



# INTERNATIONAL MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION



## AGENDA for THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2023 at 20h00 CET (19:00 GMT)

### ❖ Attendance-

#### • **IMGA Officials:**

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

#### • **International Representatives (V – Voting member):**

Warwick Slade (V)	Australia	Absent
Rachel Lechner	Austria	
Robin Donnay (V)	Belgium	
Michelle Cruikshanks (V)	Canada	
Leo Liang	China	Regrets
Alžbeta Mašková	Czech Republic	Absent
Signe Sehested (V)	Denmark	
Elaine Trevor Jones (V)	England	
Jonathon Marion (V)	France	
Volker Baasch (V)	Germany	
Conor O’Leary (V)	Ireland	
Andrea Piazza (V)	Italy	Regrets
Lizzy Franck (V)	Luxembourg	
Sue Robertson (V)	New Zealand	Absent
Alister Hamilton (V)	Northern Ireland	
Stian Hennie	Norway	
Veronica Dodds (V*)	Scotland	
Nick Sloane	South Africa	Absent
Judith Porcel Follet	Spain	Absent
Caroline Claeson (V)	Sweden	Absent
Marino Kammeran	Switzerland	Absent
Quentin Gargallo (V)	Switzerland	
Paul Greiling (V)	USA	
Alun Whitney (V)	Wales	

#### • **Guest(s):**

Ghislain Deslandes	Corné, France	Re: WPC 2025
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- **Total Voting Representatives – 15 Voting by Proxy – 1 (Italy)**
- **Votes submitted through Chair** – proxy vote for Italy
- **Voting** – Through RingCentral Meetings polling feature as administered by Alun

## ❖ **Opening Remarks from the Chairperson – Chris**

- Rulebook shop is open and already receiving and filling orders for 2023 hard copy Rulebooks; note that the Short Arena rules are available as a separate downloadable document
- Re: 2023 IMGA AGM - Stéphane currently seeking/confirming prices at le Parc Équestre
  - Arrival Friday, November 10 - AGM to be held November 11/12; option to depart Sunday or leave Monday
  - Location is south of Paris – details to follow once Stéphane has secured pricing – hotels etc.
- Note that Item 1 will be considered second on the agenda to allow for the arrival of additional representatives for voting; Item 2 - Updates From Sub-Committees is the first agenda item for today
- At the previous meeting, questions considered regarding the WPC 2025 bids were numerous and discussion was substantive – questions today will be limited in number

## ❖ **Updates from Sub-Committees –**

- **Strategic Planning Committee – Chris**
  - Concentration on ways to increase the number of people entering our sport (riders, parents) into our sport since COVID numbers are falling
  - Brexit has made it difficult for Europeans to travel
  - Some of our traditionally big countries have dropped to the low hundreds of members as an example
  - To date, no significant ideas have materialised; contact Chris with any that occur to you
- **Training and Qualification Committee – Mark**
  - Chris notes that he has audited a couple of the very impressive meetings; Committee met March 6 and have progressed things since then
  - April 3 was the training of Country Liaison Officers; those countries will now run their own Assistant Referee and Referee training
  - Those offering full Referee course would have Alun send along the relevant Referee exam
  - The progression through levels has been agreed upon by the Committee; similar to what was in place, with refinements
  - Liaison Officer consults with Chief Referee regarding Referee assessment and advancement decisions
  - Committee has agreed that if someone successfully takes a course in 2023 they are qualified for 2023, 2024, 2025
  - Liaisons need to review their 1\*, 2\*, 3\* Referees, etc. to see who needs to be advanced
  - Chris has contacted countries which previously did not have a liaison and has sent an updated list to Alun
  - A couple of countries won't have a liaison due to lack of any Referees - 90% of countries have signed up, however
  - For countries without, Alun and Mark will set up course and for their referees, a link
  - Switzerland, Norway, and Ireland – Mark ran complete course

