



National Office News Sheet – September 2003

My apologies for the slight delay in the publication of this newsletter. We are cranking up for the onslaught of correspondence and telephone calls because

We have a deal for our insurance

The biggest and best news for us this month is that we have signed up with **Aon Risk Services Australia Limited** for an insurance package that includes Public Liability, Association Liability and other insurance policies for the Federation, its coaches, clubs and organising committees.

The "deal" is better than last year's in many ways:

- The insurance is with underwriters that are **licensed to write business** in Australia and that also have a good **credit rating**.
- Coaches are offered insurance at a lower rate than last year. They will be able to give **individual lessons to members of clubs that are insured with the EFA**, in addition to EFA members. This will double their "pool" of pupils. They will continue to be able to teach at training days organised by at EFA-insured clubs.
- The definition of the insured is extended to include third party **property owners** for claims against them arising due to your activities carried out on their land. .
- The insurance cover for clubs and other affiliated bodies **includes Association Liability insurance** that clubs had to purchase at significant cost individually and directly through Marsh last year.
- For clubs, **Voluntary Workers' Personal Accident Insurance is "bundled"** with the Public Liability and Association Liability insurance package.
- There is a **"matrix" of charges** that relates the cost of insurance to a club's number of members and its number of active days that involve horses, in other words, costs are more directly related with risk.
- The **"average" club will pay less** than last year, even though the policy package includes Association Liability and Voluntary Workers' Personal Accident insurance.
- Riders who wish to participate in a club event and who are neither EFA members nor members of an EFA-insured club, can still participate provided they sign a waiver and contribute \$10 towards the cost of Public Liability insurance (remitted to the EFA National Office).

For more details please check at http://www.efanational.com/content/risk_management/insurance.htm for updates and information. Or you can go to a separate section of the web dedicated to insurance matters (<http://www.efanational.com/insurance/menu/index.htm>). There have been some changes to the Coaches' Incident Report form and the Non-Members' Liability Remittance form (clubs). The revised versions are on the web. By the way, Members' Personal Accident insurance will remain as is until the policy's expiry on 30 June 2004.

We do give clubs and coaches a "hold covered" period of 30 days (to 30 October 2003) to renew their insurance. We would like to encourage them to pay their charges sooner rather than later, however, as **the Federation will have to pay the initial overall premium amount within 30 days**. That's a lot of cash to pay, and we are trying to keep the cost of premium financing to a minimum.

National Office

We are all getting a little more settled (and more experienced) at our new location at Homebush. Once the insurance renewals are out of the way, we will be able to concentrate on other important projects and issues that have had to take the back seat for a couple of months. The speed of response will also improve over time, and I should have worked through some 500 e-mails that still require attention. Please be patient.

FEI Officials

The deadline to advise the FEI of recommended additions, promotions and other changes to the FEI lists of officials has been pushed back by one month to the end of October. It appears that many officials believe that they do not have to be members (minimum Associate level) of the Federation, to be an International official. Membership with the National Federation is, however, a standard requirement for officials in any sport.

Also, the FEI has been publishing the **Bulletin** on its web (at http://www.horsesport.org/fei/reference/reference_04/ref_04_01.html). The distribution of Bulletins to Australian FEI-listed officials will cease with the last issue in 2003. We are currently posting out issue 4 out of 6 for 2003, so it's only two more issues after this. If you would still like to receive the FEI printed version (or a photocopy of the downloaded version), you will need to subscribe either with the FEI directly or with the EFA National Office and pay for the subscription in advance.

Events

Equitana is coming up soon, so it is advisable to make you hotel bookings now. For more information, go to <http://www.equitana.com.au/index3.html>. The EFA will have a stand at Equitana, so please drop in and say hello. By the way, German Dressage coach **Klaus Balkenhol** who was supposed to give a clinic for our Elite riders is now not able to come. Doctors will not permit him to travel. We hope Klaus will recover soon. The organisers have, however, managed to contract **Nadine Capellmann** but not with her horse *Farbenfroh* with whom she won Team Gold at the Sydney 2000 Games. I am sure even without her horse, her presentations will still be "colourful".

The same urgency for accommodation bookings applies to **the 2003 National Dressage Championships** in Sydney http://www.dressagensw.com.au/NatDChamps/comp_major_events_ndc.htm and, of course, **the Mitsubishi Adelaide International Horse Trials**. This CCI**** event will include a **special ball on Saturday night**, organised by the **Anna Savage Foundation**. You can download the flyer from http://www.adelaidehorsetrials.com.au/documents/Flyer-website_000.doc and book your ticket at the same time.

At the end of October (22 – 26), however, the first **World Cup Final for Evening** will take place in Pau, France. Australia already has a field of five riders and their horses, including Megan Jones with *Kirby Park Irish Hallmark* and Nick Roe with *Wondaree Hooley Dooley* who flew out last week. The other confirmed riders are Andrew Hoy (*Mr Pracatan* - tbc), Matt Ryan (*Bonza Puzzle*) and Paul Tapner (*Highpoint*). Australia has also been given the chance to add a "wild card" entry. Names will be confirmed early next week, so check our web for the news.

Other events to look out for are the National Show Horse Championships and "Dressage with the Stars", both of which will take place in December. More in the next newsletter.

At the recent International Paralympic Committee – **IPC - World Equestrian Championships**, Australia did quite well in Dressage. The Australian Paralympic Committee reports:

The Australian Equestrian team was very pleased overall with its results at the IPC World Equestrian Championships.

The best results were for Grade 1 Jan Pike two silver medals, Grade II Anne Skinner two fourths, and Georgia Bruce Grade IV 6th and 10th.

The team result was disappointing mainly due to the fact that on the morning of the team declaration Anne Skinner's horse was slightly lame and it was thought that the risk was too great. However as the replacement Rosalie Fahey was ill and did not perhaps perform up to expectations, Australia ended up placing 11th. If Anne had been nominated despite the concern re her horse Australia would have placed 5th overall.

For full results, go to <http://www.paralympic.org.au/files/cms/Equestrian%20worlds03.doc>.

And remember, tickets and tours to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games are available only through the AOC's official agent, Sportsworld. Check their web at <http://www.sportsworld-athens2004.com/australia/main.asp>.

High Performance Plan 2005-2009

As I have mentioned earlier, Gareth McKeen is coordinating the preparation of a plan that needs to be with the Australian Sports Commission by the end of October. There will be a series of forums at major events. You are welcome, however, to contribute right now. For more details, please check the EFA home page.

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

By they way, if you have not received the regular monthly e-mail that I have been sending out to more than 5,000 members, and would like to be included in the list, please drop me a note (franz@efanational.com).

Best regards,

Franz Venhaus

25 September 2003