

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Annual Meeting 2021 - Final version 4.2 December 26 2021

Held by remote participation using RingCentral Saturday 13 November 2021

Meeting opened by the Chairman, Chris Wheeler, at 08:03 CET

All participants were informed that the proceedings were being recorded

Michelle Cruikshanks was thanked for taking notes and compiling this Official Record

Participants - IMGA Officials :

Chris Wheeler	IMGA Chair & Chair Strategic Planning sub-committee
Keith Martin	IMGA Vice Chair & Chair Compliance sub-committee
Jens Martin	Finance and Administration & Chair Technology sub-committee and Rules Committee
Megan Tutt	Communication (Not present)
Pierre-Luc Portron	Development (Not present)
Alun Whitney	Chief Referee (acting)

Participants - International Representatives :

Warwick Slade	Australia	
Rachel Lechner	Austria	
Robin Donnay	Belgium	
Michelle Cruikshanks	Canada	
Alžbeta Mašková	Czech Republic	Not present
Signe Sehested	Denmark	
Elaine Trevor Jones	England	
Stéphane Tardif	France	Not present
Volker Baasch	Germany	
Conor O'Leary	Ireland	
Andrea Piazza	Italy	
Lizzy Franck	Luxembourg	Represented by Cheyenne Billa
Jesús Nájera	Mexico	Not present
Sue Robertson	New Zealand	
Kabir Ali	Nigeria	Not present
Wilson McCoubery	Northern Ireland	Represented by Gilly Tougher
Inga Daler	Norway	Not present
Muhammad Irfan Zafar	Pakistan	Not present
Veronica Dodds	Scotland	
Kersley Vinay	South Africa	Not present
Felicia Ardbring	Sweden	Represented by Caroline Claeson
Caroline Parmelin	Switzerland	
Paul Greiling	USA	
Iain Hopkins	Wales	

1. Introduction

Guidelines for remote participation – no proxies were received so all participants voted using RingCentral with ballots developed by Alun Whitney.

The Chairman shared his screen – Alun Whitney monitored for new arrivals and the RingCentral bell would alert the group of new participants.

Voting – on RingCentral

Schedule – The agenda included eighty-one slides – Chris wanted to have general discussion of Agenda items and of activating Sub-Committees so that they subsequently could work through the details of specific Agenda items, rather than involving the whole group. Agreement in principle would be sought, then redirection of items to Sub-Committees. Sub-committees could work through and report back at regularly scheduled International Representative meeting(s).

2. Looking Back at 2021 – Chris Wheeler

Presentation –

- IMGAs managed to hold some international competitions – amazing compared to other similar sports
- Not all countries able to attend but there was still international representation in spite of Brexit, COVID, and travel problems
- There was massive effort on the part of organisers – e.g. extra work of testing, COVID security. “Well done” to host organisers for a fantastic effort; well done to riders and their parents for getting there.
- To volunteers – arena party, equipment marshals, stabling personnel, sound systems crew – a big “Thank you”.

2.1 Review of IMGAs Year – Chris Wheeler

Presentation –

- Started the year with European Team and Individual Championship – Signe organising in Denmark; Chris sad not to be able to go. Fantastic administrative efforts and some fantastic racing viewed via Livestream
- World Team Championship in France – enjoyed by many. “Well done, Team La Bode” – great effort, lovely atmosphere
- World Individual Championship – two arenas; well done to riders able to get there e.g. channel crossing challenge; “Well done, Wales”
- World Pairs Championship in Newark, England – two great grass arenas; some international riders present; “Well done” to MGAGB and the England crew: good effort
- Note overall that the cost of travelling had been an issue this year – will be addressed later in meeting.

2.2 Rules Committee Report – Jens Martin

Report - Summary of activities during year to date – usual couple of points:

- Relatively quiet year with only a handful of Rule Change Requests; the Committee processed three and rejected two of those
- The only accepted change was the acceptance of the Breathalyser and Testing policy

- Committee is currently in discussion of red card/yellow card process - not yet completed but confident that this time the proposal will go through
- Additional new rule change requests have been submitted so the Committee will proceed through those.

Report - Rule Book Sales – for years there has been a downloadable file with discussion of the impact of that on sales of hard copies. This year 200 copies were printed with only 31 left as of the start of the meeting; the Rulebook generated as much income as it cost for printing; there were 3986 downloads which includes repeat viewings – hefty number of downloads.

Report - Status of Rule Book for 2022 – there are not really enough changes to warrant reprinting the Rule Book for 2022 but the Committee will review the situation in upcoming weeks. If the red/yellow card system is approved, then that may be a significant enough change to warrant an updated version; review expected in a few weeks time.

Discussion – online ordering glitch is resolved; it involved PayPal which was frustrating and futile. The ordering system is up and running - only 31 copies remain so get orders in quickly; if there is still a demand beyond those copies, the file is with the printer so additional can be printed. Jens feels that there has historically been good estimating of required copies; in response to suggestion, he will send a request to countries for their requirements. Note that most sales are one or two at a time rather than ‘country orders.’ Paper copy is felt to be a valuable tool for those who purchase it versus solely the download version.

Action – Jens Martin will send out a request to countries regarding their requirement for Rulebooks.

2.3 Financial Report – Jens Martin

Presentation - Current financial status - November 2021

- Similar to last year; if we were meeting all together in person, a hard copy summary of expenditures and transactions would be distributed, however copies will be sent to everyone;
- General comment - Revenue - Very quiet year; Income has been restricted to three items; Rule Book sales, Rider Fees from each IMGA sanctioned competition, Newsletter advertising, sponsorship for an approximate total of £4300
 - Expenditure – Rulebooks, new trophy purchased by Chris, Breathalyser units (2), Referees’ expenses – £4700 approximate total expenditure, so IMGA is £300 to the good; details will be provided for examination.

For further detailed information refer to the Annex for 2.3

Presentation - Setting of Affiliation fee for 2022 –

- Decision last year to charge £0.00 was a ‘one-off’
- This year, most competitions except NTC were held with the expectation that 2022 will see all competitions take place
- Jens suggested £315.00 as Affiliation fee to be reintroduced for 2022; no questions voiced regarding reinstatement of Affiliation Fee
- Query regarding inclusion of camera system purchase with 2021 expenditures; this will be followed up and reimbursement issued.

Motion – That IMGA reinstate the annual IMGA Affiliation fee of £315.00.

Second – Sue Robertson (NZ)

No disagreement noted; **Motion passed (21.01).**

Action - Jens Martin will send January invoices to member countries in the amount of £315.00 and follow up regarding the reimbursement for camera equipment

2.4 Other Reports from IMGA Officials – Chris Wheeler

Report on behalf of Development Officer – Chris reported no contact from Pierre-Luc (FRA) who continues to be exceptionally busy due to demands of COVID on health care system in France.

Report on behalf of Communication Officer – Chris noted that Megan could not be present but sent her notes – Megan requested more material from all countries for publication and sharing; Australia and New Zealand sent great reports and photos last year; seeking more communication from all countries.

