

**England MGA Committee Meeting**  
**7.00pm on Sunday 4 May 2014**  
**At Oswestry Showground**

**Present:** Nathan Turner (Chair) Marcus Capel, Nikki Carter, Les Edwards, Jess Hindle, James Knott, Martin Lyons, David Ridler, John Scott, Malcolm Trevor Jones  
Andrew Reynolds

**Apologies:** Shelley Aylott, Alistair Elliott, (proxy vote held by John Scott), Debbie Goldhawk  
Jo Morris, Tim Pinney, Dawn Stamp (proxy vote held by Nikki Carter),

A brief resume was given of the increased affiliation fee and membership levy by IMGGA.

IMGGA Emails had been received by various people but not seen by all, which was compromising communication. It was agreed that all emails regarding selection should be sent to [Englandmga@gmail.com](mailto:Englandmga@gmail.com)

Nathan Turner stated that the object of the meeting was to sort out finer details of the selection process

There was discussion on various aspects of selection, during which it was generally agreed:

- England would not send the same riders and ponies to both the Royal Welsh show and the European Championships, as there is insufficient time for travel and recovery from competition.
- The priority is to win championships; hence England would send the best possible team to each competition.
- The shortlist of riders and ponies would be decided at the Warwickshire Friendly and would be displayed on the England MGA website by 8.00pm on Monday 19 May
- Riders who do not attend the training session(s) would not be selected.
- Selectors **MUST** explain personally to riders why they are not selected. Explanations should be positive and encourage riders to try again in the future, giving points for them to work on in preparation.
- Although some selection criteria can be objectively graded, other criteria such as mistake recovery are not. The important thing is to select a team of riders whose skills complement each other, not five individuals.
- Teams of selectors should work together to select the best combinations. The trainer of a team gets a casting vote only if the selectors cannot make a decision

- In Open (and U17) selectors should choose the strongest possible Worlds team first. The strongest possible European team would be selected next. If riders selected for the Worlds are available, they could also be selected for the Europeans.
- Jess Hindle reported that 80% of responses to her Facebook message to riders had wanted different riders in each teams. However there were only 26 replies and many riders would want to have 21 England riders open riders as they personally would stand more chance of getting a shirt.
- To be in the England team should be the pinnacle of a person's riding career. We have to give every rider a chance of being selected but must select the best team.
- In recent years the rest of the world have been beating us so we need to have the strongest possible teams. The Open team in 2010 was superb. It was understood that some riders competing in the European Individuals last year had done so rather than be members of their national team because they were interested in the prize money and that some national teams would have been stronger with some of them in it.
- We need to build up riders for future teams. The feeder territory for the England teams should be the Home Internationals
- The importance of winning trainers was stressed, together with the need to bring on new trainers. Riders make good trainer but cannot ride and train at same competition. Having open nominations for trainers was good but people need to be encouraged to put their names forward. The selectors select the teams and the trainers only have a casting vote if the selectors cannot agree. The trainers could however discuss riders with selectors.
- There could be problems if the Open reserve rider at the Europeans is allowed to compete in the individuals as if there was a problem a pony cannot compete in more than one class per day.
- Could select squad of 6 for the Open teams and swap rider 5 and 6 between the two competitions as reward for travelling

### **Actions**

- A message would be put on the England MGA website explaining what will happen next
- Two shortlists for the open would be drawn up – one for teams and one for individuals. Riders could be on one or both lists. Riders would be shortlisted with a specific pony. In other age groups there would be only a team list, but riders would still be told what pony was required
- When the team shortlists are drawn up and published each rider would be asked if they were able/willing to do both competitions (World and European) and confirm

that other people could ride their pony, that they would attend events, pay money when due and obey instructions from their trainer. They would be reminded that entry fees, travel, and the cost of kit is substantial.

- Contact details for the selectors would be made public and non-shortlisted riders encouraged to contact the selectors and find out why they did not get selected.
- The trials/training will concentrate on changes, pairs races, rectifying mistakes. There is no intention to run ponies into ground – sessions should be no more than an hour
- In the Open the Worlds team will be selected first, then Europeans, Royal Welsh and then the individuals
- Minis and under 14s will be trialed in mid-day at a time to be announced. The U17 and Open teams would be trialed on Sunday evening to avoid clashing with the Junior Home International.
- The Individual shortlist would be watched at the John Scott Championships then announced at the same time as the teams (Monday). The selectors must rank reserve individuals in order in case other places become available or a selected rider cannot attend.
- Their trainer(s) would inform selected riders on Monday of the competition. Nikki Carter would inform individuals. Non-selected riders would be spoken to by selectors and given positive feedback.

#### **Further Matters for Urgent Discussion**

- Team kit supplier
- IMGA affiliation fee