



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting 2011

Final version 1.0 (January 6 2012)

Held at Future Inns, Cardiff, Wales

Saturday November 19 and Sunday November 20 2011

This record of the meeting has been compiled from notes made at the time by Frie Martin.

The sequence in which agenda items were treated was not the same as published in the original agenda. This record, however, follows the original agenda sequence.

Meeting opened : Saturday November 19 at 09:30

Present : Position / Country

IMGA officers :

Keith Martin	Chairman
Clive Jones	Vice-Chairman
Jens Martin	Finance and Administration also representing Luxembourg
Marilyn Hackman	Honorary President

International Representatives :

Rachel Otte	Austria
Sophie Van de Calseyde	Belgium
Sheila Peck	England
Isabelle Pierrard	France
Philipp Preugel	Germany
Mark Devitt	Ireland
Jens Martin	Luxembourg
Brian Kennedy	Northern Ireland
Inger Hilmersen	Norway
Younes Ahlbom	Sweden
Philippe Gargallo	Switzerland
Paul Greiling	USA
John Griffiths	Wales

Unable to attend, but represented by proxy :

Jim Dunn	Canada
Signe Sehested	Denmark
Melanie Scott	Scotland
Ian Marr	South Africa

Proxy holder :

Frie Martin
Inger Hilmersen
Jens Martin
Jens Martin

Unable to attend, no proxy received :
Phil Logue Australia
Jacques Cavé Italy
Margaret Welsby New Zealand

Others present :
Alan Peck England
David Leese England
Kay Leese England
Pola Preugel Germany
Jerome O'Connor Ireland
Carol Prime Northern Ireland
Eivind Kjuus Norway
Peter Dale Referees
Liz Englert USA
Carol Jones USA and Wales
Silvia Salaverri Spain
Javier Salaverri Spain

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.

Everyone was welcomed by the Chairman.

Some practical details were discussed, and the timetable for the meeting agreed.

It was also agreed that participants would be responsible for their own hotel costs, and that the costs of the meeting room would be met by IMGGA. Wales MGA generously paid the costs of the refreshments and lunches provided by the hotel during the meeting.

2. Review of Achievements over the Past Year

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

Keith Martin (Chairman)

Actions from previous meeting

The 18 action points from the 2010 meeting were briefly covered.

Website and Documentation :

Actions completed :
Updates concerning 1) Officials, 2) Competition status, 3) Members of Rules Committee,
4) Draws, 5) Height / Weight charts
1 action still ongoing (see point 15)
1 still to do – make promotional DVD available on website

Rules and Rule Book

Actions completed :
Updates for 1) Arena size, 2) Dress code
Rule book changes were very minor and so an update sheet for the 2010 Rule Book was made available instead of doing a complete re-print

Finance

1 action still ongoing (see point 4)

FEI

2 actions still ongoing (see point 7)

Alcohol testing

1 action still ongoing (see point 10)

Other actions

IMGA flags : a design was selected and two flags, one large flagpole size, and one small parade size, were ordered and delivered

Medical support : no FEI requirements could be found in the publicly available documentation

Action : to check directly with FEI contacts (Paul Greiling)

The formal letter of complaint to MGAGB requested at the 2010 meeting about the implementation of the new age groups was read out, followed by the MGAGB response. MGAGB has not changed its position, but Kay Leese agreed to take the matter back to the MGAGB General Committee, in particular the time constraints which are applied to the Pairs Championship, resulting in only three age groups.

2 actions are still ongoing : 1) Dedicated team of assistant referees (see point 12),
2) Champions League (see point 20)

At this point everyone present was requested to check the print of the IMGA competition results database which was displayed on the wall of the meeting room, and to fill in any of the gaps for which they had reliable information.

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 of the IMGA website.

Clive Jones (Vice-Chairman)

"Another year has gone by and I am pleased to say that progress has been made with our FEI application. Paul [Greiling] will discuss this later."

"On a personal level, I have continued to assist the progress of IMGA games in America. This year we introduced a Championship series and, with the help of two sponsors, presented numerous prizes."

"We also introduced an Under-17 age group which led to a very competitive final."

"I look forward to Mounted Games being accepted as a serious sport in the Equine World."

Melanie Scott (Communication)

Melanie was unable to be present, but sent a report which was read out and is shown in Attachment 1a.

Jim Dunn (Development)

Jim was unable to be present, but sent a report which was read out and is shown in Attachment 1b.

Jens Martin (Finance and Administration)

For Rules Committee see point 3, and for Financial Review see point 4.

3. Rules Committee Update

Jens Martin presented a report on the activities of the Rules Committee.

Two major activities are currently occupying the committee, with the objective of completing them in time for a complete re-print of the Rule Book for 2012 :

New wording for all games

The rules for all games are being re-written to ensure harmonisation of the wording and terminology, and where appropriate to eliminate variations between the three formats.

New Specification of Equipment section

The current specification of equipment is out-of-date and inaccurate. It is being completely re-written with precise dimensions and photos/diagrams of each item of equipment.

The new specifications have already been reviewed by two referees, with their comments included, and will also be made available to the manufacturers of equipment. Manufacturers who can demonstrate that their products conform fully to the new official specifications will be allowed to advertise as "IMGA compliant", possibly with a charge (see point 4).

All changes/improvements to equipment specifications will be made available on the IMGA website when they are fully agreed and implemented.

It is not possible right now to be sure that the Rules Committee will be able to fully check all the details of the new equipment specifications in time for the 2012 re-print, but if this is the case they will probably go ahead anyway and include them in the 2012 Rule Book. This decision will be made by the Rules Committee when the time comes, but it is assumed that the current equipment specifications are so bad that anything else would be an improvement.

Because of these two activities, normal rule change requests have been delayed, but they will be processed as soon as possible after the publication of the new 2012 Rule Book.

4. Financial Review 2011

Jens Martin presented the IMGA accounts for the period 21/11/2010 to 19/11/2011 i.e. the period since the previous IMGA meeting in Denmark in 2010 until the date of this meeting. See attachment 2.

Questions were raised about the cost of medical support for the World Team Championship in Denmark. The Chairman explained that a particularly serious accident had occurred in Norway just prior to the World Championship, prompting an emergency review of the level of medical support available at all IMGA-sanctioned competitions.

It was found that although the plans for the European Championship in Northern Ireland were for complete coverage, there was no adequate cover planned for the World Team Championship in Denmark during training sessions.

Denmark was not strictly required to provide this as the agreement between them and IMGA to host the event had been made prior to any subsequent increases in the level of medical coverage required.

After long discussions with Andy Gibson to establish the necessary level of support, Signe Sehested to find a provider, and the officials of IMGA for authorisation, the Chairman decided that IMGA would pay the costs of the additional coverage during training. This was a one-off situation and is not to be considered as a precedent.

The required financial report from the Danish MGA was not available, and this needs to be presented.