Report - Newsletter – Chris - going well; volunteer participants for interviews and features are enthusiastic – Chris finds this an enjoyable part of the newsletter publishing e.g. speaking with contributors: tips from top trainers and the referees, etc. Income from advertising seems to be going well – currently three advertisers at £20/page – available to any country; please contact Chris for sponsorship space; Updates from Rules Committee suggested as an excellent section to include in future newsletters.

2.5 Reports on 2021 Championships

Refer to Annex for 2.5

Report - World Individual Championship

- Two fantastic arenas and related facilities; all equipment was fine except for Bank and Hi-Lo which were lower than specified for U12
- Issues with draws were significant due to use of two reporting and tracking systems
- Tack check completed by volunteers
- Chris supervised breathalyser testing
- Referee shortage due to COVID travel restrictions left only four referees available so daily briefings were held to maintain consistency; significant negative comments re: refereeing were noted on social media – this has become a major issue and had the comments been made in person, would have been dealt with
- T-shirts provided for riders in colours of lane assignments was immensely helpful to commentators and scorers
- COVID protocol in place
- Both rings had camera options – Referees checked some decisions themselves or for appeals, volunteer technicians queued up required video at the conclusion of races during setup for next race (heats only)
- Livestreaming – this was a large learning curve but Livestream can be done in-house using IMGA equipment.

Report - World Pairs Championship – Newark – two grass arenas; sand base required frequent Changeover line raking; equipment to standard, no spare equipment was on hand which had possibility of being problematic; Issues with draws were the same as for WIC; short of Referees due to COVID; details provided of pony accident

Discussion –

- Issues continue with travel and International competition
- Need to provide information to participants in a timely manner to avoid communication lags and gaps with negative impact on the smooth running and positive feel of international competition; points at which there was a lack of information were very impactful
- Breathalyser testing was well administered and positively received
- Noted that use of video verification interfered with video streaming: previous discussion has occurred regarding this issue; on this occasion the effort to minimise interruption included video review for races during heats being conducted between races – technical volunteers queued up the tape while next game was being set up
- Despite the interruption to Livestream video, it was noted that people have a right to appeal and that 40 percent of those appeals were successful
- Do we consider use of video checking only rather than referring to Assistant Referees?
- Need for video review as a result of “Appeals on appeals” in France added to the interruption to Livestreaming- only one original delay but it became major
- Description provided of commercially produced video Livestream used at Italian Nationals as illustrative of benefits of this level of professionalism with commentary, instant replay, etc. when resources permit
- General agreement that this continues as an area for improvement with added personnel being needed to facilitate the video review procedure and quality of Livestreaming
- Current in-house video system is effective, just limited by personnel able and available to work it

Action: note this as a major item for consideration by the **Technology Sub-Committee** – Physically how many people are required on site for the video cameras to be used effectively?

2.6 IMGGA Sub-Committees – Chris Wheeler

Report - Chris – Several IMGGA Sub-committees exist and would benefit from reinvigoration

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee – up and running; some of their ideas will be shared during this meeting.

Health and Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee - New Chair replacing Jens Martin (IMGGA) is Conor O’Leary (IRE); will be taking on topic of pony drugging/doping; if you wish to contribute to that discussion use the dedicated email : imga.sc.healthsafety@mounted-games.org

Note that Sub-Committees are not closed groups – open to contributions and relevant information.

Training and Qualifications Sub-Committee - Mark Crowe (IRE) will take over Sub-Committee Chair role from Davy Quinn (IMGGA).

Update on Davy’s condition: Davy is okay and sent along his best wishes; attending ongoing specialist appointments to address remaining health concerns

Sponsorship and Promotion Sub-Committee – history on the Sub-Committee’s establishment provided by Jens – was originally established as it seemed a logical element to consider for furthering goals of IMGGA although it was nominally active and would currently benefit from involvement of the right personnel with the right background/skills.

Action - Ideas being sought for revitalising this potentially very beneficial sub-committee – forward these to Chris Wheeler.

Additional Information - use of IMGA RingCentral Meetings account by member countries is available and Alun can set you up for your country's meetings – Use of this platform for your countries' meetings is encouraged; has been set up for you and is currently using only about 1/8 of the available capacity.

3. Looking Forward to 2022 and Beyond

3.1 Election of IMGA Officials for the next two-year period

Report – Chris - No additional nominations for positions open for election this year were received since publication of the Final AGM Agenda.

Nominations:

- Chairperson – Chris Wheeler as supported by Elaine Trevor-Jones (ENG)
- Officer for Development Officer – Pierre-Luc Portron as supported by Stéphane Tardif (FRA)
- Chief Referee – Alun Whitney as supported by Michelle Cruikshanks (CAN)

Discussion - Review of procedure given that there is a single nomination for each available position; query regarding possibility of an agreement from a previous meeting of International Representatives that each candidate provide a description of their relevant background and overall goals in seeking a position, even if they are the sole applicant.

Action – for the next election of IMGA Officials, publicise the requirement for any applicant seeking an elected position to provide a summary of background experience and goals with their application/nomination

3.2 Selection of Referees for 2022 IMGA sanctioned competitions

Discussion – review of the revisions to the advance voting ballots and confirmation of Margaret Welsby's (NZ) inclusion on the final voting ballot for 2022 Referees.

Action – revise the Final AGM Agenda's attached voting ballot to show M. Welsby's candidacy for all 2022 IMGA sanctioned competitions.

Tie-break Vote - From the advance voting ballot, three tie breaks are required to finalise selection of 2022 Referees:

In General, Chris requests that members remember to include all three of Chris Wheeler, Jens Martin, and Keith Martin when submitting any bids, applications or votes going forward; ensures that all documents are included in the three-way cross-referencing process; an improved system for receipt of these items will be explored to enhance efficacy e.g. establishment of a dedicated email address for responses of this nature.

Voting ballots issued, completed, closed, tabulated, and reported as follows:

- 1) World Pairs Championship 2022 - Jan Christensen is the final selected Referee – Margaret Welsby is the Reserve. Mark Crowe, Alun Whitney, and Pierre-Luc Portron are confirmed as Referees selected through pre-AGM advance polling.
- 2) Nations Team Championship 2022 – Tie breaking vote completed by the four eligible countries in attendance resulted in a tie. After discussion and consultation of the advance

polling results for the original vote from South Africa, Mark Crowe was selected as the Referee for NTC. Margaret Welsby is the Reserve.

- 3) European Team and Individual Championship 2022 – Mark Crowe, Andrew Rodaughan, Anthony Rowles-Jones and Alun Whitney are confirmed as Referees. Tie-breaker results - Warwick Slade is the Reserve.

