

England MGA Committee Meeting
10.30am on Sunday 26 January 2014
At The Coventry Arms, Upton Snodsbury WR7 4NN

Present: Acting Joint Chairs: Jo Morris, Tim Pinney
Acting Secretary/Treasurer: Nikki Carter
Northern Region Reps: Paul Adcock, Les Edwards, John Scott, Malcolm Trevor-Jones
Southern Region Reps: Shelley Aylott, Alistair Elliott, Dawn Stamp

Apologies: Marcus Capel (proxy vote held by Jo Morris)

2014.1 Introduction and reasons for the formation of this Committee

Nikki Carter informed the meeting that under the existing structure of MGAGB, England did not meet the compliance criteria of IMGAs. The Articles of MGAGB had been rewritten to correct this situation and would be voted on at an EGM of MGAGB to be held on 9 March. This committee of the England MGA was being held in advance of the meeting in order to deal with urgent matters including international teams and their selection. At present the committee was officially meeting as a sub-committee of the Northern and Southern Regions of MGAGB

2014.2 Process for election of Officers and IMGAs Rep and appointment of Acting Officers

Once MGAGB had ratified the changes in the articles, an AGM of England MGA would be held on 14 April 2014 at the Spring Championships when the Officers of the committee (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Riders' Representative would be elected in accordance with the Articles.

It was agreed that until that meeting Jo Morris and Tim Pinney, as Chairmen of the Northern and Southern Regions would be joint acting Chairman of England MGA and Nikki Carter would be acting Secretary/Treasurer.

The post of IMGAs Representative was discussed. This position is to be appointed by the Committee of England MGA.

On the proposal of Tim Pinney, seconded by Jo Morris it was unanimously agreed that Nikki Carter would be IMGAs Representative for England.

On the proposal of John Scott, seconded by Jo Morris it was unanimously agreed that the post of England IMGAs Representative would be held for three years, in line with the Officer positions on the England MGA Committee.

2014.3 Financial Situation

Alan Peck had produced a report on the England MGA bank accounts (Appendix 1). The Committee expressed their gratitude to Alan Peck for his hard work as Treasurer for England for several years.

Nikki Carter had produced a report (appendix 2) showing funds required to meet the entry fees for international competitions and other costs in 2014.

It was noted that there are insufficient funds in the England account to pay the competition entry fees in time to avoid 10% late payment surcharges. There was discussion about how the necessary money could be found before teams are selected. It was suggested that the

Northern and Southern Regions or MGAGB could loan the necessary money, but this would only lead to a similar situation in future years. All funds in the North, the South and in England are actually MGAGB funds.

On the proposal of Alistair Elliott, seconded by Nikki Carter it was agreed that the Northern and Southern Regional Committees should each make a grant of £6,000 to England MGA to cover the advance payment of entry fees each year.

This proposal will need to be considered by the Regional Committees who would be emailed and asked to give their response by 31 January 2014.

Jo Morris suggested that a competition could be held to raise funds for England MGA.

John Scott suggested that the Regional shows be asked to donate a percentage of their profits to England MGA.

At present Alan Peck still holds the cheque books of England MGA. To simplify the transfer of these Jo Morris and Matt Fullbrook, who is intending to stand for the post of Treasurer, would open a new bank account with new signatories.

Nikki Carter would contact Alan Peck and ask him to transfer all funds in the existing England MGA bank account to MGAGB to be held pending the opening of the new account.

2014.5 Current IMGA Updates

The increased membership fee and new levy based on membership was discussed and it was agreed this should be opposed (but not until after England MGA formally exists as a unique entity and also has written confirmation of IMGA compliance).

The rule change regarding the substitution of riders and ponies in competition was discussed. It was noted that the new rule still means that reserve ponies or riders can only be substituted separately, so the sixth pony may have to be ridden by other team members rather than their own rider. It was agreed that all riders should be made aware of this fact when putting themselves forward for team selection.

