



**INTERNATIONAL
MOUNTED GAMES
ASSOCIATION**



Agenda: IMGA online meeting Thursday 09 May 2024

20:00 CET

Meeting convened: 20:06 CET

Attendance check for quorum – 19:02 – six voting members

Attendance:

- Chris - Chairperson, IMGA
- Jens – Finance and Administration, IMGA

- Apologies:
 -

- Robin – Belgium
- Michelle – Canada
- Elijah – China
- Jens - Denmark
- Pete – England
- Conor – Ireland
- Andrea – Italy – joined in progress
- Lizzy - Luxembourg
- Sue – New Zealand
- Stian – Norway
- Veronica – Scotland
- Quentin – Switzerland
- Paul – USA
- Alun – Wales

Chairperson's Opening Remarks – Chris

Chris notes that Alun can administer the voting polls starting at 20:30h. Conor and Sue have engagements, so we'll consider items being presented by them early in the agenda. Welcome to Jens Holm, replacing Signe Sehested who has served as a longtime International Representative and competition organizer. Thanks to Signe for all of her work with IMGGA and in promoting and organizing Mounted Games in Denmark over many years.

➤ **Item 1** – Proposal to adopt temperature limits (Voting Item) – Conor (IRE)

Wet Bulb thermometer – Conor refers to attached PDF document: chart of temperature /humidity/sun included in Chris's screen, noting that index of 160 is our cutoff point for competition to continue:

- Conor provides overview of proposal to purchase and use wet bulb thermometer on site at sanctioned competitions
- Intent to use this objective measure in decision-making when faced with extreme heat and/or humidity such has been occurring more frequently in recent years during summer months.

Discussion/Questions

- Question - Any recommendation of specific thermometer? Another country wishing to adopt this practice, noting a significant range of prices for the device. Answer - Conor - £200 was the approximate cost of the model recommended on the FEI site. The plan is to purchase that one; it might be an idea to see how well it works for IMGGA, then follow with purchase by other countries
- Additional Information – Conor - Reference indices for people and horses differ; note that people would be stopping activity (reading of 30) prior to horses.
- A reading/index of 20 – 30 indicates that modified activity be adopted for people
- 28-30 is the range for modified activities for horses.
- Combination of temperature and humidity readings of 160 results in stoppage of horse racing
- Proposal is to follow the FEI recommendations for now – use of one device standardizes the procedure and allows Referee to make informed quantifiable decisions.
- Rule change/amendment needed to provide Referee with authority to act on the basis of the WBT readings?

Note – Voting to take place in 15 minutes – Polling adjudicator to return at that time to conduct all votes.

➤ **Item 8** – 2024 Updates - Nations Cup update – Sue (NZ) (Note – Item considered at this point in the Agenda due to presenter's availability)

- Countries sending teams to Nations Team Championship 2024 New Zealand:
 - Australia
 - South Africa
 - USA
 - New Zealand – sending two teams as the host country
- United Nations Team (composite of single riders, reserve riders from eligible countries):
 - One additional rider for the UN team to date - Canada

- Note: Australia wishes to send another team if there are sufficient pool ponies
 - Information updates available on the NZMGA website.
 - Competition budget is almost finalized - entry forms and information for the teams and UN Team riders will be distributed soon.
 - Accommodation – options are expected for Turangi (while the competition is there) and Taupo (where the finals will be held) as part of Equi-fest.
- **Item 2** – AGM Action Item 4.7: IMGGA shall have a pony soundness Trot-up at IMGGA Sanctioned Competitions (Voting Item) – Conor (IRE)

IMGGA will have a pony soundness examination at IMGGA sanctioned competitions:

A soundness examination at the start of each IMGGA competition to be conducted by a qualified vet, the competition's Chief Referee, and an IMGGA-appointed Official. The veterinarian has the final decision regarding the ponies' fitness to compete. The trot-up examination needs to be done on a firm surface – concrete or tarmac preferable – 30 metres to be able to see about ten strides each way. To be trotted three (3) times minimum up and down. Additional examination(s) may also occur in case of any concern arising during the competition.