The following were confirmed as Referees based on the results from the pre-AGM advance polling:

- 4) World Team Championship 2022 – Mark Crowe and Pierre-Luc Portron. Reserve – Alun Whitney
- 5) World Individual Championship 2022 – Jan Christensen, Mark Crowe, Andrew Rodaughan, Anthony Rowles-Jones, Margaret Welsby, and Alun Whitney. Reserve – Luigi Irollo

3.3 IMGA Sanctioned Championships for 2022-23

Programme 2022

Report - World Pairs Championship - Mark Crowe confirmed dates: July 28, 29, 30, 2022

- The WPC is at Millstreet, Ireland, on sand or grass (TBD). In response to query regarding the arena type and footing stated in the original bid by Ireland, Mark provided explanation of the complexities involved in setting dates for 2022 and of sorting out available dates for arenas at the venue. A particular effort is being made to ensure that the dates for the Royal Welsh are free of conflicting competitions as the historical world's biggest "shop window" for our sport. This has had an impact on planning
- Conor confirms that there were scheduling challenges; suggests collecting from European countries their best dates for hosting competitions from the point of view of school holidays to maximise overall Rider availability
- Conor provides additional information re: travel from France to Ireland for competition: the Agent they are working with says it "will be business as usual" and to travel return is estimated at €350 – 400 plus vet fees. To confirm: travel from World Team Championship (FRA) to World Pairs(IRE) is now 'Business as usual'
- Relative advantages/disadvantages of entering via Northern Ireland briefly shared and discussed
- World Pairs Championship will feature an open entry system.

Report - Nations Team Championship – Paul requested that eligible countries provide an idea of their preferred time of year/dates since the organisers are looking to pair up NTC with a major equestrian event such as would have been the case with Equitana.

Report - European Team and Individuals Championship - Alun confirmed that August 3 – 9, 2022 is the final set of dates for the competition; the original idea of hosting a lengthier competition has been modified. In response to a query, Alun confirms that European Individuals will feature an open entry system.

World Individual Championship – dates as noted.

Discussion –

- recognition that setting dates for IMGA Sanctioned competitions is always a difficult process; selecting commonly shared school vacation dates may be the preferred process for establishing European Team and Individual Championship dates e.g. last week of July

- Issues of date conflict with other major national competitions are described e.g. French Nationals, including financial, travel and organisational challenges
- Thanks to Conor and Mark for work with agent
- Chris is continuing essentially one-sided exercise with Brexit officials - no results to date
- Conor confirms that entry via Northern Ireland is easier for paperwork. Pros and cons re: south of Ireland briefly discussed.

Programme 2023

Presentation - World Team Championships 2023 (AUS) – Warwick Slade

- Slide presentation: Competition being held in most southeastern state, Victoria. Melbourne is the capital city with population of five million; competition is 50 km north of Melbourne
- Description of flight routing possible - to Melbourne or Perth or Sydney
- Cheaper to fly to Melbourne than to transport your pony across Europe; advantageous exchange rate for Australian dollar: “Big Mac index”
- Entry fee of \$5000 AUS includes accommodation for seven people – six riders and the trainer; Pony fee whether self-sourced or pool is fixed at \$3000 AUS for six ponies
- Supporter accommodation available at \$1700/week AUS: high quality caravans situated 200m – 300m from arena incl. water and electric
- Description provided of current schemes for building group of experienced ponies having at least two years of competition for even the C ponies – no inexperienced ponies to be included
- Distance of 1000km from Melbourne to Sydney therefore Organisers are working to fund interstate riders in order to get all the best ponies to Melbourne
- Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre is competition site; features and amenities were described
- Victoria’s tourist features including Melbourne are noted as numerous
- Organisers are looking forward to putting on a world class event

Action –

- **International Representatives** to please talk to your country members since organisers are looking for preliminary numbers of ponies needed
- Contact Warwick who welcomes the opportunity to speak to countries’ National meetings to engender support

Report - World Pairs Championship 2023 (DEN) – Signe Sehested

- Competition dates - July 11 – 16, 2023; Runs from Wednesday to Saturday with departure Sunday
- Signe seeks clarification regarding expectation for Arena practice time for Pairs and Individuals as this seems to be consistently the case for Team competitions; organisers need to plan for and finance arena rental for several number of days prior to the competition

Discussion –

- Includes concerns about variations in the amount of practice provided to riders at the competition site; variation across competition formats - Teams, Pairs, Individuals - is notable
- Inconsistencies exist due to logistics of providing sufficient practice times for Pairs and Individuals relative to Teams; this has been successfully implemented at Danish competitions
- Consideration needed of ponies’ requirement for rest after long hauls of 2-3 day and then some time to prepare for competition
- International transport requirements apply and mandate specific rest periods based on transport duration

- References to IMGA Hosting a Sanctioned Competition document as stating specific requirements for warmup and practice/exercise; note that this is not main arena time – logistical issues arise if the main arena is considered as the area for practice.
- A great variety of factors have an impact on provision of practice time: Is this a requirement of the bid application process? Is an organisation-wide approach desirable/feasible? Are these discussion items for the Health and Safety and Risk Management Committee?

Action - this matter will be referred to the Health and Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee; Chairperson Conor O’Leary has noted this as an item for the Sub-Committee’s consideration.

Report - World Team Championships 2022 (FRA) – Quentin Voeltzel

- Competition is July 20 – 23, 2022 in the same arena as usual; currently adding white sand to the existing footing which requires less watering to compact
- Team Entry price to be the same as this past year: €3300
- Parking is plentiful
- Touring is planned on the Monday/Tuesday
- Events of 2021 reviewed re: intruders on the Gala Night, the resultant inquiry, and commitment to changes and improvements to security including improved fencing and staffed surveillance
- Description provided of legal process undertaken at the time and subsequently – police and ministry of sport require the establishment of an off-site supporter area separating non-drinking riders from others; What is the impact of this on riders and their family supporters traveling and staying as a group? Can they still do so? Yes.
- Question of alcohol continues as a consideration for Gala Night planning: 2022 location previewed
- Security measures described for both Rider and Supporter camping areas during periods when most people will be attending competition or Gala; improvements expected in local police involvement – 5-6 officers and dog on site - and improved understanding by local politicians of benefits of Mounted Games; Quentin refers to returning to “2014 standard.”
- Ponies being sought and contracted at expected cost of around €300 per pony – to have completed at least five high level competitions and be in their sixth year; is seeking €10,000 in funding for ponies to be used by countries from outside of Europe
- Goal is for non-European teams to pay their Entry and flight, and as little as possible for borrowing ponies.

Report - World Individuals 2023 (FRA)

Similar plans expected as for WTC 2022; process underway to establish this as a “professional” competition in order to offer cash prizes.

Report - European Team and Individuals 2023 (ENG) – Elaine Trevor Jones

Unofficial update at this time as their organising Committee is working toward date and venue confirmation – will be able to advise by month’s end

Chris thanked hosts for the updates and expresses enthusiasm for upcoming competitions in 2022 and 2023.

3.4 Selection of hosts for 2024 IMGA sanctioned competitions

AGM Agenda was not updated due to late submissions:

World Team Championships (Open) – Belgium, Scotland, Italy, France have put in bids

Discussion –

- Late submissions make this a difficult process lacking consultation opportunities for International Representatives and their Committees
- Suggestion made to move the voting on these bids to the February Representatives' meeting to allow proper examination of bids and subsequent sharing and discussion by country Committees and their members
- Clarification sought and provided - Italy is bidding for WTC and if successful, would then bid for WIC or WPC to make for more economical competitions for hosts and for riders transporting ponies; their preference would be WPC since seasonally high temperatures are viewed as prohibitive for Individuals and the demand on their ponies.