It was also noted that in the past some riders had refused to attend some of the events arranged by competition organisers.

It was agreed that when making application for England selection, riders would not only give their details but would have to confirm that they understood that their pony may have to be ridden by other team members and that, as ambassadors for England, they would be expected to attend all activities that formed part of the entry package.

2014.6 England Selection Process

There was discussion on the benefit of email communication rather than separate telephone conversations. Each person receives exactly the same message at the same time.

There was in depth discussion on the method of selection, particularly covering the benefits and problems of each of the proposed methods: selection taking place over a period of shows or holding selection trials.

It was generally agreed that the aims were to put out winning teams and to have a method of selection that was not only fair but was seen to be fair, open and transparent. Points raised included:

- The selection method used in 2006-13 generally delivered results but caused problems as some riders and their families and supporters did not feel it was open,

fair or transparent.

- Some selectors did not know riders competing in all the age groups.
- Riders competing for their country are riding under pressure as is found in finals or at a selection trial.
- If riders wish to be selected they have to make themselves available for a trial or for selection shows, even if this clashes with other riding or non-riding commitments.
- The introduction of the French lorry Ecotax has been postponed, so that removes the need to select early enough to allow lorries to be fitted with the necessary GPS systems.
- Arranging a full trial requires a venue and available date, which would be difficult this year.
- The team trainer should have input into the selection process so should be selected prior to rider selection
- It was difficult to see leg bands on one leg only. All riders should have a band on each leg.

Nikki Carter proposed and Dawn Stamp seconded a selection scheme for 2014 as detailed below. This was carried with 7 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

Riders wishing to be selected would put their names forward by 1 April specifying their pony(ies) and their agreement to the conditions of selection, including the necessity to meet all costs on time. These names would be displayed on the England MGA website.

Riders would be watched while competing at MGAGB shows from 12 April (Spring Championships) to 18 May (Warwickshire Friendly and Pickering Game Fair). Selectors for each age group would choose a squad from the riders and ponies. Riders would be notified of the squad on Monday 19 May

Riders would attend a training session to be held on the Saturday and/or Sunday evening at the John Scott Team Championships (24-26 May 2014).

The team would be announced on Monday 26 May

Riders who fail to make the squad or the team may ask the selection panel why they not chosen and will be given positive feedback

Riders must confirm that they understand that they must pay all costs by specified dates, that they agree that their pony may be ridden by other riders if necessary, that they will endeavour to participate in all social events forming part of the entry package at the competition.

It was agreed that should a pony or rider be injured after selection then the trainer and selectors will choose a replacement and explain their selection on the England MGA website.

Individual riders would be selected by the selectors for the specified age group.

Following the International competitions, all MGA England members would be asked for their feedback on the selection process and this would enable future improvements.

2014.7 Discussion on Selection of Selectors and Trainers

There was discussion on the role of selectors and trainers.

- Senior riders (with CRB checks) should be encouraged to act as Trainers.

- The Team Trainer should either appoint a person to organise transport, team kit, collection of money etc for their team, or undertake it themselves.
- Parents of riders putting themselves forward for selection could not act as a selector for that age group, but could be a Team Trainer for that age group.

On the proposal of John Scott, seconded by Tim Pinney it was unanimously agreed that *for each age group there would be two selectors from the Northern Region and two selectors for the Southern Region, with the Trainer for the team being selected participating in the selection process and having a casting vote.*

Selection of trainers and selectors was discussed at length and the following methods were agreed:

Selector Selection

All England MGA members would be emailed and asked to put themselves forward as a Team Selector. Applications, specifying which age group the person wishes to select for, must be sent to the member's Regional Chairman (Jo Morris or Tim Pinney) by 14 February 2014.

