



# NEWS

April 2004

## Editorial

The other day I went to my post box to collect my mail and there was an envelope with the words **"On Her Majesty's Service"** emblazoned across the top. Now, in South Africa it is quite unusual to get an envelope like this – actually, truth be told, it is quite unusual for any overseas mail to actually get as far as the post box – it usually gets 'lost'. Anyway, I was intrigued and opened it to find that it was a welcome letter to the world of company directors in England and Wales, complete with a neat little booklet telling me all about my responsibilities as a company director. This was as a direct result of the incorporation of IMGA as a Private Limited Company, a milestone in the history of the International Mounted Games Association. I thought I'd share with you the last line of the letter. **"I would like to wish you and your company every success in the future."**

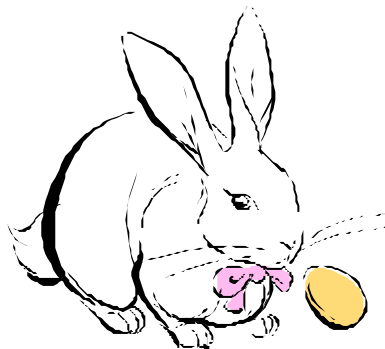
The new rule book is almost here, I have spent the last two days proof reading it and it goes to the printers this afternoon. Keith and Jens certainly have worked hard on this and I think the new book is going to be a stunner – easy to read and understand and still pocket book sized.

I am exceedingly jealous of those who will be attending the World Championships in Saumur. Did a bit of surfing on the world-wide-web and found out all about Saumur and its equestrian traditions and its lovely food and sparkling wines – it looks like an absolutely stunning place to visit. The IMGA website has a scrumptious write-up on Saumur – go look see.

There hasn't been much of a response to my pleas for stories for the newsletter – and we still don't have a catchy new name. Come on folks, this is YOUR communications tool and we want to know all about what's going on in other countries. Perhaps our newest member country, Switzerland can tell us how they got involved in IMGA and how they run games in the Alps? There is a story inside this issue about how to run games with African wild game such as wildebeest and zebra. That's mounted games in Africa for you - wild!

I wish you all a very good Easter – I hope the bunnies bring you plenty of chocolates. My Pony Club is having an Easter Egg hunt on Sunday – the poor kids will have to find those eggs quickly or they'll melt in the heat, although we are now going into winter it really only gets cold at night.

Jill



## Incorporated at Last!

The International Mounted Games Association is incorporated as a Private Limited Company

On the third of March this year, the International Mounted Games Association was incorporated as a Private Limited Company, limited by guarantee, with no share capital, at Companies House (GB) under the Companies Act of 1985. Company number is 5061664.

This is the normal form of incorporation for sports clubs and other similar organisations under company law in England and Wales.

The incorporation papers specify the five current officers of the association: Keith Martin, Ro Day, Jens Martin, Jim Dunn, Jill Masterton as officers of the company, with Jens also nominated as Company Secretary.

The same five are registered as members. At our meeting in France we can discuss whether the other members of the association also wish to be legally registered as members.

The appropriate parts of the constitution have been amended to reflect the new legal status of IMGA, and it is now available on the IMGA website.

## Saumur August 2004

Saumur, Capital of Horsemanship.

"When at the end of the XVI Century King Henri IV allowed his friend Duplessis-Mornay to found a Protestant University and an Equestrian Academy in Saumur, could he have suspected that he had bound our city to the horse for 400 years?"

After the installation of the of the royal body of police officers in the XVIII Century and the arrival of the school of cavalry and the cadre noir, and more recently, in 1972 the creation of the National School of Horsemanship (ENE), Saumur today is more than ever related to the most beautiful conquest of man." Mayor of Saumur

## Competitions

- April 8-11 Scandinavium International Friendly (Sweden)
- April 17 New Zealand Pairs
- April 24-25 German Pairs
- May 8-9 NEC (Germany)
- May 22-23 Swedish Pairs Championships
- May 31 Luxembourg Championships (part 1)
- June 5-6 North American Cup (Canada)
- June 5-6 Agria Cup International Friendly (Sweden)

More details are on the website.



## Communication

### Heavenly Horses

One day in Heaven, St Peter, St Paul and St John were standing around near the paddocks watching the ponies frolic. "I am certainly bored," stated John. "Me too," Paul chimed in. "I know!" Peter began. "Why don't we have a mounted games competition?" Paul and John thought that the idea was great except for one small detail that Paul pointed out "Who are we to compete against, Peter?" The trio pondered a moment when Peter realised the answer. "We will call up Satan and invite him to the competition. I mean, we have all of the finest games ponies here in Heaven, all of the World and National Champions are here. His stable is ridden with spoiled, difficult and mean ponies. We are certain to win at the show!" And so the trio calls up Satan on the other realm communication lines and invites him to their games competition. Satan laughed and asked why they would want to be humiliated like that, because he would certainly beat them. Peter, Paul & John did not understand. "What do you mean, Satan?" Peter asked. "We have all of the National and World Champion ponies in our stable in Heaven. How could you possibly beat us?" Satan paused a moment and then laughed. "Have you forgotten so soon gentlemen? I have all the judges!"

