



IMGA Newsletter December 2004

From the editor
Felicity Hotston-Jones

Happy Christmas to all of you and thank you for all your input to the IMGA December newsletter!

As newly elected communications officer I was informed that the newsletter was one of my responsibilities! Due to the short space of time in which to gather information I have not managed to get a huge amount of volume but I hope that you find it enjoyable and helpful for the coming year and I would like to wish Jill Masterton Luck and best wishes with her big move in February!

With this issue we are lucky to have input from many of the IMGA countries, plus articles on the 2005 world teams, pairs, and individuals, and our regular report from the Chairman!



I will very quickly say a little about myself!

I have been involved with MGA since 1995 and have spent the last seven seasons with the Sussex team.

I have had the honour of representing GB and England at international level, as well as competing at the magnificent Göteborg and Oslo horse shows as recently as last season!

As most of you know I am married to Welsh International and Sussex team member Christian Jones who is well known on the world games circuit, (hopefully for his riding abilities!)

My dream is that the games one day will receive the recognition it deserves and our only problem will be finding venues with a big enough crowd capacity to hold our competitions in!

This may sound crazy but if we all pull in the same direction I believe it is possible!

Happy Christmas and good luck to all in 2005!!!

Fliss x



Reports from around the Globe, four questions seven nations!



Q1)What were the highlights of the 2004 mounted games season in your country?

(Germany) 32 teams have taken part in at least 3 ranking list competitions each. This is an all-time record.

(GB) The highlight of the Mounted Games season for MGAGB is always the Inter Counties Championships held at the Town & Country Festival, Stonleigh, Warwickshire at the end of August. 72 county teams took part competing for the Championships in each of 3 age groups. The winners were: Under 12- Hampshire, Under 17- Warwickshire and Open- Royal Berkshire. The 3 days saw Mounted Games competitions of the very highest standard and 3 wonderful finals in front of a packed audience .

(N.IRE) The highlight of the season and one of the best moments we have ever had was winning the Saturday morning session in Saumur. It was special for me because I have a great bunch of riders who have been involved for a few years now and most had suffered the miss fortune of being second in a session on the last race rule but never won. A great reward for all the effort they put in.For the more successful teams a session may not mean much but for a very small country with never more than a handful of riders it was a very special moment in time. There were others for the first time we won both the Major North South trophies at Kildare show and at Castlewellen Show and despite playing the worst they did all year managed to finish 12th at Builth our best placing ever.

(Wales) The honour of being asked to host the 2005 World Championships.

(NORWAY) The 2004 season was the biggest and busiest ever for the Norwegian Mounted Games Association and there were many highlights. We began the year with a trip to the other side of the world to compete at the Horse of the Year Show in Hastings, New Zealand. It was an unforgettable trip for all concerned. New Zealand has got to be one of the most beautiful countries in the world and our hosts were incredibly friendly. We all made a lot of friends on that tour and it was of course made all the more memorable by the fact that we won the South Pacific challenge cup. The rest of the international season also provided many highlights. The Northern European Championship series was staged for the first time between Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany with competitions being held in each country throughout the season and the points being added together. It was a very successful and hard fought competition which was still wide open going into the last leg of the competition in Sweden in October. From a Norwegian point of view the highlight certainly came in the round that we hosted ourselves at Nesodden near Oslo where a string of 7 consecutive wins in the last session gave us the overall victory for that leg and provided the home crowd with plenty to cheer about.

For the second year running we also stages a friendly international competition at the Oslo horse show which is held in the Spektrum indoor stadium in Oslo. A crowd of around 8000 were wowed by the games and provided the sort of atmosphere that make your hairs stand up on end. Finally the biggest highlight of the year was certainly the World Championships and this is only as it should be, being the blue ribboned event of the international season. The Saumur worlds provided a spectacular setting and the three days of intense competition were as good if not better than at any previous world championships. Norway achieved their highest ever place in World Championships and we are

all looking forward to breaking that record again in Wales 2005. On a national level, Norway has also been very busy. For the first time in 2004 our national team championship was spread across the whole season and four different competitions in a sort of league format. This proved to be very successful and together with the national individual and pairs championships as well as various friendlies, there is now an awful lot to keep the Mounted Games crazy Norwegian public busy throughout the year.