Bids submitted as of the start of the AGM:

WTC - Italy, Belgium, Scotland, France

WPC - Italy, France

WIC - France

European Team and Individual Championships - bid by France was submitted ahead of the submission deadline

Action –

- Set a new deadline for applications to host IMGA Championships 2024 to allow a period of consideration by member countries
- Follow this by voting at the first International Representative meeting of 2022
- Set December 13, 2021, as the new deadline for bids and presentations
- Chris to forward bid information to member countries for their consideration
- At the February online meeting, presentations and voting will occur
- If decisions about pool ponies later in this meeting impact a bid, prospective host organisers are advised to include the item in their updated bid proposal and presentation

Presentation - European Team and Individual Championships 2024 – Quentin Voeltzel on behalf of the FFE (Note that this bid was submitted by the deadline):

- The French Federation is enthusiastic to hold the competition in conjunction with the Paris 2024 Olympics
- Organisers are experienced and enthusiastic to make bids for all of the IMGA 2024 Championships that year in keeping with the Olympic spirit
- Description provided of proposed venue: Parc Équestre Fédéral Lamotte-Beuvron – 5 minutes from the motorway, south of Paris; 675 hectares; home of French Federation; four massive parking spaces; 525 stables; massive indoor arena 120m x 85m; on site hotel facilities; two outdoor fields 150m – polo field size – grass; trails; 150 toilets, showers, full amenities
- This is a proposal coming from the FFE directly which is amazing in Quentin's opinion: Gigantic, fantastic.
- FFE has access to 800,000 riders for marketing purposes.
- Quentin confirms that the French bids for WTC, WPC, and WIC will indicate alternate locations

Discussion – exact measurements for the two arenas to be used for Europeans confirmed: 118m x 77m, 126.88m x 118.51m, 151m x 213m, all of them featuring white sand footing; review of site map including variety of rings, their footing, the onsite hotel, stabling, parking, and proximity of the river for watering arenas.

Chris thanked Quentin and the FFE for their proposal and presentation. **The bid for European Team and Individual Championships 2024 from France (FFE) is accepted.** "Thanks" were also extended to the countries submitting the recent flurry of bids; note that Nations Team Championship is still

available as a competition for those countries eligible to host. We look forward to viewing the bids as of December 13, 2021.

3.5 2022 Meetings

IMGA International Representatives' Online Meetings 2022 - proposed dates are February 5, April 23, July at WTC, September 3

IMGA Annual General Meeting - United States: November 19 – 20, 2022

4. Important Discussions and Decisions

The goal for the following agenda items was to discuss in general and then forward the group's early sentiments to the appropriate Sub-Committees for further consideration and action.

4.1 Drugs Policy – Chris Wheeler

Presentation - Re: Ponies and possibly Riders

For the attention of our Health, Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee: Creation of a policy document covering drug use in ponies and riders.

Chris provides brief review of history of this item e.g. Evidence of pony doping at Europeans Champs; (follow-up note: the blood test previously described was impacted by "live shipments" restrictions and was therefore sent to France with no results yet forthcoming after expenditure of £550; final decision was to take no further action against the rider)

Discussion - Pony anti-doping policy will be impacted by country equestrian federation policies: please send these policies and any facts, statistics, etc., to the Sub-committee e.g. Denmark, Italy, and Austria have well-developed policies and protocols in their countries
Breadth and depth of testing? How much testing? Question of cost and who bears it; timeframe for testing and the imposition of sanctions, are key items

Action – this item will be considered by the Health, Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee. Anyone having relevant information should email this material to Conor O'Leary, Sub-Committee Chair.

4.2 "Lameness" – Chris Wheeler

Presentation - Considering developing a policy of what to do when a pony pulls out of a heat due to "lameness" and then comes back into play the next day completely sound.

Scenario description is as presented to Chris during a discussion at one of the competitions.

- 1) Pony is visibly lame and then makes a miraculous recovery overnight
- 2) The pony is "not right" according to the trainer/rider, so goes out but is okay the next day – has the pony been rested/saved for a better performance the next day?

Discussion –

- In the first instance when the pony seeks to re-enter the arena, a veterinary certificate should be required; in other cases, there is clearly a decision to rest a pony from a qualifying session that has no impact on the rider's placement for Finals – this could be strategic saving

of ponies in advance of finals; What constitutes “sportsmanship” in this case? Is a rider justified in not always pushing for high-speed performance?

- Confirmation that according to the rules, a veterinary exam is required to readmit a previously lame pony – if pony has been replaced by a substitute pony, it cannot re-enter. If a vet provides the go-ahead, in the case of a miraculous recovery, then should drug testing automatically be undertaken as i.e. doping is the possible reason for return to soundness
- In practice, we are discovering that the IMGA Hosting document is outdated in its requirement for a vet to be on site; descriptions of current scenarios provided including Referee or off-duty veterinary parent providing the expert opinion; what is the lameness and who constitutes an expert in lameness?
- Distinctions between scenarios one and two were identified

Summary – Organisers need to include and indicate the designated Pony Welfare Officer from the outset, deferring to a vet for certification in the case of pony substitution

Discussion circles through and back to initial area of concern which is pony drugging as an issue which needs to be addressed so that riders know what to expect i.e. that their pony will undergo a drug test if it is excused as lame and then presented the next day as sound.

The current requirement in the rules is for a veterinarian to certify soundness for re-entry. Discussion continues to consider revisiting the rule as it is currently written – **a task for the Rules Committee.**

4.3 Self-Sourcing of Ponies – Chris Wheeler

Do you agree that all ponies must come from a pool for non-European competitions? i.e. that there be no self-sourcing of ponies for non-European competitions. **Vote:** Yes or No.

Discussion –previous opinions were reviewed; description provided of the consultation amongst Non-European countries facilitated by Chris such that a consensus was reached: non-European countries would not be able to successfully gather the number of ponies required to run a competition if a ‘pool pony only’ system was used. Given this conclusion by the countries in question, it was decided to proceed with the vote; if there is consensus amongst the affected countries, then this should be respected.

Amendments to the motion:

Do you agree that all **loaned** ponies must come from a pool for non-European competitions?

Vote: Yes or No

Voting results:

No - 65%

Yes - 18%

Abstained - 18%

The proposal was rejected.

4.4 Grading of Pool Ponies – Alun Whitney

Refer to Annex for 4.4

Discussion - additional items were proposed for addition to the grading chart;

- relative weight of ‘experience on the field’ as a grading item was clarified – it is an important factor; definition of scoring numbers was clarified – i.e. what does each number score signify?

- A correction is required to the currently proposed pony grading chart to reflect the total score from all items included as criteria
- The actual proposed grading process was reviewed: a small group of local Open riders would conduct the pony grading sessions just ahead of the competition; the total of their results for each pony would be considered and used to derive the final grading
- Generally agreed that a post-competition review of the results to see which ponies fulfilled expectations would be desirable i.e. continue to refine and improve the grading process

Action - Alun Whitney will amend the totals of the grading categories to correctly reflect all the criteria included and their weighting.

