

ENGLAND MGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.00pm on Saturday 11 April 2015
At West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury

Present:

England Committee: Nathan Turner (Chair), Paul Adcock, Michelle Aylott, Marcus Capel, Nikki Carter (Secretary), Les Edwards, Matt Fullbrook (Treasurer), Jess Hindle (Riders' Representative), David Ridler (Vice Chair), Malcolm Trevor-Jones (10)

England Members signed in: Betty Algar, Lisa Aylott, Patricia Aylott, Emma Barron, Hannah Burns, Rory Capel, Trevor Clingo, Alisha Dale, Alex Franklin, Lydia Gillham, Robin Gillham, Alison Grimshaw, Lynn Gurton, Sue Ham(?), Carolyn James, Greg James, Phil James, Tom James, Paul Jenner, Julia Keys, S Laghos, Tynan Lannister, Allison Ledger, D Leese, Kay Leese, Jo Lock, Livvy Lock, Danny Marshall, Robin May, Annie Morris, Jo Morris, Beth Palmer, M Palmer, Alan Peck, Sheila Peck, Jordan Peerless, Tom Peerless, Jo Pharez, Tom Pharez, Andrew Reynolds, Tina Reynolds, Poppy Shaw, Danny Spencer, B Stamp, Donna Stark, Robert Stark, Eddie Surman, Janey Surman, T Thirlby, Craig Tordoff, Elaine Trevor Jones, Ellie Turner, Sue Turner, Aron Tyler, Kim Wainwright, Catherine Walters, P Walters, Elliot Watkins, Darren Williams, Andy Willis, T Wilson (61)

Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman, Nathan Turner, welcomed people to the meeting and explained that the AGM was a formal business meeting but that an Open meeting would follow at which anyone could address questions to the committee.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from James and Nicola Berry (Proxies to Sue Turner)

Minutes of 2014 AGM

Minutes had been displayed on the England MGA website and were agreed on the proposal of David Ridler, seconded by Marcus Capel.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes

Chairman's Report

Nathan Turner explained that England MGA had three roles: to represent England at IMGA, to select teams and to fundraise to help those teams.

He reported that he and Nikki Carter (England's IMGA representative) had attended the IMGA AGM in France in 2015 where England had won their bid to host the 2017 European Team and Individual Championships. He thanked all the volunteers who had put themselves forward to help with the organisation of this competition.

Selected teams had been successful in 2014, with English riders winning the Under 12 and Under 17 European Team Championships, the Royal Welsh Show and the Open World Team Championships. English riders had also won the World Individual and World Pairs Championships. He said that in future England teams would be expected to compete together as a team before travelling to a competition since they were at a disadvantage in the early heats of a championship as the trainer found how they could work together, particularly when compared to other national teams who rode together regularly.

The England Committee had organised a competition over the Easter weekend, which had raised c£2,000 towards the costs of riders travelling to represent their country.

Financial Report

Matt Fullbrook presented details from the England MGA accounts for 2014.

The Northern and Southern regions had each made loans of £5,000 to England MGA to enable entry fees for the World and European Championships to be made when requested, saving riders from having to pay levies for late entry fees, since the teams had not been selected by the time entry fees had to be paid. The riders then repaid the entry fees to England MGA.

Other expenditure included £50 for hosting of the website, £100 for hire of venues for meetings and £300 affiliation fee to IMGA.

It was asked why England was made up of the Northern and Southern regions rather than being one body. It was explained that this was due to the structure of MGAGB and that this matter should be raised at an MGAGB AGM rather than an England meeting.

It was asked why the Northern and Southern regions had made loans to England MGA rather than outright gifts. It was explained that this question should be raised with the regions as the donors rather than with England as the recipient. The Northern Region have said that their loan is a permanent loan but is only to be used for the payment of the early payment of entry fees and other competitor costs. The Southern Region has requested payment of their loan by 2017.

Election of Officers (Riders' Representative)

The only nomination received was for Jess Hindle so she was re-elected unopposed as Riders' Representative

Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM would be held at the Spring Championships 2016

The Annual General Meeting was closed

OPEN MEETING OF ENGLAND MGA
7.30pm on Saturday 11 April 2015
At West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury

Present:

England Committee: Nathan Turner (Chair), Paul Adcock, Michelle Aylott, Marcus Capel, Nikki Carter (Secretary), Les Edwards, Matt Fullbrook (Treasurer), Jess Hindle (Riders' Representative), David Ridler (Vice Chair), Malcolm Trevor-Jones (10)

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The Chairman, Nathan Turner, told the meeting that he had prepared anonymous questionnaires about the selection process which he hoped people would complete as these would help the committee know what people felt about the selection process.

Questions were then invited from the floor.

It was asked why there were new selectors choosing the teams and why a trial had been introduced. Nathan Turner said that this was the process that had been agreed by the committee with the aim of making the selection process as open and transparent as possible.

It was further asked why, if there were 32 Open riders being asked to trial and only 36 Open riders forward for selection why they should not all go forward for selection rather than dropping just four of them. David Ridler said that the results obtained by watching riders at the selection shows would be used in conjunction with the results at the trial so that a particularly lucky or unlucky performance at the trial would not result in weaker riders being selected or a strong rider losing a team place.

It was stated that selection should be based either on the results from the tick boxes being used by selectors at the selection shows or on the results of the trial, not on both methods.