(USA) We started the season at the Kentucky Horse Park Indoor with nearly weekly open practice in January and February. In March we had a large competition at the KHP with teams from the U.S. and Canada. In May there was a great competition in Kansas City, the first time we have used that site. The next weekend was the first of the North American Challenge Competitions in Barrie, Canada. Pairs competitions filled in the summer with competitions in Kentucky, then we had the second of the NA Challenges in Indiana in October. This was followed by several pairs competitions and capped with the Bluegrass Finale, the final North American Challenge Competition. The season also saw a rider's clinic and a clinic for training coaches taught by Canadian coach Jim Dunn.

Q2) Do you feel your association has improved from 2003 and if so how?

(Germany) The association is still growing, and Mounted Games becomes more and more popular in Germany. At present we are 210 members including 30 riding clubs.

(GB) Our Association has improved since 2003 in that our membership numbers were higher for 2004 than for 2003 which means that MGAGB is continuing to grow!

(N.IRE) Definitely there has been improvement riders coming back to the sport new riders coming in and staying and up from 8th to 5th in the world Championships. There is a new enthusiasm in the group and with the older riders taking on their share of the administrative work a place to go forward from. There also is a closer working relationship with our friends from the south and that is the real way forward for games throughout Ireland as a whole.

(Wales) Yes I feel that great progress has been made in 2004. It just concerns me that some Countries may be left behind.

(NORWAY) In Norway we put together a very ambitious calendar of events for 2004. With national and international events added together we either hosted or were represented at no less than 25 competitions. In all likelihood we would have been the most travelled team of 2004 with some riders having ridden something like 800 competitive races during the season. Our national set-up has without a doubt benefited from the increase in competitions available to teams, pairs and individuals. Our numbers have grown throughout the year and we now have 9 teams regularly taking part and can count on something in the region of 60 active riders. There are already a number of additional teams and individuals who are looking to take up the games in Norway in 2005. Our international team has also reaped the benefits of a heavy schedule. No longer the "also-ran's" of IMGA, Norway are now starting to mix it up with some of the more established nations in the sport and this improvement only bodes well for next season.

(USA) Yes, definitely. We have a strong board of directors which shares a vision of providing safe, fair competitions for riders of all ages. Our novice division is extremely strong with young, enthusiastic and talented riders, and we have people who email and call every week looking for information about mounted games. We have three new groups of riders interested in doing competitions in their part of the country. We are also evolving a knowledgeable group of people interested in training riders at our coaches clinic as well as skilled riders who are able to compete at higher and higher levels.

Q3) What Plans do you have for 2005?

(Germany) To reach the A-final in Wales and not to finish last!

(GB) Our plans for 2005 are to continue to try to organise as many competitions of a high standard as

possible and to continue the growth of the Association.

(N.IRE) Plans for 2005 hopefully competitions throughout Ireland every weekend of the season except for the time surrounding the Worlds. Another Ball is in the arrangement stage and also hopefully one competition big enough to bring teams from GB to Ireland for a weekend. Also to sustain the growth and strengthen the bond between Northern Ireland and The Republic.

(Wales) Not a lot, just Hold World Championships!!!

(NORWAY) 2004 is going to be quite a hard act to follow but we are going to do our best. Sadly it is not going to be possible for us to return to New Zealand and defend our South Pacific cup title. A tour such as that is a huge undertaking and with the continued lack of any sort of meaningful sponsorship, it simply isn't a viable option to go two years running but we're not discounting a possible return at a later stage. 2005 will however see the continuation of the Northern European Championship series and we're all hoping that that will be as exciting and closely contested affair as it was this year. All competitions that were hosted in Norway during 2004 will be repeated in 2005 and maybe even extended. The big summer tour will of course next year take us to Wales for the World Championship with a strong possibility of staying on for the World Individuals as well. Our national team championship series will probably be the one to watch in 2005. This year Søndre Ski won the title that had been held by AGMGA for the four previous seasons. Next year AGMGA will be out for revenge and it will be interesting to see whether Søndre Ski will be able to hold off the challenge, especially with two of their top riders going to ride on the MGAGB tour for the whole of next season.

