

**ENGLAND MGA**  
**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT INTER COUNTIES, STONELEIGH**  
**AT 7.00pm ON SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2015**

**Present:** Shelley Aylott, Marcus Capel, Alastair Elliott, Jess Hindle, David Ridler (Chair), John Scott, Dawn Stamp, Malcolm Trevor Jones

**In Attendance:** Nikki Carter

**Resignation of Committee Members and Appointing New Members**

Nikki Carter had resigned as Secretary but is willing to continue to undertake the duties of secretary, but not as a committee member, until an election can be held at the England AGM to be held at the Spring Championships in 2015

Following the resignation of Nathan Turner, John Scott proposed that the Vice Chairman, David Ridler, should act as Chairman until an election can be held at the England AGM to be held at the Spring Championships in 2015. This was agreed.

Matt Fullbrook had tendered his resignation as Treasurer with effect from the end of season. David Ridler said that Matt would be submitting the England accounts for audit. A new treasurer would be elected at the England AGM to be held at the Spring Championships in 2015.

Les Edwards had resigned during the selection process, but it was not known whether he had resigned as a selector or as a Northern Region member of the England Committee or both. David Ridler would contact the Northern Region and find out if Les Edwards was still one of the Northern representatives on the committee and, if not, ask that they appoint a fourth representative.

**Communication to the England Membership**

Nikki Carter told the committee that Rosie Thornton would send out mass emailings to any requested section of the England (or MGAGB) membership.

David Ridler would use this method to inform members of the changes to the England Committee

**2015 Teams**

David Ridler stated that the competition results for 2015 were the best ever. England won the Royal Welsh and was U12, U17 and Open European Team Champions and Reserve Champions in the U14 Teams and the European Individual Championships.

Some trainers had been asked to provide feedback.

Alex Franklin (Open World Team) has done so and had said that although the team had done their best, inexperience had been evident. It was felt that an all-girl team was not the strongest combination. Despite this, it was felt that the team had performed well, coming second in the B final.

Alastair Elliott provided verbal feedback, stating that he was pleased with his team but that he considered that if our object is to keep winning then we should not be selecting riders with little experience of Open level competition.

It was suggested that the regions should be encouraged to provide that experience by selecting younger or less experienced riders, but it was generally felt that this was not within the remit of the England Committee.

It was agreed that feedback should be requested from riders, trainers and selectors. There was discussion about whether this could be anonymous in order that honest feedback would be given or whether the aim of openness and transparency precluded this. It was agreed that Nikki Carter would request and collate feedback and anonymise it if requested.

Discussion on the European Championships 2015 ensued and there was discussion about whether there was a need for an England chef d'équipe to liaise with the organisers, particularly when there were so many individual riders. It was agreed that the Team Trainers need to organise their own teams and that the individuals should elect/appoint one person to liaise with the organisers on behalf of all of them.

### **European Championships 2017**

It was agreed that a small sub-committee should be established to organise this event under the direction of the England Committee. This would be Jo Morris, Glenda Garrett and Alison Grimshaw, with help from Mary Worth and Nikki Carter. Various people had put their names forward when emailed last year and they would also be asked to help.

Various venues were considered, particularly

- Stoneleigh (which has the benefit of a large all-weather surface, but is very expensive with "add ons" to the budget. David Ridler would obtain a budget from MARY Worth)
- Royal Bath and West (David Ridler has connections with a religious organisation which hires the site for a month in the summer and could be willing to let us use the facilities for a week during this time. This would mean there would be a 500-seat kitchen, food market, VIP marquee etc on site. There was concern about the weather at the site in July/August)
- Newark
- Lincoln (only one ring of sufficient size, which would mean another would have to be provided)
- New Park in the New Forest (main showground, not the car park. David Ridler would ask Jo Morris to investigate this)
- Martin Lyon's home (close to Dover, but without any facilities)
- Racecourses (most now hold summer racing so would be unavailable or too small)

The venue needs to be booked and the dates confirmed as soon as possible, the sub-committee could then organise the event.

Various points were raised.

- There is no need to provide catering except at the Gala Ball.
- Some people would rather corral than stable, but would expect a reduction in entry fee if they did so.
- The entry fees at this year's Europeans were €2,500 per team and €480 per individual, providing a budget of c£100,000

A meeting would be held at the End of Season Show to agree the venue and dates.

### **England Show**

It was agreed to hold a competition (the English Championships and Fundraising Show) over the St George's weekend (23 & 24 April 2016). This would also be a chance for the European sub-committee to have a trail run.

### **Other Matters**

Nikki Carter reminded the committee that the IMGGA AGM is to be held in Dublin in November and that she would be attending this.

The IMGGA compliance checks would again be taking place at the end of this year, which she would organise.