



## European Equestrian Federation

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>EEF Eventing Working Group</b>
<b>Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
<b>Time</b>	1700hrs-1900hrs
<b>Location</b>	Hengelo Van Der Valk Hotel
<b>Chair</b>	Mike Etherington-Smith
<b>Minutes by</b>	All

<b>Participants</b>	<b>NF</b>
Mike Etherington-Smith, Chairman (MES)	GBR
Philine Ganders-Meyer (PGM)	GER
Michel Asseray (MA)	FRA
Lars Christensson (LC)	SWE
Dr Hanfried Haring (HH), President EEF & FEI Bureau Member	GER
<b>By Invitation</b>	
Giuseppe Della Chiesa (GDC), Chairman FEI Eventing C'ee	
Catrin Norinder (CN), FEI Eventing & Olympic Manager	
Frederique Reffet (FR), FEI Coordinator Eventing	
Bruce Haskell (BH), Chairman ERA in place of CvR	
<b>Apologies</b>	David Lee (IRE), Constantin von Rijclevorsel (BEL), Tom Rykewaert (BEL), Patricia Clifton (GBR, member of FEI Eventing Committee)

<b>Agenda</b>				
<b>Pt.</b>		<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Annex</b>
1		Opening and Welcome	MES	
2		Minutes of last meeting	All	
3		Matters Arising	All	
4		Update on progress re IOC Agenda 2020 document	HH	
5		Update on thoughts & activity since last meeting	All	



6	Recommendations for Eventing Committee via EEF Board including: <i>Format, Drop score, 'look' &amp; 'presentation', Number of flags, Legacy, Cost, Possible consequences of our recommendations</i>	All	
7	Other topics in FEI proposals that require a reply eg WEG, name of the sport, scoring, penalty for knocking down a flag on the cross country etc	All	
8	Date of next meeting	All	
9	AOB	All	

## Minutes

1. Apologies were received from David Lee, Constantin von Rijckvorsel, & Patricia Clifton. MES welcomed GDC, CN, and BH (standing in for CvR)
2. Minutes of previous meeting were approved
3. Matters Arising were addressed during the course of the meeting
4. Update on progress re IOC Agenda 2020 document

HH shared his latest understanding of the 'intelligence' coming from this direction. IOC wants performance-medal, performance-medal, ie no drawn out time period after the end of the competition before the medals are presented. Almost all sports are under observation. Equestrian sport is in general 'at risk', jumping is believed to be ok but eventing and dressage (particularly the team competition because of the length of time it takes) are not in such a strong position. Equestrian was downgraded even though London was good in many ways but we were weak in media and TV coverage. Better presentation could be more important than changing the sport as a whole. We are good in terms of gender equality. Timeline is that decisions will be made at the FEI Sport Forum 2016 in order for sign off at the 2016 FEI GA.

CN shared that

- IFs will be (FEI for the 1<sup>st</sup> time) involved in the venue selection with bid cities and will help advise on costs and legacy
- TV would be better in 2 hour segments if possible with a final result
- The IOC recognises that there are particular issues in eventing and are happy with the jumping as the last phase and seems to understand that two cross country courses with the same horse are not appropriate.
- The IOC would be happy if we could differentiate between the competitions eg jazz up the dressage in eventing to make it seem different to pure dressage

GDC shared that whatever the final recommendation to the IOC is, the whole sport must get behind the decision. All agreed that this is essential and agreed to support the final decision.



5. All shared their activities since previous meeting which leads to the next point (#6) to be addressed
6. Recommendations to FEI Eventing Committee

## **Format**

Two key points:

- Must aim to keep 2 medals
- Avoid any reference to star levels, this is the Olympic format

Preferred option is as follows:

- Horse Inspection before the competition starts
- Team competition first in CIC format (discussion on the rules to be had but dressage needs to all take place on one day, the jumping phase as it is, the cross country to be between 8 minutes and 10 minutes using maximum efforts (provided it is appropriate) in order to ensure that time is influential.
- All athletes and horses compete in the team competition, including those who are not part of a team, which then acts as the qualifier for the individual competition
- Team medals to be awarded after the team competition
- The top 20/25 from the team competition (everyone in the eventing and max of 3 per any one nation) go through to the individual competition which will be decided by another jumping round the day after the cross country having had a Horse Inspection before the jumping as happens at the moment.
- This then makes the individual competition in to a traditional CCI albeit with an extra jumping round before the cross country.
- Individual medals to be presented after the jumping

Horse welfare is taken care of, the time required for the two medal competitions is a maximum of 3.5/4 days although if it can be condensed in to 3 days this would be better, and the logistical issues are manageable and do not interfere with the pure dressage and jumping competitions

All agreed that the dressage phase needs to take place on one day and are willing to help find a solution if wanted

All agree that 4 per team with 3 to count is essential in our discipline which is very different to dressage and jumping. This view was agreed at the last EWG meeting and remains the same

Team tactics come in to play, individuals who run in the team competition have the chance to get through to the individual, and the athletes have to manage/look after their horses properly if they want to be in the individual competition, etc etc.



Regarding the possible collateral damage to the existing big CCI\*\*\*\*s – if we can maintain at least one of the competitions as a CCI at the Olympic Games there is surely a better chance of the traditional format surviving in to the future.

There is one major flaw/weakness in this proposed Team format as things stand with the cross country being the last phase and this is that after cross country there are usually a number of queries & objections which would delay the result being available for the TV audience and the media. It is believed that this is unacceptable at the Olympic Games. The IOC requires competition-result, competition-result.