4.5 Pool Ponies – Chris Wheeler

Where a 'pool pony' system is in place, do you agree that all ponies in the pool should be graded through the process described by Alun (refer to Annex for 4.4)? **Vote:** Yes or No

17 Votes

Voting Results:

Yes - 76%

No - 12%

Abstained - 18%

The proposal is accepted.

4.6 Draw System for Pool Ponies – Chris Wheeler

Do you agree with the draw system as proposed by Alun Whitney? **Vote:** Yes or No

(refer to Annex for 4.6)

Discussion and then amendment by Alun to include that there be three draw bags for the pony heights at each grade level as follows:

Bag 1 for ponies ≤ 13.1 hands

Bag 2 for ponies > 13:1 hands

Bag 3 for ponies >14 hands.

Clarification after the vote: This measure is effective January 1, 2022.

Votes – 15

Voting Results:

Yes - 87%

No - 7%

Abstained - 7%

The proposal is accepted.

4.7 Update about IMGA Survey – Conor O'Leary

Presentation – Conor provided a general description of survey question types noting that this year's survey results would be reflective of the unusual circumstances worldwide; the recommendation is that we update the results by doing the survey again in 2022.

Action – proceed with the IMGA Survey; contact Mats to roll it out; advise Communications Officer Megan.

4.8 Breathalyser Update – Chris Wheeler

Report - Actual breathalyser devices worked well; having two units worked well and provided an immediate double check of a result if required; time required was only a couple of seconds per person

- Difficulty was particularly noted in finding people’s names on the appropriate rider list; could be remedied by the person administering the test having a support person to complete the check-off paperwork
- Note that it’s not a perfect system e.g. a person showing up at one location stating that they are ‘such and such’ could be anybody and heading to a completely different location than stated i.e. people can get around it if they try. Anecdotal feedback included high level of “This is just what we needed” and “This sets a great example for other equestrian sports”
- A brief description was provided of situations in which positive test results occurred:
 - WTC – yes; second test was successful
 - WIC - some failed and therefore withdrew from the competition
 - WPC - two Open riders who blew red and were then clear for their heats were verbally reprimanded by the tester; three trainers failed and so coached from outside the ring
 - Some supporters came by to try it out of curiosity, some of whom failed - Chris initiated an experiment with those individuals who agreed to return every half hour to see for how long the red reading lasted: results varied

What paperwork format is best suited for quickly and efficiently completing check-off of Riders?

Chris notes that in the case of each competition, additional assistants were readily available and of great help - that was lucky and appreciated

The positive approach used by Chris in completing testing was appreciated and suggested as the model for future administration of breathalyser tests; overall this was a successful first year of testing

Action:

- **Chris Wheeler** will send the equipment off for annual recalibration
- Note that 2021 was a trial year; Chris will verify and recheck the Breathalyser document for any changes, and we will vote on it at the February meeting.

4.9 Videos of Starts – Alun Whitney

Presentation - History of request for “best practices” for games’ starts to inform Referees and Riders alike of desired starts.

- Video clip (2016) presented which includes the benchmark of a fair start: “settled, short stepping to just behind the line with the small pause and then they are away.”
- Video example of U12 and U15 showed less desirable starts where the riders are essentially starting from the 9m (10 yard) line with completely unfair start results; Significant disparity noted between first rider out over the line and the final rider to cross; younger riders are more difficult to achieve fair start; much twisting, turning, agitation at the 9m line.
- Note that in the video, for call-backs, no one was placed at the 9m line and if they were, no Assistant Referee was placed there to monitor.
- Video examples provided of Open riders at World Individuals 2021 – although fairly settled, Alun would prefer to see a walk up to the line and then a pause; there appears to be no commitment to pausing in general; Alun is seeing increasingly speedy departures.

- Ideally looking for no faster than a walking pace or the equivalent speed with a pause. “Nice and settled, no fuss, and then away”. Relaxation on the 9m line is required to achieve the successful start

Discussion –

- General agreement that the videos and commentary would be useful to riders and trainers in addition to Referees in training; that the videos would be included in Referee training
- Additional suggestions provided included that as soon as the whistle blows for the start, the music needs to stop; even better would be to mic up the Refs for improved ongoing ability to communicate with riders through the sound system
- Alun views that a rule change restricting entry to the start box to a walking pace, then a pause would improve starts; other viewpoints include that consistent implementation of the current start rule would yield improved results; in an ideal world, riders would move up and pause a metre behind the start line and then be released; brief discussion of the likelihood of games ponies walking being slim

4.10 Assistant Referee Course – Chris Wheeler

Report –

- Chris has been chatting it up; please promote completion of this course as a ‘must do’ for everyone; easy to use; we need to get people qualified
- Warwick has produced a table of results which can be shared with each country; numerous people have started but not completed the course; he and Mark will work at a means of sharing the results
- Remediating people’s understanding of their mistakes is a concern i.e. it’s important to ensure their learning; active mentorship of those completing the course is a means of correcting misconceptions
- Alun reports that a restart of the Referee Qualification courses is anticipated e.g. Germany via Zoom

Discussion –

- Ways of tracking and monitoring to ensure that Assistant Referees have successfully completed Assistant Referee course in order to complete the role are important
- Each country to indicate their Team’s accompanying Assistant Refs? This works well for Team competition but is much more logistically difficult in practice for Individuals and Pairs
- Generally felt that including this as an entry form item would be a useful significant nudge to ensure advance thinking about Assistant Referee requirements on the part of competitors

Action -For Assistant Referee on-line course, ensure that those completing it indicate their country of origin – the default currently seems to be USA; thanks to Robin who reports that the French translation of the course has been completed – well done.

4.11 Charity Day – Chris Wheeler

Presentation – the goal of Charity Day would be to raise money for a charity of the host country’s choice during Europeans. A few activities e.g. raffle (where each country brings something e.g. hamper/wine/pottery, etc.), evening entertainment, asking for sponsorship. The charity day would be a “Yellow Day” where everyone is encouraged to wear something yellow in support of this local charity. Target £750 pounds; (possibly thinking that the proceeds of the advertising in the Newsletter get added to the pot?). 500 yellow tee shirts available to buy (at £1 profit) – opportunity to create your own design with pens. **Vote:** Yes or No.

Chris provided further description and detail:

- Chris is volunteering to administrate the Yellow Day at Europeans and is adamant that no organising group include this as part of their tasks; general recognition that organisers are already fully burdened by running the competition; that Chris would be the Administrator was very positively received
- Note that yellow is currently in use as a memorial colour for an equestrian lost during the summer of 2021
- Example provided of success boosted by inclusion of celebrity riders
- Organisers of Europeans 2022, Iain and Alun, welcome the initiative for Europeans 2022 – Wales; similar sentiment expressed for Europeans 2023 - England.

Votes – 16

Voting Results:

Yes – 100%

No – 0%

The proposal is accepted.

4.12 Arena Familiarisation – Chris Wheeler

Presentation - riders with pony in hand to walk the perimeter of the Arena two times for awareness/desensitisation; Wonders if this could be included in the 'day prior' tack check – especially for Teams. Just an item that might be nice to have in the "Hosting a Sanctioned Competition" Document; various ideas suggested for implementation e.g. include with the potential main arena practice time as another "nice to have" if it works for a particular competition.

