



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting 2003

Final version 3.0 (31 January 2004)

Modified 3.1 (02 January 2005) See note at end

**Held at the Hotel Panorama, Overijse, near Brussels, Belgium
Saturday November 22**

*This record of the meeting is compiled from notes taken by Frie Martin during the meeting,
with verification from an audio recording.*

Meeting opened : 9:30am

Present :

Representing

Marilyn Hackman	(Chairman)
Dirk de Clercq	Belgium
Jim Dunn	Canada
Sheila Peck	England
Isabelle Pierrard	France
Burkhard Bohn	Germany
Keith & Frie Martin	Luxembourg
Colin Carson	Northern Ireland
Jens Martin	Norway
Nisse Adolfsson	Sweden
Paul Greiling	USA

Also present :

Ro Day
Rose Dunn
Liz Englert
Jessica Foissey
Dorothy Heath
Robert Lockyer
Irene Scott
Kent Trulsen

Proxy voting

[01/03] The discussion on proxy voting from last year was re-opened. There was no argument against the use of proxies, but much discussion concerning the number of proxies allowed per person. It was decided, as before, to allow unlimited proxies per person for the current meeting, but to decide future procedures in the context of the constitution.

The point was made that if future agendas were more detailed, available well in advance, and supported where necessary by other documentation, then proxy voters would be in a much better position to make their wishes known, point by point.

[02/03] The suggestion that "inactive" (the term was not defined) or new members should not have a vote at all was rejected.

Apologies for absence :

Phil Logue	Australia
Signe Sehested	Denmark
Rosemary Maher	Ireland
Bill Fogerty *	New Zealand
Bruce Nicol	Scotland
Mandé Siderfin	South Africa
Carol Jones	Wales
Twiga Vollmers *	

Proxy held by :

Canada
Norway
Chairman
Luxembourg
England
Canada
England

* apologies received in writing

Last year's minutes

The minutes from last year were not issued according to the procedure agreed at that time, respecting neither the format nor the timing. The subsequent issue of a second document caused some confusion, the result being that there was no follow up and no acceptance of the minutes. Jens' proposal for re-starting the acceptance procedure was ignored and so at this meeting, acceptance of last year's minutes remained an open question.

[03/03] It was suggested that the second issue of the minutes be accepted, although reluctantly, in the interests of spending no further time on this point and moving on. This was agreed.

[04/03] The future procedure was then discussed with agreement on the following points :

- A return to fuller minutes, not verbatim, but with sufficient narrative to establish the context of decisions made
- The minutes must be distributed within 14 days of the meeting, followed by a 30 day period for agreement and/or comment
- If comments lead to a re-issue then a further 30 day period for agreement/comments begins
- This cycle is repeated until full agreement is reached
- Silence from any member is taken as agreement

Accounts

The Chairman presented a Financial Statement for the period November 30 2002 to November 22 2003. A copy is attached.

[05/03] The financial statement was accepted.

As in previous years, it was agreed to split the costs of room rental and lunch for both the meeting (Saturday) and the symposium (Sunday) between those present and IMGA.

Affiliation Fees

There was some confusion over the reductions in affiliation fees for new members, the reasons for which they were granted, and which countries should benefit from them.

[06/03] The following was confirmed from decisions made in 2000, 2001, and 2002 :

- For the first membership year of a new member, no affiliation fee
- For the second year, a reduction of 50%
- For all subsequent years, full fee.

[07/03] It was agreed that the affiliation fee for 2004 should remain at GBP 100.

Competitions

World Championship 2003

Paul Greiling reported on the World Championship held in Lexington, Kentucky, and thanked all those who had contributed to its success.

The Chairman added her thanks.

Points arising :

- Phil Logue (by proxy) raised the matter of the lack of sufficient practice time available for teams riding on borrowed ponies.
- Nisse Adolfsson began a discussion on the matter of vandalism at Mounted Games competitions, and although no specific decisions were made, the following possibilities were noted :
 - A contract of good behaviour to be signed by all riders
 - Restrictions on the availability of alcohol
 - Implementation of a Code of Conduct based on the experiences of MGAGB

On the subject of conduct, a question was raised concerning cooperation between all members to enforce disciplinary sanctions applied against riders by one member. The discussion showed that some countries may not be free to apply sanctions even if they wished to because of restrictions of their local federations. No specific conclusions were reached and no action was recommended, other than the commitment to a general Code of Conduct.

World Championship 2004

Isabelle Pierrard, assisted by Jessica Foissey, made a presentation of the arrangements for the World Championship 2004, and distributed documentation.

It was thought that too often there are not enough outside spectators (i.e. visitors not already directly connected with the competition) and so the location selected is in the centre of the town of Saumur in the Loire valley. It is hoped that a high-visibility location will attract spectators.