Nathan Turner stated that the England Committee had not yet agreed the format of the trial and that the findings of the circulated questionnaires would be used to help formulate the trial process.

It was said that it was a waste of many riders' time and money going to the trial when the teams had already been selected. Les Edwards strongly refuted this idea.

It was pointed out that the process had been changed for Under 12 and Under 14 riders, allowing all nominated riders to go straight to trial yet had not been changed for Under 17 and Open riders. Nathan Turner stated that it was due to the Pony Club commitments of riders in the lower age groups.

It was said that she had understood the process as had been described when nominations were called for was fully understood, but the questioner could not understand why the process had been changed for some. Nathan Turner blamed the re-opening of nominations for selectors and trainers on apathy. Everyone had been asked to help in the process but insufficient numbers had put their names forward so we were left with the same selectors. People should get off their backsides rather than complaining.

It was said that making selectors give feedback to all riders had caused problems. Some of the 2014 selectors were still receiving abusive emails and this alone deters people from volunteering.

Others felt that it was a good idea to give feedback.

It was suggested that all feedback should come through the committee rather than from individual selectors. Nikki Carter agreed that would be possible, even if that meant she would mean she got all the abusive emails.

It was asked whether any trainers had been elected unopposed and was told that there had been an election for each trainer position except two (World Open and World Under 17 trainers). Nathan Turner explained that trainers were volunteers and that it costs them time and money to travel to competitions and that their costs should be subsidised.

There were further questions about the format venue and cost of the selection trial. Nathan Turner stated that the venue would be in the Midlands but that a suitable free or cheap venue had yet to be found although he had been looking for one since February.

The cost of up to £100 had been given to cover the hire of avenue, commentary box and paramedic cover. The fee could also provide funds to help towards the costs of selected riders.

It was asked how riders who had put themselves forward for only individual places would be trialed. Nathan Turner stated that this had yet to be considered by the committee

It was asked why so many riders were being taken forward to trial. Nikki Carter stated that two teams plus at least three and possibly six individual riders needed to be selected. In 2014 insufficient riders were trialed and when we managed to get 12 European Individual places riders had to be selected who had not been trialed

There were questions about the use of Sport England funding or funding from the National Lottery. Nikki Carter explained that only MGAGB, as a member of the British Equestrian Federation, could obtain Sport England funding and that the BEF made the application for Sports England equestrian funding on behalf of all its members, with the bulk of it going to the Olympic disciplines of dressage, show jumping and eventing, and to the FEI recognised sports of reining and vaulting. National Lottery funding is also administered by Sports England.

It may be possible to obtain corporate sponsorship and Nathan Turner asked if anyone had suitable contacts.

It was asked why the European team reserve rider was not allowed to take part in the Individual Championship particularly since they had all the travelling costs of going to the competition yet would probably end up doing nothing. Nathan Turner said that it was unwise to risk the reserve rider or pony being injured. In Italy a rider had had to go out and buy a pony locally following injuries to ponies. It depends on whether we want to win as a country or as an individual.

It was suggested that the reserve rider be chosen from those who had two possible ponies so that they could also participate in the Individuals whilst keeping one pony as a reserve for the team. Nathan Turner pointed out that selection would then be biased in favour of those with two ponies.

It was stated that selection is always a sticky point and the committee were taking punishment for trying to do the best they could. Nathan Turner stated that the questionnaire had been circulated to get rider input, and that his meeting was also to help the committee discover what people want. People should give their input, not sit back and complain.

It was stated that despite some comments made on public social media, last year's Open World Championship team had won and showed that the selection process used then had worked.

It was stated that the committee should have determined the full process before the season started. Nathan Turner said that this had not been possible as some committee members left the meeting early to watch Manchester United. Paul Adcock admitted that he had done this.

David Ridler reminded the meeting that the committee members were all volunteers doing the best they could. It was pointed out that the committee members had put themselves forward for the job.

The Committee needs to hold a meeting to determine the trial process, venue, cost and whether performance at selection shows is to be taken into account in the final selection.

It was pointed out that Open riders do not know whether or not they should be riding the next day as if it were part of the selection process or not.

It was suggested that fixing the trial cost at £100 would make the trial a fundraising event as well.

It was suggested that all Open riders should go straight to trial.

It was pointed out that in addition to the 36 open riders looking for selection in Open teams or the Individuals, nine younger riders had also put themselves forward and should not be discriminated against. Nikki Carter pointed out that each of these younger riders had been allocated a trial number and would be viewed by the selectors competing in the Open age group at selection shows, even though four of them cannot compete in the Open age group as they are too young.

Although no formal decision could be made at the meeting, Jess Hindle requested an indication of how people felt about all Open riders being taken forward to the trial. On a show of hand 44 felt they should be and 4 considered that the selection process should continue as detailed at the start.

No answer could be given about whether performance in selection shows should be considered as well as performance in the trial as the format of the trial had yet to be agreed by the Committee. Jess Hindle would contact all riders asking for their opinions before the Committee met and the results of the distributed questionnaires would also be taken into account.

It was pointed out that the selectors have put in a great deal of time and effort watching open riders and have spent money travelling to competitions they would not otherwise have attended

A committee meeting would be held at the Hampshire Friendly and the agreed trial process would be notified to all England members as soon as possible thereafter.

The meeting was closed