



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Mid-year Meeting 2019

Final version (01 September 2019)

**Held at United Counties Showground, Carmarthen, Wales
17 July 2019**

Present:

Marilyn Hackman (Chair),

Andrew Rodaughan (Australia)

Jerome Delvigne (Belgium)

Jeff Couch (Canada)

Signe Sehested (Denmark) Video/Phone link

Peter Walters (England)

Jerome O'Connor, Mark Devitt (Ireland)

Jean Benge (New Zealand)

William McCoubrey (Northern Ireland)

Veronica Dodds (Scotland)

Caroline Parmelin, Sarah Forster (Switzerland)

Liz Englert (USA)

Iain Hopkins, Alun Whitney (Wales)

Davy Quinn (Referee)

Murren Addision (Communications)

Chris Wheeler (Translation)

Maggie Quinn (Notes)

1. Welcome

Marilyn Hackman welcomed everyone to the meeting and following introductions advised that this would be an informal meeting to put forward suggestions for topics to be discussed at the AGM in November.

2. Selection of a New Chairperson

IMGA now have the very difficult task to replace Nikki and Marilyn asked for suggestions to be emailed to Keith Martin by the end of September to enable a short list of candidates to be drawn up.

Following discussion, it was agreed that as the organisation is growing and the role of Chair is now significantly more than before we should be looking for more than one person. It was therefore suggested that, in addition to the Chair, and Vice Chair, consideration should be given to the appointment of Secretary or a similar type role. All 3 roles should be fully defined with clear roles and responsibilities to ensure that all 3 have an equal workload.

ACTION: All present - Proposals for Structure of IMGA Officials to be emailed to Keith Martin

ACTION: All present - Nominations for Chair and Secretary to Keith Martin by the end of September

3. Breathalyser

Jerome O'Connor asked if the Breathalyser policy could be implemented as soon as possible. It was noted that the H&S Sub-committee are actively working on this following the trial in 2018. It was noted that Ireland, New Zealand & Scotland breathalyse their own national riders at IMGA sanctioned competitions.

ACTION: Keith Martin to add the Breathalyser Policy to the AGM Agenda

4. Format for AGM

Signe Sehested suggested that the current round table meeting format for the AGM could be improved by including small work groups to work on one or two topics. This would ensure that all present would have an opportunity to put forward ideas in a smaller group setting where they are more comfortable in speaking out. The work groups would then present their recommendations to the full meeting. Signe has asked that this be tried at the AGM this year although she recognises that there may be technical challenges to ensure that those participating via video links are not excluded.

ACTION: Keith Martin to include one or two work shop sessions at this year's AGM

5. Sub - Committee Decisions

Liz Englert asked if a mechanism could be put in place to ensure that sub-committee recommendations are circulated as soon as they become available and before the AGM to ensure that all IMGA Representatives have the opportunity to consider, and comment on them, before being approved at the AGM.

ACTION: Keith Martin to put mechanism in place to ensure Sub-Committee's recommendations are circulated to IMGA Reps for comment before AGM

6. IMGA Calendar

Peter Walters raised concerns about scheduling the European and World Team competitions back to back as this was asking a lot of both ponies and riders. It was noted that it will be the same next year with Europeans in Denmark and the Pairs in Germany. The group acknowledged that it was done this way in the hope that it would encourage more entries - those on road would continue on to the next competition. However, in reality this had not

happened and the low entries for the European Team Championships had evidenced this – Under 17 had only 6 teams. Whilst it was agreed it was worth trying it was not a popular option.

The group also considered that July is probably too early as many riders are still in school/college etc.

It was suggested that we could look to select the same week each year for IMGA events and schedule it in for that week every year, regardless of who is hosting. However, it was noted that this may impact on availability of venue choice if there is no flexibility around dates. This led on to discussion re Arena Sizes and the lack of venues which meet IMGA requirements, particularly in GB.

Belgium stated that they made the decision not to do all the competitions in one year as it is too much and would like to suggest Europeans one year and the World Championships the following year. NZ also supported this due 2 reasons – firstly cost, as at 10 -15K NZ \$ per rider the team could at times be made up of those who could afford to go, rather than being able to put their best forward. Secondly, if the world championships were held every 2nd year this could help develop the Nations Championships as this can sometimes be seen as a secondary competition.

It was noted that if there were 2 years between competitions some riders may age out and miss the opportunity to ride in an U17 national team.

It was also suggested that if the Europeans and Worlds are held every other year we may wish to consider opening up European competitions to other nations.

Cost was considered to be a big factor on impacting entries. Although it was recognised that to book venues that meet IMGA and rider requirements/expectations the cost is considerable and we should now look at ways to cap this. It was suggested the we should look to see what is being offered in packages.

Iain Hopkins stated that as there had been some really good suggestions put forward he asked that those who had ideas to send them to Keith. Having proposals presented at the AGM will support discussion and decision making and will hopefully prevent the debate being carried forward to the 2020 meeting.

ACTION: Keith Martin to add Scheduling of IMGA Sanctioned Competitions to the AGM Agenda

ACTION: All Present to forward proposals for scheduling and or costing that can be discussed and voted on at the AGM.

7. Mounted Games Organisations

It is recognised that many countries now have more than 1 mounted games organisation running in parallel with IMGA Organisations. Within GB there is STRUK (Stunt Riding UK) who hold several mounted games events in GB (15 scheduled for 2020). These include International Competitions including a European Pairs Competition. These events are mostly attended by IMGA riders and many may consider them to be run, or approved by IMGA, although they do not run to IMGA rules. Whilst we accept that we cannot stop these competitions there is a thought that if there is a demand for more / different competitions, these should be run by IMGA.

ACTION: Keith Martin to add to the AGM Agenda

It was agreed that to ensure we are meeting the needs and wants of our members we need to ask each country to survey their riders to find out what riders want from competitions.

Murren Addison volunteered to survey riders for views on what they want e.g. type of competition/ surface etc.

ACTION: Murren Addison to survey all riders

8. Assistant Referees

Chris Wheeler requested that all finals should have qualified referees as independent assistant referees to ensure the standard of refereeing is consistent. It was acknowledged that this happens in the higher finals where the selected referees for the competition do assistant referee but there are just not enough selected referees for each competition to allow for this in the lower finals.

It was stated that countries are asked to supply competent assistant referees but not all have been trained due to language barriers and location. Alun Whitney suggested that the use of video conferencing such as Skype could help roll out assistant referee training.

ACTION: Training & Qualifications Sub-committee to progress

Iain Hopkins suggested that all referees should review PMG.TV recordings to view their starts and refereeing to see if it was to the standard of the rule book.

ACTION: All referees to view video recordings of competitions

9. Bale Sizes (Post Meeting)

A request was made that competition organisers state what size stables will be and the size of bales of straw/hay being provided prior to arrival. This will allow overseas riders to budget in the cost of bedding/feeding etc. before the start of the competition. Being advised that 1 bale of straw is being provided and then find out you need at least 2 to provide suitable bedding when not expected adds to the cost over the duration of the competition.

ACTION: Keith Martin to add to HOST documentation

10. Re Runs (Post Meeting)

Due to bad weather/displaced or faulty equipment/false starts/obstruction etc. a number of races are being re-run. There is concern that this will result in ponies exceeding the permitted number of races (as stated in GR1.10) particularly when IMGA competitions are back to back and the pony is competing at both events. It is requested that this be discussed at the AGM.

ACTION: Keith Martin to consider as an item for discussion at this year's AGM

11. Next Meeting:

Annual General Meeting to be held on 23 - 24 November in Dublin, Ireland.

Details to follow.