Action : to obtain the financial report for the World Team Championship 2011 from MGA Denmark (Keith Martin)

Other points arising from this discussion :

Changes made to the "How to Organise International Competitions" document, once it has been approved (see point 15), should be implemented immediately, without any delay.

A "medical form" should be developed for completion by all riders prior to an event to provide the medical teams with basic information such as blood group, allergies, medication, etc.

Action : to investigate with Andy Gibson what information should be included and the best format to collect and use this information (Keith Martin)

[Decision : 01/11] The financial report was accepted.

Fixing of the IMGA Affiliation Fee for 2012 was deferred until later in the meeting as several points later on the agenda could have a direct effect on the requirements for increased income.

When the meeting returned to this point later, it was decided to increase the affiliation fee.

[Decision : 02/11] To fix the affiliation fee for 2012 at EUR 300.00, and to retain all the current reductions and fines for late payment.

It was also agreed to explore other sources of revenue, such as sponsorship for IMGA (as opposed to individual members), advertising on the IMGA website, franchising, sale of IMGA branded souvenirs, charging equipment manufacturers for the "IMGA compliant" endorsement, and adding a surcharge to each Rule Book sold (they are currently sold at cost).

Action : to investigate possibilities for other income (Melanie Scott and Keith Martin)

IMGA Officers' expenses were discussed as a follow-on from a similar discussion at the previous meeting. As before, there was general agreement but this time a proposal was made and accepted.

[Decision : 03/11] IMGA officials who are not also International Representatives, and therefore pay all their own expenses, will be reimbursed reasonable travel expenses to attend the annual IMGA meeting.

Action : to set up a procedure for submitting and processing expense claims (Melanie Scott)

5. Election of IMGA Executive Officers for the period 2011 – 2013

Normally only elections for the positions of Chairman and Development would be held in 2011 for a two year period, but an unusual situation arose.

For the position of Chairman there was only one candidate and so Keith Martin was elected for a further two years.

For the position of Development there was also only one candidate and so Jens Martin was elected for a period of two years.

However, in order to serve as the Development Officer, Jens was obliged to resign from Finance and Administration, leaving that position open for the remaining one year of its current term.

For the position of Finance and Administration there was only one candidate and so Melanie Scott was elected to complete the current term (one year).

In order to serve as Finance and Administration Officer, Melanie was obliged to resign from Communication, leaving that position open for the remaining one year of its current term.

There were two candidates to serve the remaining year of the term for Communication :

Carol Jones
Pola Preugel

The two candidates, having already discussed the situation, proposed that exceptionally they should share the post until 2012 when it would once again be due for an election according to the normal timetable. This was agreed.

[Decision : 04/11] The following officers were elected :

Chairman	Keith Martin	2 years
Development	Jens Martin	2 years
Finance and Administration	Melanie Scott	1 year
Communication	Carol Jones	1 year
	Pola Preugel	1 year

Action : Change IMGA website accordingly, update mailing lists, and modify the company registration data (Keith Martin and Melanie Scott)

6. The role of the Development Post

Paul Greiling suggested that as negotiations with FEI continue (see point 7), it may be necessary to review IMGA's policy towards growth and the recruitment of new members.

Paul's notes are shown in Attachment 3.

It was suggested that each member country could appoint someone in the own organisation to be specially responsible for this activity, and that the Development Officer should have access to funds.

Action : to contact all members for a "Development Contact Person" in each country (Jens Martin)

As the new Development Officer, Jens outlined his ideas and his plans. His first objective is to update the existing IMGA presentation DVD with material to be collected at the 2012 European Championship

Action : to investigate the costs and coordinate with the WTC 2012 organiser (John Griffiths) to ensure that good quality video recording are available (Jens Martin)

7. IMGA relationship with FEI

Paul Greiling reported that he is in regular contact with FEI, specifically with Dr Harald Müller (Executive Director, Education and Standards), and at the moment we are the lead

organisation on the list of applicants for Associate Membership. FEI is strongly in favour of Mounted Games. There has been no information about participation at the World Equestrian Games in 2014 (but see point 23).

At the 2010 meeting all members were asked to clarify their position with their own national federations.

Some countries reported as follows :

Australian MGA is an affiliated club with Equestrian Australia
Norway will join in January 2012
GB is already a member

Ireland have begun discussions

Germany is having great difficulties and feels that some assistance from FEI on exactly what is required (from MGA Germany and from the German Federation) is needed

The president of the French Federation is very supportive – more information will be available after a meeting December 6

8. New Member Criteria

Inger Hilmersen presented an update to the previous criteria to be applied when new countries apply for a membership of IMGAs.

After discussion, a set of criteria was agreed.

[Decision : 05/11] The criteria shown in Attachment 4 were agreed and accepted.

Action : to contact all members to check their compliance with the agreed criteria (Jens Martin)

Action : to set up a procedure for annual checking of compliance (Melanie Scott)

9. IMGAs Procedure 7 (Exemptions to national representation restrictions)

Paul Greiling reported that FEI rules require that riders may only represent the country of which they are citizens, i.e. passport holders. The Mounted Games rules are more flexible than this, taking into account other factors such as residence. These rules were developed from several other sports.

After discussion, it was decided not to make any changes to the definition of eligibility for international representation.

The exception rule (Rule Book GR 13.5) was also discussed.

[Decision : 06/11] Rule GR 13.5 will be deleted from the Rule Book

Action : remove GR 13.5 from the Rule Book (Jens Martin and Rules Committee)

Action : update Procedures Manual to remove the current Procedure 7 (Melanie Scott)

10. Alcohol Tests

This subject was discussed at the previous meeting, without any final conclusions or decisions. Since then the Chairman has researched the FEI rules on this subject, but was unable to find anything at all.

Action : to contact Dr Müller at the FEI to see if he can provide any information on this subject (Paul Greiling).

As before, there was general agreement that testing is necessary, although the practical details are very difficult, especially as there are different local rules and regulations in each member country.

Further investigation is required.

Action : to make a proposal for alcohol testing procedures which will be practical in all member countries (Keith Martin)

11. Should there be an independent Arena Party at Championships?

Northern Ireland requested that each country, if they wished, should have a representative in the arena party.

John Griffiths replied that, as per normal practice, at the 2012 World Championships there would be a dedicated arena party, but that he saw no problem with representatives of the participating countries joining them.

[Decision : 07/11] Participating countries may nominate a person as a member of the arena party.

The possibility of an official in the arena with direct responsibility for equipment and in contact with the referee was discussed.

[Decision : 08/11] An official to take overall responsibility for equipment and the way it is set out in the arena should be nominated for each competition.

The Rule Book clearly states that Assistant Referees should assist with equipment, but this is rarely done.

It should be made clear to Assistant Referees at the briefing that part of their responsibility is to check that the equipment is correctly placed in the same way for all riders.

