

# INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION

## *NEWSLETTER*

### *JANUARY – FEBRUARY*

*2015*



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# ***THE CHAIRMAN'S WORD***

Welcome, everyone, to the new IMGA newsletter, edited by Sean Bource who is IMGA's official responsible for communication.

Previous attempts to produce a regular newsletter have failed after the first one or two editions because although everyone likes to read about what is going on in the world of Mounted Games, very few people are prepared to make the effort to contribute. So please help Sean to keep this going by sending him items of news, information, competition results, gossip, and anything else of general interest. I know a lot of that sort of thing is already available on the IMGA official Facebook group, but that is only accessible to its members (currently 2,663) whereas this newsletter is freely available on the IMGA website with a much wider audience.

And a special welcome to the Islamic Republic of Iran, our latest member. Mr. Mehdi Khatibi is the International Representative of our first Asian member country.

What else is new this year ?

The creation of specialist working groups is not only new, but also promises to significantly change the way in which IMGA works.

Since IMGA was created in its present form way back in 2003, the basic management structure hasn't changed significantly. International Representatives make decisions by a majority vote, and the elected officials of IMGA do their best to implement those decisions. That has not at all been an easy task for those officials, with very limited funds available, and equally limited time and manpower, and very often quite serious disagreements between members to manage and mediate and control.

During 2014 it became obvious that as the role of IMGA increased, and the scope of the activities required by the members also increased, the available manpower needed to do everything would also have to increase.

So a plan to create a number of sub-committees, each with responsibility for a specific subject, was prepared for the 2014 Annual General Meeting, and was unanimously approved by the International Representatives.

Nine groups were set up covering a wide range of subjects, and in this newsletter you'll find more information about each of them, along with a list of the members.

Decision-making authority remains with the International Representatives, but now they have a much larger pool of expertise to advise them and to prepare plans and budgets for their approval (or not) at IMGA's annual meetings.

This is a new way of working for us, and it's only been up-and-running since the beginning of the year, but if you want to find out more and follow the progress being made, please take a look at

<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/organisation/sc/index.html>

Finally, I want to thank all those experts who have agreed to give their time and energy for the future development of International Mounted Games.

Keith Martin  
Chairman, International Mounted Games Association

# ***COMPETITION RESULTS***

## ***JANUARY & FEBRUARY***

- **Royal Berkshire Pairs – England – January, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

### U12

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mia Marshall & Amelia Swann (65 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sam Hopkins & Dan Fullbrook (59 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tom Pink & Katie Upshall (49 pts)

### U14

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ben Hopkins & Emma Lockyer (113 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Aviv Effeny & Jess Fullbrook (67 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dani Ollife & Chantelle Day (59 pts)

### U17

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Rosie Ridler & Ella Clark (42 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ben Hopkins & Emma Lockyer (39 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Matthew Limond & Elizabeth Boher (33 pts)

### OPEN

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Rory Capel & Jess Hindle (30 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Holly Oldfield & Zoe Woodford (27 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bradley Stamp & Stav Laghos (24 pts)

- **Winter Pairs – Denmark –February, 22nd 2015**

### OPEN

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jana Ing & Bianca Freese (23 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Simone Jacobsen & Alberte Hellenberg (17 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Linda Ry Olsen & Katrine Simonsen (9 pts)

- **Welsh Pairs – Chepstow, Wales – February, 28<sup>th</sup> & March, 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**

U12

Winners – Jamie Medcalf & Sophie Grimshaw

U17

Winners – Lili Antclif & Lottie Watson

Open

Winners – Danny Spencer & Katie Spencer

- **Scandinaviium – Gothenburg Horse Show, Gothenburg, Sweden – February, 25th to March, 1st 2015**

1<sup>st</sup> – Berkshire (77 pts)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Shropshire (74 pts)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Sweden (73 pts)

4<sup>th</sup> – Warwickshire (64 pts)

