



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting 2008

Final version 1.0 (December 20 2008)

**Held at Pittwater RSL, Sydney, Australia
Tuesday October 28 2008**

This record of the meeting has been compiled from notes made at the time plus an audio recording of the proceedings.

Meeting opened : Tuesday October 28 at 10:15

Present : Position / Country

IMGA officers :

Keith Martin	Chairman
Clive Jones	Vice-Chairman
Jens Martin	Finance and Administration

International Representatives :

Phil Logue	Australia
Signe Sehested	Denmark
Isabelle Pierrard	France
Frie Martin	Luxembourg
Margaret Welsby	New Zealand
Philippe Gargallo	Switzerland

Unable to attend, but represented by proxy :

Sue Bookbinder	Botswana
Jim Dunn	Canada / IMGA Development
Sheila Peck	England
Colin Carson	Northern Ireland
Inger Hilmersen	Norway
Paul Greiling	USA
John Griffiths	Wales

Proxy holder :

Keith Martin
Keith Martin
Kay Leese
Jens Martin
Leila Akselsen
Liz Englert
Huw Whitney

Unable to attend, no proxy received :

Sophie van de Calseyde	Belgium
Philipp Preugel	Germany
Philip Whooley	Ireland
Jacques Cavé	Italy
Jacky Skelly	Scotland
Mandé Siderfin	South Africa
Nisse Adolfsson	Sweden

Others present :
John Beale
Dany Gargallo
Carol Jones
Lynette Logue
Christine Normand
Bobbie O'Hara
Shane Voigt

1. Welcome by the Chairman and collection of proxy forms

The attendance list is shown above, with information on proxies (submitted in writing and recorded) from those members unable to attend.

The Chairman welcomed all participants, but reminded everyone that strictly the meeting was for International Representatives. All others were asked to remember this, although given that the numbers present were not as high as in previous years, a degree of informality would be possible.

This year, exceptionally, the meeting was held at the same time as the World Championship because of the timing and location of the championship.

Before continuing the meeting, the costs were discussed, and the following was agreed :

[01/08] The costs of the meeting room, lunch, and refreshments would be covered by AMGA.

This generous offer was accepted with thanks.

2. Review of Achievements over the Past Year

Each of the officers of IMGA reported on their activities during the past year :

Keith Martin (Chairman) :

Actions from previous meeting

The action points from the 2007 meeting were briefly covered. Each action had either been completed, or was on the agenda for the 2008 meeting for further discussion.

Specific points :

Members were reminded that they had agreed in 2007 to appoint a communications contact person in their national organisations, and that they should do this as soon as possible if they had not already done so.

On-line payment of affiliation fees using PayPal had been fully implemented as promised but had not been extensively used. It was confirmed that in order to make use of this service it is not necessary to have a PayPal account, just a credit card.

The use of this payment system, with IMGA acting as a "clearing house" for competition entry fees, had been offered to the organisers of this year's major competitions, but not taken up.

The legal status of IMGA as a registered company had been reviewed, with the objective of reducing tax liabilities, but it had been found to be unnecessary, and no tax would be payable for 2007.

Investigations into the possibility of arranging global insurance for all members had not been successful due to the diversity of requirements.

The exemption for certain costs and paperwork granted by DEFRA when importing/exporting ponies to/from the UK had only been used once, and had been successful.

The necessary changes to the constitution and procedures required by the staggering of the elections of officers, agreed in 2007, had been completed.

Daily business

All normal administrative procedures had been followed, with detailed accounts being kept and provided to Companies House, and HM Revenue & Customs, along with Company Returns.

Contact with all members was maintained as usual, with regular updates to the IMGA website.

Members were requested to regularly provide information on planned events, and results of those events when available, for publication on the IMGA website.