Action : several changes required to rules and procedures (Keith Martin, Melanie Scott, Rules Committee)

12. Dedicated Assistant Referee Pool at Championships

Peter Dale presented his opinion of the use of a dedicated team of Assistant Referees at the World Team Championship 2011.

See Attachment 5d section 2f.

In the discussion which followed, some clear advantages were identified :

- Better knowledge of the rules
- Consistency
- Impartiality

But the obvious disadvantages were :

- Recruitment
- Costs
- The high number of Assistant Referees required for large events

The following decisions were made :

[Decision : 09/11] The use of a dedicated team of “professional” Assistant Referees is required for the World Team Championship and recommended for other IMGA-sanctioned competitions.

[Decision : 10/11] Reimbursement of the costs of Assistant Referees is left to the discretion of the competition organisers.

[Decision : 11/11] The Referee has the final say over the selection of Assistant Referees.

Action : to update the “How to Organise International Competitions” manual (Keith Martin)

13. Cancellation of a Championship event

Pola Preugel raised the question of cancellation of a major competition due to weather conditions, illness, accident(s), or other unforeseen circumstances.

There was discussion on who should have the final responsibility to cancel a competition. The Referee, the “Ground Jury”, or a majority of the trainers of the participating teams ?

It was also suggested that where possible the organisers should have a backup plan in place, an alternative arena, for example, but in most cases it would not be possible in practice to simply move everything and everyone to another location.

Action : to define the responsibility for the decision to cancel (Keith Martin)

[Decision : 12/11] If an IMGA-sanctioned competition has to be cancelled either before starting or during the competition, then the official results will show that the competition was “not contested”.

14. Financial implications of cancelling participation at a Championship event

Signe Sehested was not present, but she sent this message :

“Between 2-6 weeks before the worlds 3 countries cancelled. All 3 teams had signed in but not paid in time for the event. 2 of the teams needed borrowed ponies. We lost around 50.000 dk kr very short before the competition, and we had already rented tent for the amount of people, stables for the amount of ponies, tables, chairs and catering for the gala party. We also bought extra ponies to be sure they would have nice ponies to ride on. We asked them for 5000 kr. Pr country to cover these cost, but none of these 3 countries thought they needed to cover the cost they had made. Think its rude and not fair to the organisation who puts a lot of work in the competition.”

There were different reactions to this point :

- That late cancellations are well-known and occur almost every year, so they should be allowed for in the initial planning.
- That an initial agreement to attend is not sufficient, it should be accompanied by a non-returnable deposit.
- That early payment could be encouraged by offering either early payment discounts, or late payment fines.

There was no definite agreement on exactly which of these options is best, and so it will continue to be part of the organisers’ task to make arrangements for payment.

It was also noted that the procedure works both ways, the organisers cannot expect early payment if they don't have full information available on what facilities will be provided.

It was also accepted that in the particular case of Denmark and 3 non-paying cancelling countries, it is sadly too late now to do anything.

Action : to update the "How to Organise International Competitions" manual (Keith Martin)

15. "How to Organise International Competitions" Document Update

The current draft of this document (version 2.3) was sent to all International Representatives prior to the meeting (October 4).

There was unanimous agreement that the document should be accepted as official IMGGA policy, and it's requirements enforced with immediate effect.

[Decision : 13/11] The document "How to Organise International Competitions" is accepted for immediate use and will be published on the IMGGA website.

The document will be regularly updated, the first set of amendments being various detailed points raised during this meeting.

Action : to publish the document and maintain it with regular updates (Keith Martin)

16. Pre Championship Review Visits

In 2011 pre-championship review visits were done for the first time, and reports circulated to all International Representatives.

[Decision : 14/11] To make pre-competition review visits standard

Action : to update the "How to Organise International Competitions" document (Keith Martin)

Action : to set up a new procedure for review visits (Melanie Scott)

Everyone agreed that the approach was good but could be improved in two ways :

- Detailed check-lists are required to ensure the visits cover everything

Action : to develop detailed check-lists (Peter Dale and John Griffiths)

- Review of the best time to make the visits.

The first visit should be made between the submission of a bid to host and the IMGGA meeting at which the bid will be evaluated. The bid will then only be valid if the location, arena size, etc., are found to be acceptable. Follow-up visits as necessary, if/when the bid is accepted, as the competition date gets closer.

The question of who should make the visits was left flexible, depending on location and distance, language, and so on.

[Decision : 15/11] Philippe Gargallo nominated to visit the location selected in Italy for the European Championship 2012

[Decision : 16/11] Colin Carson to be asked to visit the location selected in New Zealand for the World Team Championship 2013

Action : to contact Colin Carson to work out the schedule (Keith Martin)

17. IMGA Referee Certification System

This is a subject which must be addressed if Mounted Games is to become a respected equestrian sport. Several ideas for the training and certification of referees were discussed and it was eventually agreed as follows :

[Decision : 17/11] A programme of certification of Referees is necessary and must be implemented as soon as possible

Action : to discuss standards and expectations with all referees who are due to referee major competitions in 2012 (Peter Dale)

Action : to create a framework for this programme Jens Martin and Peter Dale)

18. Change of format for the World Individual Championships

Jens Martin led a discussion on the possibilities for changing the format of the World Individual Championship.

Two ideas were presented :

To replace the existing structure to eliminate semi-finals for 16 riders and a final for 8 riders with instead a set of finals (A, B, C, D, etc.) as in Team championships. This would represent much better value for money for all riders, instead of the current approach which favours the top riders at the expense of the others who are knocked out in the early rounds.

To implement quotas and/or qualification for riders to ensure that the event is a real *world* championship.

These, and other possible changes, are clearly very controversial and no immediate decisions were taken, but Jens will circulate a detailed proposal to all members.

Action : to circulate the proposal (Jens Martin)

19. Age Groups for the Southern Hemisphere

New Zealand has changed its method of calculating into which age groups riders fall.

The problem is that the application of the IMGA standard method (Rule Book GR 15.1) works well in the northern hemisphere where the age calculation is based on a calendar year and the competition season falls completely within that year. In the southern hemisphere this is not the case, and riders can move to a higher age group half way through the season.

New Zealand's new method takes account of this by basing the calculation on a July-to-June year instead of January-to-December.

Australia is against the change, and South Africa has not given an opinion, but with none of these countries present, it was impossible to make any decisions.

20. Mounted Games Champions League??

Andrea Piazza, who first presented this subject at the previous meeting, was not present, and so there was no further discussion.

21. Review of 2011 World Individual, Pairs and Team Championships

Individual

A report from Mary Worth was read by the Chairman.
See Attachment 5a.

Pairs

A report from Mary Worth was read by the Chairman.
See Attachment 5b.

Team

A report from Signe Sehested was read by the Norwegian Representative.
See Attachment 5c.

The post-competition report was presented by Peter Dale.
See Attachment 5d.

