



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Mid-year Meeting 2004

Final version (10 October 2004)

**Held at "Le Carrousel" restaurant, Saumur
Thursday August 5**

This record of the meeting is compiled from notes taken by Frie Martin during the meeting.

Meeting opened : 13:30

Present :

Phil Logue
Dirk de Clercq
Amanda Dunn
Signe Sehested
?
Jessica Foissey
Burkhard Bohn
Mark Devitt
Frie Martin
Bill Fogarty
Colin Carson
Jens Martin
Alyce Lande
Bruce Nicol

Nisse Adolfsson
Philippe Gargallo
Paul Greiling
?

Keith Martin
Marilyn Hackman
Ro Day

Others Present :

Ellen Cordell
Rob Lockyer
Roger Sykes

Representing :

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
England
France
Germany
Ireland
Luxembourg
New Zealand
Northern Ireland
Norway
Norway
Scotland
South Africa
Sweden
Switzerland
USA
Wales

Chairman
Honorary President
Vice Chairman

Introduction

The time available was quite short and the meeting was to be immediately followed by the Opening Ceremony for the World Championship 2004. Keith Martin explained that for this reason the meeting would be informal and should be seen as an opportunity to exchange ideas and information. Any "official decision" would be left until the annual meeting in Belfast in November.

(These notes on the proceedings of the meeting are also informal, but still constitute the official record of the meeting.)

The representative from Switzerland was welcomed to his first IMGA meeting.

Report on activities 2004 (so far)

Keith Martin ran through the various activities listed on the Action Plan for 2004, which was established after the annual meeting last year. The current status of each activity was explained :

Minutes of meeting November 2003 – distributed and approved according to the agreed schedule and published on new IMGA website

Constitution – slightly modified when IMGA incorporated – this is an on-going activity.

Policies – Ro Day does not yet have any proposals in writing, but will distribute the MGA(GB) Code of conduct for comments

IMGA Registration – completed

Finance and Accounts – Audit report available (see below)

Rule Book – new Rule book prepared, printed, and distributed (also see below)

Development – Switzerland new member – Olympic developments (see below)

Communication – website created - regular newsletter – contributions please !

World Championship 2004 – publicity to be reviewed for next year

Other competitions 2004 – published on website as received

World Championship 2005 – to be hosted by Wales (see below)

Other business – still to follow up on training video

Next Meeting – Belfast November 20-21 (see below)

A copy of the Action Plan is attached.

Status of Olympic bid

The main source of information on the Mounted Games Olympic bid is Jim Dunn, but he was unable to be present at the meeting. Jim's letter to all members (July 20) on this subject is attached.

Paul Greiling gave as much information as he was able, and Jim participated and answered questions by telephone.

It was confirmed that for the initial demonstration in Beijing, England, Scotland, and Wales would be able to take part individually, but in order to progress further, the Olympic standard of only allowing a GB team would have to be adopted.

Questions were raised not only about transport of ponies to Beijing, but also their return. This is a subject to be followed up.

It is to discuss questions such as these that the annual meeting for 2004 will be extended by an extra day. The second day will be reserved to debate all aspects of the Olympic bid and to prepare for the immediate next steps which are required.

If the Olympic bid is to progress and eventually succeed then we have to all work together for it, and this second day at the annual meeting will be our opportunity to exchange ideas and get started.

Financial Report

Jens Martin presented an intermediate financial report (the full report will be available for the annual meeting 2004), and explained that the official bank account was being replaced by a new one in € in Luxembourg, to facilitate access.

Jens also gave details of an audit he has done on the IMGA accounts from the point at which members began to pay affiliation fees. The detail of the report and his findings was too detailed to go into in the time available but he highlighted several discrepancies in the accounts which have to be resolved.

It was suggested that a line should be drawn under past accounting practices and a new start made, and Jens agreed that this may be necessary, but only up to a point. Where discrepancies have been clearly identified, then they could not simply be written off, and an attempt should be made to resolve them.

A breakdown of these discrepancies is attached and all members are encouraged to contact Jens Martin if they are able to shed any light on these issues.

