

ENGLAND MGA

**Committee Meeting to be held at 10.00am for 10.30 at
Bowman House, Whitehill Industrial Estate, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7DB
By kind invitation of David Ridler**

Present: Nathan Turner (Chair), Paul Adcock, Shelley Aylott, Marcus Capel, Nikki Carter, Alastair Elliott, Matt Fullbrook, Jess Hindle, David Ridler

Apologies: Les Edwards, John Scott (proxy to Alastair Elliott), Dawn Stamp (proxy to Nikki Carter), Malcolm Trevor-Jones (proxy to Alastair Elliott) Les Edwards

Condolences were expressed to Nathan Turner on the death of his mother and he was thanked for attending the meeting today

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2015 were approved.

Following discussion it was agreed that meeting minutes would be anonymised.

Minutes would be displayed on the England website once they had been informally agreed by those attending the meeting. If necessary they would be redacted before being put on public display.

Codes of Conduct

These had been circulated and it was agreed that additional rules be added:

- All must obey the laws of the host country except where overridden by MGAGB rules (for example even if the legal age for the consumption of alcohol is less than 18 in the host country, the GB age limit of 18 was to be followed)
- Junior riders must not consume alcohol at any social functions forming part of the competition such as the Gala Dinner

With these additions the codes of conduct were unanimously accepted on the proposal of Shelley Aylott, seconded by Marcus Capel.

It was agreed that other Disciplinary Committees would be appointed prior to each competition when it was known who would be attending the competition, when members could be agreed by email vote. For the Open World Team Championship the (non-travelling) Disciplinary Committee would be Shelley Aylott, David Ridler and Nathan Turner.

Discussion and Selection of Selectors

The England Committee's role is to appoint and oversee the selectors. There was discussion about whether having committee members as selectors were a conflict of interest. Points raised in the discussion included:

- Not many people are putting themselves forward as selectors.
- Committee members include some of England's most experienced trainers with a wide knowledge of the riders and it would be wrong not to make use of their expertise
- The current selection process for selectors had been announced and nominations accepted. It would be neither fair nor transparent to make changes to this year's process.
- The Northern and Southern representatives had been chosen by their regions under the assumption that they could also be selectors.
- Stopping committee members from being selectors would make the process more inclusive.
- Separation of the roles of committee members and selectors would be beneficial but we are struggling to get many people willing to put themselves forward as selectors as they are

concerned that if they 'put their heads above the parapet' their could be retribution against their own children.

Nathan Turner proposed and Marcus Capel seconded that Committee members should not be allowed to be selectors with immediate effect. A ballot was held and the motion failed (4 in favour, 8 against).

It was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to be enacted in 2016. This would enable the Committee members who wished to be selectors to resign from the England Committee and for new representatives to be appointed in their place before the selection process for 2016 commences.

There was discussion about possible conflicts of interest, including:

- Personal connections between riders (or their families) and the selector
- Ownership (present or past) of ponies being ridden for selection
- Multiple members of a family being selectors and/or trainers of an age group.

Nikki Carter would draft a document specifying unacceptable conflicts of interest that could be used in future selections, but at present the Committee were advised to use their judgment in selecting selectors

There was discussion about the selection process for 2015 and the following points were agreed:

- Ideally there would be four selectors in each age group
- No selector should select in more than one age group due to the impossibility of selecting a two trials simultaneously. Where people had put forward to select in more than one age group they would be voted for in each age group but would be appointed to the group in which they got most votes.

Voting then took place for Selectors by ballot, with Committee members not voting on any group in which they personally were standing for selection. Nikki Carter did not participate in the voting as she felt she was conflicted due to her role in taking nominations and feedback.