There was considerable discussion about the World Team Championship with several serious complaints. Some problems were caused by the physical layout of the site :

- The distances between the accommodation area, the stables, the catering area, and the competition area. This caused not only communication difficulties but was also a long way to walk several times each day.

But others were caused by organisational difficulties :

- Quality and quantity of food.
- A serious lack of veterinary cover. A specialised horse vet is essential.
- Quality of the start line video equipment.
- Insufficient seating at the arena.
- Lack of flexibility and ability to react to problems.
- No visits – especially important for riders who have travelled long distances and may not ever have the chance to visit Denmark again.

It was felt that the organisational structure was not broad enough. It needed more people, each one responsible for a little less, and those people needed to be accessible.

Many points will be added/updated in the next version of the “How to Organise International Competitions” document to ensure that lessons are well learned.

Action : update “How to Organise International Competitions “ document (Keith Martin)

It was understood that many of the problems were made more severe by the extreme weather, which of course could not have been foreseen.

It was unfortunate that no one from Denmark was present at the meeting to present plans for the World Individual Championship 2013, and it was decided that the Chairman should contact the organisers in Denmark in an attempt to clarify the situation for the World Individual Championship in 2013.

Action : to contact the organisers of this year’s World Team Championship in Denmark to explain the concerns of IMGA members, and to check that Denmark will still go ahead with this event. If so, then to obtain information on plans and guarantees that improvements will be made (Keith Martin)

Despite the points shown above, there was unanimous praise for the live video streaming by internet of the entire competition. An excellent initiative which will almost certainly become standard practice at major competitions. Another positive point was the experiment with a dedicated team of Assistant Referees which was very successful (see point 12).

22. Presentation of details for 2012 World Individual, Pairs and Team Championships

Individuals

August 16-19 2012 at the David Broome Event Centre, Chepstow, Wales

Kay Leese proposed that any ideas for improving the World Individuals Championship should be sent to her at kay@gunnleese.com

Action : to send proposals for improvements to the World Individual Championship (and, by implication, the World Pairs Championship as well) to Kay Leese (all)

See also point 18.

Pairs

September 15-16 2012 at the Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground, England

Team

A presentation of the World Team Championship 2012 was given by John Griffiths
See Attachment 6.

Other points arising :

There was agreement that the rule which prohibits the referee being from the host country should be abandoned, as part of the complete overhaul of the way referees are trained, certified, and assessed for competitions (see also point 17).

[Decision : 18/11] Referees from the host country are allowed.

Pending a definitive change in the procedure to certify and select referees (see point 17), an interim procedure for appointing referees was proposed and agreed.

[Decision : 19/11] International Representatives at the IMGA annual meeting will appoint referees for IMGA-sanctioned competitions.

[Decision : 20/11] Peter Dale was appointed Referee for the World Team Championship and the European Championships in 2012.

Action : to re-visit the recommendation from a previous meeting that IMGA should select referees, update it, and send it out to all members (Jens Martin)

23. Appointment of Host for 2014 World Individual, Pairs and Team Championships

Individual

MGAGB was the only candidate for hosting this event.

[Decision : 21/11] The hosting of the World Individual Championship for 2014 was awarded to MGAGB.

Pairs

MGAGB was the only candidate for hosting this event.

[Decision : 22/11] The hosting of the World Pairs Championship for 2014 was awarded to MGAGB.

Team

Although no bids to host this event were received prior to the meeting, both France and Norway expressed an interest during the meeting.

France proposed to combine the World Team Championship with the World Equestrian Games which will be held at Caen in Normandy in 2014. It is unlikely that the entire event could be done at WEG, but there is the option to run the full event nearby, then move to WEG for the A final, or possibly to select teams for a demonstration at WEG.

Note for information :

The World Equestrian Games 2014 (WEG 2014) will also be known as the Jeux Equestres Modiaux 2014 (JEM 2014)

The games will be held August 24 – September 7 2014

Sources for further information :

Jeux Equestres Modiaux 2014 :

<http://www.jemfeialltech2014-normandie.fr/>

Normandie Tourisme :

<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/articles/2014-world-equestrian-games-1224-2.html>

Youtube :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KleLg0UpwI0>

Given that the joining of the World Team Championship and WEG 2014 is a very attractive package, Norway withdrew its bid to host.

[Decision : 23/11] The hosting of the World Team Championship for 2014 was awarded to France.

24. Review of 2011 European Individual and Team Championships

A report was presented by Brian Kennedy and a financial statement distributed to those present.

See Attachment 7a.

The post-competition report was presented by Peter Dale.

See Attachment 7b.

25. Presentation of details for 2012 European Team and Individual Championships

It was unfortunate that there was no one present to represent Italy and to give details of the European Championship next year.

However, some information was received at the very last moment.

Jacques Cavé and Andrea Piazza, because of problems with their national equestrian federation, have decided to go ahead with the organisation of the European Championship without any involvement of the federation.

The event will be held near Turin in Northern Italy and full details will be available within 3 weeks.

There is the possibility of a clash with the dates of the World Team Championship and the European Championship. With the dates we currently have, there is only one week between the end of one competition, and the beginning of the next.

Action : the Chairman will contact the organisers of the European Championship in Italy to negotiate a change of dates (Keith Martin)

26. European Team and Individual Championships 2013 – Last Chance for somebody to host this competition.

At the 2010 meeting there had been no bids to host this event, but in the weeks just prior to this meeting two countries have come forward with proposals.

Sophie Van De Calseyde presented Belgium's bid. See Attachment 8 for details.

Mark Devitt presented Ireland's bid. Possibilities : Tattersalls Event Centre near Dublin, or an all-weather arena at Punchestown, Co Kildare, also quite near to Dublin.

[Decision : 24/11] The hosting of the European Championship for 2013 was awarded to Ireland.

27. Appointment of Host for 2014 European Team and Individual Championships

No bids were received to host this event prior to the meeting, but Belgium's unsuccessful bid for 2013 was carried forward, and France also offered to host the event.

[Decision : 25/11] The hosting of the European Championship for 2014 was awarded to Belgium.

28. World Championship Trophies

The Chairman reported that it seems to be happening more and more often that trophies are not returned for re-presentation.

At the European Championship 2011 a procedure was introduced whereby the recipients of trophies filled in and signed a form to record the receipt of the trophy. This information will be used subsequently, if necessary, to track down "missing" trophies.

The same procedure will be introduced for the World Championships.

Action : to record and keep records of all trophy winners and to ensure that the trophies are returned the following year (Marilyn Hackman)

For 2012 only an agreement has already been made with the hosts of the World Team Championship to request the return of all trophies well in advance of the competition so that they can all be cleaned and repaired where necessary.

The European Championship trophies are relatively new and should not need any maintenance.

Action : to ensure all trophies are returned for maintenance (Keith Martin)

29. Decision on Host and Date of 2012 IMGA Annual General Meeting

In recent years the host for the IMGA annual meeting has been the host for the following year's World Team Championship. Under this system, the host for 2012 would be New

Zealand, but because of the distances involved, requiring two long journeys within a short period, it was decided instead to hold the 2012 meeting in Ireland, the hosts for the following year's European Championship.

