



IMGA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

Welcome to our **Spring Newsletter** for our Northern Hemisphere and to our Autumn Newsletter for the Southern Hemisphere Gamers.

UPDATES FROM THE IMGA WORLD

In this edition, you'll find the latest information on the 2026 IMGA Championships, results from recent competitions, a competition report with Rory Capel and a rider interview with current European Individual Champion Jamie Reavey.

We also introduce an important new rule being trialled this season regarding the use of bitless bridles, along with details on how you can access the 2026 IMGA Rule Book.

Mounted Games continues to grow internationally, bringing together riders, teams, and supporters who share a passion for speed, skill, and teamwork. Whether you are preparing for the upcoming championship season or simply following the sport from home, we hope this newsletter keeps you informed and connected with the global IMGA community.

We wish all riders the best of luck for the 2026 season and look forward to seeing many of you at competitions around the world.

A tribute to Paul Adcock

IIMGA would like to dedicate this page honoring the life of Paul Adcock.

Paul devoted much of his life to MGA, leaving an extraordinary legacy within the sport. He trained his sons and grandchildren through to World Championship level and guided numerous Regional and International riders to success along the way. Paul's influence on generations of riders is immeasurable.

Beyond his remarkable achievements, Paul will be remembered for his warmth, humour and generosity. He brought joy and laughter wherever he went, and there was never a dull moment in his company. He was someone who would go above and beyond for others, always willing to give his time, knowledge and encouragement. The arena will feel very different without him, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.



IMGA EVENTS 2026

IMGA World Individuals Championship

Luhmühlen, Germany

Arrive: July 27 | Competition: July 28 – August 2 | Departure: August 3

IMGA European Team/Indiv Championship

Centre Equestre de La Bonde, France

Arrive: August 3 | Competition: August 5 – August 9 | Departure: August 10

IMGA World Team Championship

Lamotte-Beuvron, France

Arrive: August 10 | Competition: August 12 – August 16 | Departure: August 17

IMGA World Pairs Championship

Centre Equestre Corné, France

Arrive: August 17 | Competition: August 19 – August 23 | Departure: August 24

IMGA Nations Team Championship

Ocala, Florida, USA

Arrive: October 12 | Competition: October 14-18 | Departure: October 19





WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

27/07 - 02/08



2026

GERMANY

LUHMÜHLEN

The journey becomes the victory – be part of something incredible and
experience the summer of your life in July 2026



17 AOÛT
23 2026

ANGERS
CORNÉ

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2026

**PONY
GAMES**

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February/March 2026

Results from all over the World

NZ Individual Championships

Open: Brooke Johnston

U18: Sam Partington

U15: Sarah Seddon

U12: Monty Shallcrass

Vets: Paul Johnston



U18 CHAMPION
Sam Partington

Gothenburg Horse Show

1. Sussex
2. Team Sweden
3. Royal Berkshire
4. British Vikings



Team Sussex



OPEN CHAMPIONS
Owain Jones & Sadie Lock

Welsh Pairs Championship

Open: Sadie Lock & Owain Jones

U18: Sienna WW & Jasmine Willis

U15: Evie Andrews & Lily McColl

U12: Mia Ettridge & Ella Mae Lightowler



Gothenburg Horse Show

Rory Capel about Gothenburg Horse Show 2026:

I recently competed at Gothenburg horse show with my team Royal Berkshire in the incredible Scandinavium arena.

The atmosphere in that arena is on a different level. Music booming, crowd cheering and the speed of the competition with 10 races in 15 minutes makes it electric!!

We had a training on the Tuesday in the main arena. Getting used to the size and getting the ponies used to the stadium. Then Thursday, Saturday and Sunday were our competition days.

Outside of the arena we are very kindly able to all stay together at Alleby ridklubb. With it being the Winter Olympics whilst we were out there and having a lot of snow our coach Bella decided to put an Olympic committee together designing competitive activities between the teams for when we had days off from competing! So the fun never stopped!





Gothenburg Horse Show

The history of this competition goes back decades!

With British teams always being invited over to make the trip and compete for the trophy!

In recent years Sweden have started to dominate the competition until we were able to win it in 2025 and then this year the title goes to Sussex.