Action - General agreement that this would be a "nice to have" addition to the Hosting A Competition document.

4.13 Refunds for Riders – Chris Wheeler

Discussion –

- Related to COVID-based reasons for Rider withdrawal - our desire as an organisation is to reduce the potential for COVID-infected Riders with 'nothing to lose' continuing to ride in a competition.
- What about those in mandated isolation? What is the role of the health certificate of a positive test as the basis for a withdrawal? What about a pro-rated refund system to allow for high levels of organiser expenditure as the competition dates draw nearer?

Action - Chris – "The Refund Policy stands"; this Agenda item is an encouragement to organisers to consider and incorporate COVID into their existing Refund Policy. Any Representative feeling that this should be part of an IMGA policy document may propose it for a future International Representatives' meeting.

4.14 Financial Accounting for Each Competition – Jens Martin

Report - Follow-up from a point raised at a previous International Representatives' meeting where it was shared that perhaps not all sanctioned competitions have been in the practice of submitting within six weeks of the conclusion of a competition, their full financial report to IMGA. Jens confirms that he has received no IMGA Sanctioned Competition 2021 financial reports to date this year; this Agenda item acts as a "gentle nudge" to organisers.

Action –

- Organisers to complete and submit competition financial reports as described in the “Hosting A Sanctioned Competition” document
- Jens will follow up with those Organisers who still need to submit a financial report.

4.15 Short Arenas – Chris Wheeler

Presentation - Draft plan for short arenas:

Proposal to change certain races when Mounted Games is played in a shorter arena e.g. 100m long; description of proposed procedure for general discussion with a subsequent referral to the Rules Committee if this idea is felt to have merit for consideration.

Discussion –

- Is the intention to implement modifications at IMGA sanctioned competitions? This is generally viewed as not preferable although recognised as an option for the future
- description provided of various shortened races currently in use; reminder that local rules may be developed and applied at will so there is no point in developing IMGA shortened arena rules even “just in case”
- Observation that current riders prefer shorter arenas with all-weather footing over full length grass arenas
- Short arenas and the bidding process - what has historically been allowed when dimensions don't meet specifications?
- Proposal's intent focuses on pony and rider safety and the potential for expanding the number of locations viable for IMGA sanctioned competitions; encourage additional countries to host
- Analogy provided of soccer pitch sizes and Team 11's versus 5's; point made that the ultimate soccer cup competition is not going to change format despite modifications; likewise, IMGA Championship competitions are not going to smaller arenas

Proposal - vote on whether to send this to the Rules Committee for consideration and action: Committee to come back to the group with modified rules for a select few races which feature high-speed handovers at the Changeover line.

Votes - 17

Voting Results:

Yes - 82%

No - 6%

Abstained - 12%

The proposal was accepted.

Clarification sought after the vote regarding the procedure for the Committee's consideration of Rule Change Requests: Is this done chronologically or by priority? Typically completed chronologically by date of submission.

Action:

- Those who use modified race rules are invited to forward those to Jens Martin of the Rules Committee
- The Rules Committee will consider submissions and develop some race rules as specified in the accepted proposal

4.16 Camera Systems – Chris Wheeler

Helping Alun to set up and take down video camera systems in arenas.

Presentation - Chris briefly requests that Organisers assign specific personnel to set up the video systems; the various subtasks and the requirement to equip two rings are now significant.

In some cases, no help was in evidence in despite specific requests in advance by Alun

A change in mindset is required to shift the Camera setup to Organisers, including provision of the cables as previously agreed upon and included in previous AGM minutes

Action – Organisers, please plan for your camera setup.

4.17 Individuals' Competitions – Chris Wheeler

Should we reduce the distance and number of turns in an Individuals competition? Table attached. Should we reduce the number of times a pony has to go back up the arena to lessen the distance covered and to reduce the number of 180 degree turns? Or leave it as it is (as this is just what an Individuals Competition is all about)?

Presentation - Chris reviewed the comparative chart citing distances run and number of turns per pony; Alun presented a summary sheet highlighting an actual Individuals Games list for each of a qualifying session and a Final; he shared a more balanced potential race list in terms of distance and turns – this was achieved by separating multi-turn races.

Discussion –

- Suggestion was made that a reusable spreadsheet be developed to include the race specifications and used as a template for developing race lists – goal: build race lists with a balance of distance and turns
- Consider demands of equipment setup by arena party as a part of the equation for developing Individuals race lists

Action - Referees to have a look at these statistics and consider distances and turns in creating games lists for Individual competitions.

Closing Remarks from the Chairperson

Chris thanked the gathered International Representatives and IMGA Officers for their stamina, information, and input at this AGM. Please send along information to the Sub-Committees as they work hard in pursuit of continuous improvement in our wonderful support. Thanks to Keith who developed thirteen versions of the agenda, and to Michelle for taking the Minutes. Best wishes to all for the beginning of the games season 'down under'. Looking forward to seeing some folks in France at LaMotte. Feel free to contact Chris.

Meeting closed : 16:55 CET

Annex for 2.3

Financial Reports



International Mounted Games Association Financial Summary for the period 15/11/20 - 12/11/21

Income

2021 Affiliation Fees	GBP	
2020 Rule Book Sales	GBP	174.50
2021 Rule Book Sales	GBP	1,050.44
Late Payment Penalties	GBP	
Equipment Manufacturer Licencing	GBP	
2020 IMGA Rider Fees	GBP	
2021 IMGA Rider Fees	GBP	2,960.00
Newsletter Advertising	GBP	180.00
Donations	GBP	

Total: GBP 4,364.94

Expenditure

Admin Expenses (Postage, Phone costs, Web Site etc.)	GBP	1,074.61
2021 IMGA Rule Book Printing	GBP	1,102.83
2020 IMGA AGM Meeting expenses	GBP	
Bank & Paypal Charges	GBP	25.65
IMGA Referee Expenses	GBP	676.06
IMGA Clothing	GBP	463.00
IMGA Equipment	GBP	1,052.96
IMGA Trophies	GBP	252.00

Total: GBP 4,647.11

Opening Balance:	GBP	51,269.55
Plus Income:	GBP	4,364.94
Less Expenditure	GBP	4,647.11
Closing Balance:	GBP	50,987.38





International Mounted Games Association Transactions for the period 15/11/20 - 12/11/21