- Australia – Easter weekend course conducted by Warwick
- Chris graciously offers beverage of choice to Committee members in appreciation of their impressive work and progress
- **Health and Safety Committee - Conor**
  - FEI has a template re: head injury and concussion which has been sent out for action by the Rules Committee – Briefly, in the event of a rider fall, the Referee will refer to medics, if concussion is diagnosed, then a ‘return to ride’ protocol would be activated
  - Significant question is the amount of time required for assessment which determines if the rider will continue to play - rules for substitution will need to be aligned with the timing for assessment and followup i.e. significant delays are probable; what adjustments are required to timelines for substitution rules?
  - The Committee suggests that IMGA work around FEI protocol, then if our committee has additional pieces to include, they would work to establish a protocol for those items
    - Additional considerations –
      - Monitoring a ‘return to play’ protocol – How? Who?
      - Question of rider ‘carrying in’ a previous concussion i.e. IMGA protocol expected to cover the sanctioned competitions, not individual country’s own rules – How to deal with this?
  - Whatever IMGA puts in place will have to cover beyond just international competitions and therefore impact numerous rules
  - Conor will send along the FEI template to the Referees; any suggested changes from that group to be sent to the Rules Committee for consideration and next steps
- **Rules Committee – Chris for Jens**
  - wording for rectifying a mistake is currently under consideration by the Committee with implementation anticipated for January 2024 unless this is deemed to be like the ‘nothing in the mouth rule’ which, due to extenuating circumstances, was made effective immediately
- **Compliance Committee – Keith absent – no report**
- **Technology Committee – Jens absent – no report**

#### ❖ **Voting for 2025 World Pairs Championship**

- Bids submitted by:
  - Corné, FRANCE
  - La Bonde, FRANCE
- Please see attached bids sent in advance of the meeting
- Review of Corné’s commitment to increase dimensions of the arena to 70m x 115m for September 2024
- Chris confirms that this dimension would provide space for six lanes; Ghislain feels that this yields seven lanes based on historical use
- Consultation of the Rulebook arena dimension specifications: 76m would be the seven lane width requirement (7 lanes @ 9m + 13m)

- The number of lanes approved for the Corné arena is considered a critical question with the potential to significantly affect voting
- Discussion revisits previous meetings' points:
  - That historically, adjustments and exceptions to official dimensions were successfully made
  - That going forward we had resolved to adhere to the rules regarding arena dimensions
  - That the length of 115m still requires modified length race rules, however for Pairs, Chief Referee Alun sees room for consideration of narrower lanes due to fewer ponies
  - Suggestion made that this should be in the rulebook for next time
  - Alun adds that minimum dimensions are needed such that the full width is a requirement for Team competitions with a lower minimum width allowed for each of Pairs and Individuals
  - As applied to the Corné arena going forward, seven lanes would be allowable for Pairs (and Individuals); six lanes for Teams
  - The Chair requests and Chief Referee Alun confirms that seven lanes for Pairs in the Corné arena with dimensions as provided, are acceptable
- **Voting: Fifteen (15) Voting Representatives + one (1) proxy vote (ITALY) = Sixteen (16)**
- **Voting Results: Nine (9) in favour of Corné; Seven (7) for La Bonde**

Corné - 56 %

La Bonde - 44 %

Abstain - 0 %

- The hosting of the IMGA 2025 Pairs Championship is awarded to the Organisers representing the bid from Corné, France.
- **Action Item** – The Rules Committee to consider dimension minimums to be stated/published – which could be as straightforward as a statement that Pairs allow 8.5m per lane and 10.5m for the wide side which will be the case for Corné.

#### ❖ Updates From 2023 Organisers-

- **WPC Denmark in July** – Signe
  - Projecting entry numbers based on Ireland's past entries (which organisers consider as comparable) would have had 100 pairs enter; last year Ireland had 80 entries and Denmark is happy to announce 79 entries
  - Entries are sufficient to allow for a semi-final in Open and U18
  - There will be an A and B final in U15 and U12; uptick in numbers for U12 and lowest for U15
  - All in all they are quite happy but will run this nonetheless at a major financial loss; 400 people expected including supporters; organizers will use their internal funds to cover expenses
  - Jens is scheduled check out the arena as he lives only 15 minutes away
  - Equipment is mostly from 2021 purchase; all small items will be brand new coming from a current purchase from Pony Matériel
  - Time schedule currently being developed:
    - Monday/Tuesday – arrival and practice