A big thank you to everyone at [Alleby](#) and [MGA Sweden](#) for making this dream competition possible



Photo credits: Liljas Foto



RIDER INTERVIEW

JAMIE REAVEY

2x European Individual Champion



Where are you from?

🇮🇪 Monaghan, Ireland

What do you do for work?

🇮🇪 I work as a Labelling specialist for Abbott Nutrition

When and how did you get involved with Mounted Games?

🇮🇪 Got started in pony club, friends who were playing games asked us to join one of their pony club games rallies on a Tuesday evening. We had never heard of it and didn't know what to expect but After that night we have never went back to any other equestrian discipline.

What do you like most about Mounted Games?

🇮🇪 The speed and adrenaline rush I get when playing. Also the nerves I get before a big final, I don't get that feeling from anything else and when I get them, it usually means I'm doing well in a competition.



What's your favorite race? And why?

- 🇬🇧 *Bottle exchange - it's one I struggled with for years and with trying out different techniques I was able to find one that worked for me and it has turned out to be one of my strongest games in the past few years.*

Where have you been abroad with Mounted Games?

- 🇬🇧 *I have played in England, Wales, Scotland, France, Belgium*

What is your favorite venue?

- 🇬🇧 *Has to be La Bonde for me, Quentin has done a great job with the venue in recent years. There is just something special about la bonde. Whenever there is an international there it gives a vibe like no other venue. I always love to travel here for competitions.*

Tell us about your all-time favorite pony:

- 🇬🇧 *This is a tricky one and I couldn't choose between **Paolo, MR.T** and **Dee**. They have taken me to the top at each stage of my mounted games career from Windsor to European individuals as a young kid in open and now towards the end of my career. They all hold a special place in my heart for different reasons.*



Jamie & Dee

How do you & your family get your ponies ready/fit for the season?

✚ *This year we've taken a slower approach to the fitness phase, starting after Christmas. We began with four weeks of walking, building up to an hour, then gradually introduced short trot sets (now 10–15 minutes) and recently added canter work. After 8–9 weeks, we'll begin light games this weekend to build a strong foundation for the year. All work so far has been on the road and in the sand school, with hill work to be introduced soon for hind-end strength. Horses have two rest days per week, usually Monday and Thursday.*

You've trained up many successful games ponies from scratch. A word of advice for starting to train a pony for games

✚ *There is no quick way to train a pony quickly for games. It takes 2 seasons to train the complete horse. There are some exceptions for sure.*

A mistake I often see is when a horse takes to it really well the speed and intensity is often sustained for too long. This leads to the horse having issues either on the start line or with equipment.

My philosophy when training a new horse is to try and make the perfect all round games pony from the start line to how they play equipment. A mentor once told me a true measure of training is how well someone else can ride your horse. If others can perform well on it, you've trained it properly and that principle has always guided me.

I don't rush the process. When a horse starts going very well, I often scale back and return to basics. It's tempting to keep pushing, but sticking to the two-year rule produces a more complete horse. At major championships, the rider should focus fully on playing the games — not on managing start-line issues or positioning problems. A properly trained horse removes those extra pressures in already tense moments.

COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: CANADA

The Canadian Teams headed to the World Team Championship 2026:

Open Team:

Karen Foell

Jocelyn Donaldson

Adliena Mosley

Kathleen Beekman

Sarah Dealy

Reserve: Jessie-Lyn Boadway

Coach: Michelle Cruikshanks

U18 Team

Mirella Mosley

Caity McLeod

Emily Wright

Carson Bate

Michalea Conway

Reserve: Jayden Stewart

Coach: Megan Conner



2026 EMGC DATES 

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  <p>MAY 2nd Pairs #1 Competition Newmarket, ON</p> |  <p>June 13th Pairs #2 Competition Cannington, ON</p> |  <p>JUNE 26-29th Peter McCarthy Clinics Newmarket-Cannington</p> |  <p>July 4th Individuals #1 Competition Newmarket, ON</p> |
|  <p>AUGUST 1st & 2nd Team #1 (Saturday) Pairs #3 (Sunday) National Draft Show Barrie, ON</p> |  <p>AUGUST 29th & 30th Pairs #4 (Saturday) Team #2 (Sunday) Barrie Fair -Barrie, ON</p> |  <p>SEPTEMBER 12th Individuals #2 Competition Newmarket, ON</p> |  <p>OCTOBER 3rd Pairs #5 Competition Newmarket, ON</p> |