Clive Jones (Vice-Chairman) :

Activities included :

- Represented IMGA at the European Championship in Germany
- Coaching Sussex team
- Coaching in Norway
- Training in Northern Ireland and the USA, including the introduction of games to Alaska

Jim Dunn (Country Development) :

Report submitted in writing :

BOTSWANA

Team Canada and myself visited Botswana at the end of March for a period of two weeks. Much of the focus of this tour was to host a mounted games coaching seminar and to compete in the second ever "Africa Cup". The two day coaching clinic was run over a very hectic schedule that culminated in the Africa Cup competition. The actual competition itself had to be cancelled on the morning of the second day due to the heavy rains that had been ongoing off and on for that week. The sport of Mounted Games is alive and well on the continent of Africa and we hope to see representatives from Botswana at international competitions in the very near future.

NEW INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTS

The 2008 season has been a very active one with regards to Country Development. The following is a list of countries that have contacted us with a very keen interest in becoming involved with the sport of mounted games.

Iceland	Sigtryggur Veigar Herbertsson
Netherlands	Frank Dejong
Finland	Maria Salo
Thailand	Margrit Hoffman
Sri Lanka	Thiloshini Abeysekera
Spain	Jorge Tapia Valdes

Out of the countries that I have mentioned in this report, The Netherlands, Finland and Iceland seem to be the most sincere when it comes to membership. All of these countries have been sent a complete introduction package that includes an introductory letter, steps for

sport development, membership requirements package and a video presentation on a CD medium.

In addition to these countries, we still have continual communication with Argentina and several contacts in Mexico. Sue bookbinder in Botswana is actively promoting the sport of Mounted Games to neighboring countries Zambia, Melawi, and Seweto.

End of report.

Action : the introductory package provided to prospective new members to be made available also to existing members (Jim Dunn)

It was pointed out that the recruitment of new members is a long and difficult process and that the organisers of events in the near future should not necessarily already plan for 25+ members.

Philippe Gargallo also referred to a contact made by Jacques Cavé (Italy) with teams in Turkey.

Melanie Scott (Communication) :

Melanie was not present, and had decided not to seek re-election to the position of Communications Officer. See below (point 6).

The Chairman pointed out that producing a regular newsletter for members was a very thankless task when generally very few people were prepared to provide input. Communication has to work both ways !

Jens Martin (Finance and Administration) :

See below (point 3).

3. Financial Review 2008

Jens Martin presented the IMGA accounts for 2008-to-date and distributed printed summaries. See attachment 1.

The accounts showed three countries had not paid their affiliation fees for 2008. However,

- Canada did pay prior to the start of the World Championship competition
- there was no need to pursue the payment from the USA because IMGA still owes an amount higher than the affiliation fee to USMGA for the costs of the 2007 meeting
- but the affiliation fee from South Africa remained unpaid

After much discussion it was decided :

[02/08] To confirm the cancellation of South Africa's membership for 2008, but to allow them to take up membership again in 2009 with payment of the agreed affiliation fee, without any demand for payment of arrears, but also without any of the discounts for new members.

Action : Cancellation of South Africa's membership to be indicated on the list of members on the IMGA website (Keith Martin)

[03/08] To fix the affiliation fee for 2009 at EUR 200.00, and to retain the current reductions :

- A country will benefit from a 100% reduction in the affiliation fee if it is their first year of membership

- A country will benefit from a 50% reduction in the affiliation fee if it is their second year of membership
- A country will benefit from a 50% reduction in the affiliation fee if that member is not represented at the World Team Championships, European Team Championships, World Pairs Championships or World Individual Championships during the previous year.

Concerning the reduction of 50% for non-participation in international events during the previous year, it was noted that it is extremely difficult for competition organisers to know the exact status of membership of those riders entering their competitions, and whether they really qualify under IMGA rules. Ideally, entries should be accompanied by proof of national MGA membership, and although this was accepted in principle, no firm decision was made on how to implement this requirement.

Jens Martin complained about the continuing late payment of affiliation fees and so it was decided :

[04/08] To charge a late payment fee when affiliation fees are not paid by the due date on the invoice.

- A country will be liable for a penalty of EUR 25.00 if the affiliation fee is not paid by the due date on the invoice.
- A country will be liable for an additional penalty of EUR 10.00 if the affiliation fee is not paid by the end of every subsequent month.

No objections to the financial documents were noted, and so :

[05/08] The financial report was accepted.