## **UPCOMING COMPETITIONS**

### **MARCH & APRIL**

<b>WHEN ?</b>	<b>WHAT ?</b>	<b>WHERE ?</b>
<b>MARCH</b>		
March, 14 <sup>th</sup>	Denbighshire Pairs	Denbighshire, England
March, 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Grand Ouest – Leg 1 (teams)	Etrier de Corné, 49630 Corné, France
March, 29 <sup>th</sup>	Greater London North (Midlands) Pairs	Gracelands Equestrian Center, Worcestershire, England
March, 29 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Individuals	Denmark
March, 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Dale Challenge Scuderia – Leg 1 (teams)	La Scuderia, Cavaglia, Italy
<b>APRIL</b>		
April, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Interprovincials (teams)	Western Province, South Africa
April, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	MGA Ireland Eastern Competition (teams)	Ireland
April, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Individual & Pairs	New Forest Showground, Hampshire, England
April, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Australian Team Championships	Wentworth, Australia
April, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Peter Dale Istres – Leg 2 (teams)	Centre Equestre Istres Le Deven, 13800 Istres, France
April, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Grand Ouest La Bonde – Leg 2 (teams)	Domaine Equestre de la Bonde, 27140 Saint Denis Le Ferment, France
April, 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Championships (teams)	Shropshire and West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury, England
April, 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tria Games Pairs Championships	Poney Club Buisseret, Belgium
April, 19 <sup>th</sup>	Swiss Team Championships – Leg 1	Batterkinden, Berne, Switzerland
April, 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Challenge Grand Ouest Vitré (teams)	Etrier Vitréen, 35505, Vitré, France
April, 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Hampshire Friendly (teams)	Dallas Burston Polo Club, Warwickshire, England (TBC)
April, 25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Spring individuals	Denmark

For more information on the international calendar, please check the web link  
<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/events/2015/allcomps.html>

## **IMGA PROGRAMME**

<b>WHEN ?</b>	<b>WHAT ?</b>	<b>WHERE ?</b>
July, 6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>29th World Team Championships OPEN</b>	Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky, USA
July, 28 <sup>th</sup> to August, 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> World Individual Championships</b>	David Broome Event Centre, Chepstow, Wales
August, 5 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> European Championships</b>	Equivallée, Cluny, France
September, 18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> World Pairs Championships</b>	Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark, England
To be decided	<b>IMGA Annual Meeting</b>	Ireland
November, 13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nations Championships</b>	Equine Lifestyle Festival, Hawkesbury Showgrounds, Clarendon, NSW, Australia
November, 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>World Team Championships U17</b>	HITS Showground Ocala, Florida, USA

For more information on the international programme, please check the following web link  
<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/events/2015/index.html>

# ***SUB-COMMITTEES PRESENTATION***

## **Background and Introduction**

In response to the increasing scope of IMGA's activities during the period 2012-2014, it was decided at the IMGA Annual Meeting in November 2014 to introduce a proposal for changes to the organisational structure of the Association.

A very detailed document was prepared with full details of the proposal, and after discussion it was adopted by a unanimous decision of those members either present or represented (20 out of 21 members).

The full text of that proposal is available as part of the official record of that meeting.

## **Concept**

To facilitate the day to day running of IMGA, the association has 9 sub-committees, each with its own area of responsibility, each of which aids the elected IMGA executive officers in implementing the decisions made by the IMGA Committee, and continuously drives the future development of the sport.

## **Sub-Committees (scope and composition)**

- **Compliance Sub-Committee**

The Compliance Sub-Committee is responsible for ensuring that all IMGA sanctioned competitions are run according to agreed criteria as well as ensuring that all members comply with IMGA membership criteria.

Keith Martin – Chair (Luxemburg)  
Nikki Carter – Secretary (England)  
Iain Hopkins (Wales)  
Brian Kennedy (Northern Ireland)  
Jens Martin (Luxemburg)  
Quentin Voetzel (France)

- **FEI Integration and WEG 2018 Action Group**

The FEI Integration and WEG 2018 Action Group is responsible for closer integration with the FEI in general and with a specific goal to have Mounted Games formally represented at the World Equestrian Games in Canada in 2018.