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Q4) Do you have a Christmas message for you IMGA friends?

(Germany) "The aim of the Mounted Games is to encourage friendship between people of different nations". Don't forget it!

(GB)MGAGB send warmest good wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our friends in IMGA around the world and we hope that many of them will come to visit us here in GB in 2005.

(N.IRE) To wish everybody a great Xmas and New Year and would like to thank all those involved for all the work that has gone on to have made 2004 a very special IMGA year. I believe we have made huge steps as an international association and look forward to the future with great optimism.

(Wales) Hope all of us in the Northern Hemisphere are Wintering well, while you lot in the Southern Hemisphere are in the middle of your season hope you're enjoying your games and the sun. It will not be long before we all start planning the new Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all games enthusiasts.

(NORWAY) From everybody at the International Mounted Games Association of Norway, we would like to extend our thanks to everybody who has helped us during 2004 both at home and abroad and we wish all of our friends throughout the world a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of promise for another exciting Mounted Games season.

(USA) Xmas greetings to all IMGA members from USAMGA!

Luxembourg's Summer Spectacular

Luxembourg is a very small country. Smaller than a medium size city in most other countries. The population of the whole country is less than 500,000 and nearly half of those are not Luxembourgers. Particularly Luxembourg City is as multi national as, for example, London or New York. Walking around the shops, you will hear people speak Luxembourgish, but just as many, if not more, speaking other languages.

Although equestrian sport is popular, out of those 500.000, not all that many are actively involved with horses. Of those who are, an even smaller number are interested in ponies and of those, sadly, very few can be persuaded to take up Mounted Games. You should be getting the picture by now, we have a major recruitment problem!

Despite this problem, we do each year put on several competitions, both for locals, and open to riders from outside of Luxembourg.

This past summer we hosted a competition for those teams, mainly from the North, who were on their way to France for the World Championships and who wanted to break their journey here. We gave it the grand title of "Summer Spectacular".

Despite many setbacks, due to our local council not understanding that hot air balloons and ponies are not happy bedfellows, we eventually, and at very short notice, had to relocate to a different venue, but in the end, all was well and we were in business.

Riders, supporters, referee, and commentator all arrived in due course from many different directions and everyone willingly lent a hand setting up.

The first morning of the competition dawned bright and warm, and it continued to get warmer all the time. A bit less would have been better, but hey, better than raining, right?

The competition went off well, with the top three teams reasonably evenly matched and the same for the other three, which made for interesting finals. In the end the very deserving winners were the German team on 29 points, with Norway hot on their heels with 26 points and a Belgian team on 17 points in the A final and Denmark on 34, Luxembourg on a very respectable 19 points for their first competition and the U. S. riders on borrowed ponies on 17 in the B final.

There was only one small mishap. One of the American riders, although from Kentucky, and as such she should have been used to that kind of weather, had to be taken to hospital with heat stroke, but she was back soon and none the worse for her experience. She was a great girl and obviously made of the touch stuff which makes good games players!

Both on the Saturday and Sunday evenings, everyone enjoyed a good meal together on site in a very friendly atmosphere, well supplied with the local produce. One visitor was heard to remark that it was the first Mounted Games competition he'd ever attended where not only was the bar open all night, but it was unattended, *and it was still there the next morning!*

Monday morning saw all the teams breaking up camp very early, as they still had a 700km+ journey ahead of them. In fact, by the time we arrived on site to clear up, everyone was long gone and well on their way.

All in all, although due to the problems with the council the whole undertaking had been far more stressful than it should have been, a very good time was had by all and I would like to think that most of those riders who were here would think back on their stay with us with fond memories. I certainly will, and would not hesitate to organise something similar again in the future. Perhaps an International Pairs Friendly for next summer?

We here in Luxembourg would like to wish all our Games friends, all over the world a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope 2005 will bring you most of what you would wish for yourselves and will keep you all well out of harm's way. Have a great season and we hope to see most of you again at some time over the coming year.

Fond regards,

Frie Martin

Thanks go out to, Bohn Burkhard (GER), Mary Worth (GB), Colin Carson (N.IRE), Alun Whitney (Wales), Jens Martin (NOR), Paul Greiling (USA) & Frie Martin (LUX).