It is felt that the sport needs to find a solution to this issue anyway for all events whether CIC or CCI since people expect to know who wins as quickly as possible. This ties in to sport presentation and is one of many areas that need considering.

### **Pros & Cons of this preferred (developed) option:**

**New Proposal:** Dressage – Team/Ind Jumping – Team Ind.XC – Ind Jumping with all dressage on one day

#### Pros:

- Different/New
- Team tactics, strategies
- XC last in team competition
- SJ last in individual competition
- Reflects the pinnacle of the sport
- Exciting finish
- Spectacular
- Clearer separation of team/individual medals
- TV- (++) and spectator-friendly
- The best compete in both competitions
- Depending on the length of the course xc can be run at 3 minute intervals to provide more action in a shorter period of time
- Helps reduce staging costs

#### Cons:

- One more day than current format if SJ and XC is not possible on one day – alternatively have SJ on Dressage evening with floodlights
- Final results in team competition with xc as last phase vs. protests (ie lack of instant results under present rules – need for new technologies and review of rules and roles of officials to ensure swift/immediate results production before this option can be introduced although this needs to happen anyway
- athletes perhaps going too fast on course in team competition although it is felt that there are ways to manage this using rules plus if anyone abuses their horse they will not go through to the individual competition etc etc
- Currently not the format of the highest level of the sport (solution: possible



introduction of CIC4\* as a separate point for discussion for the sport)

### **Pros and cons of existing format:**

Current Olympic format: Dressage– Team & Individual XC – Team Jumping - Individual Jumping\_but have all the dressage on one day

#### **Pros:**

- With 1 day of dressage only 3 day competition
- Reflects the current/traditional sport
- Known format within the Eventing Community
- Has worked very well in the last three Olympics
- Results close to finish of event
- Clear for spectators to watch final decision in SJ arena
- Great atmosphere in jumping arena
- Positive influence on current 4\* Events/less risk of collateral damage
- More spectators/sold tickets for SJ sessions
- Depending on the length of the course xc can be run at 3 minute intervals to provide more action in a shorter period of time

#### **Cons:**

- XC as pinnacle not last phase
- No winner after XC if this is believed to be the USP of the sport
- Difficult to understand for general public as event's final results by 2 SJ rounds at much lower level/height when compared with pure jumping, not reflecting the USP of the sport which is the xc

The EWG still has the feeling that there could be more ideas for pros and cons. However we felt that we should be very careful with addressing horse welfare as that should always be the most important general condition and not a criteria that means that we don't have formats and would never bring forward any proposals that are not reflecting the horse welfare point of view.

The EWG would like to ask the EC to please explore the possibilities of making the above new proposed format work if at all possible but does recognise that there are some significant challenges in terms of time. However, the challenge does need addressing for the sport as a whole anyway.

### **Sport Presentation**

All agreed that this is key to the future appeal of our sport (please refer to Minutes of the July meeting) and is an area where we can make significant improvements. CN shared that the FEI has a group looking at Sport Presentation in its own right. All agreed that this is good and essential and look forward to some progressive and innovative ideas.



## **Number of Flags**

It is still the case that the EWG feels that increasing the number of flags for the sake of it is not in the best interests of the sport because of the risk factor. In London there were already 18 nations taking part, which is a lot. We should nevertheless be seeking to expand the number of nations who have the possibility to qualify for the Olympic Games and be seen to be doing this. We should also have the more experienced nations 'buddy'ing up/mentoring' with less experienced nations (please refer to Minutes of previous meeting).

## **Legacy & Cost**

The EWG is very pleased to learn that the FEI will be working with Bid Cities as soon as they show themselves even though the final venue is more often than not different to the one proposed in their initial presentation to the IOC. The EWG is comforted that the FEI will be involved with the Bid Cities early and can ensure good, appropriate advice is given to minimise costs and deliver the best possible legacy (hard and soft).

## **7. Other topics proposed by FEI Eventing Committee for discussion**

- a. Name of the sport: this is all part of sport presentation and there are mixed views with no one proposal to be put forward. Some felt that the name is fine, others felt that other names should be explored but whatever the outcome it needs worldwide agreement
- b. Penalty for knocking down a flag on the cross country; needs more work before being considered for introduction and has to be considered as part of an overall scoring review rather than taken in isolation. Some are very against its introduction because it is unfair on the horses doing what they could be penalised for doing what they are being asked to do plus cross country riding is all about forward riding and not being afraid to knock a flag down should this happen as a result of positive riding. It would be a shame if riders became over cautious when jumping accuracy fences
- c. 15 penalties for a first refusal: whilst the thinking behind this is understood it requires a lot more thinking about to ensure that the balance of the scoring across all phases remains. It is part of a bigger picture and should not be taken in isolation.
- d. Use of bits on the cross country. If there is genuine concern then the rules should be used to ensure appropriate riding
- e. WEG format: we did not discuss at this meeting
- f. Judging dressage phase with 5 judges with the lowest and highest score dropped would probably be supported by ERA
- g. The current problem of Olympic Qualification for not by team qualified riders/nations with chasing points close to horse welfare being an issue was addressed and needs a better solution for 2020.



8. **Date of next meeting** – before the FEI Sport Forum 2016 once further proposals have been shared by the FEI, date tbc

9. **AOB**

Date of FEI Sport Forum is 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016

The meeting closed at 1900hrs