The suggestion from 2007 to charge all riding members of the national MGAs a small fee to be added to their national membership fee and then passed on to IMGA was discussed again. The original proposal was based on two points :

- It was a way to bind riding members in all countries to the IMGA Code of Conduct
- And it was a way of opening another source of income for IMGA

It was decided that binding of members would be more effective by making adherence to the IMGA Code of Conduct a condition of national membership, and that IMGA had no immediate need of extra income, and so this matter will not be pursued further.

4. Use of IMGA Funds

The balance of the accounts grows steadily each year and so there was a discussion on how these funds could best be used.

It was agreed that :

[06/08] A reserve should be kept for future expenses.

[07/08] Some funds could be used for the production of a promotional video.

Action : Officers for Communication and Promotion to provide an estimate of costs

5. Rules Committee Update

During 2008 the work of the Rules Committee has continued. Jens Martin reviewed the rule changes agreed so far for 2009 and provided a summary sheet. See attachment 2. To allow members to give input to the Rules Committee, it was agreed :

[08/08] To extend the information available on Rules Committee activities on the IMGA website to also show the requests awaiting consideration, and to inform all members each time this information is updated.

Action : Update the Rules Committee web pages (Jens and Keith Martin)

The method of sale and distribution of Rule Books was discussed, and it was decided :

[09/08] To make the on-line Rule Book shop generally available, instead of only International Representatives

Action : Update the on-line shop (Jens and Keith Martin)

[10/08] To check that the version of the Rule Book currently on-line for consultation only is up-to-date.

Action : Update the on-line version of the Rule Book (Jens and Keith Martin)

Each year the Rules Committee has to decide whether the changes require a full re-print of the Rule Book, or if some other way of indicating the changes can be found. Rule Book sales for 2008 had been very slow, and so it was suggested that simply a sheet of amendments should be added to make the existing stock last a further year. This sheet should also be available to those who have purchased 2008 Rule Books. This decision is the responsibility of the Rules Committee but the views of the International Representatives will be taken into consideration.

Action : Consider the means of publication of the Rule Book for 2009 (Rules Committee)

6. Election of IMGA Executive Officers and IMGA Rules Committee Members for the period 2008 – 2010

For each of the official IMGA positions scheduled for election this year, there was only one candidate, and so the following were elected unopposed :

[11/08]

Officer for Communications :	John Beale	(AUS)
Officer for Finance and Administration :	Jens Martin	(LUX)
Vice-Chairman :	Clive Jones	(NOR/WAL)

Similarly, for the three Rules Committee positions scheduled for election this year, the following were elected unopposed :

[12/08]

Jens Martin	(LUX)
Margaret Welsby	(NZL)
Younes Ahlbom	(SWE)

As the only “newcomer”, John Beale was formally welcomed to IMGA.

Additional Item : World Equestrian Games, Kentucky, USA, 2010

Liz Englert presented the current status of negotiations by Paul Greiling for a Mounted Games presence at the World Equestrian Games to be held early October 2010 in Kentucky. Any comments/suggestions can be addressed to Paul Greiling. It had been suggested in 2007 that the WEG would be the ideal opportunity to run the 2010 World Championship, but this had proved to be impossible and so that competition will definitely take place in Switzerland. See below (point 12).

The current situation is that a verbal agreement has been reached for Mounted Games to participate at the World Equestrian Games in 2010, but there is nothing yet in writing.

7. Promotions Officer

Following the 2007 decision to appoint a Promotions Officer, Carroll Crowl accepted the position, but so far there has been little activity. See decision 07/08 above.

8. Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is now available on the IMGA website, under the heading "Inside IMGA / Documentation / Policies".

A request was made to also make the document available as a printed booklet in the same format as the Rule Book, but it was thought that it should be allowed a trial period of use before committing to the expense of printing a large number, in case changes are required. In the meantime, a downloadable version in A6 format will be provided on the website.

Action : Provide A6 format download of Code of Conduct on IMGA website (Keith Martin)

Any member countries which have not yet established a way of binding their own members to the IMGA Code of Conduct were encouraged to do so as quickly as possible.