Opening Balance : GBP 51,269.55

Transactions	Expenditure	Income
07/01/2021 Payment to Xzony ltd for IMGA Clothing	244.00	
10/02/2021 IMGA 2021 Rule Books - Paypal		174.50
11/02/2021 Payment to Keith Martin for 2021 IMGA Rule Book Printing	1,102.83	
16/02/2021 Payment to Keith Martin for 2021 IMGA Rule Book Postage Costs	102.89	
17/03/2021 Payment to Companies House for Annual Return	13.00	
06/04/2021 Payment to Chris Wheeler for Breathalyser	715.50	
20/04/2021 Payment from Ted Creed for 2021 IMGA Rule Books		152.67
27/04/2021 Payment from MGAGB for 2021 IMGA Rule Books		122.22
12/05/2021 IMGA 2021 Rule Books - Paypal		469.45
21/05/2021 Payment from Eggert Best Box for IMGA Newsletter Advertising		120.00
10/06/2021 Payment to Chris Wheeler for Trophies	252.00	
02/07/2021 Payment to Chris Wheeler for Travel Case, contents and courier to Denmark	673.84	
12/07/2021 Payment to Signe Sehested for Travel Case import tax	622.34	
14/07/2021 Payment to Xzony ltd for IMGA Clothing	219.00	
19/07/2021 Payment from PG Sports UK for IMGA Newsletter Advertising		20.00
08/10/2021 IMGA 2021 WTC Rider Fees - FRA		408.35
11/10/2021 IMGA 2021 ET&IC Rider Fees - DEN		718.00
11/10/2021 IMGA 2021 WPC Rider Fees - ENG		1,060.00
12/10/2021 Payment to Luigi Irollo for IMGA Refereeing Expenses	676.06	
18/10/2021 IMGA 2021 Rule Books - Paypal		299.10
29/10/2021 Payment from BettaLife for IMGA Newsletter Advertising		20.00
01/11/2021 Payment from PG Sports UK for IMGA Newsletter Advertising		20.00
03/11/2021 IMGA 2021 WIC Rider Fees - WAL		755.00
Closing Balance:	Total GBP	
GBP 50,987.38	4,621.46	4,339.29

Annex for 2.5 Reports on 2021 Championships

European Championship

Referee report from Pierre-Luc Portron (Referee)

First of all, I would like to thank Signe and all the staff for the welcome we received (the referees). Both in terms of housing, in caravans, close to the field and in a quiet space allowing us to recover.

Regarding the field, it was quite suitable (both in its dimensions and in its quality) to host such a competition. The equipment made available to teams and individuals was of high quality and in sufficient number to change it if necessary. The 2 arena party marshals were present from morning to night in the arena, with a know-how recognized by all the participants, keeping a smile on all occasions and this whether at 7:30 in the morning or at 9:00 p.m. evening. Signe and her team were on site and available to answer all of our requests. I did not see fit to have the 4 corners of the field marked with a flag because the field took up the entire area of the space and it would have been prejudicial, from my point of view, for safety to reduce these dimensions by placing flags.

Concerning the language: The English language was the official language of these championships. For my part and as I had informed Davy before the competition, if I understand English correctly, I speak it (very) badly. As I had requested, a translator was present during the briefing allowing an exchange in English, but also in Danish, French and Italian. During the rest of the competition English was always used and when an exchange seemed to need help, I used (for my part) Google translator from my phone and there were no difficulties. In the field with the assistant judges English was always used, except of course when we were dealing with French people who did not master Shakespeare's language and no translation was required by third parties.

Concerning the organization: I will remind you until the last minute, it was Dieter who was to ensure the position of chief judge and as such exchanges between him and the organization had taken place, which I did not had knowledge before my arrival on site. But for me everything was relatively well established and even if communication could have been improved, the information went through the internet. It is true that certain provisions had been prepared beforehand, (number of judges per session, who judged which sessions, ...) and that this information was announced at the time of the Briefing but, in a personal capacity I did not have it. If there were preliminary questions at the start of the session, they were quickly resolved by a call to the microphone after validation by the organization. Signe never made any important decisions without telling me about it first. I have always been involved with her reflections and every evening a debriefing between the 4 judges was carried out and I took the opportunity to give the information.

Concerning the cameras: indeed there were sessions with very many "video checks" which caused delays at certain times. For information, I had imposed from the beginning of the competition that it is obligatorily an official judge who is behind the camera. Whoever was going to be a referee then found himself also behind the camera. What was lacking was a means of communication between the judge in the field and the judge on camera, which would have saved a little time (for the judge on camera to prepare the angle of view and to position on the error that the judge wanted to be confirmed or not. I find that we have (very / too) often used the camera, on certain sessions, but there is a bias in this call to the camera, is that the coaches when they protest also refer to the cameras on the field to see their elimination overruled. The number of times a coach is heard saying "have you checked on the camera"? This also goes hand in hand with the skills of the judges provided to us by the teams. Some hardly know the rules, others only know the rules of their country (with big differences), ... I think there is a lot of work to do. So this for us on that side (use of the camera, competence of the assistant referees).

Regarding the starts, I insisted before the briefing, to remind the judges that the starts were one of the most important parts of our work. That we had to ensure fairness in these. There it is true that we had to deal with different starts and which posed big problems throughout this championship. One of the judges systematically asking and waiting for a complete stop of the riders at the 10m line. This was very hard to achieve and we had ponies that "got hot" would end up spinning, when one stopped another moved and this judge never started the start until he got everyone to stop. For a moment, he even put his flag on the ground to signify that he would not launch the start under these conditions. Once obtained, he raised his flag and practically once in 2 (you only have to see the videos on FB) the ponies were so hot, that they took a (too) fast start and the judge then kept (rightly so) the flag raised, and we ended up with many references to 10m. I found that his starts were not fair and dangerous and I had official feedback from the coaches of Switzerland, Germany, France and Denmark as well as a questioning of the organization. So I had a discussion with all the judges where we discussed our starts, our questions, ... and at the end I asked this judge to rectify his position. The day after this exchange, he made a big effort to ensure a more efficient start, but I saw that it demanded a lot of him and sometimes ended up going against unsuitable starts, without the judge's control. I took this again individually with him and then with all the judges and in view of his positioning and the mounting discontent, I suggested that he take the U18 individual final, which he had to ensure and leave to him (in order to not to devalue him in front of the teams) the U 18 teams, which he ended up accepting.

During all my presence at the European Championships, I tried to ease the tensions, to make sure that the events go as well as possible and that everyone (riders, coaches, officials, ...) can leave happy and that the only results obtained are only through sporting skills and compliance with the IMGA regulations. For my part, I was present on the ground from the start of the events to their end, in order to be able to better understand what was happening there and to be able to carry out a debriefing with the organizer and the judges every evening.

World Team Championship

Report from Chief Referee for the event, Mark Crowe

Organisation

Organisation by the local organising team was very good with the exception that the final schedules were only made on the Sunday prior to the competition once the chief referee was on site. The local organisers made sure those needing COVID tests for their return home received these on the Friday evening and where needed an official veterinarian completed the paper work for the ponies on the Friday to allow them travel home.

Tack check and warm up

The chief referee organised tack check to occur during the warm-up sessions on Tuesday 3 August. Volunteers were sought to help from a number of countries and they helped conduct the tack check of countries other than their own. The Chief Referee was available at all times in an oversight role during tack checks and to help when necessary.

Venue and Arena

Overall the venue at La Bonde has improved significantly. Sanitary facilities, showers etc have been dramatically improved and Quentin Voeltzel and his team are to be congratulated on the significant improvements in the venue. The VIP area, and associated facilities (toilets and showers) veranda upstairs and now substantially improved and were acceptable for hosting of a IMGA world competition.

The main arena also had underground drains installed down to the river to take surplus water from the top area and main driveway through the site to reduce the risk of flooding in the main arena.