[Decision : 26/11] The 2012 IMGA Annual General Meeting will take place November 17-18 in Ireland.

30. Any other Business

1. Some concern was expressed over the apparent lack of activity in Canada

Action : to contact Jim Dunn to get an update (Paul Greiling and Keith Martin)

2. The World Team Championship 2013 will take place in New Zealand early in the year (the Horse of the Year Show is usually held in March), so we need to get some detailed information from MGA NZ as soon as possible, for the mid-year 2012 meeting at the latest.

Action : to contact New Zealand to obtain this information (Keith Martin)

Meeting closed : Sunday November 21 at 15:00

Attachments

Attachment 1a	Communication Report
Attachment 1b	Country Development Report
Attachment 2	Financial Reports
Attachment 3	Development
Attachment 4	Membership Criteria
Attachment 5a	Report on World Individual Championship 2011
Attachment 5b	Report on World Pairs Championship 2011
Attachment 5c	Report on World Team Championship 2011
Attachment 5d	Post-competition report World Team Championship 2011
Attachment 6	World Team Championship 2012 Wales
Attachment 7a	Report on European Championship 2011
Attachment 7b	Post-competition report on European Championship 2011
Attachment 8	European Championship 2013 - Belgium

Attachment 1a : Communication Report

Dear Friends,

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this weekend's IMGA annual general meeting.

As the role of Communication Officer I urge each and every country to try and increase the publicity for mounted games. One of the biggest problems in mounted games is we, as an association, are not very good at letting the rest of the equestrian world know just what mounted games is. When asked it's difficult to explain exactly what it is, and the vague answer of ponies relay racing and taking part in obstacle races just doesn't do the sport justice. Highlight the requirements – high level of fitness, agility, athleticism, hand eye to coordination, special relationship with the pony, well schooled ponies, team building, fun and friendship.

So, how can we raise the profile of mounted games? One of the best ways is to get in touch with your local equestrian magazine or newspaper or even a local newspaper to give them details of the sport and let them know what is happening and if any local riders take part.

First of all it is probably best to delegate one person within your country to be the press officer. Speaking from a professional point of view it is easier to deal with one person rather than several people sending reports from the same shows. This person is responsible for sending reports, information and photographs to the magazines in time to be published. Find out the publishing deadlines for each magazine and keep to them.

The press officer should research how many equestrian magazines there are in your area and then spend some time contacting each editor, then introduce and explain exactly what mounted games is. Invite them to a competition or training night so they see for themselves what is involved.

If there is someone within your country who can take good action photographs then enlist them to help the press officer as quality pictures really enhance a report. If money is no object then make up a disc of images and send some detailed information on mounted games and the riders of your country to each magazine. Through my work one particular event sticks in my mind - in order to gain publicity they send a parcel through the post of lots of press release, a disc of images from previous shows, and several gifts... who says journalists can't be bribed - it certainly guaranteed that event exposure!

Local equestrian magazines are the best way to start; normally they will be keen for information as long as it is provided in time. National equestrian magazines are a different matter and more often than not will not have the space to cover it. However, still send them a report and results as they might use it if they have space.

For many countries just now the MGA season will have finished, but it is still an ideal time to make friends with your local magazines. In the winter when news and reports are scarce then send an email to them giving brief history of mounted games in your country with some facts and figures e.g., the number of years mounted games has been organised in your country, number of riders, best results to date, competition dates etc.

The following day contact the magazine and check the information has been received and ask if it will be used. Don't be too pushy but do make sure and ask if it is likely to be published. If the magazine say they will not use it, ask the reasons why and if there is anything that could be changed in order for it to be accepted.

After the competitions write another report, giving the results and details of what happened and include a picture of the team and also any action

photographs of the riders and send it to the various magazines. It is important this is done quickly after the event to be up-to date and is more likely to be used.

Finally, remember it is not the press officer's fault if magazines choose not to publish reports but what each rider and member can do is contact each magazine that doesn't give mounted games publicity and ask if they know what mounted games is and do they intend to cover mounted games. Remember don't be rude and over time the magazines may come around, so keep sending press releases to each magazine.

This is intended to be a general help to countries who are struggling to get publicity. If your country would like some more help or advice then please get in touch...and I'll try to help as much as I can.

All that is left for me to say is I wish Pola the best of luck in her new role.

With very best wishes,

Melanie Scott

Attachment 1b : Country Development Report

Dear friends,

Just thought I would send everyone a quick note regarding the upcoming AGM this coming weekend. Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend. Unfortunately, this letter finds me on route to Kenya for the African Relief Foundation where I expect to be for the next three weeks. Duty calls.

This letter also brings to a conclusion my tenure as Country Development chair for the International Mounted Games Association. I make that statement with a certain sadness simply because IMGA and everything that goes with it have been such a significant part of my life. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Botswana. The long time friends that I have made over the years are many. In retrospect, I feel that I was an important part of a growing, evolving international association. An association that initially started with four founding members and has now evolved into the growing concern that it is today. I think we can all be very proud of how far we have all come.

There is an old saying that says "as one door closes, another one opens". And that is exactly where I am in life. New responsibilities, new opportunities and a chance to possibly make a difference around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Jens and Melanie the best of luck and a very big show of support as they both assume new roles on the IMGA executive. These roles are time consuming and they require a substantial commitment to say the least. We as representatives must remember that these people are volunteers, and without them, we wouldn't be where we are today! We need to support them much more than we do.

Over the years it has always been an unspoken objective of the IMGA executive to get the "older" riders more involved with the both the development and the organization of IMGA. These "older" riders, these young adults, are the future of our sport. We need to take great measures to keep them involved in the future of IMGA.

Both Jens and Melanie are graduate, long term riders and members of IMGA. It pleases me to no end to still see both of them so active in the administration of our association. It is also my understanding that Pola Preugel from Germany has put her name forth to assume the role of communications chair. Pola is another long term senior rider who attends IMGA meetings, coaches and is very involved at a senior level in Germany. With these young people involved, I think the future of IMGA is both bright and exciting. Please join me in supporting Pola for the executive position of communications chair.

In closing, I would just like to say that I will still be Canada's international representative. Our membership base has changed over the past years with the bulk of our membership now being on the west coast and the east coast as opposed to central Canada. That leaves substantial geography in between. We are sending teams to Australia this year and are hoping to be able to have a team attend worlds this coming summer in Wales.

Are we back?? You bet!

Thank-you all for making my time with IMGA a memorable experience. You, my family, have been a very big part of my life.

