



NEWS

September 2003

Editorial

The first edition of this newsletter, published in May, was well received. There were several very positive and encouraging comments, and no negative comments at all. So here we go with the second edition !

Of course, the main item of news is the World Championship held a few weeks ago in Lexington, Kentucky. Old news, you may think. Perhaps it is, but you'll find that this newsletter contains the full scores, every team, every race. Plus an analysis of the way the scoring developed through the qualifying sessions and in the finals. Some interesting patterns emerge, and this sort of follow-up on major events is certainly new.

You'll notice that the Chairman's Page is again blank, and you may wonder why I bother with it. Well, it reflects the level of interest shown by the Chairman in the activities of the Association. The last communication I had from Marilyn was in February. Has anyone heard from her since then ?

Keith Martin



World Championships

Congratulations to Wales, winners for the second time. The first time that a World Championship has been won by a team riding borrowed ponies since the present system was introduced.

Congratulations also to all the other teams, winners or not. They all showed great riding skills, sportsmanship, and determination to fight for every point.

Thanks to the organisers. Paul and Liz and their sponsors, supporters, and helpers, who put it all together and made it work.

Thanks to all the officials who ensured a fair and trouble-free competition.

And a special big "thank you" to all the kind people who provided the ponies.

Kentucky Horse Park

One of the most memorable parts of this World Championship has to have been the location. The Kentucky Horse Park made this event really special. The moment you drove through the gates of the park, you knew that you were there for a world-class competition.

Report and Pictures

Check Jens' [Inside Lane number 28](#) on the Mounted Games Website for a personal report on the competition and some of the social activities which accompanied it.

Also take a look at the [Big Picture](#) for hundreds of pictures from Lexington.

Results of the World Championship 2003

The full results of the competition are attached in a Microsoft Excel format file (scores2003.xls).

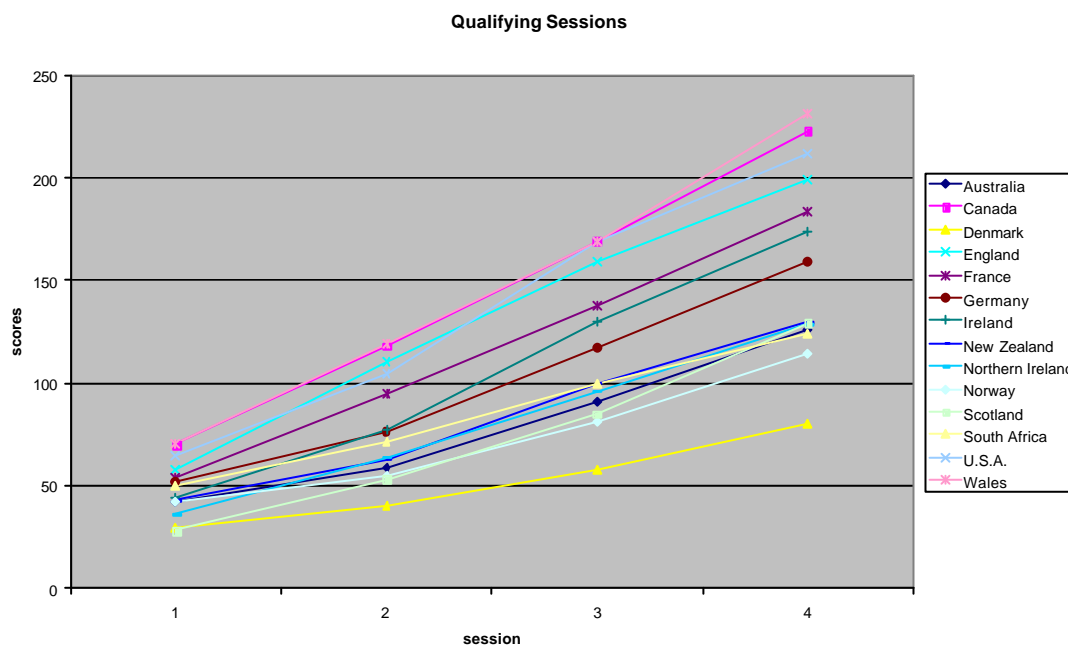
If anyone has problems accessing this file, please let me know, and I will provide the information in an alternative format.