- Next voting topic is the wording for the trot-up which was discussed at the previous meeting - we just needed agreement on the wording; no additional lengthy discussion required at this time as there was agreement that the trot-up be adopted as part of IMGGA sanctioned competitions.

Discussion/Questions -

- Question – Why is the trot-up on a hard surface when the competition surface is typically all-weather or grass? Answer - Conor verifies that this stipulation came from the vet consulted – this is common practice for trot-ups to highlight lameness which may be occurring, and which could be masked when travelling on a very yielding surface.
- Chairperson Chris notes that wherever possible, seek hard surface trot-ups.
- Note – Robin (Rules Committee) – This requirement will be added to the *Hosting A Sanctioned Competition* document, readily accessible for everyone to see. Chris is currently reviewing/overhauling the '*Hosting*' document if the wording is accepted through voting, it will be added to that document.

- **Item 3** – Proposal on dates for election of Rider Representative to the Rules Committee (Voting Item) – Jens (IMGA Rules Committee)

Jens is seeking clarification regarding the timing of the election of the Rules Committee members; every two years Rules Committee members are elected. The 2024 AGM in November would be the election for Rules Committee members.

- Proposal details: Rules Committee is requesting that the elections for all Rules Committee members be brought into alignment for purposes of working as a cohesive team; current Rider Representative to the Committee, Jake, would effectively have a term of three years rather than one. This better supports the historic approach of the group working with their chairperson and then turning over as a group at election time. The Committee suggests that the Rider Representative would be best utilized if their term was synchronized with that of the other members of the Committee.

Discussion/Questions –

- This is a good idea – the individual could then run for a regular position on the committee i.e. potentially the active rider may no longer be riding and would then shift to seeking election to a ‘regular’ Rules Committee position.
- The Rules Committee election candidates would be publicized with the Rider Representative candidates clearly identified in all election and voting material. The individual for the Rider Representative position is selected from the voting for those candidates i.e. even if the person was not among the overall top seven candidates for the Committee positions, only a Rider Rep. candidate may fill the Rider Representative position i.e. even if receiving fewer votes than any of the other ‘regular’ candidates.

Note - When voting adjudicator Alun returns at approximately 20:30, we will vote on this proposal.

- **Item 4** – Under12 Riders do not pay the IMGA rider fee (Discussion and voting proposal) - Chris (IMGA) for Andrea (ITA)-

The proposal is that U12’s not be required to pay the IMGA rider fee as part of their entry; discussed at February 10, 2024 International Representatives’ meeting. Voting at this time formalizes a decision on adoption of the proposal.

- Andrea (ITA) joins meeting (20:32) and elaborates on the proposal stating that the youth are the future of the sport; relates that at the Italian Championships organisers tried to support a completely ‘free entry’ for U12’s, however there were few teams entered such that even the U12 entry fees were a help; it was not possible in the end to provide a completely free entry for U12’s.

Discussion/Questions -

- Comment made that everyone pays the same so it’s difficult to justify a free entry for a select group.
- Clarification provided by IMGA Chris and Jens – for this proposal, discussion is about waiving the £5 rider fee submitted to IMGA, not the entry fee for the competition. Chris clarifies that the fee has been £5 “forever” – confirmation provided by Finance Officer Jens that the rulebook and affiliate fees have also escaped inflationary pressures for many years.

- If the proposal regarding the IMGA rider fee exemption for U12 riders is adopted, it is up to the organizers to decide if they wish to further reduce the entry fee for U12 riders.

19:39 – Alun returns to administer the voting polls.

- **Proposal 1** – Purchase and use the wet bulb thermometer to monitor and provide objective data regarding temperature/humidity/sunlight. Make on-site decisions about activity levels for horses and riders during periods of heat.

Voting representatives - thirteen voting members

Voting results:

Yes – 92% No – 0% Abstain – 8%

The motion is passed.

- **Proposal 2** – Introduce trot-up wording as provided and modified.

Voting representatives -Thirteen voting members

Voting Results:

Yes - 62% No - 8% Abstain - 31%

The motion is passed.

- **Proposal 3** – U12 riders at IMGA competitions are excused from paying the rider fee submitted to IMGA.

Voting representatives - 13

Voting Results:

Yes - 50% No - 33% Abstain – 17%

The motion is passed.

