



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

Mid-year Meeting 2007

Final version (11 November 2007)

**Held at the showground, Brugelette, Belgium
Friday July 20**

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

Meeting opened : 18:00

The meeting was informal, with no binding decisions taken. It was an opportunity, with so many International Representatives present, to discuss several matters in general terms.

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Italy as a new member (see also below), represented by Jacques Cavé, and new representatives Sophie van de Calseyde (Belgium), and Nick Maher (Ireland) who was not present at the meeting.

Points introduced by the Chairman

Competition Guidelines

It has been discussed very often at IMGA meetings, but so far there has been no significant progress on establishing guidelines for organising major international competitions. Being on-site at such a competition seemed to be the ideal time to re-visit this subject, and several proposals were made for the best way to move forward.

It was agreed that Anne Devitt (former International Representative for Ireland) would prepare a questionnaire to send to all members to get their input on the structure and content of a guidelines document.

An outline could then be presented at the AGM in November, and if approved, the complete document could be available during 2008.

In particular, the input of those countries which have recently organised a World Championship or other major competition would be of particular value.

Code of Conduct

The current status of the Code of Conduct document is "provisionally approved".

It remains to ensure its implementation by reaching agreement on two main points :

1. IMGGA has to set up a Disciplinary Committee. This should be done at the November AGM, but members are requested to think about the structure of the committee, how many members, etc.
2. Each member country has to ensure that their members are in some way bound by IMGGA's Code of Conduct. This could be done on a competition-by-competition basis, or as a part of the membership requirements, but all members are requested to ensure that this is done at the national level.

Alcohol Controls

The Chairman confirmed that the use of a breathalyser at the current competition was a positive step towards controlling abuse of alcohol and re-enforcing IMGGA's commitment to health and safety.

The current use was based on a regulation drawn up by MGAGB, but for application at an international level it would need to be reviewed and modified. In particular, cultural differences would need to be considered, the limit to be applied would have to be decided, and the scope of who is tested could be extended to all those involved in the games, not just riders.

These questions will be addressed at the November AGM.

IMGGA Accounts

The Chairman informed all members that the accounts had been prepared as usual, in accordance with all legal requirements, and were ready for submission to Companies House and the taxation authorities.

Trophies

All members were asked to return the trophies from 2006 for re-presentation. An effort would be made to record the inscriptions on the trophies, plus the plaques of previous winners, and to publish this information, with photos, on the IMGGA website.

DEFRA

The Chairman announced that an agreement has been reached with DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs - the UK government department responsible for import/export control of ponies) which will make the export of ponies from the UK easier and cheaper.

Details will follow.

Budget

Last year it was agreed that the official responsible for Administration and Finance should construct a budget each year for the forthcoming year. Jens Martin asked all members to provide input for the 2008 budget.

New Member - Italy

Jim Dunn reported on the latest new member of IMGA : Italy.

Negotiations had been difficult for several reasons, amongst them difficulties of communication, but everything had been successfully concluded just a few days before the World Championship. The Belgian organisers had made a great effort to include an additional team at such a late stage.

Jacques Cavé spoke about the evolution of Mounted Games in Italy and thanked everyone for their welcome.

This announcement, and this record of it, constitute an official notification to all members that Italy is now a member of IMGA.

Points from Members

Annual IMGA meeting November 2007

Last year it was agreed that the 2007 meeting would take place in Florida, and so Jim Dunn and Paul Greiling made a short presentation of the arrangements already made. Details are attached in Annex 1.

World Championship 2008

Phil Logue made a short presentation of the arrangements for 2008. Details are attached in Annex 2, and the website <http://www.wmg08.com.au> is already available.

Age groups for International Competitions

On behalf of MGA England, Keith Hardy presented some ideas for the 2009 World Championship. It was suggested that the competition could be split into age groups in the same way as the European Championship, and that this would require some discussion and agreement on the exact age groups to be used.

There was some discussion on whether the concept was valid, and it was left to members to think about it and return to the subject in November.

Criteria for membership

Norway asked about progress on the setting of criteria for membership (point 10 and decision 11/06 in the minutes of the November 2006 meeting).

Jim Dunn replied that the first draft was ready.

European pool of ponies

Clive Jones proposed a scheme for creating a pool of ponies in Europe, for the use of visiting teams.

While it was generally agreed that the idea was sound, several practical questions were raised concerning the administration and financing of the idea. The subject will be raised again in November.

Census

On behalf of Colin Carson (who had to leave the meeting early), Jim Dunn proposed that IMGA should carry out a "census" of the national MGAs. It would be useful to know just how big Mounted Games has become world-wide. How many members? How many riding members ? How many competitions are held annually ? etc.

The subject will be raised again in November.

The meeting was closed at 19:15

Annex 1

Information provided by Paul Greiling and Jim Dunn :

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION 2007 AGM

HOST?

The United States Mounted Games Association - Courtesy of Liz and Paul Greiling

WHERE?

Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort located in St. Petersburg, Florida - 15 minutes from Tampa International airport or St. Petersburg National airport.

