



European Equestrian Federation

Meeting	EEF Dressage Working Group
Date	17 March 2015
Time	11:30-15:00
Location	Dusseldorf Airport- Maritim Hotel- Meeting Room TBC
Chair	Hanfried Haring
Minutes by	Ali Küçük

Participants	NF
Lenka Sekaninova	CZE
Eva-Maria Vint-Warmington	EST
Anatoly Balykin	RUS
Linda Keenan	IDTC
Hanfried Haring	President EEF
Ali Küçük	Secretary General EEF

Agenda					
Pt.		Topic	Speaker	Time	Annex
1		Opening, Welcome and Introduction	AK/HH		
2		Information about the last WG Meeting Verden	AK		
3		EEF Dressage WG current status	AK		
4		Discussion about the current issues of Dressage	HH/AK		
	a)	Short Grand Prix version (Brussels+Warendorf Meetings)	LK/AK		
	b)	Teams of 3 riders	LK/AK		
	c)	Ideas for development in Europe, (Education, tests,etc)	AK		
5		AOB			

MINUTES:

1- Opening Welcome and Introduction: The President of the EEF, Hanfried Haring(HH) opens the meeting and welcomes the participants. He informs the members hat amid the upcoming FEI Sports Forum, important topics are on the table for discussion. He then leaves the floor to Secretary General, Ali Küçük(AK).

The members are informed about the background for the need of this meeting and reminded about the FEI Sports Forum discussions for each olympic discipline. AK thanks the participants for their effort in this short notice.

2- Information about the last WG Meeting in Verden(GER): The minutes of the last meeting are summarised under the following headlines



- Educational help for officials and riders
- Regional competitions (national level, lack of test equivalence) and calendar coordination
- Suggestions to the existing rule changes

3- EEF Dressage Working Group Status: AK states that the International Dressage Trainers Club (IDTC) is now a new member of the EEF and welcomes Linda Keenan(LK) as the representative in the WG. He underlines the difficulty of setting a common date for meeting planning and informs that tentatively, Falsterbo CDIO (possibly on 11-12 July) is selected for the next in person meeting. Another idea is to contact each member once again and confirm their intention to continue in the WG or not. Members present agree to the proposal.

4- Discussion about the current issues of Dressage:

a) Short Grand Prix(GP) Test: The recent motion of shortening the GP test by the FEI was discussed. Following the Brussels and Warendorf meetings, the participants are provided a general overview on the current situation. LK states that the move is based mainly on increased media attention to the sport. She also mentions about the existence of a consumer study survey conducted by the FEI and accordingly the surveyed group did not actually find the tests long or boring. Additionally, if a media product is being polished, it would preferably be more the freestyle which is widely broadcasted live on TV and not the GP.

Additionally, from technical perspective it is considered that the GP is actually the opportunity for judges to observe the training quality and execution of the movements and should not be rushed which could have undesired consequences back in the training system of the horses. Up and coming riders/horses should not be put under this pressure. Following an intensive discussion and with remarks especially from the IDTC, the below **recommendations** are accepted by the participants:

- 1) The time of 3 minutes between each rider (in-out of the arena) could be considered to be reduced.
- 2) It should be more the freestyle to be media-friendly packaged and not the GP. Similar to jumping first round, this is the global and flag class of the event where more countries are embraced. As proposal, a maximum of 4 riders per nation could start. However, going from GP to Team test(GPS), could be the major reduction. (example top 30 starting with zero with min 3 - max 4 riders per nation. If a nation does not have 3 riders amongst the best 30, the nation has no team. HH states that this is comparable in Show Jumping with a formula :4 riders in the first round with a scratch and 3 in the second round.
- 3) Not only the tests themselves but also the way they are broadcasted should be revisited. New technologies such as a) electronic tracking b) different camera angles c) Split screen with info on the movement (and possibly degree of difficulty in future) must be tested and used as soon as available/possible.

b) 3 Riders in the Teams: It is agreed that the welfare concern (compared to jumping discipline) is less dramatic in dressage. Factors such as reserve horse and others are also discussed. The members present agree to consider the above formula recommendation from Grand Prix into GP Special.

c) Ideas for development in Europe, (Education, tests,etc): Concepts that will be proposed in coming days to NFs are shared. With the initiative of Anatoly Balykin(RUS), the test unification process has been started and members are asked to come up with a 3 level test proposal until the deadline of 30 April.

5- AOB: The next steps by EEF is shared with the participants in terms of communication. The EEF Board will be presented with the minutes of this WG meeting and the proposed text to the members. Following the approval, the document will be sent to EEF member NFs. The issues to be revisited for next meeting will also include border difficulties. HH thanks the members and closes the meeting at 15:00 hours.