



National Office News Sheet – June 2003

Showjumpers aiming to qualify Australia for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games

By the time some of you will read this newsletter, we may know already whether Australia has qualified a Jumping team for the Athens Games. The FEI is conducting special selection trials for nations that have not as yet qualified. The actual class is in the afternoon of Sunday, 15 June 2003. We will post the results to the web as soon as we get them.

After the EFA's own selection trials to determine who should represent Australia at the FEI event, the selectors named the following riders and horses: David Dobson (*Siracusa Karajane*), Rory Hovell (*Quelle Damme Van de Heffinck*), James Paterson-Robinson (*Sydney*), Vicki Roycroft (*Mohicano*). Reserve horse: *Noblewood Park Collins*.

We wish them well and hope that Australia will have a Jumping team at Athens.

Dressage Team to go to Hickstead

Australian Dressage is in a similar situation to that of Jumping: We still need to qualify to be able to compete at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Dressage's chance will be during the Open European Dressage Championships at Hickstead in August this year. The Dressage Selectors have announced the following team to compete:

Ricky MacMillan with *Crisp*, Mary Hanna with *Limbo*, Kristy Oatley-Nist with *Rosemount Don Bolero* and Emma Youngman with *Rasputin 441*. Heath Ryan with *GV Stirling Stilton* and Sue Hearn with *Manhattan* are the reserves.

Again, our best wishes to the team.

National Board Meeting – 25 May 2003 – Melbourne

The National Board met in Melbourne last month and debated a wide range of issues. Below is a summary of the most important items.

Corporate Governance – The Kilmister Report

Chairman Russ Withers presented the report and recommendations of the EFA Governance Review Committee, consisting of Russ Withers, Mary Seefried, Manfred Dobrow, Bryan Gardiner and myself. The Committee had reviewed the consultant's report and now made recommendations to the Board on how to proceed from there. Mr. Erni Rauter, Senior Consultant with the Australian Sports Commission, was present during the presentation and discussion.

The Board agreed unanimously with the recommendations of the Review Committee. A PDF file containing these recommendations and the consultant's report can be downloaded from the EFA National web at <http://www.efanational.com/content/attachments/news/EFAGovernanceReviewDocs.pdf>. (By the way, Adobe has released a new version of Acrobat Reader which will be of particular benefit to members using Windows 2000 or Windows XP. The new version can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.)

In **summary**, the proposal is now as follows:

- The Federation structure of the EFA is to be retained.
- The National Board to consist of five Directors elected by the seven "shareholders" (Branches) on the basis of skill. Any member may nominate. The Board can then appoint a further two Directors if required. – Directors can be on the Board for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms and then need to "retire" for at least one year before they can stand again for elections.
- A Shareholders' Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) to be developed between the National body and the Branches outlining who is responsible for what. Emphasis to be on standardised administrative systems across the Federation.
- National Forums to be held annually to develop the strategic plan for the Federation. Disciplines to hold similar forums to plan the future of their respective sports.

Russ Withers will now visit the Branches in the next couple of weeks to explain the proposed reforms and listen to further input from Branch Committees and other stakeholders. I will accompany Russ. Erni Rauter (ASC) will join us at all meetings except Hobart and Mr. Martin Roberts, Senior Sports Consultant responsible for Equestrian, will also be present at the Sydney and Melbourne meetings. Let's hope all those attending the sessions will come with an open mind and the willingness to contribute to this exciting project. The presenters certainly will.

Budget for 2003/04

The budget for 2003/04 was approved by the Board and shows a small surplus. A high priority will be to increase service levels as new staff get "up to speed" in the new environment of the Sydney office. The biggest unknown again is the impact of our insurance scheme that costs the Federation close to \$100K in staff time and other expenses. So sooner the insurance environment returns to a more predictable state, the better.

Office Relocation

The date for the move is getting closer, and all kinds of arrangements are being made in preparation. I have conducted initial interviews with some of the people that had expressed an interest in the available positions. Other interviews will be over the telephone and again at short notice in Sydney. Time is running out, however. Before they start in Sydney, some of the new staff may also be coming to Adelaide for a day or two to be briefed by our experienced existing staff.

Policies

The Board agreed on a number of policies or policy revisions. They will be published during the next couple of weeks. They include a policy on product endorsement and a National Swabbing Policy. The Board also decided to amend the current policy of the affiliation of clubs, to allow hunt clubs to continue to affiliate.

Carriage Driving

You may know that the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) has been affiliated with the EFA and has been the "controlling body" of this sport on behalf of the EFA. In recent times, three EFA Branches (Qld, NSW and SA) have set up EFA Carriage Driving groups, in order to promote and control the sport within the EFA. Their aim has been to form a National Carriage Driving Committee under EFA auspices (similar to the National Committees of other disciplines).

The Board resolved:

That the EFA National Board supports in principle the move to establish a National Carriage Driving Committee.

That a Steering Committee be formed by the Chairs of the EFA Driving Groups and representatives of the ACDS from Vic, Tas. & WA. This Steering Committee is to be facilitated by Mr. Goldsworthy and is asked to put a plan for the formation of the NCDC to the Board at its August meeting.

We all hope that the steering committee comes up with a solution that helps make the sport develop further in a harmonious fashion.

Finances

The good news is that we are looking at an above budget surplus for the current year, a terrific turnaround from last year.

Insurance

We are about to meet again with our brokers Marsh to agree on how to approach the insurance issue for next year. I sincerely hope that we will be able to offer a better package than last year, but until the insurance bids are received, it is difficult to predict the outcome. Rest assured, we will be working hard in the members' interest.

Database

I am pleased to report that the SA Branch is about to join the National Database. That leaves WA as the only major Branch to make the database complete.

The other good news is that the upgrade of the results/grading/performance section of the database is also nearing completion. This will enable the uploading of event results into the National Database, first for Eventing and then for the other Disciplines.

So much for today. Please visit our web at www.efanational.com on a regular basis, to get updates on equestrian matters.

Best regards,

Franz Venhaus
11 June 2003