

## **EVENTING COMMITTEE MEETING 2006 - I Hartpury (GBR) 17 & 20 FEBRUARY 2006**

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Mr Wayne Roycroft, Chairman  
Michael Etherington Smith, Deputy Chairman  
Christoph Hess, Member Eventing Committee  
David O'Connor, Member Eventing Committee  
Carl Bouckaert, representative ERA, Member Eventing Committee  
Andrew Griffiths, Member to be appointed to Committee in April 2006

Minutes: Catrin Norinder, Manager Eventing and Olympic Department

Attended meeting 20 Feb Morning: Dr Paul Farrington & Dr John McEwen Members Veterinary Committee

The Eventing Committee met close to Hartpury College in Great Britain, on the occasion of the Eventing Officials Level 3 Seminar, and the "Spillers" Open Eventing Forum in Addington.

The matters discussed were:

#### **- Eventing Strategic 10 year Plan**

Following the discussions in the previous Eventing Committee Meetings, the draft of the Eventing Strategic Plan was discussed by the Committee and presented as a draft to the Officials seminar. It consisted of, as introduction, a mission statement, an explanation of the current evolution of the sport relating to the crisis and problem solving in the 10 past years. The Strategic Plan then included the following 3 main prongs:

- a. **Development** of the sport and investment sharing to include coaching and competitions opportunities in less experienced countries
- b. **Commercial** aspects of the sport - Partnership concept to develop the promotion of the sport in regard to media and branding
- c. **Officials** in the sport: redefinition of certain category of Officials functions and roles

The issues that were specifically discussed were:

- The financing of events organisations need to be properly balanced between all elements or the event will experience difficulty. The NF responsibility / involvement in setting up TV promotion in the sport is essential
- the need to address the main point raised by the IOC Program commission of the Eventing sport as being too focused on the Anglo-Saxon/European regions
- the idea of setting up a cooperate support group similar to the G8 principle (E10...)
- aspiration to increase the FEI current annual contribution for development funds
- Multimedia advice to promote sport was essential – internet expansion needs to be integrated in FEI plans.
- Eventing World Cup issues, the series seeks an identity and a true conclusion (final) as for the Jumping & Dressage as end of the indoor season
- In regard to Officials as representatives of the professional stature of the FEI, special consideration must be made to ensure that the best are in place.
- Safety of Horse and Rider is paramount and continuous efforts need to be made to ensure studies are continued for all safety devises to reduce number of horse falls, safety gear for riders, and in footing.

**Steps of the Strategic Plan:** It was agreed that the plan proposed would be included in a simple understandable document with maximum 3 goals to be achieved in a 5 year period and then the overall plan on a 10 year basis with set benchmarks through this period.

The Eventing Strategic plan would be finalized and submitted to the FEI Strategic committee for line up with the FEI general plan. The Members of the Eventing Committee would present this plan to the FEI Group meetings during 2006 then be submitted to the

Bureau for November 2006 and presented to the NFs for approval in the 2007 General Assembly.

- **Name of sport**

The name change of the sport was addressed the matter of the current name of "Eventing" not expressing the true values of the discipline, weak name, with too many alternative used in English and in other languages.

A professional agency had consulted many stakeholders related to Eventing (Committee Members, NFs, riders, NOCs and media). A proposal has been made however it will be presented to the NFs before any decision be made to be included in the Eventing Strategic Plan

- **2008 Olympic Games – Eventing competitions**

**Eventing test event planned in August 2007.** The Committee together with the support of the Veterinary committee would look into incentives to interest NFs to send horses to test the systems and climate conditions. Once the level and conditions of this event were defined with BOCOG and the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Hong Kong NF, the FEI would send out information on the invitations to this event specifying conditions.

The Cross country timetable for the Olympic Games was still under discussion and would be concluded after the Foreign Veterinary Delegates visit to Hong Kong in August. The climatic factor would be very difficult on the horses. A 3 min interval per horse would be the only solution however if morning or evening session would depend on the findings this summer.

- **2008 Olympic Qualification system - Eventing– confirmation**

The Eventing Committee confirmed the Qualification system for Eventing as approved by the IOC Executive Board.

- **2006 WEG Qualifications procedure - Eventing**

The qualifications for the WEG should be republished once more to avoid confusion and doubt of the 2006 rules for Eventing superseding the procedure already published.

- **Eventing 4 star Events**

The published requirements for 4 star events will be included in the Eventing rules for reference.

- **Eventing Scoring**

The Officials seminar concluded that a change of scoring would be welcome. Any new scoring system would have to be approved by the General Assembly in 2008 for implementation in 2009 to avoid the implementation in the same year as the WEG 2010.

- **Revised Steeple Chase – USA proposal**

The proposal of the USA NF to reduce the speed and distance of steeplechase was discussed however it was felt that the current steeplechase rules needed to be maintained or this phase would not be meaningful.

- **Yellow Flags**

The Yellow flags were withdrawn by the Committee as theory this was a sound initiative but too difficult to implement. The Ground Jury need to maintain is sole responsibility to implement the current rule of eliminating any competitor judged to be riding unsafely.

- **Rules for Eventing - Clarification Art 506 – Qualification deadlines for CCI/CIC**

Further to many misinterpretations on the deadlines to obtain a QR for a CCI or CIC, it was agreed to make a clarification to the rule by adding "(a horse may not compete in two CCIs within 2 weeks)".

