of a rider must correspond to the size, build and experience of the pony. If the referee deems a rider to be overweight or unsafe, that rider will be eliminated from the competition. A rider is overweight for a pony if the rider's weight exceeds 20% of the pony's bodyweight.

An automatic calculator has been developed for IMGGA by Mats Hensel to make it very easy to check the rider weight limit for your pony. **Please see MG SCOREBOARD for a calculator**
In borderline cases the referee will make a decision taking all relevant factors into account.

Riders should not be too tall for their pony.
As a guideline the top of the pony's withers should not be more than 10cm below the level of the rider's horizontally outstretched arm.

World Team Championships 2024							
	Session 1		Session 2		Session 3		Session 4
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race	1	HiLo	1	Bank Race
2	Socks and Buckets	2	Hoopla	2	Ball and Cone	2	Agility Aces
3	Hug-a-Mug	3	Litter Scoop	3	Hula Hoop	3	Association Race
4	Bottle Shuttle	4	Carton Race	4	Bottle Exchange	4	Bang-a-Balloon
5	Association Race	5	Three Mug	5	Hug-a-Mug	5	Litter Scoop
6	Pony Express	6	Tool Box Scramble	6	Pony Pairs	6	Carton Race
7	Mug Shuffle	7	Bottle Swap	7	Two Flag	7	Pony Express
8	Founders Race	8	Agility Aces	8	Mug Shuffle	8	Socks and Buckets
9	Litter Lifters	9	Windsor Castle	9	Founders Race	9	Ball and Cone
10	Four Flag	10	Jousting	10	Sword Lancers	10	Flag Fliers
	Final Part 1		Final Part 2				
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race				
2	Ball and Cone	2	Carton Race				
3	HiLo	3	Litter Lifters				
4	Tool Box Scramble	4	Socks and Buckets				
5	Bottle Exchange	5	Association Race				
6	Hoopla	6	Bang-a-Balloon				
7	Pony Express	7	Hula Hoop				
8	Pony Pairs	8	Two Flag				
9	Three Mug	9	Windsor Castle				
10	Founders Race	10	Mug Shuffle				
11	Four Flag	11	Agility Aces				
12	Jousting	12	Flag Fliers		Tie Break: Flag Fliers		

World Individuals Championships				
Session 1		Session 2		Session 3
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race	1 HiLo
2	Hula Hoop	2	Moat and Castle	2 Socks and Buckets
3	Litter Lifters	3	Bottle Shuttle	3 Litter Scoop
4	Carton Race	4	Mug Shuffle	4 Two Flag
5	Association Race	5	Sword Lancers	5 Bottle Exchange
6	Tool Box Scramble	6	Triple Flag	6 Hoopla
7	Three Pot Flag	7	Victoria Cross	7 Flag Fliers
	Semi-Finals		A-Final	Lower Finals
1	Bank Race	1	Speed Weavers	1 Speed Weavers
2	Sword Lancers	2	Socks and Buckets	2 Socks and Buckets
3	Litter Lifters	3	HiLo	3 Mug Shuffle
4	Hula Hoop	4	Mug Shuffle	4 Three Mug
5	Bottle Swap	5	Litter Scoop	5 Three Pot Flag
6	Tool Box Scramble	6	Carton Race	6 Bottle Exchange
7	Three Mug	7	Three Pot Flag	7 Victoria Cross
8	Triple Flag	8	Bottle Exchange	8 Flag Fliers
		9	Victoria Cross	
		10	Flag Fliers	Tie Break: Flag Fliers

World Pairs Championships					
Session 1		Session 2		Session 3	
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race	1	Sword Lancers
2	Tool Box Scramble	2	Socks and Buckets	2	Hoopla
3	Bottle Exchange	3	Bottle Swap	3	Association Race
4	Four Flag	4	Bang-a-Balloon	4	Carton Race
5	Litter Lifters	5	Three Mug	5	Windsor Castle
6	Hug-a-Mug	6	Founders Race	6	Hula Hoop
7	Agility Aces	7	Pony Pairs	7	Flag Fliers
Semi-Finals		A-Final		Lower Finals	
1	HiLo	1	Speed Weavers	1	Speed Weavers
2	Tool Box Scramble	2	Hoopla 0.5	2	Tool Box Scramble
3	Bottle Shuttle	3	Carton Race	3	Association Race
4	Bang-a-Balloon	4	Association Race	4	Carton Race
5	Litter Scoop 0.5	5	Pony Pairs	5	Bottle Exchange
6	Ball and Cone	6	Agility Aces	6	Four Flag
7	Founders Race	7	Bottle Exchange	7	Hula Hoop
8	Two Flag	8	Four Flag	8	Flag Fliers
		9	Hula Hoop		
		10	Flag Fliers		Tie Break: Flag Fliers