Some important points :

- Arena size : 120m x 60m (fenced)
- Surface : sand
- Weighted poles will be used because of the sand surface

Accommodation at €35 per room per night (for 2-3 people) is available locally.

The chief referee will be Dirk de Clercq.

It was confirmed that the restrictions on games allowed in a World Championship would remain unchanged. Bank Race, Three-Legged Sack race, and Ride and Lead were specifically mentioned as exclusions.

[08/03] As a result of discussion on the relevance of the last qualifying session, it was decided that for 2004 only (to be reviewed before 2005) the format of the competition would be adjusted to 4 qualifying sessions plus finals spread over 2 sessions.

World Championship 2005

For 2005 there were no volunteers to host the World Championship. Several countries stated that they might be able to host the competition later, but not in 2005.

The possibility of combined hosting by neighbouring countries was discussed but without any positive result.

Carol Jones will be approached for the possibility of Wales as a location for 2005, and Ro Day will discuss the problem with the MGAGB General Committee at their meeting on January 11 2004.

It was thought that the biggest problem is the provision of enough borrowed ponies for visiting teams, and that if each team took responsibility for finding its own ponies, then the host country would be freed of this particular difficulty and could concentrate on the event itself.

Other Competitions for 2004

Many countries already have plans for international competitions in 2004. They were noted and will be listed on the "Coming Soon" page of the Mounted Games Website.

Constitution

Copies of the proposed constitution were circulated to all members prior to the meeting, and additional copies were handed out to all present. Keith Martin's presentation concentrated on why IMGA needs a constitution, and the structure of the proposed document.

Following the formal presentation it was decided to ask each country to express their opinions on any aspects of the constitution, either in general or in detail.

Nisse Adlofsson (Sweden) agreed with the need for such a constitution, especially as a pre-requisite for legal recognition of IMGA. Other language versions may be needed.

Jim Dunn (Canada, plus proxies for Australia and South Africa) advocated strongly that the constitution should be accepted as a basis for future growth. In addition, Jim outlined plans for a presentation to be made to Olympic authorities with a view to introducing Mounted Games as a demonstration sport. A proper legally established IMGA is essential for this.

Paul Greiling (USA) was very brief, agreeing that adoption of the constitution was necessary.

Isabelle Pierrard (France) had some linguistic problems with the technical nature of the English version under discussion. For this reason she abstained from voting, but Keith promised to provide a French translation as soon as possible.

Ro Day (MGAGB, non-voting) suggested some detailed changes to the exact wording of some parts of the proposed document, but accepted the general structure. The proposed changes will be incorporated, and a new version distributed to all members.

Burkhard Bohn (Germany) agreed with the need for a constitution.

Jens Martin (Norway) stated that the acceptance of the constitution was vital and urged everyone to agree.

Marilyn Hackman (Chairman, non-voting, and representing Ireland by proxy) agreed with the points already made by Ro Day.

Dirk de Clercq (Belgium) also preferred to abstain for linguistic reasons. A choice of a Flemish or a French translation was offered and he opted to receive the French version.

Colin Carson (Northern Ireland) appreciated the work done, but thought that some fine tuning was still necessary. He was, however, in favour of the proposed document.

Sheila Peck (England, plus proxies for Scotland and Wales) agreed that the constitution was necessary in order to go forward and to grow, and that this growth needed to come from IMGGA. An adjustment of the figures in the Financial Regulations was requested. This change was agreed.

Keith Martin (proxy for New Zealand) read the instructions from New Zealand "NZMGA wish to vote for the constitution".

Frie Martin (Luxembourg) was entirely in agreement with the proposed document.

[09/03] The constitution was therefore accepted with 2 abstentions for linguistic reasons as explained above.

Registration of IMGGA

[10/03] A discussion of the relative merits of the exact legal form for registration, and the location for registration, resulted in Rob Lockyer offering to investigate the possibilities in the UK. It was agreed that registration should be a priority, with the exact legal form being somewhat less important than getting it done as quickly as possible. If necessary, adjustments could be made later.

Membership

[11/03] In order to conform to the classes of membership described in the constitution documents, all present members were accepted as "Full members".

Election of Officers

[12/03] Ro Day proposed that in addition to the five officers described in the constitution, there should also be a "figurehead" president. It was agreed that such a position should be created, without voting rights (in accordance with the membership class "honorary"), and Jim Dunn proposed Marilyn Hackman for this position, in recognition of her past service to the association. This was agreed, and Marilyn accepted the position of Honorary President.

Chairman

Nominations :

Burkhard Bohn nominated Twiga Vollmers, but later withdrew the nomination on Twiga's instructions when Ro Day was nominated.

Jim Dunn nominated Ro Day.

Paul Greiling nominated Keith Martin.

Nisse Adlofsson nominated Roger Sykes.