Paul Greiling – Chair (USA)  
Jens Martin – Secretary (Luxemburg)  
Younes Ahlbom (Sweden)  
Brent Couch (Canada)



Florence Hennuy (Belgium)  
Inger Hilmersen (Norway)  
Rachel Lechner (Austria)

- **Finance and Budgeting Sub-Committee**

The Finance and Budgeting Sub-Committee is responsible for all aspects of IMGA's financial affairs including bank account management, budget forecasting, tax returns, management of financial instruments and cash management.

Pola Schal – Chair (Germany)  
Jens Martin – Secretary (Luxemburg)  
Nikki Carter (England)  
Lois Hamilton (Scotland)  
Keith Martin (Luxemburg)

- **Health, Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee**

The Health, Safety and Risk Management Sub-Committee is responsible for the formulation and implementation of health and safety guidelines for both riders and ponies as well as ensuring that IMGA sanctioned competitions are properly risk assessed and that those risks are sufficiently mitigated.

Alun Withney – Chair (Wales)  
Annie Martin – Secretary (Denmark)  
Peter Dale (Wales)  
Andrew Gibson (England)  
David Harris (Australia)  
Megan Marr (South Africa)

- **International Development Sub-Committee**

The International Development Sub-Committee is responsible for recruiting new member nations into the sport.

Jens Martin – Chair (Luxemburg)  
Alun Withney – Secretary (Wales)  
Marie Follet (Spain)  
Quentin Voetzel (France)  
Margaret Welsby (New Zealand)

- **Sponsorship and Promotions Sub-Committee**

The Sponsorship and Promotions Sub-Committee is responsible for raising the public profile of the sport and securing sponsorship for IMGA.

Sean Bource – Chair (France)  
Annie Martin – Secretary (Denmark)  
Gunilla Adolfsson (Sweden)

Pola Schal (Germany)  
Nathan Turner (England)

- **Strategic Planning Sub-Committee**

The Strategic Planning Sub-Committee is responsible for formulating the medium to long term strategic direction for IMGGA.

Nikki Carter – Chair (England)  
Signe Sehested – Secretary (Denmark)  
Sean Bource – Translation (France)  
Jacques Cavé (Italy)  
Mark Devitt (Ireland)  
Philippe Gargallo (Switzerland)  
Phil Logue (Australia)

- **Technology and Social Media Sub-Committee**

The Technology and Social Media Sub-Committee is responsible for the implementation and management of IMGGA's technology footprint.

Keith Martin – Chair (Luxemburg)  
Sean Bource – Secretary (France)  
Clément Avice (France)  
Johannes Franke (Germany)  
Dag Hoffgard (Norway)  
Tom James (England)  
Andrew Jordan (Northern Ireland)  
Rory Prime (Northern Ireland)  
Alun Withney (Wales)

- **Training and Qualification Sub-Committee**

The Training and Qualification Sub-Committee is responsible for the training, certification and assessment of IMGGA referees and assistant referees.

Peter Dale – Chair (Wales)  
Eivind Kjuus – Secretary (Norway)  
Frie Martin – Translation (Luxemburg)  
Fabian Pigeolet (Belgium)  
Pierre-Luc Portron (France)  
Davy Quinn (Scotland)

For more information on the Sub-Committees, please check the following web link:  
<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/organisation/sc/index.html>



## **THE INTERVIEW**

### **BEN HOPKINS**



To start off with 2015, we are very pleased to interview a young Welsh talented MGA rider. Most of you know Ben Hopkins, his famous ponies and his many medals. Let's ask Ben a few questions about himself, his ponies, achievements and goals for this year.