WHEN?

November 17th and 18th, 2007. Meetings to commence at 9:00 AM on both days with BBQ lunch being served on the beach.

COST?

Cost per room will be \$89.00 US or 65 Euros per night. These are large, deluxe rooms with your choice of either a King size bed or two double beds. Guests are welcome to come for any duration with the price remaining the same. We have presently blocked fifty rooms with final confirmation being made to Paul Greiling by September 15th, 2007.

St. Petersburg is located in Central Western Florida, directly across the bay from Tampa. It is a city that has all of the holiday amenities. Apart from having the number one and two rated beaches in all of North America, St. Petersburg has something for everyone. Fabulous weather, boating, fishing, swimming, deserted island beaches "St. Petes" has it all. It also has a fantastic location being 50 minutes from Disney and Sea World in Orlando to 90 minutes to Cape Canaveral and Daytona Beach.

BUDGET TRAVEL COSTS

FLIGHTS (round trip to Tampa, Florida)

UK Heathrow	310 GBP	Continental Airlines
Paris, France	566 euro	American Airlines
Brussels, Belgium	480 euro	American Airlines
Sydney, Australia	2273 AUD	Quantas
Johannesburg, SA	9568 Rand	SA Airlines
Auckland, NZ	2336 NZD	Quantas
Frankfurt, Germany	466 euro	Virgin Airlines

VEHICLE RENTAL

Compact	€ 140 per week
Full size	€ 160 per week
SUV	€ 173 per week
Van	€ 267 per week

This year's meeting in Tampa /St. Petersburg offers a unique opportunity to see the southern Florida attractions while visiting the USA. We have proposed that if there is enough interest we will arrange two tours one of Disney world and the other of the Florida Everglades. Both are interesting and lots of fun. The Disney tour would be scheduled for November 15th and the Everglades tour will be scheduled for November 16th. Since our hotel is on the water there will be a number of great beach activities and perhaps boating etc. We will also have a limited symposium at a local equestrian facility.

Note that Delta airline will offer a 5% discount which will be arranged by Erin Benson a USMGA member (ERINSTRAVEL@BELLSOUTH.NET). Further, if you are taking advantage of Disney tour some flights to Orlando may be further discounted and then ride to hotel on tour bus. The following are some web sites about local attractions:

www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/milesmedia/stpeteclearwater/index_php
www.floridabeach.com
www.ghostour.net
www.disneyworld.net

Please let us know if you will be able to attend and how many will be coming. Paul Greiling
USMGA 502-222-4016 (pgreili@bellsouth.net).

ACE TOURS and BUSES

Ace tours have quoted me a rate of a short bus to pick up in Tampa/St Pete and drive the group to the Florida Everglades for 1150.00. This bus will hold a max of 32 passengers but does not have a restroom on board. They have quoted me a rate of 42.00 pp for the Florida Everglades tours in addition to the cost of the bus. Based on 30 passengers the bus would be 38.00 pp and then the tour would be 42.00 for a total of 80.00 pp. The regular rate for the tour is 55.00 not including the bus; however it may be better to just book the tour as most of the IMGA members may have already rented cars.

Ace tours also have a 55 passenger bus that has a restroom on board that is available for 1400.00 for the day from St Pete to the Everglades and back. This would be the most cost effective if we have a lot of people that want to take the tour. We would still receive the 42.00 pp rate for the tour of the everglades. Again it just depends on the number of people that want to take the tour.

DISNEY THEME PARKS

The rates for the theme parks pass are as follows:

1 day : \$67/day 2 day : \$66/day 3 day : \$64/day 4 day : \$50/day

However usually if they book a Disney Package including the hotels they would get a better rate on the passes.

Disney hotels start at 82.00 per night and would include transfers from the Orlando airport to the hotel but do not include the theme park passes.

Again depending on the number of people that would want to do this option we would be able to get a group discount but until I know the number Disney won't advise me of the discount. I would book all of these tours as NET and not charge a commission so that the cost would be lower.

Rental Cars picking up in Orlando

Compact rental cars are available for rent starting at 19.00 per day with pick up and drop off in Orlando.

Holiday Inn
SunSpree Resort
Marina Cove

St. Petersburg, Florida

We don't forget anything, each room has a fridge, hair dryer, clock radio, coffee maker, iron and full size ironing board, HBO and the Disney Channel.

1 - 275
Exit 16
Skyway Lane

6800 Sunshine Skyway Lane
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711

For Rates and Information, call
727-867-1151
Toll Free
800-227-8045
Visit us at: www.Holiday-Inn.com/marinacove.us

Holiday Inn SunSpree Resorts - St. Petersburg - Marina Cove

Resort Fact Sheet

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

Location: Nestled on a quiet cove on Tampa Bay, the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, Marina Cove offers guest rooms with a choice of picturesque views, along with a breathtaking view of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The resort is situated at the southern tip of St. Petersburg at exit 16, off of 1275, just minutes from downtown St. Petersburg, the Gulf beaches and popular area attractions.