European Teams and Nations Championships 2024							
	Session 1		Session 2		Session 3		Session 4
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race	1	HiLo	1	Bank Race
2	Tool Box Scramble	2	Hoopla 0.5	2	Ball and Cone	2	Hula Hoop
3	Bottle Exchange	3	Litter Scoop	3	Agility Aces	3	Association Race
4	Hug-a-Mug	4	Carton Race	4	Bottle Shuttle	4	Bang-a-Balloon
5	Association Race	5	Three Mug	5	Hug-a-Mug	5	Litter Lifters
6	Pony Express	6	Socks and Buckets	6	Pony Pairs	6	Carton Race
7	Mug Shuffle	7	Bottle Swap	7	Two Flag	7	Pony Express
8	Founders Race	8	Agility Aces	8	Mug Shuffle	8	Socks and Buckets
9	Litter Lifters	9	Windsor Castle	9	Founders Race	9	Ball and Cone
10	Four Flag	10	Jousting	10	Sword Lancers	10	Flag Fliers
	Final Part 1		Final Part 2				
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race				
2	Ball and Cone	2	Carton Race				
3	HiLo	3	Litter Lifters				
4	Socks and Buckets	4	Tool Box Scramble				
5	Association Race	5	Bottle Exchange				
6	Hoopla	6	Bang-a-Balloon				
7	Pony Express	7	Hula Hoop				
8	Pony Pairs	8	Four Flag				
9	Three Mug	9	Windsor Castle				
10	Founders Race	10	Mug Shuffle				
11	Two Flag	11	Agility Aces				
12	Jousting	12	Flag Fliers		Tie Break: Flag Fliers		

European Individuals Championships 2024					
Session 1		Session 2		Session 3	
1	Speed Weavers	1	Bank Race	1	HiLo
2	Hula Hoop	2	Moat and Castle	2	Tool Box Scramble
3	Litter Lifters	3	Bottle Shuttle	3	Bottle Exchange
4	Carton Race	4	Mug Shuffle	4	Litter Scoop
5	Association Race	5	Sword Lancers	5	Three Mug
6	Socks and Buckets	6	Triple Flag	6	Hoopla
7	Three Pot Flag	7	Victoria Cross	7	Flag Fliers
Semi-Finals		A-Final		Lower Finals	
1	HiLo	1	Speed Weavers	1	Speed Weavers
2	Carton Race	2	Tool Box Scramble	2	Socks and Buckets
3	Litter Lifters	3	Bank Race	3	Mug Shuffle
4	Victoria Cross	4	Mug Shuffle	4	Three Mug
5	Bottle Shuttle	5	Litter Scoop	5	Triple Flag
6	Socks and Buckets	6	Sword Lancers	6	Bottle Exchange
7	Three Mug	7	Triple Flag	7	Hula Hoop
8	Three Pot Flag	8	Bottle Exchange	8	Flag Fliers
		9	Hula Hoop		
		10	Flag Fliers		Tie Break: Flag Fliers

Professional Mounted Games Equipment



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ASSISTANT REFEREE COURSE

Don't forget to sign up to the online Assistant Referee course:-

In order to maintain our high standards of refereeing, IMGGA is asking that all Assistant Referees at IMGGA competitions to have passed Assistant Referee training.

All Assistant Referees will either have to have passed the Assistant Referee in-person course within the last 3 years or to have passed the online Assistant Referee course which is now available.

This online course has training and a set of questions. Typically it would take about 4 hours which can be done over several sessions if you prefer.

To access the course:-

Go to the following link:

<http://training.eventsecretary.com.au/imga-training/login/index.php>

Click "Create New Account"

Complete the details.

You will receive a confirmation email. Click the link.

Once confirmed Click Site home.

Then click IMGGA Assistant Referees 2021

Then click Enrol me.

