

International Mounted Games Association

Minutes of Online IMGA International Representatives' Meeting – Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 20h00 CET (19:00 GMT)

Meeting convened by the Chairperson, Chris Wheeler, at 20:10 CET (19:10 GMT)

Remote Participation via RingCentral Meetings

❖ **Introduction** – Chris Wheeler

❖ **Welcome** by the Chair – Note that this Meeting is being recorded

❖ **Attendance-**

• **IMGA Officials:**

Chris Wheeler	Chairperson	
Keith Martin	Vice Chairperson	
Jens Martin	Finance/Administration	
Eleanor Wheeler	Communication	
Pierre-Luc Portron	Development	Absent
Alun Whitney	Chief Referee	
Mark Crowe	Chair – Qualifications and Training Committee	

• **International Representatives (V – Voting member) and Guests:**

Warwick Slade (V)	Australia	
Rachel Lechner	Austria	Absent
Robin Donnay (V)	Belgium	
Michelle Cruikshanks (V)	Canada	
Alžbeta Mašková	Czech Republic	Absent
Signe Sehested (V)	Denmark	Regrets
Elaine Trevor Jones (V)	England	
Jonathon Marion (V)	France	
Volker Baasch (V)	Germany	
Conor O'Leary (V)	Ireland	Mark Crowe for Conor
Andrea Piazza (V)	Italy	
Lizzy Franck (V)	Luxembourg	
Sue Robertson (V)	New Zealand	
Allister Hamilton (V)	Northern Ireland	
Karen Houge	Norway	Absent
Veronica Dodds (V*)	Scotland	
Nick Sloane	South Africa	Tanya Menhinick (V) for Nick
Judith Porcel Follet	Spain	Absent
Caroline Claeson (V)	Sweden	
Marino Kammeran	Switzerland	Absent

Quentin Gargallo (V)	Switzerland
Paul Greiling (V)	USA
Alun Whitney (V)	Wales
Liz Englert	USA
Adrien Lecarpentier	Corné, France
Ghislain	Corné, France
Sean Bource	Belgium
Pete Walters	England
Mats Hensel	Germany
Stian Hennei	
Quentin Voeltzel	France

- **Total Voting Representatives – 17 Voting by Proxy – 0**
- **Votes submitted through Chair – one (SCO) re: technical issue**
- **Voting – Through RingCentral Meetings polling feature as administered by Alun**

❖ **Welcome from the IMGA Chairperson, Chris Wheeler:**

- Davy's wife Maggie was in touch with a health update for Davy whose health continues to be a challenge for him
- Thanks for newsletter contributions – photos, Eleanor working at helping ; southern hemisphere's season underway- thanks for photos
- Chris encourages seeking newsletter adverts as proceeds go to charity; send photos, please
- Request received for advertising from rival Mounted Games organization – Interim Communications Officer, E. Wheeler, avoided publishing the request
- Chairperson Chris pauses to contact Warwick (AUS) and Sue (NZ) re: joining meeting – they had previously indicated their intention to attend

❖ **Agenda Item 1 – Voting for 2025 World Pairs. Bids from:**

- **Corné, FRANCE**
- **La Bonde, FRANCE**
- **Presentation re: bid from Corné – Sean Bource with Adrien Lecarpentier – owner of Corné showground, Ghislain - technical manager at the facility, in attendance to respond to questions regarding the facility**
- Questions regarding the bid:
 - Confirmation requested: If Corné, it's just one arena? Response: Yes
 - Are any of the arena improvements to be completed ahead of the event? If not, then the dimensions suggest five or (maximum) six lanes; Sean provides overview of history of competition by teams and pairs at the facility citing success in accommodating play across seven lanes in the available space
 - Tendency has been to run on seven lanes for the last good few years – if problematic, then will go to six lanes

- Sean confirms with owner, Adrien – response: If this would be a first occasion for their facility to host an IMGA Championship, then the improvements would take place after the connection and relationship with IMGA is established, then they will over time make changes
- Mark – short arena games to be used? Note that Pairs version of modified games have not yet been adopted by the Rules Committee but are currently under discussion
- Chief Referee, Alun, requests confirmation of arena dimensions as 107m X 59m (or 65m?)
Response – the arena tapers from one end to the other; it is not completely rectangular