[13/08] It was agreed to prolong for a further year the temporary situation in which the officials of IMGA act as the central Disciplinary Committee.

9. Competition Organisation - Computer Program

Leila Akselsen demonstrated an Excel application to help with the organisation of competitions. Once the basic information is input, it automatically produces much of the documentation required (games lists, heats and sessions, score sheets, etc.)

It will be made available free of charge, in several languages, to anyone who requests a copy.

Action : When the application is complete and available, Keith Martin will provide a user guide and arrange for distribution

10. Review of 2008 World Championships

10.1 World Team Championship

Phil Logue reported on the event. Some specific points :

- Of the 75 ponies used, only 2 had suffered slight injuries
- The owners of the ponies were impressed with the level of care given by the riders
- It was disappointing that only 11 countries had participated

Isabelle Pierrard thanked the organisers and suggested that in future there should be higher early payments and financial penalties for late cancellation to avoid difficulties for the organisers.

It was suggested that a handbook "How to organise a World Championship" should be created. This is something that IMGA has discussed many times but has never succeeded in completing, so a new effort will be made.

Action : Input to be provided by Australia after their World Championship de-briefing, plus Margaret Welsby and Signe Sehested. Coordination by Keith Martin.

10.2 World Individual and Pairs Championship

Kay Leese reported on these competitions :

Individuals :

- Running the under 14 and under 17 classes together turned out to be a mistake, and in future they would instead run the under 17 and open classes together
- Entries were less than previous years because riders seem to prefer team competitions and rising transport costs are affecting levels of participation
- More international riders should be encouraged

Pairs :

- No reduction in number of entries
- A rise in mixed-nationality pairs

11. Presentation of details for 2009 World Championships

All three World Championship events will be held in England.

Team :

- The location will be Broadlands in Hampshire, in cooperation with Living Heritage
- Teams to arrive August 19 and leave August 24 (for arrivals before August 19 contact Sue Williamson for assistance)
- There will be team hosts for all countries
- Sue Williamson and Sheila Peck will coordinate the event and provide assistance for visiting teams
- Kay Leese and Nicky Carter will be responsible for finding ponies for visiting teams
- No information on costs yet available
- Catering will be from Friday to Monday
- Hotels will be block-booked for participants
- Referee will be Peter Williamson
- Information pack will be available before the end of the year

It was noted that riders of borrowed ponies would need more time to practice on their new mounts, and that it was surprising that no information pack was yet available.

Individuals and Pairs :

- No detailed information yet available

12. Presentation of details for 2010 World Team Championship

Although still two years away, preparations are already well advanced, and Philippe Gargallo reported on the current status :

- To be held in a Sports Park of 55 ha (135 acres) owned by the City of Geneva
- All facilities are on site, including the restaurant for the final night's dinner
- Only 10 minutes from the airport and close to the city for visits
- The arena will be a football field
- Proposed dates of July 23-25 clash with the Royal Welsh Show, and so August 13-15 was agreed, on condition that the organisers can confirm the availability of the venue on these dates

13. Appointment of Hosts for 2011 World Championships

Team :

There was a single bid, from Denmark. The Danish Equestrian Centre, with facilities for visiting teams on-site, was proposed, with ponies for visiting teams coming from Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

[14/08] Accepted. The 2011 World Championship will be held in Denmark

Individuals and Pairs :

In the past there has been no procedure for selecting hosts for these competitions, with them always being held in GB/England, but after discussion it was decided :

[15/08] This situation would continue to apply for 2011

[16/08] For 2012 and onwards, the same procedure would be applied as for the selection of hosts for the World Team Championship. Bids to host these championships to be made at the 2009 meeting.

14. Review of 2008 European Team Championships

Philipp Preugel was not able to be present but he provided some information on the event. See attachment 3.

This included a letter from a vet which was very critical of the treatment of the ponies at the competition. In particular he complained that the height/weight restrictions usually imposed in Germany were not respected.

The discussion centred around the fact that the German rules take no account of the strength of the pony and its capacity to carry a rider, using only height and weight in the calculations, not overall size or strength.

A polite letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the vet concerned (if not already done) but no action taken on his comments.