The England selectors for 2014 are therefore:

Under 12 Selectors: Claire Leeson, Rebecca Mawby, Jo Morris and Louise Watkins

Under 14 Selectors: Lisa Davis, Glenda Garrett, Lydia Gilham and Annie Morris

Under 17 Selectors: Joe Garnett, Martin Lyons, Gail Maidment, Ben Thornton and Malcolm Trevor Jones

Open Selectors: Tom Eastwood, Les Edwards, Caroline Forster, Rob Leese and John Scott

Discussion and Selection of Trainers

There was only one nomination each for the World Open Team, World Under 17 Team and Royal Welsh Trainers. It was noted that the World Team Championship Trainer was also a member of the team, but due to exceptional circumstances that there was no one else willing to travel to the competition, this was agreed as a once only occurrence

Voting then took place for Trainers by ballot, with Committee members not voting on any group in which they personally were standing for selection. Nikki Carter did not participate in the voting as she felt she was conflicted due to her role in taking nominations and feedback

The England Trainers are therefore:

World Team Under 17: Bradley Stamp

World Team Open: Alex Franklin

European Under 12: Shelley Aylott

European Under 14: David Leese

European Under 17: Paul Adcock

European Open: Alastair Elliott

Royal Welsh: Tim Pinney

Organisation of Rider Selection Process

There was discussion about the process to be used in selection, with comments made including:

- The addition of a trial was only new thing during last year's process
- A lot learned during last year.
- Trials more open as everyone can see what happens
- Selectors had to run the trials in 2014 on their own and really needed more structure and input on the trial from the Committee.
- The trial must concentrate on team skills such as taking handovers and working together in Rope or Tyre.
- Selectors are volunteers and are not paid.
- We need to look at examples of selection strategies that work and put objectives in to a strategy.
- If selection was based on trails then the choice of selectors doesn't matter
- Individual races only indicate who is the fastest and fail to show those who can work with other team members

There was discussion about the selection process for 2015 and the following points were agreed:

- The England Show would be added to the selection show list
- Each rider and pony combination must be seen at at least two of the four selection competitions (England Show, Spring Champs, Champions of Shropshire, Warwickshire Friendly)
- Each rider can only nominate one pony for selection. Should that pony go lame or become otherwise unavailable they can revert to another pony which they must use at at least two of the selection shows
- To make matters easier riders and ponies must be easily identifiable. After considerable discussion about the use of bibs it was agreed that ponies would be numbered on each side of their rump with cattle marker crayons. The numbering would be done by the selectors at a pre-arranged time at the start of the competition. This would enable selectors to see which riders were present and aid in identification. Nikki Carter would source these.
- It was noted that the European Championships would include an Individual completion for U12 and/or U14 riders as well as the European Individual Championship. It was not yet known whether entries have all to be selected by England or whether there will be 3 selected riders plus wild card entries.
- Following the four selection shows selectors would produce of riders to be invited to participate in the Trial. The target number for trial would be U12 (12), U14 (12), U17 (20), Open (28-32), but these targets could be adjusted.
- The Trial would be held on 16/17 May, as no other dates were available. It was regretted that this clashed with some Pony Club Areas and Royal Windsor Horse Show, but affected riders would have to prioritise. The venue for the Trial had yet to be decided, but Nathan Turner was investigating this
- Riders taking part in the Trial would pay a maximum of £100 each to cover the cost of the venue and first aid cover. Monies raised at the England Show would be used to subsidise costs if necessary.
- The trial format would be based on team work and games, with riders running in teams of up to 10 in 4 lanes continuing one after another to allow selectors to see each rider
- After discussion it was agreed that since the objective is to win, the best team available for any completion would be selected. There would be three ordered reserves for each team. The three reserve riders for the European Open team would receive the three first places in the European Individuals. Other riders attending the trail would also be ranked in case more selected places became available.
- Rider nominations are to be sent to Nikki Carter between 5 and 19 March. They must include Rider's name, age and usual team and the pony's name, height and colour.

- Feedback would be provided to riders, with written feedback after the Trial. David Ridler suggested a form marking riders on specified skills and Marcus Capel described the process he uses at Pony Club trials, marking each rider in each race with a dot (OK), tick (very good) or a cross (error) and possibly a word on the error.
- All selection meetings (the short listing for the Trial and the final team selection) would be attended by one of the England Committee Officers. Their role would be only to advise on procedure, not on selection. Nikki Carter said she would not participate in this as she felt she was conflicted due to her role in taking nominations and feedback. The chosen Arbiters are: Open: Matt Fullbrook, U17: Nathan Turner, U14 David Ridler, U12: Jess Hindle (or her replacement as Riders' Rep after the AGM)

England Competition

This will be run in one ring at Dallas Burston on Easter Saturday and Sunday, with a party being held in the Jubilee Bar on Sunday night to encourage people to stay over.