Qualifying Sessions

The current format of the World Championship is a number of qualifying sessions to determine which teams should go into the A final or B final, followed by the finals themselves. The allocation of teams to heats during the qualifying sessions is based each time on the results of previous sessions.

An unexpected result of this format has been noticed previously, but was particularly clear this year : the split between A and B finalists becomes clear early in the competition, during the first qualifying sessions, and the remaining qualifying sessions serve no further purpose.

Let's take a close look at the scores in the qualifying sessions this year. You can see from the chart below that two groups of teams begin to emerge at the end of session 2. This is the split which eventually put the two groups into the two finals. The interesting point is that session 3 confirmed the split, and session 4 widened the gap even further.

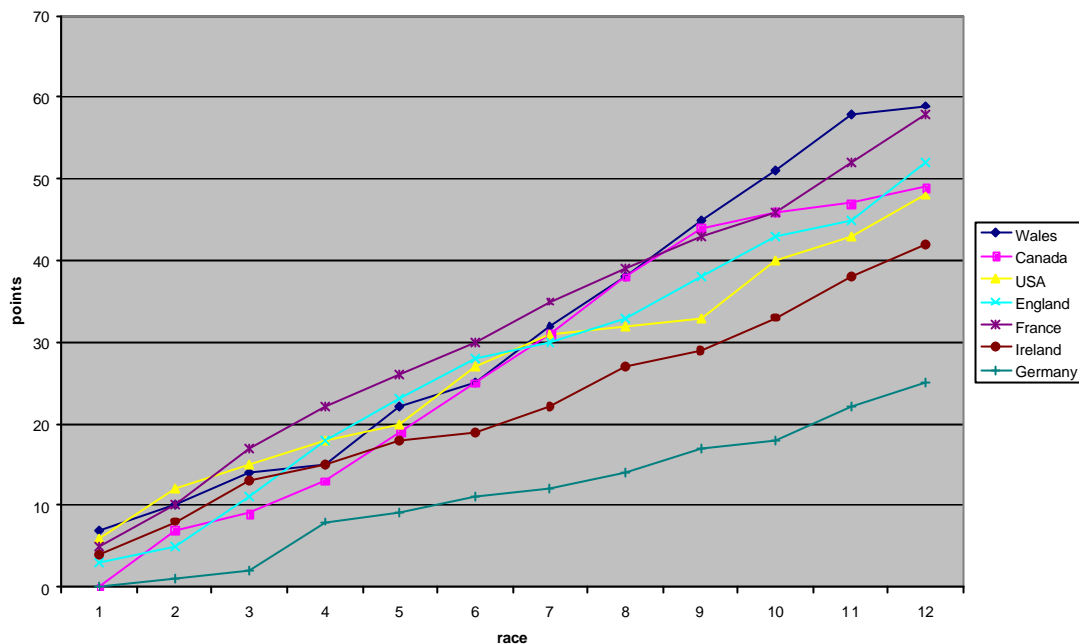


The conclusion is that sessions 3 and 4 served no purpose at all, and don't forget that this year was slightly different because there are usually 5 sessions. If there had been the full 5 sessions then 3 of them would have had no effect at all on the finals.

Does the format of qualifying heats and finals need to be reviewed ?

A Final

At the half-way point in the A final it was already clear (with hindsight and a powerful computer !!!) who would be the winners and losers, and by race 10 everyone thought the result was inevitable. But there were surprises in the last two races and the final result was a lot closer than anyone expected.