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday – competition
- Sunday -departure
- Saturday's competition finishing relatively early so that the party can include younger participants before bedtime

- **WIC France in August –**

- No new information
- Review requested of equipment deficiencies from last year:
  - e.g. swords need to be something other than the existing which are from Pony Matériel and not fit for purpose
  - Poles included some plastic which is not to specs.; last year definitely did not have enough wood poles for two rings and practice area
- **Action Item - The questionable equipment will be sent as a list to Chris for his upcoming equipment inspection on site.**

- **ETIC England in August – Elaine**

- Facebook page is live with lots of information
- Verification requested re: access to Facebook page i.e. currently seems to be a closed facebook group for MGA England; Elaine taking steps to correct – had put the information up on the International FB page
- England page currently has entry available
- No team entries as of yet which is a big concern; Ireland notes that the links were not working which would affect the possibility of teams entering; a number of Individuals' entries coming through successfully

- **WTC Australia in October – Warwick absent**

- Note from Chairperson - Warwick has been very busy with Chinese delegation
- Much information continues to be available through dedicated site and contact with organisers

- **NATIONS South Africa in December – Tanya's message**

- At the end of April various packages will go out
- Pool ponies will be available – a number are currently in training
- New Zealand has responded positively; organisers are hopeful that others will come ahead

- ❖ **November AGM at French Federation Headquarters - Chris**

- Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November, 2023

- ❖ **Action Points from November 2022 AGM: follow up – Chris**

- Points being addressed behind the scenes:
  - Breathalyser testing – looking at the timing such that all to be tested by 10:30 a.m.
    - Testing staff to be available for Referee referrals at any time however there won't be general full day staffing since it's felt that everyone can be processed by 10:30 a.m.
    - Test run set for Denmark

- Camera systems – Alun has been working diligently as always
  - Alun notes that Australia has purchased a system re: WTC 2023
  - If purchasing Alun recommends buying an eight (8) camera recorder in spite of purchasing four cameras as an initial step – i.e. allow for expansion
  - Chris is holding the equipment for the UK
  - Signe has a partial shipment from Chris
  - Another set will be needed for La Bonde’s second arena – Chris to transport
  - Someone to gather the first lot from Denmark to take it to La Bonde
  - Thank you, Alun, for your continued work and support; going forward countries are to ensure that they are preparing/providing personnel for camera setup and operation
- Short Arena games – Chris’ feedback to Jens seems to be up and happening; the document is available on the website for download
  - For the November AGM, tally how many competitions have been done on short arenas with these rules
  - Interesting to note and there’s currently a sense that these are on the increase
- Modified games rules document available for download includes rules for Team play and Pairs
- Unidentified money deposit noted at the AGM - the matter is resolved
- Affiliation fees payment was due by the end of February – hopefully all member countries have paid
- Competition Equipment Inspections - Jens and Chris have selected dates for completion
- Games Pro/MG Scoreboard progress report re: draws – Jens absent; Alun provides summary based on information from Mats and recommends adoption of MG Scoreboard when the proposal comes forward from the Technology Committee
- Veterinarians on site as a mandatory practice was agreed upon at the AGM - a necessary and appropriate action recognizing, though, that this adds stress and significant expense for organisers

❖ **IMGA Charity Day – Saturday, 12 August, 2023**

- England has selected the Stroke Association – they have established a website donation page
- England thought that raising money for this cause was quite appropriate given the history of our former Chief Referee Davy who suffered a serious stroke
- This will be the Orange Charity Day for 2023 at Europeans

❖ **Chairperson’s Closing Comments** - Chris

- Well done, everybody!
- Thank you again, Michelle, for your hard work taking the Minutes
- Our next online meeting is going to be **Thursday, July 13** which is just before the European season starts
- The subsequent meeting is the full in-person IMGA AGM November 11 and 12, 2023 in France.

❖ **Adjournment** - 21:35 CET (20:35 GMT)