

## From the CEO's Desk

May 2004

Well, I thought things were going to return to "normal" after the trip to Europe and a rather exhausting FEI General Assembly in Paris. It's the new kind of "normal", however: no letting-up.

The first weekend a successful Sydney CDI\*\*\* incorporating a World Cup Jumping class (CSI-W) in a packed indoor stadium at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. The next weekend the AOC AGM on Saturday and the first meeting of the new Board on Sunday. I could not think of anything better to do (on a weekend that included my birthday and Mother's Day - who planned this?).

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

### **New National Board meets for the first time**

Newly elected Directors Russ Withers, Alexi Kentish, Mary Seefried, Kerry Brydon and Geoff Sinclair met for the first time last Sunday, with a solid agenda to which many other current items could have been added.

[More later in this newsletter ...](#)

### **Australian Youth Olympic Festival**

I mentioned this Festival in the last newsletter. Expressions of interest from riders to take part officially closed at the end of April. We will, however, consider late applications provided they get to us by the end of this month.

This is going to be a great event, giving young riders a true "feel" of the Olympic Games: multi-sport, accreditation, villages, transport, opening ceremony, etc. New Zealand (NZL), South Africa (RSA) and Japan (JPN) have accepted invitations to send teams of three riders each in Dressage and NZL, JPN and the Philippines (PHI) teams of four riders each in Jumping.

We will be relying on the generosity of our horse owners to make make horses available for the event. This is an opportunity to be part

of the Olympic atmosphere and have direct involvement in the event.

You can download an overview of the event and Expression of Interest forms for both riders and Chefs d'Equipe from our [web](#). The timelines mentioned in the overview have now been adjusted.

## FEI General Assembly

Rather than adding more to this newsletter, there is a slightly modified extract from an FEI press release available in PDF format. Simply click [here](#).

## High Performance News

Our High Performance Manager Gareth McKeen has issued another "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.

The greatest news is, of course, that Australia can send at least **one Dressage rider to the Athens Games**, ensuring representation in all three Olympic Disciplines. With a bit of luck, we might get a second spot. [More .....](#)

## Some Dressage matters

The National Dressage Committee has published a survey asking for views on the re-introduction of **grading points for Preliminary** competition and on the grading system as a whole. You can download the survey from [www.efanational.com](http://www.efanational.com)

On the same page, you can also find more suggestions for the construction of **safer dressage arena surrounds**.

## Major Events

Please check our [web calendar](#) for major equestrian events and links to their webs where they have been provided. The next "major" event to come is the [Melbourne International Three-Day Event](#) (12 - 14 June), which includes the first of two Australian World Cup Eventing Qualifiers. There is also a clinic for International Eventing Judges, Technical Delegates and Course Designers with Michael Etherington-Smith. I believe there are still places so if you are interested in gaining more skills in these areas, contact the [organisers](#).

The final Eventing qualifying and selection fixture for Athens is the [Sydney International Three-Day Event](#) held 25 - 27 June at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. This event includes the Trans Tasman Young Rider Championships and a class run in the Athens Olympic format.

## Coaching and Officiating

The EFA, through the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) Committee, works diligently to maintain and further improve the reputation of its Coaches. EFA Coaches are required to sign and abide by the **EFA Coaches' Code of Ethics**, thus ensuring the current high standards of EFA Coach behaviour and professionalism.

The underpinning guidelines and policies associated to this Code are currently being reviewed to guarantee that the EFA meets all of its membership responsibilities and those of a National Sporting Organisation.

## FEI Veterinary Regulations

The FEI General Assembly approved a proposed rule change enabling the treatment of mares with excessive oestrus behaviour with Regumate® (altrenogest), under the following conditions:

1. only for mares,
2. at the manufacturer's recommended dosage and
3. after completion of Medication Form 2. This permission, as is the case for gastric ulcer treatment, will be reviewed annually.

To this effect, a new version of Form 2 has been designed and will shortly be sent out to FEI Veterinary Officials . Testing laboratories are advised to report any altrenogest positives to the FEI, although the test result will not be followed up by judicial action. The FEI would like to monitor the number of altrenogest positive test results to get a better idea how much this medication is being used.