APRIL 18 - REFEREE CERTIFICATION - CANNINGTON, ON **OCTOBER 24th - RAIN DATE**

Carol Couch Memorial Award

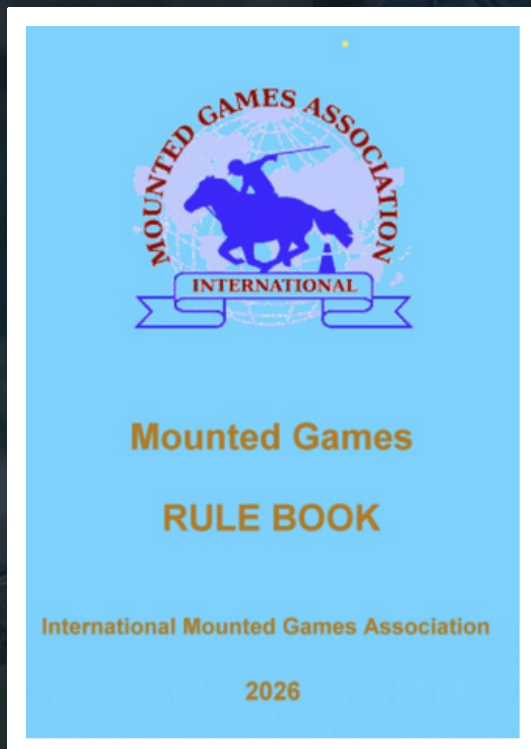
Carol Couch Memorial award is awarded each season to an outstanding member of the EMGC community. This award honours Carol Couch's memory. Awarded to an outstanding member who is either a supporter, rider, volunteer who gives back time and time again. Making a difference in our Mounted Games community.



The 2025 Carol Couch Memorial Award was awarded to Anita Barnes and the Barnes family for their endless contributions, welcoming smiles and get it done attitude.

IMGA RULE BOOK 2026

Available on our website
<https://mounted-games.org/product/rule-book/>



You can also download the Rule Book for free on our website.

You can now pre-order the Rule Books to collect at any IMGA Competition this summer.

| | |
|--|--------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> International Standard: | £5.80 |
| <input type="radio"/> International Signed: | £11.35 |
| <input type="radio"/> International Tracked: | £10.75 |
| <input type="radio"/> International Tracked and Signed: | £11.35 |
| <input type="radio"/> Collect at World Individuals | |
| <input type="radio"/> Collect at European Team Championships | |
| <input type="radio"/> Collect at World Team Championships | |
| <input type="radio"/> Collect at World Pairs | |
| Shipping to Germany. | |
| Total | £10.80 |
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| PROCEED TO CHECKOUT | |

Rule books will be sold
at all IMGA Championships

MGAGB members will be able to order & collect at selected competitions in Wales, England & Scotland

TRIAL YEAR

Bitless Bridles



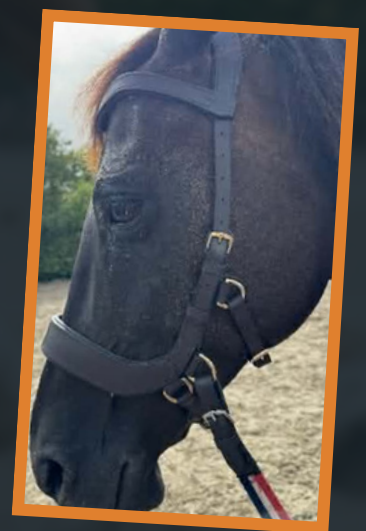
NEW RULE 2026

Riders over 18 years old will be allowed to use Sidepull Bitless Bridles for A **TRIAL YEAR**, after which the rule will be reviewed.

Reason for new rule

A 2025 request to the Rules Committee highlighted that **bitless riding is widely recognised** for horse welfare and training benefits.