- **Introduction of 2006 Qualifications – review requested by ERA**

The Committee agreed that as the new qualifications had been published long in advance and sent to all NFs twice before introduction and that no transition period to introduce the new qualifications would be implemented. The exemption policy to be requested by the NF, for the horse only, should help the NF if any major qualification issue should arise.

- **Safety Program 2004 and 2005 - 2005 Report**

The statistics for 2005, 2004 and 2003 were presented and will be included on the FEI Web-site by mid-March 2006. It was now felt that there was enough data to support further follow-up of the statistical figures.

An Enquiry format for events with highest KPI will be introduced as of 2006 based on the following points:

- a. The aim for the sport has to be to improve the figures in the report
- b. More NF's need to be encouraged to produce their own data
- c. The FEI and BE reports need to be in a similar format for ease of comparison
- d. more widespread thinking on the development of 'deformable structures' needs to be encouraged
- e. Water fences need to be better explained in the reporting system and include jumps into, in, and out of water
- f. events that feature in the top 10% of the KPI5 index (approximately 30 events) each year need to be reviewed
- g. Supporting information from these statistics must be available for NFs & OCs in the event of an important accident
- h. One person to be appointed to be in charge of all the issues referring to reporting
- j. The Task Force will make recommendations and requests every so often as to what additional information it requires from the collected data in order to establish any possible trends in specific types of fences

- **Protocol Warm-up for XC for CCI without Steeplechase**

Together with the Veterinary Committee the committee highlighted that the for the warm-up for CCI Cross Country without Steeplechase sufficient training areas need to be available for riders to avoid that they become too busy.

It was clearly confirmed based on observation and clinical studies that the warm-up and preparation for the CCI format without Steeplechase needed to be **exactly the same** as for the CCI with steeplechase.

- **International Academy of XC Design & Build**

The International Academy of Cross Country Design and Build courses as officially recognised courses for Course Designers, as refresher courses was acknowledged by the Committee.

- **List of Officials review of requirements for promotion**

Further to some confusion which had arisen with the list of Eventing Officials and to the perception that attendance of a course sufficed to obtain promotion. It had been clarified to several NFs that according to the Rules for Eventing, the Officials needed to fulfil the officiating at events criteria also.

In addition it was confirmed that attendance of a course allowed promotion to one level (Candidate) and a second course was required for the promotion to higher level (international).

- **Role of TD at Highest level**

The increase of the responsibility of the Eventing Technical Delegate was highlighted and it was felt that the TD's role and responsibility needed to be redefined.

- **Development Eventing South America**

The Eventing Development Officer in South America, Mr José Ortelli raised the concern that the FEI needs to make every effort to maintain the 3 disciplines in all multi-sports games in South America to support the Olympic effort. If this effort was not orchestrated the risk of replacing Eventing with another discipline or sport easier to organise was great in South America.

The Committee took the occasion to express their gratitude to all Mr Ortelli's efforts to encourage Eventing in South America.

- **Development Eventing East Europe**

The Eventing Development Officer for the Eastern Europe, reported that the project was showing great progress. The regions were very keen to pursue the development of Eventing. The system was based on developing Eventing by importing TD, course designer and judges for each event to raise the standard in the region. The target was to allow the region to be self sufficient as soon as possible. Informal seminars and course walks with the riders were organised during the event. The greatest difficulty was the lack of local/national trainers and coaches that continue the training of riders according to current experience and trends.

- **Eventing Jumping test - Depth of Cups**

The Eventing Committee clarified that the depth of Cups for the Eventing Jumping test must be of 25 cm however if difficult to find the minimum depth is 20 cm.

- **Next meeting**

Paris (FRA) Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 September 2006.

**EVENTING OFFICIALS SEMINAR – LEVEL 3 HARTPURY 18 &19 FEBRUARY 2006**

A detailed report will be prepared by the Course Director Mrs Jennifer Millar and included on the FEI Web-site under Eventing.

The FEI takes this occasion to officially thank Mrs Millar as overall course Director for the brilliant organisation of the seminar which made it a great success. The support of Amanda Ward of Hartpury College was amazing and greatly appreciated by all participants.

The two days of seminar with the top officials and concluded that the formula of workshops and presentations had been very successful. The facilities had been perfect for the occasion. Mrs Jennifer Millar the overall course director had managed the whole organisation with brilliance.

List of Items discussed highlighted from the Seminars were:

- o Strategic plan for Eventing to be sunk in to the overall FEI Strategic Plan
- o Present the plan for the GA in 2007 and Mr O'Connor to present in some of the Group meetings during 2006
- o the E 10 development system
- o FEI needs to increase its contribution to development program from 3% of overall budget
- o An Eventing officer in each of the 9 FEI groups to work closely with the Group Chairman

- Twinning of top Eventing NFs with less experienced ones. Encourage rider, trainer exchanges
- Flexibility on formats of events with the exception of the Cross Country influence
- Eventing World Cup needs to find an identity and can be outsourced
- Mentors for new officials to be integrated in the system
- Maintaining integrity of current Eventing Officials system – 3 Judges throughout the whole event
- Technical Delegate team
- National Federations need to better train their Officials before including them in the International circuit
- Conflict of Interest to be considered for Eventing Officials
- Name of Eventing to be reviewed – to create stronger brand
- Scoring to be reviewed for future