Don't forget to select your nationality on your profile!

**If you have any queries, please contact Warwick Slade:-
imga.ass.refs.training@mounted-games.org**

Anyone certified before January 2020 will need to take the course.

NEW RACES?

If you have a new race that you think would be great, write to your International Representatives and they will send your idea to our Rules Committee.

TOP TIP : try to use equipment that we already use. And also, that the wind will not blow down!





WELCOME TO FONTAINEBLEAU, SAVE THE DATE ! On June 8th and 9th, 2024, the inaugural International Mounted Games competition will take place in the Parisian region.

This iconic venue, Le Grand Parquet, has been a witness to all the sporting and equestrian triumphs of the 20th century. Following a complete renovation, this event site is now modern, functional, and seamlessly blends with its extraordinary natural setting: the Fontainebleau forest. Regarded by professionals as one of the most stunning competition venues in Europe, it stands as a genuine event space.

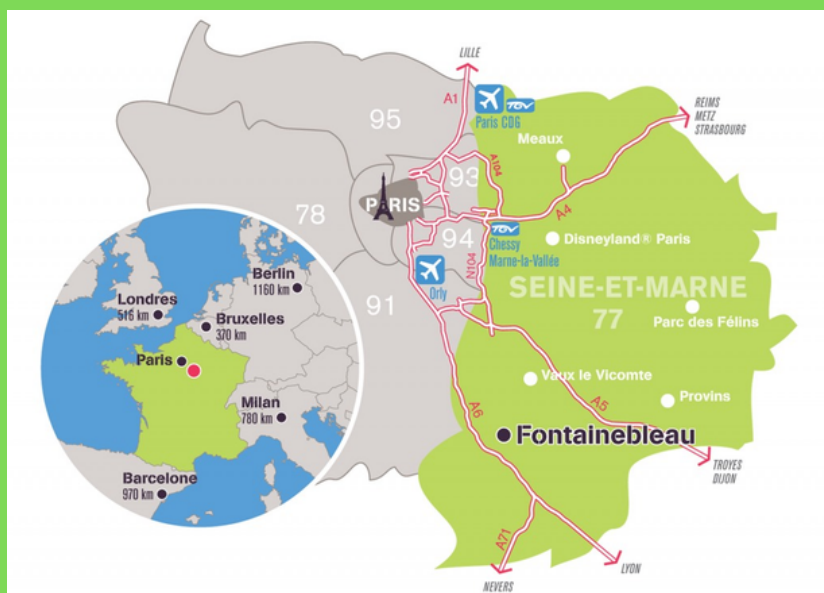
Covering 30 hectares, the site has the capacity to welcome up to 10,000 people. In 2024, France is set to host the world's largest sporting event. Recognized as a 'Terre de Jeux' (Land of the Games), the Pays de Fontainebleau has been acknowledged by the Olympics and Paralympics organizing committee as a Preparation Centre for the 2024 Games in Paris.



**FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING THIS COMPETITION PLEASE CONTACT: Nicolas Noesser for all French enquiries, who is the organizer of the competition, as well as managing Chailly-en-Bière's Pony Club and one of the French National coaches and Théo Philippe for all enquiries in English.
Nicolas' email: cbe.equiplaisirs@gmail.com
Theo's email: Theo.philippe4ns@gmail.com**



<https://www.grandparquet.com/en/infrastructure/>



SOPHIE LOCKING



Q. In which country do you live?

Wales

Q. What age group do you ride in for Mounted Games?

I am going into my first year of under 18's.

Q. When did you first become involved in Mounted Games?

I started doing games when I was 4, when Paige Robinson gave me my first games pony, Fizz.

Q. What team do you ride for?

Monmouthshire

Q. Where have you been abroad with Mounted Games?

I rode at Europeans in 2019 in Ireland. I also went to La Bonde, France in 2023 for Worlds Individuals.

Q. What is your favourite venue?

Millstreet in Ireland, as this was my first international venue and we got to parade through the streets of Millstreet. .

