

## ENGLAND MGA

### Minutes of Committee Meeting to be held at 10.00am on 30 January 2016 at Meriden Village Hall, Warwickshire

**Present:** David Ridler (Vice Chair), Paul Adcock, Shelley Aylott, Les Edwards, Alastair Elliott, Jess Hindle, Jo Morris (holding proxy for Marcus Capel), David Ridler, John Scott, Dawn Stamp, Malcolm Trevor-Jones

**In Attendance:** Nikki Carter

**Apologies:** Marcus Capel

#### Annual General Meeting

An email would be sent to all England members as soon as possible, with reminders on Facebook, informing them that the AGM would be held at the Spring Championships. Nominations would be requested for the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Riders' Representative. Nominations would be sent to Nikki Carter and would close 21 days before the meeting.

David Ridler intended to stand as Chairman and therefore announced his resignation as Vice Chairman with effect on 9 April 2016.

#### Selection Process for 2016

David Ridler had prepared a draft document detailing a possible selection process and this was discussed and edited. David Ridler would provide an edited copy to Nikki Carter to be sent to riders, selectors and trainers.

Points raised and discussed included:

- As riders do not have to attend all three selection shows it is imperative that all selectors must attend all selection shows so that they are able to see all riders in action.
- All riders must attend at least one selection show and no rider could be shortlisted who had not done so.
- Selectors would each rank rider based on their performance at the selection shows with an unspecified number being invited to attend the trial. The selectors' rankings would be collated and each rider would have a ranked position
- There was much discussion on whether final team selection should be based only on performance at the trial or whether performance at selection shows would also be taken into account. The aim is to select a winning team and that might not be the highest scoring riders as, within the team, riders' skills had to complement each other, and a team made up solely of 'flashy' number one riders would be unlikely to win. A vote was held with 9 in favour of selection being based on performance at selection shows and the trial and 2 abstentions.
- Since selection would not be based purely on performance at a trial, the team selection event would be referred to as a Squad Session.
- There was much discussion about how selectors would record the performance of riders at the Squad Session. It was agreed that there must be a record of the performance of each rider in each race to enable performances to be compared and feedback provided if required. It was agreed that the scoring system had worked well in the U12 and U14 age groups in 2015, but in the larger U17 and Open groups selectors had found it more difficult. It was agreed that selectors

would be informed that they had to keep records of each rider's performance and the 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2 system would be recommended.

- The role of Arbiters for each group in 2015 was discussed. The intention had been that arbiters would provide guidance to selectors, collate completed score sheets and compile feedback for riders. They would be a buffer between selectors and parents. This had worked in some groups but not in others. Some people felt that selectors should provide verbal feedback directly to riders/parents, even if this led to parents approaching more than one selector and complaining that they had received different feedback from each. It was unanimously agreed that the trainers in each age group would take over the arbiters' role. This means that Trainers would collate the scoresheets and, if necessary translate selectors notes onto the scoresheets. Trainers must provide feedback to riders/parents. Trainers would also be responsible for keeping all paperwork in case there were queries. The Committee would receive all feedback requests and would chase the Trainers for the feedback
- There would be no feedback to riders who did not make the Squad Session due to potential workload
- It was agreed that a commentary box would not be needed at the Squad Session, although a PA system would be needed to ensure that announcements could be made regarding where people should be.
- It was agreed that the selection process and requirements for each person involved in it should be agreed at the autumn England meeting before people were asked to volunteers. That way, people would know what they would be doing if chosen to be a selector or trainer.
- Following the first session of routine games, selectors and trainers would discuss the riders and place them into teams of four riders for the afternoon session which would be based around the less often played games in the rulebook. These teams would not be fixed and selectors could move people between teams during the afternoon session. At the end of the afternoon the selectors and trainers would select the teams.
- In the Open age group the WTC team would be selected first and selected riders asked if they wished to participate in the ETC as well. With that information the ETC team would be selected and finally the RWS team.
- In the U17 age group the ETC team would be selected first and the riders then asked if they wished to be part of the WTC team. The U17WTC is not yet an official IMGA sanctioned event so is less important.
- This timetable and the fact that there are no individuals to select in 2016 means that the Squad Session could be completed in one day saving the cost of a days venue hire, paramedic cover etc. There would be no barbecue, although an outside catering van would be in attendance.
- All committee members were requested to attend and help at the Squad Session as in 2015 most of the work had been undertaken by a few people, which was too much. Work would include setting up and dismantling the venue.

David Ridler would incorporate these decisions into his document and send to Nikki Carter for circulation to selectors, trainers and riders

### **Selected Teams**

There was discussion about team kit. It was agreed that this should be the same each year, probably based on the full cross for WTC teams and half crosses for others. If team was standardized costs could be reduced and England could carry a stock of kit, meaning that timescales could be reduced. Jess Hindle agreed to investigate designs, suppliers and costs.

Contributions towards riders' costs were discussed and it was agreed that a statement would be made stating that in 2016 a contribution to team entry fees would be made by the England committee depending on what funds were raised at the England Show.

Sponsorship was discussed and it was agreed that riders were most likely to obtain personal funding from approaching local businesses and personal contacts who would get publicity through local news coverage. David Ridler volunteered to approach business contacts for team sponsorship.