63 teams would participate (4 heats Open, 3 heats U17, 1 heat each U14 and U12). Because it was felt that the competition would be over-subscribed, ways of prioritising teams with England riders were discussed. It was agreed that there would be a closing date for entries (which had to specify how many England hopeful riders the team contained), after which entries would be allocated according to the number of England hopefuls in the team, with a ballot held if necessary. There would be four team spaces reserved which would be made up of England-hopefuls whose teams were not in the competition.

Nikki Carter would take team entries from 5 to 13 March

It was agreed that timing was going to be difficult so:

- An efficient Arena Party Marshal would have to be appointed to speed up setting out of equipment
- Two I pads would be used so that appeals would not delay the competition as a nominated referee could check one Ipad whilst the competition continued.
- A logical list of games would enable equipment set up to be efficient.

It was hoped to organise a communal hog roast or similar but hygiene certification was required. Paul Adcock would pass details of a local provider.

Nikki Carter would complete the MGAGB forms for the show once Nathan Turner had confirmed that veterinary cover had been arranged.

Finance and the Use of England Funds

It was agreed that funds England raised should be used to lessen the financial burden on parents and riders.

Matt Fullbrook reported recent expenditure which included expenses for Nikki Carter and Nathan Turner to attend the IMGGA AGM, payment of the World Open Team entry deposit (\$1,000, £707.41 including charges), website fees (£100, for three years as a free year had been obtained), deposit for the England Show venue (£500).

David Ridler was thanked for his generous donation of £1,000 to the England funds.

The IMGA subscription of £315 was due but an invoice had not been received. There was discussion about whether this should be paid by MGAGB as they received member's subscriptions, but it was agreed that England should retain its independence.

Nikki Carter reported that she had managed to negotiate insurance for riders going to USA to compete at £60 each. It was agreed that England would pay this for the Open team as the funds were required immediately and that the cost would be recouped from riders with their entry fee.

Alastair Elliott asked why expenses had been paid for two representatives to attend the IMGA AGM when only the International representative held a vote. It was agreed this matter would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Nikki Carter stated that she would not be attending the mid-year IMGA meeting in Kentucky, but would arrange for a rider or parent to attend in her place.

Shelley Aylott reported that the Southern Region want their loan of £5,000 given to enable early payment of entry fees to be repaid over three years. Nikki Carter would write to the Southern Region pointing out that the South had made this a permanent loan. Since the money belonged to MGA(GB) and was shown in the England accounts as a loan from the South, it makes no difference to the balances of either committee. The Northern Region had confirmed that their loan was a permanent loan under the condition it was used only for early payment of England entry fees and that repayment and re-borrowing would only lead to additional banking fees. This could lead to a difficult situation with different assistance and representation by the two England regions.

Selection of World Team Championship U17 Team

Voting then took place for the World Under 17 team by ballot. Nikki Carter did not participate in the voting as she felt she was conflicted due to her role in taking nominations and feedback

The World U17 team is therefore:

Lucy Burrows, Melissa Cheeseman, Ella Clark, Will Thirlby and Lottie Watson

1st reserve: Rosie Hutton, 2nd reserve: Tom Williams, 3rd reserve: Sam Stansfield

Further England Shows

There are no free dates for further England shows in 2015, although David Ridler had offered a venue near Peterborough surrounding an old clay pit. This could be used at certain times of the year, as parking would be very difficult on clay in the wet.

Any Other Business

There was discussion about whether the England team kit should be revamped and about its cost. David Ridler and Matt Fullbrook agreed to investigate alternative suppliers.

Date of Next Meeting

The AGM would be held at the Spring Champs when there would be an election for the Riders Representative.

The next full meeting would be held at the end of the season and the date of this would be decided by email when late competition dates are known.