THE MOUNTED GAMES ASSOCIATION (GREAT BRITAIN) LTD

WORLD INDIVIDUALS AND PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

MGAGB will again be hosting the World Individual and World Pairs Championships in 2005. Both these events are held at the Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire, England.

Newark Showground is very centrally situated in England and is easily reached from the A1 which is one of the major roads running up the east side of England. The Showground has 250 stables and purpose built shower and toilet blocks. The competitions are both held in the Horse Ring which is wide enough to run 8 lanes of competitors competing against each other in each heat.

The World Individual Championships is held every July. For 2005 the dates are from Tuesday July 19th to Sunday July 24th inclusive. The Championships are run in a number of different age groups. These are as follows:-

(All ages are as on 1st January in the year in which the competition takes place)

Under 12- Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th July

Under 15 – Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th July

Under 17- Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd July

Open Veterans-(Age 23 & Over) Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd July

Open (Any age) - Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th July

Veterans (30 and over) –Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th

The World Pairs Championships are held every September. For 2005 the dates are Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September. The age groups are as follows:

Under 12 (Both riders to be under 12 years of age)

Under 17 (Both riders to be Under 17 years of age)

Open (Any age)

The format is the same for each competition. In each age group there are 3 sessions of qualifying heats with 6 games in each heat. The top 16 highest scorers in each age group after the heats qualify for the semi finals for their age group. The 8 highest scorers in the semi finals qualify for the final.

As far as the social side of the events are concerned we have a slightly different format for the 2 Championships.

For the Under 12 & Under 15 groups at the World Individuals we organise a McDonald's meal and games on foot for them in the evenings. For the Under 17's at the World Individuals we organise a McDonalds meal plus a karaoke in the evening and for the Open & Veterans at the World Individuals and for all age groups at the World Pairs we organise a disco in the evening. These social events give everyone the chance to get together after the competition and to have an enjoyable time.

MGAGB warmly welcome riders from all over the world to both of these Championships. In 2004, riders from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Canada, USA, Germany, France, Belgium and Norway competed at the World Individuals and Pairs.

All riders are very welcome to attend either or both of these competitions. The main advice is...enter early- especially for the Pairs, as numbers are limited and the age groups fill quickly.

Entry forms will be available to download from the MGAGB website at www.mgagb.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming old friends and new ones to the World Individuals and World Pairs in

2005!

Mary Worth, MGA GB Executive Officer



20th Annual World Team Championships

8th/10th July 2005

Venue

Pencoed College Fields Nr Bridgend Wales

Bridgend

Bridgend is located in South Wales on the coast between the cities of Cardiff and Swansea, and is the ideal base for exploring South Wales. It could not be more accessible from the UK and Irish Republic. - The M4 motorway which cuts through the County Borough gives direct access from London and the continent. Bridgend is only two hours from London on the Intercity train route, and only 20 minutes drive from Cardiff - Wales International Airport. Bridgend is on a number of National Express routes from major destinations throughout the UK

168 miles west of London , 153 miles from London Heathrow Airport ,

28 Miles west of Cardiff (Wales Capital City) 22 miles from Cardiff Wales Airport

Bridgend could not be more accessible the M4 motorway Junction 35 brings you right to the doorstep! Rail access is also excellent - only two and a half hours from London to Bridgend. You will be spoiled for things to do. This beautiful area of the South Wales coast is packed with attractions providing all the right ingredients for a great stay .With its miles of golden, sandy beaches. Outdoor enthusiasts will find miles of magnificent coastline, breathtaking mountain scenery and idyllic country parks just waiting to be explored. Add to this ancient castles, picture-postcard villages and fascinating heritage attractions, within easy reach of Porthcawl, the County Borough of Bridgend's principal resort. and if you want to explore further a field, both the Brecon Beacons and the Gower Peninsula are less than an hour's drive away.

Venue for World Championships

The venue for the 2005 I.M.G.A. World Team Championships is Bridgend Show which is held at Pencoed Agricultural College Nr Bridgend.

Bridgend Show is a two day county level show with attendances of around 15,000. It promotes all aspects of Town and Country life with a very strong equestrian elements in showing, jumping and driving.