Best wishes

JIM DUNN
IMGA COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CHAIR
PRESIDENT
CANADA MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Attachment 2 : Financial Reports

International Mounted Games Association Bank Transactions for the period 21/11/10 – 19/11/11

Opening Balance : EUR 14,494.28

Transactions	Expenditure	Income
23/11/2010		108.31
23/11/2010	1,545.32	
31/12/2010	2.00	
03/01/2011	40.10	
06/01/2011		200.00
12/01/2011		200.00
20/01/2011	77.61	
26/01/2011		200.00
10/02/2011		200.00
17/02/2011		192.85
17/02/2011		483.60
22/02/2011		114.51
22/02/2011		200.00
23/02/2011		192.85
23/02/2011		192.85
24/02/2011		100.00
24/02/2011		200.00
24/02/2011		200.00
02/03/2011		192.85
02/03/2011		295.75
09/03/2011	17.56	
31/03/2011	2.00	
19/04/2011	43.75	
09/05/2011		350.00
11/05/2011	483.43	
15/06/2011	131.48	
30/06/2011	2.00	
25/07/2011	139.25	

25/07/2011	Payment to Keith Martin for Trophy Engraving	25.00	
28/07/2011	Payment to Keith Martin for IMGA Postage Expenses	43.35	
29/07/2011	Payment to Peter Dale for Worlds and European Champs Review Visits	452.34	
03/08/2011	Payment to John Griffiths for Worlds and European Champs Review Visits	73.70	
02/09/2011	IMGA 2010 Rule Books - Paypal		144.64
05/09/2011	IMGA 2010 Rule Books - ITA		5.30
19/09/2011	Payment to Rescue Safe for Medical Support at WTC 2011 in Denmark	3,134.12	
30/09/2011	Bank Charges	2.00	
16/11/2011	Payment to Keith Martin for IMGA Postage Expenses	48.95	

Closing Balance: **EUR 12,003.83** **Total EUR 6,263.96 3,773.51**

Amounts Owing:

Due Date	Description	Currency	Amount
28/02/2011	IMGA 2011 Affiliation Fee - RSA		125.00
31/08/2011	IMGA 2010 Rule Books - GBR		18.00
		Total EUR	143.00

**International Mounted Games Association
Financial Summary for the period 21/11/10 – 19/11/11**

Income

2011 Affiliation Fees	EUR	3,300.00
2010 Rule Book Sales	EUR	492.76
Late Payment Penalties	EUR	30.00

Total: EUR 3,822.76

Opening Balance:	EUR	14,494.28
Plus Income:	EUR	3,822.76
Less Expenditure:	EUR	6,313.21
Closing Balance:	EUR	12,003.83

Expenditure

Admin Expenses (Postage, Phone costs, Web Site etc.)	EUR	271.32
2010 Meeting Expenses	EUR	2,028.75
Bank & Paypal Charges	EUR	57.25
Trophies	EUR	25.00
Flags	EUR	270.73
IMGA Review Visits Expenses	EUR	526.04
Medical Support at WTC 2011 in Denmark	EUR	3,134.12

Total: EUR 6,313.21

Attachment 3 : Development

In the past we have had only one person working on development. It is an unpaid job and has no support budget. Now we are moving forward with possible FEI membership we need to aggressively grow our organisation. It is too much for one person. I therefore recommend the following :

- Set up a committee with membership from around the world to promote growth with the development chair leading the charge.
- The committee should work on the “buddy” system where by each new country has a buddy country to help them grow.
- There should be a budget to fund growth and development.
- Growth should be a priority for IMGGA and treated that way.
- We need to develop a marketing programme to reach out for new members.
- Development should also develop materials to help new members establish a new member organisation, training materials and how to organise competitions, and lists of potential clinicians.
- Support for clinicians to visit and train new members.

(Paul Greiling)

Attachment 4 : Membership Criteria

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

- Must be able to offer equal membership to all riders within the guidelines of the IMGA constitution
- An initial executive consisting of a minimum of three members residing in the country applying for membership
- Must provide a letter requesting membership to executive committee of IMGA
- Must have a clear and concise understanding of the dynamics of IMGA. Its structure, governing rules and regulations, constitution and the rules governing the sport of mounted games
- Must appoint a country representative to be represented at IMGA

LONG TERM CRITERIA (TWO YEARS)

- Must be covered by a democratic constitution similar to organizations within the Equestrian federation or sports organisations in their country
- Must have active riders
- Must develop a plan to develop the sport of mounted games within their country
- Must take steps to become a sanctioned member of that countries Equestrian Association
- Must be able to attend either an SAGM or an AGM before the end of the initial two year period
- Must take steps in team development to be able to send teams to International competitions by the end of the two year period

(Inger Hilmersen)

Attachment 5a : Report on World Individual Championship 2011

2011 WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS **THE DAVID BROOME EVENT CENTRE, CHEPSTOW, WALES** **THURSDAY 28 – SUNDAY 31 JULY 2011**

The 2011 World Individual Championships again took place at the David Broome Event Centre on the all weather arena from Thursday 28th to Sunday 31st July inclusive. A total of 152 riders took part with 11 nations being represented. The Under 12 and Under 17 age groups were run on Thursday 28th & Friday 29th with the Under 15 and the Open groups being run on Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st July.

The Under 12 group had an entry of 26 riders which was far lower than in 2009 and all the entries came from GB riders. There is no obvious reason for the drop in entries in this age group and, in fact, it is unusual as this age group is flourishing in MGAGB team competitions. However, the lack of numbers did not diminish the quality of the competition in any way and the standard throughout the competition was excellent. The gold medal was won by Lottie Watson (ENG) riding Red. Second was Sammi Garrett (ENG) and third was James Reid (NIRE).

The Under 15 age group was full at 35 entries and, indeed, we were oversubscribed and could have taken more entries but simply did not have the time since this group is held over the same 2 days as the Open. The group had entries from Belgium, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The standard of riding was extremely high and everything depended on the last race as 5 riders went into the Flag race separated by just 5 points. The winner was Taylor Harris (ENG) riding Mercedes. Matt Seabourne (ENG) was second and Danni Loveless (ENG) was third.

Entries in the Under 17 group stood at 35 riders with England, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales being represented. Again the standard was extremely high and the final resulted in a comprehensive victory by Mercedes Lock (ENG) riding Jazz. This pony had been ridden to win this age group previously by Holly Rauch in 2003. Mercedes was 12 points ahead at the end of the final from Thomas James (ENG) who won the tiebreak for second place ahead of April Wilson (ENG) who was third.

As always, the Open was hotly contested and proved to be a fabulous competition. A maximum of 56 riders took part with the following nations being represented: Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, and Wales. The line up for the final was amazing with 2 ladies- Alex Franklin and Janey Surman lining up alongside 5 of the best male riders in the world. 2 riders went into the last race on equal points and it was a nail biting finish but Danny Spencer (ENG) came through to win the Flag Fliers and clinch the title. Alex Franklin (ENG) was reserve Champion for the second year in succession and Quentin Voetzel (FRA) was third.

Next year's championships will be held at the David Broome Event Centre, Chepstow, Wales from Thursday 16th – Sunday 19th August 2012.