Discussion –

- Historic use of the arena for mounted games, prematurity of using modified pairs as these have not yet been approved, the facility is being proposed on the basis of history of Mounted Games and a brilliant surface. It has always been okay for seven lanes – start finish side is 70 m wide; discussion amongst presenters re dimension – gradual narrowing over the length of the arena.
 - Start line is 65m wide; at the changeover end, the width is 59m
 - Marino provides calculations: 8.5m lane width if six lanes used – very tight for seven lanes at the top end; is this acceptable?
 - Eight lanes for IMGA regulations – to accommodate this number of lanes, an enormous amount of work would be required prior to establishment of this working relationship with IMGA
 - If the arena is 70 m width throughout, this allows for seven lanes; permissible to host Championships with seven lanes; IMGA has a maximum of eight lanes, not minimum
 - Assurance made by prospective organisers that the arena would be adjusted to 70 m wide over its entire length – move judges booth and stands
 - Question re: ponies - self-sourcing or is there assistance with sourcing ponies? Response: Pony clubs are nearby and organisers will assist with the contact
 - Example of Aston le Walls as also less than full size - regularly and successfully used for Championship competitions
 - Review of stabling and amenities as outlined in the bid - 100 permanent stables, central bar/restaurant is widely open with Terrace view over arena
 - Hotels and bnb's are plentiful in the vicinity of the facility
 - Organisers willing to set up two evening activities for riders and trainers
 - Note: Question of pool ponies should be posed to presenters from La Bonde as well since this may affect votes
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- **Presentation re: Bid from La bonde, France** - Quentin Voeltzel
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- Questions regarding the bid?
 - Confirm dimensions of the arena?: 110m (130) x 95m
 - Regarding borrowed ponies: Pool ponies available for overseas riders? Response: At least ten are currently committed; organisers have financial support from the region to procure additional ponies
 - Second arena – may be developed with eight lane dimensions prior to WPC 2025

- Quentin – currently finishing renovation of parking from flat fields to terracing. Soil in arena has been removed prior to reconditioning; completion expected for 2024
 - Working on an indoor arena with the idea of having protection from the sun; tree planting has been undertaken with additional electrical hookups; new clubhouse nearly complete
 - For both venues, a deadline for completion/ inspection would be necessary
- Observation made that for each bid, there are significant departures from the original – countries’ committees would want to consider the new information

Voting:

Proposal made by Chairperson Chris – That we delay the vote until our next online meeting i.e. a “Yes” vote indicates agreement to delay the voting on the bids.

Voting Results:

Yes - 75% No - 25% Abstain - 0%

Action Item - With thanks to the representatives for the bids, we will vote at the next meeting.

Thank you to Quentin V. and Sean B. (Adrien and Ghislain) for presenting.

❖ **Agenda Item 2 – November 2023 IMGA Annual General Meeting – Venue? – Chris Wheeler**
(Note: Chairperson experiences intermittent Internet connectivity throughout consideration of this item - solved).

- Do we want to carry on with online AGM; USA had offered for 2022
- Jens continues with review of recent years’ AGM history. Would we want to continue or return to in-person?
- Point made that the cost of travel is currently fairly prohibitive
- Jonathon is offering a venue in France – Nov. 11 at the French Federation headquarters which coincides with the indoor cup; great facility
 - Potential for distraction exists – confirmed that the competition is an international club competition; the effect of a major distraction is acknowledged
- Chris enjoys the potential for a great venue at this high class facility
- Concerns expressed re: cost of travel, distractions, travel time total for two day meeting is two days + two days for southern hemisphere representatives
- Lamotte is 1.5 hr. south of Paris – train from Paris Int’l. airport; very accessible via transportation available
- Lots of technology on site to facilitate the meeting
- IMGA AGM was organized and hosted in 2014 at this location; if distraction-free with good access to technology for remote hookup, it is a very viable site
- Decision needed – do we want to go online again next year or return to in-person with the option to attend and participate remotely as was previously the case?
- Noted that this type of remote participation allowed limited participation by remote attendees; difficult for them to effectively join discussions
- Done well to keep going with online over past couple of years; face-to-face meetings are felt to be much more productive

Voting:

Proposal: Chairperson Chris - To accept the offer of France to host the IMGA AGM at Lamotte Beuvron
Fourteen (14) votes

Voting Results:

Yes 92% No 0% Abstain -8%

The proposal is accepted.