WALES

Wales is a landscape of mountains and valleys. Wales is blessed with awe-inspiring

landscapes and a beautiful coastline rich in marine wildlife, sandy coves and beaches safe for sailing and surfing...

Wales has a vivid, living heritage that is woven into its culture. It dates back to ancient times, spanning almost three millennia and is steeped in myth and legend. As well as Arthurian legend and the Welsh legends of the Mabinogion, Wales founded the Tudor dynasty and was the driving force behind the industrial revolution.

Wales enjoys a cultural identity which is unique and important to its people. The sporting achievement, the elaborate festivals and the musical talent, past and present, is at the heart of this diverse and cosmopolitan country.

The weather in Wales can be very changeable sometimes getting all four seasons in one day. So you need to bring a variety of clothing .Max temperatures at this time of year are around 28 to 30C.

Wales is renowned for its warm welcome and its love of music. We hope you experience both on your stay with us.

Visits

We will be organising two afternoon and evening visits . Transport will be provided for these excursions. As yet venues have to be finalised, but we have a keen and enthusiastic entertainment committee who will be putting together an exiting and varied program for all riders and supporter who wish to attend

Camping

There is ample room to accommodate all teams who wish to park/camp or stay on the event venue We have acquired the field adjoining the show field for this purpose. There will be good facilities for anyone staying on site .Including a Marquee for riders and guests to get acquainted. The Portable Stables will also be erected on the Camping area.

Hotels

Alternatively for anyone who does not wish to camp there are many hotels and travel lodges many within walking distance of the Event

Travelodge Bridgend

Pencoed
Old Mill, Felindre
Road
Pencoed,
Nr. Bridgend
Mid Glamorgan
CF35 5HU

Travel Inn
Pantruthyn Farm
Pencoed
Nr. Bridgend
Mid Glamorgan
CF35 5HU
Tel 01656 646200

Court Colman
Pen y Fai
Bridgend
Mid Glamorgan
Tel 01656 720212

Coed -y-Mwstwr
Coychurch
Bridgend
Mid Glamorgan CF
35 6AF
Tel 01656860621

Transport

Most people will not require transport once they arrive at the event venue .We will provide coaches for any activities not held on the showground, but if you require your own transport you may hire locally from Enterprise rent car

Competition

Format of competition will be as is decided at IMGA agm 2004. A full list of the games played will be made available by closing date of entries. Arena party will be provided by MGA Wales. We will be looking for agreement on a Referee and Assistant referees at IMGA agm 2004. Full details of Format etc after AGM.

Awards

There will be session awards made for each session and Rosettes and Memorabilia will be presented after A Final . Trophies will be presented at Gala Dinner

Ponies

All teams who require us to provide them with ponies should contact us as soon as possible so that we can arrange the best possible ponies. There will be a cost incurred for the ponies provided these

will be kept to a minimum.

Teams bringing their own ponies will require

Horse Passports

Equine first aid kit

Stable Cleaning Equipment

Grooming Equipment

Buckets

Spare Tack

Bedding (Wood Shavings will be provided). If you require an alternative please bring your own or contact us to see if we can supply it for you

All hard Feeds

Pony entry into UK varies dependant on country of origin so please check with relevant authorities. It is your responsibility to make sure that you ponies have all necessary paper work

Whilst you will have third party insurance at the Competition, we strongly advise that you covered by your own insurance for public liability insurance

(Draft) Event Schedule

This schedule may be subject to changes. Some venues have a limited capacity and if oversubscribed may be replaced. So early confirmation of numbers would be a helpful

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Monday 4 th /Tuesday 5th		Team Arrivals	
Tuesday 5th	7.30 pm	Welcoming Buffet/ followed by Entertainment	tbc
Wednesday 6th	8.00am	Breakfast	Riders Marquee
	9.00 am	Practice Sessions	Practice Arenas
	11.30 am	Visit to St Fagans followed by shopping trips to Cardiff and finish of evening at Medieval Banquet at Cardiff Castle	
Thursday 7th	8.00am	Breakfast	Riders Marquee
	9.00 am	Practice Sessions	Practice Arenas
	11.30 am	Visit 2 activity to be confirmed	
	7.30 pm	Briefing	Riders Marquee
	8.30	Buffet followed by Karaoke and Disco	TBC
Friday 8th	8.00am	Breakfast	Riders Marquee
	11.00am	Opening Ceremony	MGA arena Show field
	12.00pm	Heat 1 Session 1	MGA arena Show field
	1.00pm	Heat 2 Session 1	MGA arena Show field
	2.00pm	Heat 3 Session 1 ?????	MGA arena Show field
	6.00pm	Cheese and Wine for International Representatives and Officials debriefing of days events	TBC