## New National Board meets for the first time

Continuing from the earlier message:

The first thing to do was to elect a Chairman. The appointment of Russ Withers was no surprise. Then followed the determination of the length of each Director's term of office:

Russ drew the short straw for one year, which because of the delays in the Governance Review actually means six months to the AGM in November. Alexi Kentish and Geoff Sinclair got terms of two years (to the AGM in Nov 2005) and Mary Seefried and Kerry Brydon three years.

The constitution calls for the formation of a few Board Committees: The Audit Committee, concerned with the company's financial affairs, will consist of Kerry Brydon (Chair), Alexi Kentish and Russ Withers.

Geoff Sinclair (Chair), Mary Seefried and Russ Withers will form the Remuneration Committee that considers the CEO's salary and related matters.

The ICDF Committee considers applications for funding of international competitions and development projects. Alexi Kentish will be the Chair and Mary Seefried, Kerry Brydon and the CEO (non-voting) members of this committee.

## Meeting Schedule for 2004/2005

The Board plans to meet on the following days:

- Sunday, 20 June 2004
- Sunday, 19 September 2004 (Olympic Games 13 – 29 August)
- Saturday/Sunday, 06-07 November 2004 (including AGM)
- Wednesday, 15 December 2004
- Saturday/Sunday, 19-20 February 2004 (including strategic planning session and possibly a forum)
- Monday, 11 April 2004 (probably in Melbourne)
- Friday, 03 June 2004

The Board also agreed on an annual agenda that will ensure that policies, plans and financial reports are reviewed on a regular basis.

## Vision/Mission and Strategic Plan

One of the most important items on the Board agenda was the discussion of the EFA's purpose and which items of the current Strategic Plan should have priority. The formulation of an overall vision/mission statement will spread over a couple of meetings but a first draft reads as follows:

**"To have a vibrant Equestrian community with increasing participation in a professionally-run sport where all members have the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations."**

As far as the Strategic Plan is concerned, the new Board adjusted some of the timelines and priorities but generally concurred with decisions of the previous Board.

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

This document, still in draft form and soon to be circulated for initial review by shareholders (EFA Branches), is a linchpin of the Governance Review. The National Organisation and the Branches will outline their respective roles, functions and responsibilities and will agree how the sport is conducted throughout Australia.

The end result should be that members across Australia will receive a more uniform range and level services and that programs undertaken by Branches tie in more closely with National strategy and direction.

## **Board-Branch Communications**

With the change in the composition of the Board, which no longer includes direct representation of Branches through its Chairs, the National Board will pay even more attention to the communication of Board business to the Branches. Branch Committees will receive a detailed summary of the business dealt with at each Board meeting. As before, Branches will have the opportunity to raise items for the National Board agenda.

## **Committee By-Laws**

The new "scheme of things" requires a re-definition of Board-National Discipline Committee relations and of communication between Committees. The Board has set up a schedule of meetings with two or three representatives of each National Discipline Committee over the next twelve months. The Board also proposes to limit the tenure in office of NDC delegates (before they need to take a one-year break) in line with accepted good governance practices.

## **Disciplinary By-Laws**

The Board considered and agreed to changes that will enable the issue of administrative fines by Branch and National Offices for clear-cut breaches of rules and regulations. There will still be an avenue for appeal but the idea is to have a uniform system in place that can deal with obvious rule infringements swiftly and efficiently.

## **Financial Reports and 2004-05 Budget**

The CEO presented year-to-date reports and a latest estimate for the year ending 30 June 2004. The Board was pleased that the result for this year will be "in the black" including the cost of the office relocation from Adelaide to Sydney.

The budget for the coming year is "break-even" with increased expenditures mainly in the Coaching & Officiating areas and better support to committees. The greatest uncertainty again is insurance and its financial impact on the organisation.

## **Sponsors and Stakeholder**

I can't close the newsletter without mentioning our sponsors and supporters.

[Australian Sports Commission](#)

[Australian Olympic Committee](#)

[Horseland](#)

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and many others, especially our other event sponsors.

We are very grateful for the funding and support we have been receiving.

**Franz Venhaus**

10 May 2004