The Financial Reports presented annually to the IMGA membership have now been shown to be inaccurate, and Jens has prepared replacements which reflect (subject to certain discrepancies still to be explained) the real financial situation year-by-year. These replacements are attached.

Rules and Rule Book

Jens Martin described the existing system for controlling and changing the rules of play for mounted games. He described the problems encountered with this system, and introduced a proposal for a new procedure and a new Rules Committee. This proposal is attached.

This subject will be raised again at the annual meeting 2004, after all members have had the opportunity to study the proposal in detail.

Competition standards

Keith Martin introduced another matter to which we will return at the annual meeting 2004 (see below).

For several years we have had an agreement on the standards to be applied to the World Team Championship, and even though these may need to be reviewed and possibly revised, Keith would now like to see these standards extended to other international competitions, in particular those which carry the title "Championship".

One subject of regulation and standardisation could be the use of "classes" for dividing competitors into age groups or groups of different levels of experience and skill. For the moment, each member country has its own definition of classes, and so as a starting point for further discussion it would be useful for each member to provide details of their own class system.

Arrangements for next meeting, Belfast, November 2004

Colin Carson presented the arrangements for the annual meeting 2004 (document attached)

The meeting will be held at the Beechlaw House Hotel, Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Saturday and Sunday November 20 & 21 2004.

Colin ran through the structure of costs, and it appeared that the hotel accommodation and meals (usually paid by the individual members) were very reasonable, but the costs of the conference room (usually paid by IMGGA) were much higher than had been the case in previous years.

To offset this cost, Colin proposed that he would arrange airport pick-ups for arriving members (please try to arrive at the Harbour airport to make pick-ups easier) and that the taxi or car rental costs saved in this way could be contributed by members to offset the conference room costs.

It was formally proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed, that each participant would contribute £20 to the conference room costs.

Rooms are blocked until the end of September, so please make your reservations before that deadline, and keep Colin informed of your travel arrangements.

Arrangements for World Championship 2005

Alun Whitney was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons, but he provided information on the preliminary plans for Wales 2005.

All information is in the attached document.

It was generally agreed that the Royal Welsh Show would be the best venue but as the availability of the arena was not sufficient to run a World Championship, Alun's secondary proposal of the Bridgend County Show was accepted.

It would, however, be a pity to lose the Royal Welsh Show completely, and so a competition/demonstration with international teams could be arranged.

The dates for the Bridgend County Show caused some concern because of school and exam schedules. Each individual member should check this for their own members and keep Alun informed.

More accurate estimates of costs would be available in November when Alun will present an updated proposal.

Other

Trophies

It was explained that the Derbyshire Trophy had gone missing but that Alun Whitney had provided a replacement which is dedicated to the memory of his father who died recently.

Isabelle Pierrard provided a trophy for the C final, which has never been run before this World Championship.

Members were requested to return last year's trophies for re-presentation.

Flags

Keith Martin reported that after a long search, all country flags had been located and were present in Saumur. Unfortunately, as new flags had been purchased for new members, new flagpoles had not always been bought with them, and so there were not enough flagpoles to go around. Several new ones had, therefore, been purchased.

These flags and poles represent a valuable resource which is used only briefly once each year, and so Keith proposed that each country should retain its own flag and pole for use in other competitions throughout the year, being responsible to return it to the World Championship each year.

This proposal was not accepted, and it was decided that the flags should be retained by IMGA.

Ponies

Phil Logue and Amanda Dunn expressed their dissatisfaction with the standard of the ponies which had been rented by their teams.

Competitions

Nisse Adolfsson explained the possibility of holding a Mounted Games competition as part of a major sport festival at the Ullevi football stadium in Gothenburg in 2005. The potential audience could be as high as 40.000.

It was suggested that the 2005 World Pairs Championship could be a suitable event for this venue.

Nisse will provide further information as it becomes available.

The meeting was closed at 15:45

Attachments and further documents are available at

http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/documentation/docs/minutes_midyear_2004_Saumur_attach.zip