

England MGA
Notes of Informal Meeting
Held on 8.15 pm 12 September 2014 at Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground

Present: Nathan Turner (Chair), Paul Adcock, Shelley Aylott, Nicola Carter, Matt Fullbrook, Jess Hindle and David Ridler

Apologies: Marcus Capel, Les Edwards, Alastair Elliott, John Scott, Dawn Stamp, and Malcolm Trevor Jones

Review of 2014 Selection Process

It was agreed that all England members should be asked for feedback on the selection process and the England teams. Responses would be collated by Nikki Carter and distributed to committee members at least 7 days before the next full meeting of the committee.

People would be asked to specify if they were a rider (selected, not selected, not forward for selection), a trainer, a selector, a parent or other. They would be asked to say what they found good and bad and what they felt would improve the process. People could remain anonymous to the committee, but must provide their name to the Secretary as otherwise their views would not be included.

Behaviour of Riders at World Team Championships

There was concern about under age drinking and fighting, particularly on the final night, but although there were many contradictory rumours about what had happened there had been no official complaint made at the competition, so no statements had been taken.

Any complaint at the competition would have been dealt with under the IMGGA Code of Conduct, which provides the sanctions of police action or referring the matter back to the national association of the people concerned, which would be MGAGB for England members.

It was decided that no further action could be taken in this instance but that in future all riders and trainers and parents of riders under 18 would be asked to sign a code of conduct which would specify that the MGAGB Code of Conduct must be adhered to, including a ban on alcohol for riders under the age of 18, regardless of the rules of the host country. Any junior rider found with alcohol or under the influence of alcohol would receive the MGAGB two competition ban, which would take place with immediate effect with the rider being removed from the team and the reserve rider taking their place. An additional sanction would be that riders' behaviour could be used as a selection criterion in future events. Behaviour would be monitored by the trainer or by any person nominated by the trainer.

England Fundraising Shows

It was agreed that we should look at running shows, possibly in connection with selection, as a way of raising funds. A possible time would be over the long Easter weekend

World and European Championships 2017

IMGA are seeking applications to host the World and European Championships in 2017. Draft applications including dates, venue and provisional costings are required by mid-October.

The costs of hosting such an event are high. Dallas Burston, the venue favoured by all present, cost £9,500 for the three day Intercounties. Other significant costs include stabling plus hay and bedding for ponies, catering, paramedic cover, toilets, showers and prizes.

None of the England committee have experience of organising large competitions so it was agreed to email all England members to see if volunteers with relevant experience could be found to form a sub-committee to look organise such an event and prepare a bid.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that a further short informal meeting would be held at the End of Season Show

A full meeting would be held at Nikki Carter's home between Bath and Bristol on Sunday 9 November 2014