Competition format

WTC 2021 had 8 open teams and 6 U18 teams. Therefore the competition format was that scores accumulated through the 4 qualifying session and 2 finals, so there were a total of 6 sessions for both competitions in which scores accumulated throughout all sessions.

Equipment

Equipment was standard with the exception of the bank numbers – these were plastic 3-D printed numbers and incorporated a plastic eye for hanging these numbers. The plastic bank numbers were made available at the briefing and following discussion we agreed to play bank using these numbers as “Trial equipment”. There were not sufficient numbers of wooden bank numbers with metal eyes available to play the bank game.

In one of the Open sessions while playing bank the eye off a number 1 broke when removing it from the ring. No excessive force was used. The race was stopped and re run with all teams on the basis that the damage to the equipment was major and the race could not continue for that team, and damage was attributable to badly constructed equipment.

In the sword race a sword broke at the hilt following a very big changeover, the break was major in that the sword could not be continued to be used to complete the race. At the end of the sword race the broken sword was examined and there was no evidence of any pre-existing damage (rot or prior crack). Therefore in this instance the damage to the sword that stopped a team from continuing was deemed “Damage caused in any other way, whether with deliberate intent or not, is the responsibility of the rider”. The race was not stopped and the team was eliminated in that race for broken equipment. On review of the video, the change-over was taken with significant force with no give in the arms by either the incoming or outgoing riders. It is the force of the changeover that broke the sword.

In the U18 competition, an additional breakage of a joust lance occurred mid-way along the handle in a pass from rider 3 to rider 4, the race was able to continue as there was sufficient handle for the rider to hold. No action was taken as the break was deemed to be minor and the game was completed unhindered.

Initially the 5th poles in all lanes were plastic then as the competition progressed when a couple of poles were deemed broken and not usable, the organisers had to also replace all poles in position 1 for all lanes with plastic, as there were inadequate numbers of wooden poles for all lanes.

Some of the joust boards were poorly maintained with the “roll-pins” being sheared or partially shorn. The Chief referee had replacement roll pins and these were replaced before use. The joust boards were okay for all games played.

Recommendations regarding equipment:

For future IMGA competitions the plastic 3D printed bank numbers supplied by ponymaterials should not be used. Plastic bending poles do not meet the IMGA specification for bending poles and should not be used. Joust boards at La Bonde need to be checked in time before WTC 2022.

Medical / paramedic cover

It became apparent on the first day of competition that there was no paramedic or ambulance cover available on site. The Chief Referee discussed with the organisers and eventually 2 people with first aid capability and a medical bag was made available. The local ambulance service would be called in

the event they were needed. The Chief referee also made the MGA Ireland AED device available for the remainder of the competition.

Implementation of IMGGA breathalyser policy

The IMGGA breathalyser machines were available and all riders and assistant referees and the chief referee undertook a breath check each morning of competition. Overall this worked very well and people considered this to be a significant enhancement of safety in the arena for all competitors and for the competition. During the event one open rider failed the breathalyser test (plus repeat tests on the second machine) on the morning of Session 4 and was stopped from competing in that session plus the next 2 sessions of the competition. The team at this stage brought in their reserve rider for the remainder of the competition.

Video system

The IMGGA 5 camera system was available for assisting with video playback where necessary to support refereeing decisions. The 5 camera system covers the start line, change over line, end of arena (full view for obstructions), centre equipment line and a 45° angle from the commentary box. In setting up the organisers had not prepared with Cat 5 cable and this had to be sourced at the last minute. This was rented by the local organisers. Overall the system worked well, before the competition commenced the chief referee trained 2 helpers to be able to cue up footage in the event that a video review was needed following an assistant referee call or an appeal.

Livestream

The 45° referee camera was also used for livestreaming. For the purpose of livestreaming the speed and quality of the internet upload was inadequate to maintain a decent livestream of the competition. It is recommended that for future competitions a dedicated source of internet be used that has sufficient speed and quality to carry the data that is required for livestreaming be sourced and used.

Annex for 4.4 Pool Ponies

Grading of pool ponies	
Categories	Judgement criteria
Speed	Free extended Gallop with limited rider encouragement
Brakes	Ability to come to stop from gallop with-in 10 metres
Control	Good responsive steering
Temperament	Suitable for most riders. Allow rider time on equipment
Handover/Changeover	Ability to take running or standing change overs
Run for vault	Run straight for vault. Give rider opportunity to vault Running or corner vault
Does it lead	Does it lead both from a rider and another pony
Around other ponies	OK with other Ponies
Around Equipment	OK with Equipment Joust/Balloon/Bottle/Association/Sword etc.
Any known vices	'BITE' 'BUCK' 'REAR' 'BACKUP' 'NAPPY' etc
Fitness	Is pony fit enough for the event
Experience	Amount of ring time and level of competition that they have experienced
Grade A	Score of over 8 in all categories of above
Grade B	Score over 8 for 4 out 6 categories of above
Grade C	Score over 7 for 4 out 6 categories of above
Grade D	Score over 6 for 4 out 6 categories of above
Grade E	any pony below grade D

Annex for 4.6 Draw System for Pool Ponies

Allocation of pool ponies should be via draw

To make the draw equitable a pre-draw should be made.

(Reason for pre draw is because Countries like USA would always be last to select with Alphabetical draw. Pre draw would be done in alphabetical order)

Pool ponies would be graded in advance Grade A, B, C, D and E

There should be 2 Draw Bags for each Grade, One bag would contain ponies over 13.2hh and the other bag 13.2hh and under.

Team drawing number 1 in pre-draw would have first pick they could select from either Grade A bag dependant on needs and size of their rider.

Team drawing number 2 would have next selection and so on till last team has selected.

If for any reason there are no ponies left in their desired pony size then they would have option to choose from next lower grade of pony from their desired size bag i.e. If team drawn number 7 wish to select a pony under 13.2hh but that bag was now empty they could either opt for Grade A over 13.2hh or select from Grade B bag with under 13.2hh.

Dependant on number of Grade A ponies available, if there are enough ponies for a second round for all teams then second round draws could be also done from Grade A bags. If there are not enough for all teams then Grade B bags should be used.

The same would apply to subsequent rounds of selection.

Team with drawn number 1 who had first selection in selection round one would move to last selection in round two, with drawn number 2 having first choice and everyone else moving up one place.

This would be repeated for each round

e.g.

Round one 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

Round two 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,1

Round three 3,4,5,6,7,8,1,2

Round four 4,5,6,7,8 1,2,3

Round five 5,6,7,8,1,2,3,4

There would also be opportunity for teams to change ponies after each official training session.

A time table needs to be put in place to make these changes practical, open and transparent

Any Team wishing to a change a pony or ponies would need to return a pony back to pool before requesting a replacement.

Teams wishing to change pony or ponies would only be able to change them for pony of same or lower grade.

All ponies that are available for swapping must have been included in the original draw.

Teams that have returned a pony may select from list of ponies available i.e. Those ponies not selected in original draw and any ponies returned to pool by teams.

Selection would follow in order of pre-draw. Not everyone would wish to swap e.g.

First pony change 6, 7, 1, 2, 5

Second pony change 7, 6

Etc.