Action : Acknowledgement to vet (Keith Martin)

Action : Kay Leese to provide Peter Dale's charts on height/weight recommendations for information

A letter had been received from Belgium, on the eve of the competition, complaining about the equipment to be used, which was not standard and did not conform with the specifications in the Rule Book.

This problem had been resolved by the representatives and team trainers at the competition, but there remained a general dissatisfaction with the equipment provided by Germany.

Signe Sehested made serious complaints about the standard of refereeing at the competition, citing several examples of gross negligence and poor judgement. This was corroborated by similar complaints made in writing by Isabelle Pierrard to the Chairman in preparation for this point at the meeting.

Action : German MGA to be informed of the general dissatisfaction with the standard of the equipment, and the unacceptable refereeing (Keith Martin)

A proposal was made that the referee for IMGA sanctioned competitions (currently World and European Championships) should not be from the host nation, and that the choice of referee should be made known to all participants well before the competition.

It was decided to allow time for International Representatives to consider this before voting, and so the vote will be made electronically early in January 2009.

15. Presentation of details for 2009 European Team Championships

Isabelle Pierrard provided the following information :

- July 17-19, Marseille Pastré, France
- City centre location with all facilities on site
- Sand arena
- Package will include all meals, but no accommodation
- Cost to be confirmed but is expected to be about EUR 250 per rider
- Hotel reservations must be made early
- Camping is available but restricted
- Marseille can be very hot in the summer. If necessary, early starts will be made in the morning and late starts in the afternoon to avoid the worst of the midday heat
- Participants are advised NOT to travel on July 14 because of the disruption which will be caused by the National Holiday celebrations in the city
- Age groups :
 - Born 97 and later ("Benjamins")
 - Born 95 and later ("Minimes")
 - Born 93 and later ("Cadets")
 - Open
- Photo ID will be checked, as will pony documentation
- International Representatives will automatically receive full information, but it will also be available to others on request

There was a suggestion from Denmark that riders and trainers should not be used as assistant referees in international competitions, but this was rejected as unworkable because without their participation it would be impossible to find a sufficient number of qualified people.

16. Appointment of Host for 2011 European Team Championships

Only one bid had been received, from Northern Ireland, but no further information was available.

[17/08] Accepted. The 2011 European Championship will be held in Northern Ireland.

17. Decision on Host and Date of 2009 IMGA Annual General Meeting

IMGA usually holds two meetings per year, one at the World Championship, and one in November. The first tends to be more informal as everyone's attention is focussed on the competition, and usually only deals with points of general information. Policy-making, and more serious discussion, is reserved for the November meeting.

However, as an exception for 2008 the two meetings were combined and held in Sydney two days after the 2008 World Championship. This was done because the championship was unusually late in the year and holding a second meeting in November would have meant another long journey for many members only a few weeks after their visit to Australia. It was also thought, at the time of the decision, that a large number of teams and International Representatives would be present, which eventually was not the case.

Despite this, the meeting was successful, and when it came time to make a decision on the time and place for the 2009 meeting, there was a difference of opinion on whether to return to the two meeting structure, with one at the World Championship in England, and another in November in Geneva, or to again combine the two meetings into a single meeting at the World Championship in England.

It was eventually decided that a wider consultation would be required, and so the question will be put to all International Representatives for a vote by e-mail.

Action : consult all members on their preferences for the 2009 IMGA meeting (Keith Martin)

18. Any other Business

There was a discussion on the rules and procedures for two situations :

The agreed procedure for requesting "guest riders" between three months and one month before competitions, which was introduced at the same time as the rules for representation were first agreed. This is now a part of the Rule Book and for the 2008 World Championship the procedure had been followed absolutely correctly for both Luxembourg and Denmark.

The procedure for allowing "replacement riders" during a competition, which is also now very clearly shown in the Rule Book, and was also absolutely correctly applied when the situation arose at the 2008 World Championship for USA.

No requests were made to change these rules and procedures.