## South Africa Makes Video for Olympic Presentation.



Vicky Brooker's zebras quite rudely laughing at our games ponies!

Here in the Gauteng Province of South Africa, far from suffering the drought that has ravaged the rest of the country since last year, we have experienced weather more closely associated with The Emerald Isle of Ireland – rain, rain and more rain. After many false starts and trying to get some video recording in the can – we managed to get to Vicky Brooker's game farm in the foothills of the Magaliesberg Mountains on 28<sup>th</sup> March to eventually get footage of mounted games played with wild animals as a back drop.

Vicky Brooker has tame lions, giraffe, wildebeest and zebra – all of which are accustomed to horses as there are horses resident on the game farm. However, our ponies had never seen anything as scary as striped, barking ponies, as terrifying as the gigantic giraffe or as weird-looking as wildebeest. In fact, the ponies were more than prepared to jump into the lions' enclosure to get away from these nightmarish creatures!

Needless to say, life and limb were risked and eventually we managed to get some games equipment up on the savannah and started to play games, with the wildebeest curiously looking on. But – the minute we got the ponies galloping – the wildebeest did likewise and galloped out of the frame! It was totally hectic, with our intrepid videographer showing great patience as we all shrieked with laughter until tears were streaming down our faces!

It was an amazing day and we were allowed to swim the ponies in the dam afterwards and hack around on the game farm. Unfortunately, because of weekend after weekend of inclement weather, the video may not yet make it to Jim Dunn in time to be included in the Olympic presentation. We really did try our best but the weather defeated us, perhaps the video can be used to promote games in the future? We had a really fantastic time making it, and it was a day that we (and our ponies!) will remember forever.

Mandé Siderfin  
MGASA

## International Roundup

### New Zealand

The Horse of The Year competition was another great success. With the International riders from Norway, Wales Ireland and Australia competing, the level of competition was far greater than the majority of NZ riders had ever come across.

The Individuals Open was won by the infamous "BOO" from Wales with Dee Cherrington from Northland NZ in second and Alex Jones from Wales in 3rd. It was a very close fought final and the last race was the decider.

The Teams Open, for the South Pacific Challenge Cup, was also closely contended with the last race again being the decider and this was won by Norway/Wales, with Paddy in the North NZ team in second and the Untouchables from Auckland/Wales in 3rd place. Full results are available on the Mounted Games web site. The Fossil Individuals was won by Jens Martin and again this came down to the last race.

A teams' demonstration was held in the Main arena on Friday night with a crowd of around 4000 people watching. The teams entertained the crowd with some very fast and furious riding and the dew on the ground made for some exciting stops.

The best collision of the event was between Jens (on the ground) and one of his riders who decided she just wanted to take him out. After a couple of hours in hospital for observation for concussion, Jens returned feeling rather sore and bruised.

It was wonderful that these overseas riders came way down here and they were all great competitors and ambassadors for their countries. We will now have to start planning for the HOY event in 2005 and hope that more Internationals will be able to make it Down Under.

Bill Fogarty

### Canada/USA

We have started the production of the Olympic video and unfortunately we couldn't wait any longer for the South African contribution. Mandé has been dogged by constant rain, making film-making impossible. The lack of support from our member countries has been a bit of a blow, but countries that have sent me information are USA, England, Northern Ireland, Norway, Germany and Sweden and I am grateful for this.

Regardless, we are going on with the endeavour! Canada and the USA are also in the process of producing a training video that is entitled "An Introduction to Mounted Games". I have seen the first few drafts, and they look great and should be available in late spring (late autumn for us Southern Hemisphere kids! Ed)

Jamie Dunn has had the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee re-built and the healing process is much slower than was expected – gossip is that Jamie is a wimp! *(My son, Kai has had three ACL re-builds – two on the same knee – which as why he no longer plays games – but he injured his knees playing rugby and healing time with the correct physiotherapy is about six months. Trust me – Kai is not a wimp – he's a six foot, two inch hunk – Ed {Okay, so I am biased as his Mum})*

Canada and the USA had their first competition last weekend in Lexington, Kentucky. Team Canada didn't attend, so I was the chief ring steward. Team USA won the open division by two points above one of the Canadian teams. The Canadian Fossils Team won the Fossil's Division and the four youngsters that I am taking to the German Pairs in two week's time won the Junior Division.

Our next big competition is the North American Cup being held at Barrie, Ontario, Canada on June 6/7.