- **Proposal 4** - Bring the voting date for the Rider Representative to the Rules Committee in line with that for the other Rules Committee members.

*Voting Results: TBD

Yes No Abstain

(*Alun notes that the voting polling is not currently available; we'll return to the remainder of the agenda and revisit this proposal later in the meeting.)

- **Item 5** – Proposal to organise a video competition – The World Wide Games - Discuss - Chris Wheeler (IMGA)
Please see PDF document attached to agenda: Worldwide Games (Draft).

Chris outlines Proposal being developed to organise a video-based virtual Mounted Games competition to be conducted – in your home country – timed and videoed, a bit of fun, really. The idea was presented to Chris by a long-time competitor and organizer while at LaBonde last year.

- Advantage of riding your own pony and is a competition open to anybody around the world.
- Idea is that that there is a starter, a set arena distance, videographer, and submission to an IMGA official for adjudication.
- It's really a bit of fun with a high level of inclusivity; perhaps the results could be put on the website; no prizes.

- Hopefully the 66m distance would be uniform as applied for each competitor in the virtual competition.
- If some of the equipment was slightly different e.g. heavier bottle, larger litter, these minor details wouldn't matter.
- Could get to see the video of other riders and get in contact; potential for connecting with other mounted games enthusiasts around the world.

Discussion/Questions -

- Comment that this is a great idea with a good variety of easy-to-set-up games making for fun and simple competition, uncomplicated, easy to administer
- A great idea for a virtual Individuals Championship that would coincide with the in-person World Individual Championships. In its early stages, this would be strictly for entertainment, but it increases the opportunity for international connections and for countries not able to travel, to take part.
- A great idea but fairness of equipment is an issue; if it's just for fun – that's okay.
- What about non-IMGA members? This is potentially an insurance issue for IMGA's member countries' committees/Boards.
- Question: What are the requirements for IMGA officials being onsite during the competition?
Answer: Not intended to be an intense competition but more a fun way of getting many Mounted Games enthusiasts involved globally:
 - If you are from a country where there are Mounted Games, but travel is not feasible, the virtual competition would provide a fun and motivating opportunity. New countries would be keen – e.g. Nigeria, China, Pakistan
 - Mexico, Burkina Faso still play games and could take part with this format
- Chairperson Chris presents a video sent by Tanya (RSA) of Litter Scoop being played in South Africa – rugby field, tall grass, no stirrups, and inclusive.
- Alun originally envisioned the possibility of a big screen setup such that a person in another location would be visible and able to race against the in-person competitor; Chris not sure of the technology for that.

Action Items:

- Send any questions to Chairperson Chris via email, WhatsApp, etc.; consider this as an idea for bringing Mounted Games to a broader global community of riders
 - Note that participation would imply permission by the rider to publicize the resulting video
 - Consider distribution of a training video as introduction for participants?
 - Insurance component warrants further discussion - Chris to continue discussion with Paul (USA)
- **Proposal 4 – (continued)** - Align voting for the Rules Committee Rider Representative with that of the election of other members of the Rules Committee.

Voting representatives: 11

Voting Results:

Yes -73% No – 0% Abstain – 27%

Motion is passed.

- **Item 6** – Charity Day at Europeans 2024 - Stéphane (FRA) – currently unavailable for update on this initiative; Quentin to provide update momentarily – contacting Stéphane.
 - Sean has arrived – 20:34 – currently at the French Championship
 - Valentin let Sean know that there is a charity organization they are working on the logistics for – legal details are being sorted as the FFE is hosting the competition.

- **Item 7** – Coaching Certificates Update – Chief Referee Mark (IMGA) and Warwick (AUS) - not currently available for coaching certificates update.