Possible fundraising events were considered. It was noted that Balls are hard work and rarely raise much money.

There was discussion about providing financial support for trainers. It was noted that the teams pay the entry fee and thus provide their trainer with a gold pass for the event, including (usually) food and a ball ticket. Selectors are also key to getting the best winning teams and they also give their time voluntarily, as do England Committee members. The provision of expense for selectors, trainers, committee members and other volunteers would be reconsidered after hosting the 2017 ETC and EIC which should provide England with more funds.

Selected teams would be expected to compete together at least once before travelling to their Championships. It was agreed that the Open and U17 teams would compete at the Northern Challenge on 4/5 June. All teams would compete at the Dorset Friendly on 2&3 July. John Scott and Jo Morris, as organisers of these two events, offered free entry for the England teams. The dates of these competitions would be notified to riders as soon as possible to avoid riders taking on other commitments.

It was noted that there had been a £200 entry fee for the Royal Welsh Show in 2015 and that, by error, this had not been collected from the riders. This would not happen again.

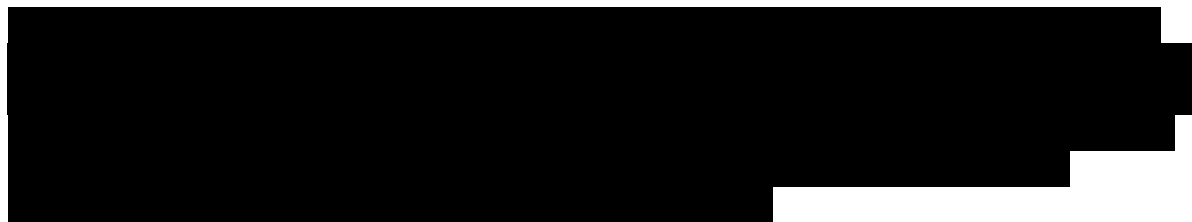
### **Disciplinary Committee**

There was discussion about an incident of under age drinking at the 2015 ETC and the fact that this is a common event in MGA. Other countries had banned riders for drinking but the case under consideration had been reported by hearsay, had been encouraged by another team's trainer and there was no actual proof.

It was noted that underage drinking had sharply declined in MGAGB after one rider was sent home from a competition.

It was felt that signing a code of conduct and impressing on riders that they were elite sportsmen, representing their country so should be at the peak of their ability had been effective in 2015, but that this might not be so in future.

There was discussion about use of disposable breathalysers and their accuracy, particularly for junior riders who have a zero limit on alcohol. Linda Burton is investigating the purchase of a breathalyser for the Southern Region and this could be lent to England to take to Championships.



### **Selection of Selectors and Trainers**

There was concern about the number of people volunteering for these roles. It was felt that Open riders could not act as selectors as at least one selection show would be held in three rings, meaning

that a selector who was competing in the Open age group could not watch all sessions in other age groups.

It was agreed that Team Trainers would be expected to be at all timetabled training sessions at the Championship

It was agreed that a trainer could not compete at a Championship and train a team. If this happened then the selection of the trainer would be reviewed

Following discussion and voting the following were appointed:

Open Selectors:	Paul Adcock, Les Edwards, Clare Leeson
Open WTC Trainer	John Scott
Open ETC Trainer:	Alastair Elliott
Open RWS Trainer:	Matt Garnett
U17 Selectors:	Sue Adcock, Matt Garnett, Malcolm Trevor Jones
U17 Trainer (WTC & ETC)	Bradley Stamp
U14 Selectors:	Lisa Cook, Lisa Davies, Martin Lyons
U14 Trainer:	Jo Morris
U12 Selectors:	Jodie Frost, Andrew Wass, Vicki Williams-Ward
U12 Trainer:	Annie Morris

### **European Championships 2017**

It was agreed that there should be a small committee to organise and run the European Championships who would be able to delegate and appoint sub-committees from volunteers. The committee would be led by Nikki Carter and John Scott.

There had been many volunteers to help with running the event, but many did not have relevant experience. The England Committee suggested a shortlist of people for the Organising Committee and these would be approached.

### **English Championships 2016**

The ETC 2017 committee would also take on the running of the England Championships on 23/24 April.

It was proposed that the entry fee would be £250 per team if paid by 28 February, or £275 thereafter.

The Runway ring would be used, but if entries were too great the Horse Ring would also be used.

If entries were low then a pairs or individual competition would be run as well

### **Any Other Business**

The bank account had not yet been transferred from Matt Fullbrook. David Ridler would open a new bank account and get the funds transferred from the old account, as this would be the quickest way of getting an account set up.

David Ridler had made a donation of £1,700 to England MGA, raised from the sale of his rugby tickets

Nikki Carter reported that although the WIC, WPC and EIC competitions would be open to all in 2016, IMGA were introducing a system whereby entries were selected to represent their countries in

future. It was agreed that the selection would be to the highest placed English riders at an English Pairs or Individual competition or, if that were not held, the highest placed English riders at the British Pairs and Individuals. Mixed nationality Pairs could also get places at the IMGA Championships if they were selected by the international selection panel.

Nikki Carter reported that the IMGA height weight limits were to be made more rigorous in 2017 with the top line of the current graphs removed

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.58pm