Accommodations: The resort offers 156 guest rooms, efficiencies and suites. Each of our rooms feature a hair dryer, refrigerator, coffee maker, complimentary coffee, clock radio, in-room safes, iron and ironing board and satellite TV. All rooms feature one king or two double beds, and private patio or balcony. Adjoining rooms and wheelchair accessible rooms are available upon request, as are smoking and non-smoking rooms.

Kidsuites: The newest innovation in family-friendly travel; kidsuites offer children their own space, their own entertainment, and their own beds in special kid-themed rooms designed especially for them. A kidsuite features a private play/bed area and a separate area for parents with a queen size bed and a 25-inch television. The kid's area is equipped with its own television, video player and Nintendo game player.

Marina Cove Conference Center: Our 5,100 square feet of meeting space can accommodate groups up to 300 people. The 2,000 square foot open-air marina pavilion, terraced lawn and garden deck offer alternative outside venues. Our three acres bayfront park can accommodate tents and staging area for up to 500 guests with ample parking. Boat charters from 4 to 200 people can be arranged from our private marina.

Dining: Savor the tranquil view of sailboats in our marina while dining at Periscopes Waterfront Restaurant. The restaurant is open daily from 7-11 am and 5-10pm. Experience the island feeling when you enjoy mid-day snacks or lunch poolside at the Banyan Tree Marketessen. After dinner, sip a cool tropical drink at Nemo's and enjoy the large screen TV or visit the beachfront pool bar, the Nepa Hut, overlooking Tampa Bay and our own private beach and lagoon.

Kids Eat Free: Children 12 and under eat FREE from a special kid's menu when accompanied by an adult guest dining full fare in our restaurant.

ACTIVITIES AND GUEST SERVICES

Recreation: A leisurely stroll along the waterfront walkway and through the tropical gardens await your pleasure. Swim in one of two pools, one of which is heated or relax in our Jacuzzi. Our sun deck offers complimentary chaise lounges, chairs and towels. Beach volleyball, shuffleboard and five tennis courts operate year-round with golfing nearby.

Children's Program: The resort offers seasonal, fully supervised activity programs for children of hotel guests. (There is a small fee for some activities). The activities director also coordinates adult and family activities.

Tennis Academy: Enjoy complimentary Tennis on one of our five lighted tennis courts, The Bill O'Brien Tennis Academy offers private lessons and clinics for juniors, adults and seniors as all levels. Our academy is home to the Percentage Tennis Junior Program and we also offer a complete program for the wheelchair tennis player.



Fitness Center: We invite you to enjoy a vigorous workout in our fitness center with state of the art cardiovascular equipment and a six station nautilus. Our massage therapist will ease all your tensions away.

Guest Activities Desk: The activities desk in our lobby will help guests coordinate daily events and activities, such as off-site golf, information, and ticket needs.

Gift Shop: The resort's gift shop is located adjacent to the lobby and is open 24 hours a day to accommodate your needs.

Annex 2 – Australia

Information from Phil Logue :



Australia invites you to experience Sydney during the World Mounted Games 19 to 26 October 2008

To find out more about the World Mounted Games event in Australia, visit www.wmg08.com.au



About Mounted Games
Mounted Games is a truly unique team-based equestrian sport that combines both the acrobatics and athleticism of the outback and the pageantry of medieval times, with the thrill of horse riding.

Competitors require high levels of dexterity, riding skills and hand-to-eye coordination to perform set tasks at top speed.

Teams of five riders compete in up to 20 different, high speed game events.

The games are very spectacular for participants and spectators alike, engendering a competitive spirit.

Over 20 countries compete annually in the World Championships. For the very first time, Australia will be the host of the 2008 Games.

Enjoy Sydney during springtime, with long sunny days at average temperatures of 25°C



The 2008 World Mounted Games Stadium is located on one of Sydney's most famous surf beaches. Less than 30 minutes drive to the city centre, the area is easily accessible to Sydney's major attractions via public transport.

Learn to surf, play the didgeridoo or throw a boomerang. Cruise Sydney Harbour by night, climb the Harbour Bridge or just enjoy the ambience of the local beaches, bars and restaurants. Visit the local wildlife parks and feed the kangaroos, or just sit back and watch the dolphins play!

Accommodation

Within easy walk of the Stadium and beach are:

- 3, 4 and 5 star hotels
- Bed and breakfast options
- Beachside holiday park with cabins, caravans and camping.

Organised Events

AMGA organised events run from 19-26 October and include:

- Cultural night with Aussie bush tucker
- Beach BBQ and volleyball
- Sydney Harbour cruise
- Day trips to major attractions and wineries

Local activities include:

- Sailing, surfing, swimming and canoeing
- Gala dinner and farewell on 26 October.

Explore Australia

Special packages will offer travel to Queensland before and after the event. Discover the Great Barrier Reef, Surfers Paradise, The Daintree Forest and other exotic destinations. Or talk to our specialist tour operator to tailor a travel package to suit your needs.