(Mary Worth)

Attachment 5b : Report on World Pairs Championship 2011

WORLD PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS
NEWARK & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SHOWGROUND
SEPTEMBER 17 & 18 2011

2011 saw the largest entry that we have ever had for the World Pairs Championships and we managed to squeeze in 131 Pairs over the 2 days of the competition. There were 25 Mini Pairs, 50 Junior Pairs and 56 Open Pairs. The following countries were represented: Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, USA & Wales. The competition ran well, despite the increased entry and time was at a premium but we managed to finish at a reasonable time on both days.

There were 25 pairs of Minis all of whom were from MGAGB. The competition was excellent and the standard of riding throughout was extremely promising. The final produced a clear win for Lottie Watson the 2011 World Individual Champion paired with Sally Kitchiner the 2010 World Individual Champion, both from England. They were 6 points ahead of the second pair Lilli Antcliff (WAL) and Sammi Garrett (ENG). Jon Vaughan (ENG) and Megan Gurton (ENG) were 3rd.

The Junior age group contained 50 pairs this year and was run in 10 heats of 5 with the usual 16 going through to the semi finals and eight pairs to the finals. The final proved to be a two horse (or should I say four horse with it being pairs?) race between the England pairing of Sadie Lock (ENG), the Under 17 World Individual Champion riding with Guy Gorvett (ENG) against the Irish pairing of Kate O'Connor (IRE) and Jeremy McGeever (IRE). Only 2 points separated the pairs at the finish with Sadie and Guy taking the honours. Kate and Jeremy were second and the James brothers (ENG) Thomas and Greg were third.

56 pairs contested the open and, despite a very strong entry from continental Europe this year the final was made up of riders from Great Britain and Ireland. A nail biting final saw a tie after 10 races and so a runoff was required between the 2012 champions – Janey Surman (ENG) and Alex Franklin (ENG) - and Jack Capel (ENG) who was riding with Helen Green (ENG). The result saw Jack and Helen being crowned Champions with Janey and Alex having to settle for second place this year. Joe Garnett (ENG) riding with Choc Adcock (ENG) came third.

The 2012 Championships will be held at Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground on September 15th & 16th 2012.

(Mary Worth)

Attachment 5c : Report on World Team Championship 2011

We had a great competition, but the weather was not what we could wish . it was awful the most of the week, but riders and supporters took it very well, It did give us some problems, and it did give us a lot of extra cost. So we lost about 100.000 dk kr. The original budget left us with money left to extra cost, but because of the rain and mud and the 3 teams not coming after all we ended with red numbers. We thought it worked really well with the assistant referees and arena party and made the competition very professional. We had the live streaming which was seen by people all over the world and we have got so many nice emails from people around the world saying thanks. An other thing people was happy about was the free internet, as people could get in touch with family and friends, the distance between the arena and campsite was a bit long, but people took it nice. Stable areas worked very well as we did not have problems with mud around the stables. Campsite did have problems with the water. Some supporters caused a lot of problems in the nights, and we needed to put out people to control this, which I find unacceptable. Some teams also left a lot of old food, toilet papers, bottles and other stuff, I think its comment good manners to clean up after your self!

(Signe Sehested)

Attachment 5d : Post-competition report World Team Championship 2011

Report on IMGA World Championships held at Vilhelmsborg, Denmark, July 2011.

I visited Denmark with John Griffiths on June 7th 2011 and we met Signe Sehested and discussed fully the arrangements being made for the forthcoming World Championships – see previous report.

The Championships were held on July 15-17th 2011 with teams arriving on July 10-12th and leaving on July 18-20th. I arrived on July 13th and left on July 18th. I will summarise the competition from my point of view :

1. Pre competition days :

several people reported sick ponies possibly with tying up or colic like symptoms. These were thought to be due to the change to Danish forage which may have been a bit rich for them. I do not have any specific veterinary reports; some of the ponies recovered quickly and competed, some took longer and didn't compete. Some people said that they thought the standard of catering for the people on these days was not as good as expected. Mostly, I heard good reports of the venue and facilities. The New Zealanders were very pleased with their ponies and the help given by the Danish. Equally, the Danish owners congratulated the New Zealand team on their horsemanship and subsequently the team won first prize for this category. The various meetings went well including briefing for trainers, assistant referees and arena party. Some people were concerned that 8 lanes were not available and that the arena party were very young.

2. Competition days :

a. Arena – there was a problem at the start as the arena could not be marked out the day before the competition started. This was caused by the simply atrocious weather. I attempted to assist with the marking on the Friday morning but only succeeded in making a pig's ear of it. Thankfully, Peter Hearn was able to sort everything out and we started just one hour late. The arena was big enough for 7 lanes using the new rule book specifications. The proximity of a cross-country fence, a driving track, a fixed arena fence and a woodland meant that an eighth lane was not possible – although I accept that it was only about 2-3 metres that we needed and this could have been achieved by narrowing the lanes slightly. However, safety is paramount and I insisted on the new specifications.

b. Weather – just about as awful as it is possible to be!! Very heavy rain caused a delay mid-morning and unfortunately the teams got drenched. We were very close to having to cancel proceedings on numerous occasions. The ground became a complete quagmire and two finals did not play Founders Race. At times, the young arena party were absent because of the weather. We were able to complete the Championships thanks to help from everyone not least the riders, horses and trainers who co-operated in an exemplary fashion. Injuries were notably few and far between. One pony in the USA team suffered a shoulder injury that could take a long time to heal but the local Veterinary Hospital suggested that it could have been an exacerbation of an old injury.

c. Standard of competition – excellent considering the weather.

d. Catering – lots of people said the food was much better from Friday to Sunday.

e. Tack Inspection : not much wrong except me being half an hour late! Some of the Scandinavian countries like to ride with the stirrup bars closed which I don't allow because I think it's dangerous. There is some confusion with the new bit rule because you can't put every type of bit in the book. I allowed central rotating sections on the mouthpiece but I didn't allow cherry rollers.

f. Assistant referees hand-picked and did all sessions. I thought this was the most successful change for years. I would definitely recommend it again. There was a big

difference between these and some of the referees at the European Championships. The hand-picked referees were, I thought, much better than most of those at the Europeans.

g. Arena Party : in spite of their young age, they were really very good. Occasionally, they would have benefited from some adult guidance but generally they were quicker than most adults (by a long way) and considerably more enthusiastic. There is a need for an Arena Party Marshall to oversee the running of the arena and to check in referees and arena party when they are not hand-picked. Some people still object to the arena party being all from the host team but, here, they were very good.

3. Presentation night and departures : all went very well as far as I know. Catering was excellent.

Improvements for the future :

I think there needs to be a check list used by the organisers and the pre-competition visiting personnel so that various items are "nailed-down" and so that things don't fall between two stools e.g.