- **Item 8** – Updates on 2024 IMGA Sanctioned competitions –

World Team Championship – Arezzo, Italy - Andrea

- Question: Information being sought about the cost for pool ponies? Answer: The pool pony organization is current and ongoing:
 - The organizers will contact countries regarding pool ponies.
 - The organizers are currently seeking ponies from among Italy's U18 and Open riders - Do they have ponies to offer?
 - The plan is to have pony owners contact the participating countries directly with their pony offerings.
 - Andrea is not sure of exact number of ponies currently available and is contacting owners in the south of France, etc. to ensure that the Italian organizers will have additional ponies.
- Question: Clarity requested regarding the Individual competition running alongside the team competition – Who is that for? Answer: Andrea – these riders to play once a day – not a heavy training. Riders are playing for the ‘Supporter Cup’ which is included for each team’s sixth rider. Open to entries for all of the world – every rider who wants to attend, can. Send the name of the person for the Supporter Cup.
- Andrea mentions made that a great deal of paperwork is required for each rider
- Italy is ready!
 - They have some big ideas.
 - Maintaining some mystery around the Gala dinner to keep the element of surprise!

Action Item: Contact Andrea directly with your questions; his contact information is in the communiqué – phone number, etc.

World Individual Championship – La Scuderia, Italy

- Any questions regarding World Individuals?
- Everything is ready and if you have questions, pass them to Andrea who will refer them to organizer Sabrina.

- Question: Cost for ponies? Answer: Depends on the travel distance for the pony so as yet not finalized.

World Pairs Championship – laBonde, France

European Team and Individuals Championship – Lamotte-Beuvron, France

- Quentin confirms that Sean Bource will join the meeting presently with details for Europeans.
- Sean (20:38) - Will try to make some videos of the three arenas since they are being used this weekend.
- The timetable has been published on Facebook – developments will be posted there – page dedicated to European Team and Individual Championship.
- Any very important information will be sent directly to the Representatives of the countries that have teams entered.
- Sean confirms that the three camera systems required for the three arenas are organized.

➤ **Item 8.1** - 2025 IMGA Sanctioned Competitions – updates

World Individual Championship 2025 England – Pete (ENG)

- England can no longer host the 2025 WIC. Alison wrote an email referring to the economic situation and lack of viability for running the competition:
 - Brexit has resulted in extreme difficulty in getting anywhere.
 - Additional IMGA costs e.g. On-site veterinarian and trot-up, add to the financial difficulty.
- All ideas were considered to try to go forward with the competition; Chairperson Chris had offered assistance.
 - MGAGB is seeing decline in numbers; cancelled a significant show as a result of low entries.
 - Shipping difficulties are significant in spite of the contribution by Parkers and Pete himself. The whole scenario is prohibitive to travel.

Discussion/Questions

- Chairperson Chris – Bidding for the 2025 World Individuals to be reopened with Chris sending out the bidding information.
 - Recognition that time for preparation is very short.
- Question: Any update to the status of appeals to the parliamentary process regarding Brexit? Answer: Chairperson Chris – we are too small and have no impact; Pete adds that legislation and regulations are changing.
- Sentiment expressed that the four Championships following one after the other makes it difficult; only reason that the team is going to France is through active fundraising.

Some discussion about the arrangements for this year's competitions.

➤ **Item 9** - 2024 Competition Reminders – Chris

- Remember to check your riders this season regarding height/weight suitability for pony. Ensure that the rider weight is correct for the pony. Ensure that the pony is the correct height.
- Ensure that Assistant Referees have completed the course either on-line or in person in advance of the competition where they are undertaking these duties.
- Correct tack is required so that riders are compliant with the rules - Reps, please keep an eye on riders' tack with this in mind.
- If you were a trophy recipient last year, please make arrangements that the cup/trophy goes to this year's hosting country.
 - Chris is tracking thirty-three cups this season so please help.

➤ **Item 10** – Venue for the 2024 IMGA November Annual General Meeting - Chris

- Kind offers were made by China and the USA – uptake on those offers was small. Ireland's offer of Dublin at the Roganstown Hotel seeks to provide more travel accessibility.
- **Action Item** – Note this on your calendar.

Chairperson's closing comments and reminders - Chris

- Our next meeting will be during the World Team Championship – Andrea has stated that there will a room available for the meeting – to seat 10 – and also online access in July.
- **Action Item:** Bitless bridles – opinions being sought on the use of bitless bridles, that will be on the agenda for the meeting at Arezzo, Italy.

Thank you, everyone, for your voting and participation; enjoy the remainder of your day, night, evening wherever in the world you are.

➤ Adjournment – 20:42