All members of the England MGA committee who are Southern Region members would then vote for the Southern selectors by email to arrive before midnight on 16 February 2014

All members of the England MGA committee who are Northern Region members would then vote for the Northern selectors by email to arrive before midnight on 16 February 2014

Trainer Selection

All England MGA members would be emailed and asked to put themselves forward as a Team Trainer. Trainers should submit their application, specifying for which age group they wished to be considered, with a CV of no more than one side of A4 to the England MGA Secretary by 1 March 2014.

All members of the England MGA committee would then vote for the Team Trainers by email to arrive before midnight on 7 March 2014.

The result would be announced at the MGAGB AGM on 9 March 2014

Should a selector subsequently be selected as a trainer then their place on the relevant selection panel will be taken by the person gaining the next highest votes in the selector selection vote, or, in the event of a tie, from the result of a second vote.

2014.8 Teams for Europeans and World Championships

The Belgian Equestrian Federation will not allow wild card entries in the European Individual Championships. Individual riders would therefore be ranked at selection this year, so should additional places become available we have a 4th, 5th, 6th rider selected in advance

2014.9 Date of next Meeting

The AGM would be held at the Spring Championships on 12 April 2014

2014.10. Any Other Business

There was no other significant business to note

APPENDIX 1



FINANCIAL REPORT 2013

To: Chairs of Northern and Southern Regional Committees of MGAGB Ltd

Historical:

The England MGA account was a holding account created as a method of collecting and transferring payment for teams to compete in the World Team Championships. The only income, in this administration, has been donations from Regional Committees and profit from the WTC 2009, organised at Broadlands by England MGA. For several years we have also sent teams to compete in the European Team Championships.

This administration inherited a balance of £1300 in 2009, had a turnover of £16,000 for the ETC entry and travel costs for Marseille and a turnover of £46,000 from the organisation of the WTC in that year. The subsequent balance of £800 in the main account was boosted by the profit from WTC of £3800 and a donation of £1500 from each Regional Committee.

The only current outgoings are payment for the website (£40+) and IMGA fees (300 Euros)

2013:

Balance from 2012	£6994.75
Outgoings	£314.08
Current Balance	£6680.67

For consideration:

The intention of using the account as a holding account for entries and travel has proved to be difficult. The IMGA international organisations have enormous entry fees, early deposit requirements and early discounted balance payment dates which usually take place before any of our teams have been selected. This

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has then to be multiplied by 4 for the ETC. The discounted entry fee for the ETC in Ireland last year was 2100 Euros per team, with deposits by the end of February and the balance by the end of April. WTC next year will also include an U17 category. Travel, accommodation and kit costs are also extremely high.

Alan Peck
England MGA Accounts

APPENDIX 2

ENGLAND MGA FINANCES FOR 2014

NB All estimates (euro conversions etc) are pessimistic - they may be less

ENTRY FEES

EUROPEANS

Teams

15/03/2014	€ 1,000.00	£ 900.00
15/05/2014	€ 1,600.00	£ 1,440.00
Late surcharge10%		

Individuals

15/03/2014	€ 150.00	£ 135.00
15/05/2014	€ 300.00	£ 270.00
Late surcharge10%		

WORLDS

Teams

01/05/2014	€ 2,500.00	£ 2,250.00
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TOTAL ENTRY FEES

€ 16,750.00 £15,075.00

IMGA MEMBERSHIP

IMGA registration £300 (from €300) plus £1 per riding member (475)

£ 775.00

CURRENT FUNDS

£ 6,680.67

To be paid now-ish

IMGA Membership fee	£ 775.00	
Website	£ 50.00	
Meeting costs	£ 200.00	
Bank balance		£ 5,655.67

To be paid March

Europeans 1	£ 4,005.00	
Bank balance		£ 1,650.67

To be paid May

Worlds	£ 4,500.00	
Europeans 2	£ 6,570.00	
Bank balance		-£ 9,419.33

Hence, unless teams are selected well before the start of May England will need to borrow £5,000 from each of the Northern and Southern regions