**Q.What do you like most about Mounted Games?
Making friendships that last a lifetime and watching my ponies
improve.**

**Q. What is your favourite race? and why?
My favourite race is Individual Sword Lancers, because it
combines speed and precision.**

**Q. What advice would you give to a new Games rider?
Keep working at it, and don't expect success to come
overnight. If you ever get the chance to train your own pony
seize the opportunity but take things slowly, as it's an
incredible feeling to have success on a pony you've produced
yourself.**

**Q. Tell us about your pony. I bought Alun in late 2021 from
Elaine Trevor-Jones. She had bought him to train for Mounted
Games, however, after my Windsor trail on a pony that I had
produced myself, she trusted me to do the same with Alun. It
took a year of basic training before I entered my first Mounted
Games competition in David Broomes on Alun. After that
event, I knew he was going to be something special as he
showed immense potential, and took to the atmosphere very
well. Since then he has become more and more confident in
the ring.**

**Q. What other interests do you have apart from Mounted
Games?**

**I enjoy taking part in other disciplines on my ponies such as
polocrosse and showjumping. In my spare time, Alun and I love
to go hacking up in the Welsh Mountains and down on the
beach. Outside of riding I also play netball for my local club.
However, my first love will always be riding.**

Q. Tell us about your 2023 season.

The 2023 season was Alun's first complete season of Mounted games and my final year of Pony Club and under 15's. The season started well with a win with Heidi White in the STRUK Knights Bachelor Pairs, closely followed by the STRUK Individual title. We have also had a successful year riding as part of Monmouth under 15's, and I'm looking forward to riding again with them this year in under 18's. In May, I won the British Individuals after an extremely close run-off with Taryn Barker for the title. In July, my Pony Club team qualified for HOYS by winning our Zone Final.

Soon after, we travelled to La Bonde in France for a very wet World Individuals. Despite the unfavourable conditions Alun performed at his best all week, maybe we had an unfair advantage as being from Wales we are more than used to the rain. Alun exceeded all my expectations and took the under 15's title. Standing on that podium was a dream come true for me.

Following on from Worlds, we travelled straight to Onley, for the European Championships. I was reserve for the Welsh u15's team and was competing in the Individuals on Alun. This was a big ask for Alun after a tough week at Worlds, but he showed no signs of tiring, winning every session on the way to the semi-final. He once again pulled it out of the bag to take the European title.

My trainer, Rachel Dowdeswell was by my side throughout these two weeks, and I couldn't have done it without her support and belief. October brought HOYS, and the end of a very long, but very successful season for Alun and me.



ASSISTANT REFEREE QUESTIONS

25. A rider`s horse places one foot outside the arena in
Jousting :

- a] The team is not eliminated
- b] The team is eliminated

26. In Agility Aces, Rider 4 holds his pony by the far rein
under the pony`s neck while crossing the stones :

- a] He must re-cross the stones holding the near rein only
- b] He must re-cross the stones holding both reins
- c] He must re-cross the stones holding the bit
- d] He is correct and can continue

27. A rider is sent back to the penalty line at the start of
the Litter Race. When the flag drops to start the race,
the pony has two feet over the penalty line :

- a] The rider will not be eliminated because she had
been behind the penalty line before the flag dropped
- b] The rider should re-cross the penalty line and then
start
- c] The rider cannot correct this mistake and will be
eliminated

25. Un poney d'un cavalier pose son sabot à l'extérieur du terrain dans le jeu de la Joute :

- a) L'équipe n'est pas éliminée**
- b) L'équipe est éliminée**

26. Dans le jeu des Marches, le cavalier 4 tient son poney par la rêne opposée sous le cou de son poney en traversant les marches :

- a) Il doit retraverser les marches, en tenant la rêne de son coté**
- b) Il doit retraverser les marches en tenant les deux rênes**
- c) Il doit retraverser les marches en tenant le mors**
- d) Il a raison et il peut continuer**

27. Un cavalier est renvoyé à la ligne de pénalité au début du jeu de Litter. Quand le drapeau s'abaisse, le poney a 2 sabots qui traversent la ligne de pénalité

- a) Le cavalier ne sera pas éliminé car elle avait été derrière la ligne de pénalité avant l'abaissement du drapeau**
- b) Le cavalier doit retraverser la ligne de pénalité et puis doit reprendre son départ**



European Championship Pony Mounted Games



**13th to 17th
august 2024**

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Parc équestre fédéral - Lamotte - 41600
FRANCE



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Our next **Charity day will be held at
the European Championships 2024
on Thursday 15 August**

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And all for a great cause!

Assistant Referee answers

25.b

26. d

27.b