All participants were thanked and the meeting closed Tuesday October 28 at 17:00

Attachments

Attachment 1

Financial Reports

Attachment 2

Rule changes for 2009

Attachment 3

Message from Philipp Preugel (European Championship 2008)

Attachment 1 : Financial Reports

International Mounted Games Association Bank Transactions for the period 17/11/07 - 28/10/08

Opening Balance : EUR 6,599.71

Transactions	Expenditure	Income
19/11/2007		71.05
12/12/2007		255.06
31/12/2007		2.21
03/01/2008	50.00	
07/01/2008	67.78	
23/01/2008		192.85
18/02/2008		200.00
22/02/2008		200.00
25/02/2008		191.85
27/02/2008		200.00
27/02/2008		200.00
25/03/2008	1,719.83	
26/03/2008	121.58	
26/03/2008		50.00
26/03/2008		53.10
27/03/2008		192.85
28/03/2008	19.23	
28/03/2008		200.00
28/03/2008		200.00
31/03/2008		2.57
04/04/2008		200.00
07/04/2008	206.38	
08/04/2008		200.00
10/04/2008	12.50	
16/04/2008		100.00
21/04/2008		95.25
16/05/2008	146.77	
16/05/2008	6.00	
23/06/2008		200.00
23/06/2008		200.00

**International Mounted Games Association
Financial Summary for the period 17/11/07 - 28/10/08**

Income

2008 Affiliation Fees	EUR	3,050.00
2007 Rule Book Sales	EUR	71.05
2008 Rule Book Sales	EUR	830.85
Members Contributions for 2007 IMGA AGM Expenses	EUR	255.06
Donations	EUR	
Bank Interest	EUR	10.72

Total: EUR 4,217.68

Expenditure

Admin Expenses (Postage, Phone costs, Web Site etc.)	EUR	553.73
2007 IMGA Meeting Expenses	EUR	
2008 Companies House Annual Return	EUR	19.23
Bank Charges	EUR	
PayPal Charges	EUR	27.20
2008 IMGA Rule Book Printing	EUR	1,926.21
Trophies	EUR	

Total: EUR 2,526.37

Opening Balance:	EUR	6,599.71
Plus Income:	EUR	4,217.68
Less Expenditure:	EUR	2,526.37
Closing Balance:	EUR	8,291.02

Attachment 2 : Rule changes for 2009

The following are all changes made to the rules since the 2008 Rule Book and included in this version:

- GR3.1 has been changed to show that the loss of a stirrup during a race does not incur elimination.
- GR4.5 has been added and it is no longer permitted for riders to wear jewellery during competition.
- CR21.6 has been changed to allow for the situation when the whistle needs to be blown and more than one team is still playing.
- AO1.1 & AO4.1 have been changed to allow for there being less than 6 assistant referees.
- AO3.7 has been added to cover situations where races need to be changed midway through a competition.
- AO3.8 & AO4.6 have been added to make it a requirement that referees and assistant referees are at least 18 years of age.
- The Rules for the Association races have been amended to state that boxes have to be stacked on top of each other.
- The Rules for the Hula Hoop and Bang-a-Balloon races have been amended to state that equipment moves beyond the marker poles can be replaced.

Attachment 3 : Message from Philipp Preugel (European Championship 2008)

Hi Jens,

As you probably know I will not attend the Meeting in Sydney.
Therefore I will send you some information regarding the European Championships 2008.

We had:

32 attending teams from 13 different countries
13 Open
12 Juniors
8 Minis

Champions:
Open - England
Juniors - Belgium
Minis - England

about 500 people attending the Gala Dinner

We had 175 stables - all full

we had two trips for all riders and supporters –
"German Horse Museum" and "Verwell Fun Bath"

We know it was not a lot of space for all the lorries and campers but with the help of everybody it worked. If you have a venue in the middle of a city it is hard to find a lot space just for camping.

If any country needs any more detailed information (financial etc.) just contact us.

We had a great week with great riders and supporters, we had a great feedback in the German press and we would like to thank everybody for their attendance.

The only negative aspect we had at the Europeans was an appeal from the official county veterinarian about the physical condition of some of the ponies. I think this is a problem we should all talk about in the future. I will attach you the original letter from the veterinarian.

We wish you a great time in Australia and a successful meeting.

Best Regards Philipp