	7.30pm	BBQ & Cultural Evening Members of MGA Wales will entertain you and also we would like to be entertained by some of our guest so if you have any talented riders or supporters please let us know so we can include them in our evenings entertainment	TBC
Saturday 9th	8.00am	Breakfast	Riders Marquee
	9.30am	Starting Ceremony	MGA arena Show field
	10.00am	Heat 1 Session 2	MGA arena Show field
	11.00am	Heat 2 Session 2	MGA arena Show field
	12.00pm	Heat 3 Session 2 ?????	MGA arena Show field
	1.00pm	Official Welcoming Ceremony	MGA arena Show field
	2.00pm	Heat 1 Session 3	MGA arena Show field
	3.00pm	Heat 2 Session 3	MGA arena Show field
	4.00pm	Heat 3 Session 3 ?????	MGA arena Show field
	8.00pm	Hog Roast and Entertainment	TBC
Sunday 10th	8.00am	Breakfast	Rider's Marquee
	9.30am	Starting Ceremony	MGA arena Show field
	10.00am	C Final Session 1 ??????	MGA arena Show field
	11.00am	B Final Session 1	MGA arena Show field
	12.00pm	A Final Session 1	MGA arena Show field
	2.00pm	C Final Session 2 ??????	MGA arena Show field
	3.00pm	B Final Session 2	Riders Marquee
	4.00am	A Final Session 2	MGA arena Show field
	5.00pm	Awards Ceremony	MGA arena Show field
	8.00pm	Gala Dinner Awards Evening	Member's Marquee

Alun Whitney, MGA Wales Chairman



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Christmas and New Year is a time for looking back on the previous year, but also an opportunity to look forward to the next one.

A lot happened in IMGA during 2004. The management team elected by members at the 2003 annual meeting set to work to put the association into good order, and the results began to appear immediately.

On January 1 2004 the official IMGA website was launched, and shortly after that we became a legal entity as a limited company. These two things began the process of establishing the identity of IMGA, and the image which we wish to present to the world.

The association's finances were audited and re-structured. Records of past competitions, going back to the late 1980's, were established and published. Work began on important policies such as the establishment of a Code of Conduct for International Mounted Games, and Health and Safety. Operational procedures were developed and approved and implemented. Contacts were made with many other countries, and Switzerland joined our organisation. We prepared and re-issued an entirely up-to-date Rule Book, and we enjoyed regular Newsletters such as this one.

All of these activities are important to IMGA, but IMGA exists to promote, coordinate, and control the sport of Mounted Games, so our accomplishments are better judged by the number and the quality of the international events which have taken place during 2004.

The full set of World Championships, Team, Pairs, and Individuals, displayed the highest standards of competition. Everyone involved, as organisers, as officials, and as riders, can be very proud of their achievements.

In addition we saw more and more competitions being opened up to riders from other countries, and a large number of them enthusiastically making the most of these opportunities. In particular, the cooperation between members north of the equator and those to the south has been a great success, and a lot of people have earned record levels of air-miles.

Looking forward to 2005, we can already see that these trends will continue, and now we also have a distant view of the five Olympic rings on the horizon. They may still be a bit hazy and surrounded by lots of question marks, but an Olympic Committee now exists to ensure that, having set out on the road to Beijing, we don't get lost along the way.

At this time last year, in this column, I (mis)-quoted Bob Dylan by remarking "*IMGA, it is a-changing*", so I think I'll finish this year by (correctly) quoting The Who "*You ain't seen n-n-n-n-nothing yet*" !!!

Best wishes to everyone.

Keith Martin, IMGA Chairman