- a. I thought Signe had staff to mark out the arena. Because I said don't fix the start line until we are sure about the commentary box and the tight fit for the new regulations, Signe thought I was going to organise the marking out.
- b. Equipment – it may not all be ready at the early visit so it needs to be checked again at the competition. All of it , every piece of every lane, needs to be seen at the early visit if possible. If new equipment is being used, it needs to be tested in trial runs because it's never as good as people say it is. Here, the equipment was very good on the whole.
- c. Jewellery – it is easy to insist on watches, bracelets etc being removed but how are we placed with penetrating jewellery e.g. studs, rings ?
- d. Referees blowing whistle to end a game – quite straightforward if there has been an injury and I ask assistant referees to inform me of any teams that were going to be eliminated had we completed the game. They are then eliminated – but they haven't had a chance to correct their mistakes. Then there is the situation at the end of a game – how long do you wait to see if a team is coming back to correct a mistake. I have seen teams completely undo a founders race or an association race in order to do it again correctly. I blow the whistle to signify the end of a normal game, often as soon as it has finished, only to find that a rider was about to come back to correct something. Back to the injury scenario – some errors cannot be corrected e.g. obstruction, so those teams would have to be eliminated. Other mistakes might have been corrected. I might be making this too complicated. Perhaps I should just wait a bit longer at the end of a normal game.
- e. Video – if it is to be used , whenever and wherever, it must give a better picture than we had in Denmark.
- f. Just one Chief Referee – as you know, I prefer this. The high quality assistant referees made my life easier.

On the whole, I think Denmark, notably Signe Sehested and Ditte Christiansen, did an excellent job of arranging the World Championships in a beautiful venue and they deserved much better weather.

(Peter Dale)

Attachment 6 : World Team Championship 2012 Wales

Download the file :

http://www.mouted-games.org/imga/documentation/docs/minutes_AGM_2011_WorldChamps2012.pdf

(PDF format)



Attachment 7a : Report on European Championship 2011

European Championships 2011

hosted by MGA Northern Ireland

Summary of income & expenditure

	Income Received	Expenditure to Date
Entry Fees	78883.00	
Sale of Clothing	12670.00	
Sale of Shavings & Feed at Show	2983.55	
Sponsorship	2929.00	
Public Entry	1896.82	
Sale of Gala Tickets	5077.14	
Sale of Supporter Packs	18752.77	
Sale of Irish Night Tickets	765.00	
Sale of Hook Ups	1420.00	
Sale of NI Kit	722.00	
Any other Income	867.19	
CBC Grant	12000.00	
Advertising		1383.76
Entertainment (incl Dog Track/Irish Night/Gala)		19327.90
Site & Arena		20444.62
Marquee		23336.40
Stable Costs		44288.00
Site Security / Medical		6624.00
Officials Caravans		1480.00
Prizes & programs (incl plaques, rosettes, sashes)		3818.55
Shavings & Feed		4312.50
Clothing & Merchandise		9115.60
Officials Food		1204.00
Bank Charges		125.74
Misc Expenditure		1862.35
Totals	138966.47	137323.42
Profit/Loss		1673.05

(Brian Kennedy)

Attachment 7b : Post-competition report on European Championship 2011

Report on European Championships at Lurgan, Northern Ireland August 17-21, 2011

I visited Northern Ireland on July 4th 2011 to check on progress for the forthcoming European Championships. John Griffiths had already advised the organisers regarding much of the preparation – see previous report.

The European Championships are now a very large competition to organise and run with several age groups involved and with the incorporation of the individual section too. I will comment on the championships from my point of view – I arrived on Aug 17th and left on Aug 22nd.

Generally, the whole competition was very well organised, the weather good and the catering and facilities excellent. The safety and injury arrangements were extremely well covered by Andy Gibson and his crew and they rightly received recognition for this. There were a couple of injuries to ponies which were very well dealt with by the local veterinary hospital. Some people considered that the surface of the arena may have contributed to the injuries – I am not convinced.

Arena : this was set up according to the older size specifications but had the advantage of being an all weather surface. Concern regarding the stability of the surface was allayed by the repeated use of harrows and rollers. Many of the riders felt that the lane 8 run out area was being overcrowded at the end of races. We enlarged this area and that seemed successful. I don't think this is always necessary and hopefully not at all with the larger arena specifications. The riding surface "behaved" exceptionally well considering it was used almost continuously for up to 15 hours a day (the Saturday started at 8am and finished after 11pm!).

Equipment : generally very good. There were problems with the joust targets turning and with the bank numbers splitting – new equipment must be tested thoroughly before use. It's never as good as they say it is! I thought the poles with tall cones for support worked well. Bank and Hi Lo stands suffered a little with the sand arena.

Competition : again a very high standard. The individual races provided excellent entertainment in the evenings. However, holding team competitions under floodlights was not a success, in my opinion. Compared with individuals, the team competition requires a lot more involvement from assistant referees with very many things to watch – the lack of good light made this difficult. There was a problem with the Bank Race and the Balloon Race on the Saturday evening. After deciding that the equipment was faulty for Wales in the Bank Race (numbers splitting) , a re run was necessary – it was difficult to ascertain which teams had already finished although eventually the commentary box was able to sort this on the video. By this time, the Balloon Race had been set up so the re run of the Bank Race was delayed until after. In the Balloon Race, one lane was left with 4 balloons which I noted but then no assistant referees came forward. I hadn't seen the error but then I failed to note which lane was involved and continued with the re run Bank Race. A long time afterwards, two assistant referees came to tell me that they had seen the balloon error but they also were confused by the bank race. Ultimately, I gave Ireland (the team who committed the balloon error) 1 point on the basis that they could have corrected the error (the second rider rode down the arena with the hat band on; he could have returned and the other rider gone second; there were enough balloons). The French trainer was annoyed that this hadn't been seen and felt that bias was involved. I think that in daylight this may not have happened but I can't excuse the referees' failings (including mine!).

Some people commented that Ireland attempted to cover up their mistake after the race. There was also a question about France's performance in the last jousting race – they had to avoid elimination in order to keep their position. They missed the joust by a very long way and also missed their handovers by a huge margin. I don't understand this except that someone suggested that it may have aided Belgium. It is impossible to suggest/verify that teams are not playing according to the spirit of the games but it may be necessary to say something in briefing.

Officials : several people were unhappy that so many of the officials were from England (commentary box) . They were, of course, completely impartial and ,indeed, very professional in their work but they were naturally exuberant about England's performances – during the competition in the daytime. I think this could be avoided if officials from other countries were invited, as they usually are when the competition is held elsewhere.

Brian Kennedy, Carol Prime and all the hard-working Northern Irish helpers should be congratulated on a very well run and thoroughly enjoyable competition.

(Peter Dale)

Attachment 8 : European Championship 2013 – Belgium

Download the file :

http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/documentation/docs/minutes_AGM_2011_EuroChamps2013_Belgium.pdf

(PDF format)

