

From the CEO's Desk

March/April 2004

Dear Member,

This Equestrian Federation news sheet will have to cover both March and April, as I will be absent from the office for part of April. I have to attend the FEI General Assembly which unfortunately is held in Paris this year. Last year's Assembly was to take place in Bahrain but was cancelled due to the impending war in Iraq. At least we don't have to worry about the war any longer, just terrorism

I am sure our competent National Office staff will be able to manage without me for a couple of weeks, possibly enjoying life to a higher degree than when I am there (if that is possible).

By the way, to be able to see this e-mail in its intended format, your e-mail browser should be set to "HTML".

Club Development Network

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), who is of course the major supplier of funds to the Federation, runs the free [Club Development Network](#) via the ASC web site. We would like to encourage clubs to join it as the membership gives clubs access to a lot of useful information. So why not check it out?

Risk Management

As our clubs will know, affiliation with the EFA and access to public liability and other insurance depends on clubs meeting certain conditions. One of these - and you can access the complete policy on our [web](#) - is that from 01 July 2004, clubs will have to have a Risk Management policy and manual in place. We had hoped to have a template for this available by now but there have been some delays. We still hope to have something on the web by the middle of May, giving those club committees that have not completed their documents, some time to consider the samples and adapt and implement them.

Board Elections

By the time you read this, the EFA's "Shareholders" (the Branches) will have met in Sydney (on Sunday, 28 March 2004) to elect a new National Board consisting of five Directors. Once elected, the Board can then appoint a further two directors if it considers this appropriate to complement the skills available on the Board. If you are interested in what is expected of Directors, you can visit a special [page](#) on our web.

Many of you may think they will not be affected by this quite dramatic change in our governance system. A good skills-based board can, however, make a world of difference to an organisation such as ours, so we will wait and see.

FEI Rules and Bulletins

Those of you interested in the rules of International equestrian competition and especially the FEI Officials among you should know that the FEI no longer sends out Bulletins to officials. FEI Officials are responsible for keeping themselves up-to-date.

FEI Bulletins and all FEI Rules, Statutes and Regulations are published on the FEI web. They are not easy to find, however, so we have added a [series of links](#) on our Rules page of our National web site to make it easier for you to locate these documents. We will also try to make you aware, via our web site, of rule changes and other news as they become available from the FEI. So please visit our web or better still, make it your home page.

EFA Web Site

Speaking of the web we will in the next few months add more functionality to our site, including what is called "dynamic" content. Since all these things cost money, we have at times been a little slower than other organisations to include "fancier" options. In the end, it's content and usability that counts. One of the most urgent jobs is to re-work the menu and its options.

Sponsors and Stakeholder

You may have come across the news that [Ridley Agriproducts](#) and [Kentucky Equine Research](#) (KER) have become the "official nutritionists" to the Australian Equestrian Team. This is a five year arrangement and will bring a range of benefits to the Federation and its squads especially. I should also mention our other sponsor, Horseland.

Our two biggest "stakeholders" are the [Australian Sports Commission](#) which provides \$1.3 million mainly to the High Performance side of the sport, and the [Australian Olympic Committee](#), with which we have especially close relations in Olympic years like this one. We are very grateful for the funding and all the other support we are receiving from the ASC and AOC.

High Performance

Our High Performance Manager Gareth McKeen has been producing the "Aiming for Athens" newsletter, primarily for potential Olympic riders. The newsletter is available in PDF format for [download from the web](#) so if you want to see what's happening in this area, have a look.

We have developed a position description for the post of National Dressage Coordinator that will be advertised shortly, so please check our home page from time to time.

And we would like to wish all the riders who are going overseas good luck with their efforts to gain Olympic selection. These include Tim Amitrano (going to the [World Cup Jumping final](#)), Andrew Inglis, Wendy Schaeffer, Sammi McLeod and Megan Jones. Good luck, of course, also to all the others, at home and abroad.

I should mention that both **Show Horse** and **Jumping teams** (and our own Monique Schaefer!) took part in the New Zealand Horse of the Year show at Hastings and did well. More details on our [web](#).

Major Events

You can check our [web calendar](#) for major equestrian events and links to their webs where they have been provided. I must draw your attention, however, to the World Cup Finals in [Dressage](#) (01-04 April) and [Jumping](#) (21-24 April) where we have "young" Australian riders competing. Kristy Oatley-Nist is 25 and Tim Amitrano 24 years of age.

The [Australian Dressage Championships](#) are being held 01-04 April at Werribee, just over five months after the last ones at SIEC. I also must mention the [Sydney CDI*** International Dressage Event](#) (29 April - 02 May), which this year again features Jumping, including a [World Cup Qualifier \(CSI-W\)](#).

Coaching and Officiating

EFA coaching and officiating staff and committees have been very active reviewing many of the current services offered to EFA members. These reviews have harvested many new initiatives and brought a number of programs up-to-date. New initiatives include:

- 1) Standardised procedures for the conduct of FEI Courses in Australia;
- 2) A new Introductory Coach Accreditation Course,
- 3) Development of draft procedures for National Officiating Guidelines, and
- 4) Work has started on National Riding and Horse Management certification.

These developments will offer greater services to EFA members and will further enhance the reputation of Equestrian sport in Australia.

Australian Youth Olympic Festival

As I indicated in the last news sheet, Equestrian (Dressage & Jumping) is going to be part of the 2005 Festival. We are sending out letters to age-eligible members of the respective rider squads calling for expressions of interest. Other riders may apply but bear in mind they must be 15 - 18 years of age in 2005.

You can download an overview and Expression of Interest forms for both riders and Chefs d'Equipe from our [web](#).

So that's it for the time being. The next newsletter will come early May, after the FEI has decided which countries will qualify for individual entry at Athens through the Olympic Rider Ranking list. Good luck, Australian Dressage!

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Franz Venhaus
26 March 2004