**Hi Ben! Thank you for accepting our interview. Could you tell us more about yourself?**

*"I am 12 years old and was born on the 15th March (for anyone wanting to send presents!!!!) and live near a village called Raglan. I go to school in Monmouth and also ride for Monmouthshire Pony Club and Mounted Games Teams. I have a brother called Sam, you have probably heard him at the shows as he is my biggest supporter!!! He is doing his first World Individuals this year.*

*I won my first World Title at the age of 10 at the World Pairs in Newark. Since then I have won the World pairs twice and the World Individuals twice. We have been British Team Champions for the last 3 years.*

*We do this as a family sport. Dad does the training, mum keeps my ponies in top condition, Grandad does my equipment and Nan can always be seen with a camera trying to capture those special moments."*

**When and where did you start playing Games? Where did you get this passion from?**

*"I started doing Mounted Games at the age of 4 on a brilliant pony called Rebel. Both my mum and dad did Mounted games and my Granddad took one of the first teams out to Vitré in France to encourage games in France with Jacques Cavé.*

*My Grandparents do everything they can to help and I couldn't achieve any of this without their help."*

**Could you present the pony or ponies you will be riding this season and the ones that have been important to you in the past?**

*"All my ponies have helped me in the past. Rebel, my first pony, then I moved onto Chaz, a one eyed spotted miniature pony that taught me so much and I remember winning my first game in the world individuals moat and castle at the age of 8.*

*Then I moved onto Pollyanna who has won the World Individuals with so many great riders but was first introduced to Mounted Games by Alex Jones, son of Clive Jones, the USA and Sussex trainer.*

*Then came the brilliant Merlin who I have won the world individuals twice and the world pairs 3 times.*

*This year I have 3 ponies: Merlin, Spy and Charlie.*

*I will be using Merlin once again in under 14's.*

*I am very lucky to have another world class pony this year that you will all know, Spy, a previous World Individual reserve champion with Quentin and last year being ridden by Colin Verdelhan in under 17's. I'm really looking forward to this challenge and hope I can do as well as these other 2 outstanding riders.*

*Charlie is another brilliant pony I have been lucky enough to have this year and am looking forward to using him over the next few years."*

### **What are your goals for this season?**

*"I'd really like to ride in both teams and individuals at the European Championships in Cluny (France), moving up to under 14's this year. I know there are many great riders, many from my team but GB and the rest of the world but I will be training very hard for both the World Individuals and hopefully the World Pairs if we are lucky enough to get a place!!!!!"*

### **You've already won many national and international titles, is there a particular dream you wish to fulfil in MGA in the future?**

*"I'd love to compete at a World Team Championship and also to ride at the Scandinavium in Sweden at some time in the future."*

### **What are your other hobbies and occupations?**

*"My other real love is football, I have played for Cardiff City Academy against Premiership Club Academies such as Aston Villa, Arsenal and Swansea.*

**Thank you Ben for answering all our questions and we wish you the best of luck for 2015 and of course many other medals!**

# **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

 **Sweden**

- **Clinic with Widukind Moorman on March, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**
- **Line referee course on March, 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **Referee course on March, 29<sup>th</sup>**

 **Wales**

- **Welsh team selected for U17 World Team Championships in Florida, USA:**

**Riders:** Lili Antcliff  
Ben Hopkins  
Grace Dalton  
Gwen Williams  
Emma Lockyer  
Roxy Smith (Reserve)

**Trainer:** Huw Withney

**Congratulations to the selected riders and trainer!**

**You would like more information on the International Mounted Games Association or you have a question for an IMGA Officer? It's very simple! All you need to do is to send your questions to the following e-mail addresses:**

**For general enquires and information:**  
<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/site/contact.html>

**IMGA Help Line:**  
<http://www.mounted-games.org/imga/site/helpline.html>

**Thank you for reading this Newsletter! We would like to remind you that this document's purpose is to facilitate the transmission of information throughout the World of Mounted Games.**

**The IMGA Newsletter n°2 will be published in May.**



**The IMGA Committee**