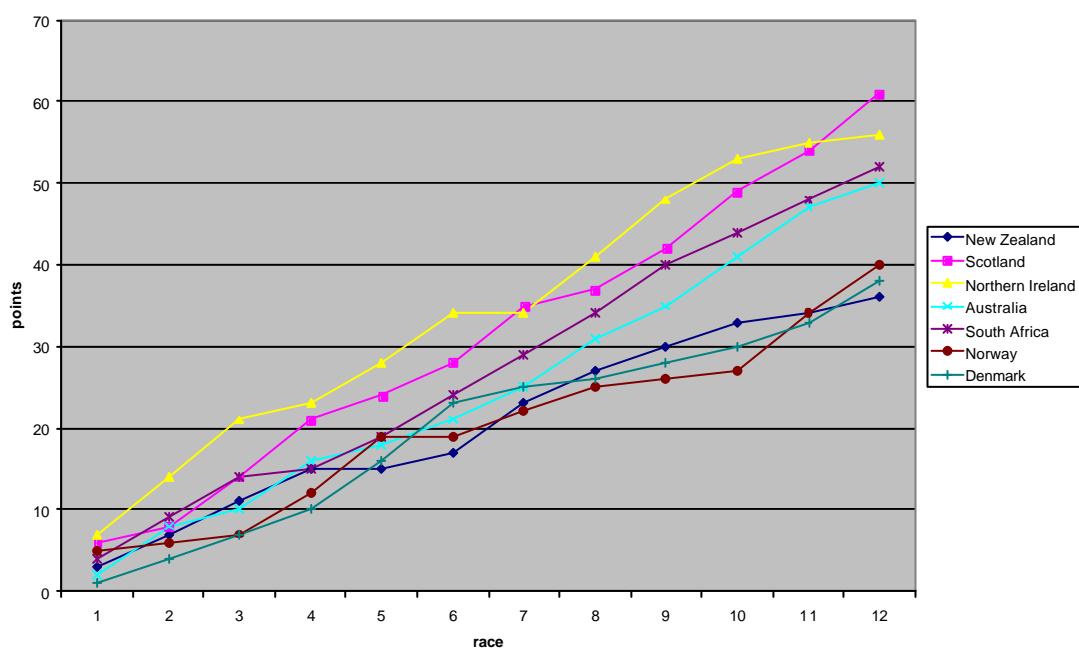
B Final

The B final was, in many ways, more interesting and exciting. Three groups of teams were clear at the half-way point, but within each group the battle continued right to the end.

Group 1 was Scotland and Northern Ireland, but it was the very last race which decided which one would win.

Group 2 was South Africa and Australia, and although South Africa stayed ahead, it was close right to the end.

Group 3 was the Scandinavian battle between Denmark and Norway, plus New Zealand who seemed to be set to beat the other two. Then the last two races turned it all around.



Any Other Business

Constitution

It wasn't only the World Championships which took place in Lexington. On the Wednesday evening, as agreed at last year's annual IMGA meeting, the International Representatives assembled to discuss the progress made on a constitution for IMGA by the working group appointed to the task.

13 member countries were either present or represented by proxy. A full report on the meeting has already been distributed, but the main point to be aware of is that the draft constitution distributed to members several weeks prior to the meeting was unanimously approved, and the group was given a mandate to develop it into a full-text document for presentation at the next full IMGA meeting later this year.

Next Edition

If you enjoyed reading the news here, or even if you didn't, please think seriously about distributing copies to your members. After all, you are their representative and as such you should be the pipeline between them and IMGA.

If you want to be involved and help with the newsletter, please send your contribution for the next edition to [Keith Martin](#).

The next edition will be published after the IMGA annual meeting which is scheduled for November, in Brussels.

Outstanding Questions

In the last newsletter, under "Any Other Business", the question was asked "Is Denmark yet a member of IMGA ?" No response was ever forthcoming from the Chairman, who is currently responsible for membership matters, so officially the question still stands. But given that Denmark participated in the World Championships we can assume that events have resolved this particular problem.

The other major outstanding problem concerns the minutes of the last IMGA meeting. If the Chairman continues to totally ignore this issue then it too is likely to be overtaken by events as preparations for the next meeting are already under way.

Next IMGA Meeting

The next meeting will take place in Brussels on Saturday 22nd November.

This will be the first time that the annual meeting has been organised away from the southern part of England. Brussels is easy and convenient for both European and inter-continental travellers, and the hotel selected for the meeting is conveniently close to both the international airport and several major European motorway routes.

Full details will be sent to all International Representatives well in advance of the meeting.

To ensure that the agenda for the day can be planned well in advance, and the time available used to our best advantage, it would be useful if members could already indicate the subjects they'd like to discuss.

Chairman's Page

As before, the Chairman has been invited to contribute to this newsletter but there has been no response, so once again the Chairman's page remains conspicuously blank.

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If you see any errors or omissions above, please let me know.