Action Item – Chris requests that Jonathan (FRA) send available dates. Thanks for proposing. We'll have date verification shortly.

❖ Agenda Item 3 – Updates from Sub-Committees:**➤ Rules Committee – Jens Martin**

- 2023 IMGA Rulebook soon available through the online store
- Very few changes for 2023
- Committee is now considering short arena games for Pairs; decided to hold off folding the short arena games for teams into the 2023 Rulebook – this will be an 'online only' addendum
- Currently one or two small items on the Change Request roster for the committee

➤ Health and Safety Committee – Mark Crowe for Conor O'Leary

- Mark for Conor – no report
- Paul (USA) seeks confirmation of collection of accident/injury stats as related to playing of short arena games

➤ Strategic Planning Committee – Chris Wheeler

- Always open to great ideas so please be in touch.

➤ Training and Qualifications Committee - Mark

- Ref as go-between still needs following up; Mark asked by Switzerland and Northern Ireland to conduct in-person Referee Qualification courses
- Six names have been sent as country Referee liaisons- Alun states that the plan for using liaisons will be moving forward so ensure that you have provided a name to the Committee

➤ Compliance Committee- Keith Martin

- **No report**

➤ Technology Committee -

- Will have something more concrete to talk about for the next meeting
- Mats suggested that it would be nice to have a deadline for this topic:
 - Action Plan – Mats will discuss with Jens and Rory re: MGScoreboard is able to do the draws as well as or the same as GamePro; aim to draw the discussion to a close and activate selected program

❖ **Agenda Item #4 – Updates from 2023 Sanctioned Competition Organisers:**

- **WPC** Denmark in July – Signe absent – no report
- **WIC** France in August – Quentin V. – departed from meeting – no report
- **ETIC** England in August – Pete reported:
 - Booked at Onley; really good setup
 - 1.5 hr. from Heathrow or 3.5 hrs. from Dover
 - Arena nice and big
 - Stabling and parking is nearby
 - Going to be advertising the event very soon
 - Able to help with paperwork for travelling ponies;
 - Trying to work schedule using the smaller arena for younger divisions
 - Confirmation of acceptance of entries from ‘white flag’ riders from overseas; offering to assist with sourcing ponies; example provided of previously sourcing ponies for a team from Italy and having them reach the A finals
 - Date conflict noted with Pony Club championships affecting ENG, SCO, and WAL
- Site inspections for arenas and equipment are to take place for all of the competitions
- **WTC** Australia in October – Warwick reports at adjournment
 - Starting to allow countries to start registering riders to get an idea of heights/weights, etc.
 - Sending through this request to the countries
 - Will send along promo material to Communications Officer, Eleanor
- **Nations** South Africa in December – Tanya Menhenick reported:
 - Great venue previously used with good history
 - Dates chosen on the basis of school/university holiday dates
 - Proposed schedule shared; first time for Capetown
 - Working already on procuring ponies
 - One of the best venues in the country – 280 stables are for visiting ponies
 - Competed there previously in 2015 for an interprovincial competition
 - Arena dimensions - 100m x 200m
 - Clubhouse, restaurant, and accommodation – “glamping” option at quite reasonable rates with other nearby self-catering cottages; no private camping
 - Local penguin colony/ vineyards
 - Nick indicated that financial details would be available at the end of February

❖ **Agenda Item #5 – Updates about Referee availability for 2023 Championships:**

- Chief Referee Alun – no changes from what he has; Mark indicates availability for WIC as required

❖ **Agenda Item #6 – Action Points from November 2022 AGM – Follow-up:**

- **Item Tabled** – Chairperson’s comment: all action points are being worked on.
- Alun seeks and receives authorization for purchase of replacement cameras re: water damage

❖ **Closing Remarks from the Chairperson:**

- Thank you – thanks to Michelle for notetaking at the AGM; Chris is heading to Gothenberg for the Indoors; see everyone in four months

Adjournment: 21:55 CET (20:55 GMT)