

**INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION  
NOTES OF MID-YEAR MEETING  
HELD AT HIPPODROME DE WALLONIE, BELGIUM ON 24 AUGUST 2018**

Present: Nikki Carter (Chair), Marilyn Hackman (President),  
Scott Cruise, Suzie Pearson (Australia)  
Elaine Trevor Jones, Peter Walters (England)  
Jerome O'Connor (Ireland)  
Annika Labruier, Kim Thill (Luxembourg)  
Volker Baasch, Alexander Van Geresholm (Germany)  
Jean Benge (New Zealand)  
Pierre-Luc Portron (RTCH)  
Veronica Dodds (Scotland)  
Philippe Gargallo, Quentin Gargallo (Switzerland)  
Carol Jones (USA)  
Iain Hopkins (Wales)  
Alun Whitney (Referee)



Nikki Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this would be an informal meeting to update everyone on what had been happening and to consider what topics should be discussed at the AGM.

#### **Compliance Group**

Compliance checks had been completed. Two non-active nations (Iran and South Korea) had withdrawn from membership and two nations (Burkina Faso and Luxembourg) had had conditions put on their continued membership.

Keith Martin had produced a document on how to organise an IMGA-sanctioned competition. This would form a basis for the contract between IMGA and the hosts of competitions in future. **Nikki Carter would produce a summary of all the requirements for host nations.**

#### **Development Officer**

Pierre-Luc Portron reported that Nigeria had joined IMGA and that he had received enquiries from Qatar and Cayman Islands

#### **Risk Management Group**

A protocol for the use of breathalyser testing for alcohol had been produced. The process was being tested at the World Team Championships and the findings used to finalise the document for approval at the AGM

#### **Strategic Planning**

The role of IMGA is to develop and share best practice in playing, training and competing in mounted games. All nations should share ideas that work for them so that the sport can grow worldwide.

A statement on ethics in mounted games would be produced before the AGM

International Horseball, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FEI as the first stage of applying for membership. **Nikki Carter would contact them to see what this entails and discover the implications of this**

### **Arena Size**

Little had been done about this. **Nikki Carter would obtain the latest research on all-weather surfaces, their use and maintenance**, as it is the quality and type of surface that determines their use in mounted games. It would appear that stopping distances were no shorter on a sand arena, but are longer on wet or muddy grass surfaces.

### **Video Systems**

Alun Whitney and Wales MGA had loaned their video system that provides multiple views (currently 4) over the playing area. This has proved to be very effective.

It also allows videos to be checked whilst still recording play in progress. This means that it is possible for a referee to be checking the video and adjudicating on line faults etc whilst the next game is played. There was discussion about what such a referee could do. If they are checking a line fault called by an assistant referee and see another offence by another team, can they report that to the referee as well? **The Rules Committee need to consider a new official, a referee (or assistant referee) operating the video system and what powers they should have**

At present only the referee is permitted to view and adjudicate on video evidence. **Alun Whitney would investigate the possibility of having an external screen** allowing everyone to see evidence of an offence, thus reducing arguments and appeal.

### **Borrowed Ponies**

Different organisers use different methods for allocating borrowed ponies. Some allow self-sourcing of ponies and others do not. **Carol Jones would draft a unified method for use by all organisers of events with borrowed ponies for consideration at the AGM**

### **Photographers**

Following a very serious accident at the 2018 Nations Championship, where a photographer was hit by a pony whilst concentrating on photographing a rider, it was thought that **rules on photography in the ring should be reconsidered by the Rules Committee.**

### **Arena Lighting**

Concern was expressed that the lighting used for after dark competition was often inadequate and dangerous. **Iain Hopkins would investigate lighting standards to provide standards that could be considered during pre-competition inspections.**

### **Membership**

Organisers of national events often find it difficult to determine whether competitors from other nations are actually members of an IMGA member organisation, particularly as this could impact on insurance cover. Various solutions were suggested including:

- A central register of all members of IMGA organisations, but this would be difficult to keep updated
- The use of membership cards
- Some organisations insist that all competitors must join their organisation to compete at their events (eg MGAGB)

### **Non-IMGA competitions at IMGA Championships**

Concern was expressed that at the European Championships in particular, non-IMGA events were taking place (u12, U14 and U17 individual competitions). At times finals for these were being held in the main arena, with IMGA-sanctioned finals being relegated to other arenas. **The competition organisation document should be revised to state that any non-sanctioned events being held concurrently with IMGA events must be completely distinct, with their own officials and rings.**

**Competition Dates**

The current overcrowding of the calendar could be avoided if the dates for all major national and international dates are made available and shared as early as possible. All nations were asked to send dates of their major events in 2019 and 2020 to Nikki Carter as soon as possible so that these could be shared

**IMGA Trophies**

These have been refurbished since last year. There are still a few that are in poor condition. Iain Hopkins will donate the Merlin trophy to replace the current U12 World Pairs trophy and would ensure that all previous winners were engraved on the trophy to retain its history.

The next meeting would be the AGM in Copenhagen on 17/18 November