[13/03] Keith Martin was elected to the position of Chairman.

Vice-Chairman

Nominations :

Burkhard Bohn nominated Twiga Vollmers.

Jim Dunn nominated Ro Day.

[14/03] Ro Day was elected to the position of Vice-Chairman.

Finance and Administration

Nominations :

Jim Dunn nominated Jens Martin.

[15/03] Jens Martin was elected unopposed to the position of Executive Officer in charge of Finance and Administration.

(Note : it was agreed that Jens would take on the responsibilities of his new position immediately, but that the bank account would not be transferred, and that authorised signatories would not be changed, until the registration of IMGA is completed.)

Development

Nominations :

Frie Martin nominated Jim Dunn.

[16/03] Jim Dunn was elected unopposed to the position of Executive Officer in charge of Development.

Communication

Nominations :

Jim Dunn nominated Jill Masterton.

[17/03] Jill Masterton was elected unopposed to the position of Executive Officer in charge of Communication.

Rules

A new rule book must be printed and distributed as a priority action.

[18/03] Two separate activities to update/re-write/improve and then re-print the rule book are going on in parallel (Mary Worth and Jens Martin). To avoid the waste of effort involved, and possible conflict of the results, it was agreed :

- To update the old rule book only with those changes officially introduced since the last printing, and to re-print at the best possible cost (which will probably be in South Africa). Target : at least 500 copies for the beginning of the 2004 season.
- To subsequently re-write and improve the rule book through cooperation between Jens and MGAGB.

[19/03] There was a detailed discussion on the use of standing martingales and specific types of bits. The regulations on their use differ between countries and so it is difficult to standardise. It was decided that, as stated in the rule book, the referee has the final say in all cases.

Use of stimulants

The rule as it stands is meaningless and unenforceable, but testing will take place in France to conform to local regulations. Isabelle Pierrard will provide details of the tests and which substances will not be allowed.

Communication

Newsletters

The regular newsletter will now be taken over by Jill Masterton. Everyone was urged to contribute.

Website

Keith Martin proposed an official IMGA website.

[20/03] It was agreed to incorporate such a site into the existing Mounted Games Website, with Keith Martin as webmaster, but with a different "look and feel" to distinguish the two parts. The cost would be €100 per year for server space and bandwidth.

Electronic Communication

Keith Martin pointed out that the membership of IMGA now spans 4 continents and 22 time zones.

Under these conditions the use of electronic communication is absolutely necessary, and everyone was urged to make full use of the facilities offered by e-mail, fax, and eventually video-conferencing (in the near future).

Other business

Video

[21/03] Steve Hotston has offered to convert a DVD made at Fontwell into an educational/promotional DVD at cost price. It was agreed to accept his generous offer.

Olympic presentation

Jim Dunn explained his preparations for his Olympic presentation in Vancouver in May 2004 and appealed for suitable high-quality video footage to be included in a promotional DVD to be produced by a cinematic expert. Jim will also require written permission to use the material to avoid any possible copyright problems.

A short history of Mounted Games in each member country would also provide useful input, and everyone was asked to provide this.

If the initial presentation is successful, then the next step would be to provide a live demonstration with the best teams/riders available.

For geographical reasons, most of the work in the Olympic bid will fall on Jim Dunn and Paul Greiling, but Jim also enlisted the aid of Jens Martin and Colin Carson. Nisse Adlofsson also suggested Roger Sykes.

Symposium

The video recording of last year's symposium was never copied and distributed. Marilyn Hackman was asked to contact Alun Whitney.

IMGA meetings

[22/03] At the request of southern hemisphere members, it was agreed that an IMGA meeting should be held at the time of the World Championships to allow those members unable to make long and expensive journeys twice per year to take part in the discussion and decision-making procedures of the organisation.

Next meeting

[23/03] The next annual meeting will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in November 2004. The exact date is still to be decided, but 13-14 November is likely.

Meeting closed : 5:50pm.

Note : At the next annual meeting in November 2004 it was agreed to apply a standard numbering system to each decision taken. In January 2005 these reference numbers were retrospectively added to this document without any other change to the content. The version number was raised to 3.1

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERIOD 30th NOVEMBER 2002 – 22nd NOVEMBER 2003

INCOME

Affiliation fees		£1,300.00
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LESS EXPENDITURE

Meetings & Lunch Bracknell – November 2002	£393.00	
MGAGB Secretarial Services	88.98	
Expenses of L. Hobbs To International Meeting 2002	124.86	
Phone & Fax	254.55	
National Flags for new member Countries	91.65	963.04

<u>SURPLUS</u>		<u>336.96</u>
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CASH

Balance at Bank 2002		£3,206.08
Add Surplus		336.96
Current Balance at Bank		<u>£3,543.04</u>