Riders whose horses cannot tolerate a bit (for medical or behavioural reasons) may otherwise be excluded.



The FEI permits bitless bridles in Endurance, showjumping, and the jumping phase of eventing.





Are They Safe?

Concerns were considered due to the high number of ponies in a Mounted Games arena. Advice from a Director of the Association of Professional Bit and Bridle Fitters confirmed that, with a **well-trained horse and experienced rider, bitless bridles are no less safe than bitted bridles.**

Observations during the 2025 season showed no safety issues. Sidepull bitless bridles have also been used for years in Pony Club Australia.

Acknowledging Concerns

Bitless bridles will be **limited to older riders** and are recommended only for combinations properly trained beforehand. 2026 will be a trial year so officials can monitor any issues. Details of permitted and prohibited bitless bridles are available on the IMGA website.

You can contact the Association of Professional Bit & Bridle Fitters (<https://apbbf.com/>) if you need help with fitting a bitless bridle in the UK.

Helmet Standards Changes (2026–2029)

The FEI is introducing **progressive changes to approved helmet safety standards** from **1 January 2026** to ensure riders use helmets tested to the highest safety levels. Older standards will gradually be phased out.

By **1 January 2028 (FEI comps)** and **1 January 2029 (National comps)**, helmets must meet at least two approved safety standards.

Athletes are encouraged to upgrade helmets early to meet the final 2028 standards.

EA (Equestrian Australia) has extended acceptance of some older standards under **national rules** to help riders who recently purchased helmets.

Helmet Tagging System

2026

- Yellow and Green tags accepted
- Green tag = meets 2028 standards
- Yellow tag = meets 2027 standards onl

2028

- From 1 Jan 2028 (FEI competitions)
- Only Green tags accepted

2027

- Yellow and Green tags accepted
- Helmets meeting 2028 standards are retagged Green

National Competitions

- 2028: Yellow or Green accepted
- From 2029: Green only

Athletes are responsible for ensuring their helmet meets current standards.

Accepted Helmet Standards by Date

1 Jan 2026 – 31 Dec 2026

Helmets must meet at least ONE of the following standards:

- AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards)
- PAS 015:2011 (and updates)
- Snell E2016 or E2021
- CE marked helmets referencing:
 - EN 1384:2023
 - VG1 and EN 1384:2017
- ASTM F1163:2015 or ASTM F1163:2023

1 Jan 2027 – 31 Dec 2027 (FEI comps)

Until 31 Dec 2028 (National competitions)

Helmets must meet at least ONE of these main standards:

- PAS 015:2011 (and updates)
- Snell E2016 or E2021
- CE marked helmets referencing EN 1384:2023
- ASTM F1163:2023

The following can only be used in combination with one of the above:

- CE marked helmets referencing VG1 and EN 1384:2017
- ASTM F1163:2015
- (cannot be combined with ASTM F1163:2023)

RULES QUIZ

Eliminated or Not?

50. In Toolbox Scramble, the 3rd rider dismounts to collect the hammer then kicks the horse to make it run on for the vault :

- a] The team is eliminated
- b] The rider is warned not to do it again and the team is not eliminated
- c] The team may continue without elimination

51. A rider loses his horse in Mug Shuffle and the horse jumps out of the arena :

- a] The team is eliminated
- b] The team is not eliminated

52. In Pony Pairs, a rider holds her end of the rope and the OTHER pony's rein in the same hand :

- a] The team is eliminated
- b] The team is not eliminated



53. A rider is sent back to the 10 yard line (penalty line) at the start of the Bank Race and the pony starts to rear repeatedly :

- a] The rider may dismount and start the race dismounted
- b] The rider may raise his hand if in trouble and the referee will wait
- c] If the rider raises his hand, the team will be eliminated
- d] The rider is under starters orders as the flag is up and it is their responsibility to get started from behind the penalty line

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FOR MORE UPDATES PLEASE REFER TO:

IG: [imga_offical](#)

FB: [International Mounted Games Association](#)

WEBSITE: www.mounted-games.org

Rules quiz answers

50: A

51: A

52: A

53: D