Jim Dunn

***"The horse stopped with a jerk and the jerk fell off."***  
**- John Wayne, Tall in the Saddle**

## From the Chairman's Mouth

Although most of us are just warming up for the 2004 season, our southern hemisphere members are winding down at this time of the year. Of course we all know this, but it's very easy to keep those blinkers on and forget about it.

Our annual meeting, for example, has always been held in November or December because we always thought of that as the quiet time of the year, but that is no longer so for all of us.

Our World Team Championship is always held around the beginning of August because that's holiday time when we hope the weather will be at its best and the teams all at their peak of training and performance, but below the equator the summer comes at a different time of the year.

When you get a few phone calls or SMS messages from the other side of the globe at four in the morning, you start to consider things like this and adjust your perspective!

I'm especially pleased that this edition of the Newsletter (send Jill your suggestions for a catchy name) has plenty of news from the other side of the world, and that we're seeing an exchange of riders and teams between the two hemispheres.

We're a true global association now, although we still have two more continents to conquer, but I know Jim is working hard on that, and from Jill's joke (it is a joke, isn't it?) on page 2, maybe we should also be looking to expand our frontiers even further.

Best wishes and good fortune to everyone involved in Mounted Games, whatever time of the year it may be for you.

Keith Martin

## Next Edition

Please distribute copies of this newsletter to your members. You are their representative and as such you are the pipeline between them and IMGA.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter, please send your contribution for the next edition to [Jill Masterton](#).

The next edition will be published at the end of June 2004 – deadline for copy is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004. I am looking forward to hearing from you all – there must be loads of stories out there!

## Newsletters

This newsletter will be a quarterly publication for 2004. Please try to get your contributions to me before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of issue. *Photographic contributions must please be reduced to a suitable size and be in a compressed format.*

Publication Dates for 2004:

30<sup>th</sup> June  
30<sup>th</sup> September  
23<sup>rd</sup> December

## Name for Newsletter?

Some ideas to throw around:-

Pony Post; Games Gossip; Equivocal;  
Racing Plate; Hay Wire; Gallop Poll;  
Winning Post; Pony Tales; Pony Press

What do **YOU** think? Any ideas?

**Proper scientific name for ponies:**  
*Equus keepius brokeus.*

## Any Other Business

### Rule Changes

As you are aware, a new edition of the Rule Book is being printed for the 2004 season. It's a complete update, containing all agreed changes to the rules since the previous edition (March 2001), including the most recent changes made at the MGA(GB) Annual General Meeting on March 7 which were as follows:

### Start

The text of the section on the Start is now:

The signal to start in all races will be the drop of a flag, or by other signal notified by the Referee at the briefing. The Referee alone decides whether the start is fair. If it is not, the Referee will blow the whistle and the race will be restarted. All riders and ponies will be behind the 10yd (9.14m) line for the start of the race. The Referee will raise the flag. The riders will be called forward, stand behind the start line and the race will be started by the drop of the flag. The Referee will order any pony that crosses the start line before the flag is dropped to be sent back behind the 10yd (9.14m) line. If a pony that has been sent back, crosses the 10yd (9.14m) line before the race has been restarted they may be eliminated at the end of the race. A rider crossing the 10yd line before the start may correct this error as with any other line fault. If the Referee orders a pony to be sent back for causing a false start, the Team Trainer has the opportunity to replace that pony with another member of the team. All riders must be mounted at the start of all races except Three Legged Sack and Run and Ride.

The Referee may, at his/her discretion, appoint a Starters Assistant to be at the Start line (and/or 10yd (9.14m) line) to assist by ensuring that all riders and ponies are behind the start line (or 10yd (9.14m) line as appropriate) for the start of a race.

### 6yd line

Following on from the changes made to the start, the 6yd line is now redundant. It is no longer mentioned in the text, and has been removed from the plan of the arena.

### Three Pot Flag Race

This is a new race, which appears in the individual format.

#### Equipment

3 flag cones, 4 flags.

#### Position of the Equipment

1 cone level with the first row of bending poles in between the lanes, 1 cone level with the third row of bending poles in between the lanes, and 1 cone level with the fifth row of bending poles in between the lanes.

The 4 flags are placed in the centre cone.

#### The Game

The rider rides to the centre cone and removes a flag and then places it in either of the 2 empty cones. He/she then must continue to remove the flags singly and place them in cones so that, at the end of the race, there are 2 flags in the cone by the first pole and 2 flags in the cone by the fifth pole.

### Litter

The placing of litter cartons is now more precisely specified :

" .... at 90 degrees to the changeover line, flat on the ground and with the open ends of the cartons facing away from the Start/Finish line."

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**If you produce a newsletter for your own games association, please post it to me, or if it is available on a web site – please email me with details – it will give me ideas and also help me to get to know everyone better! It's not just New Zealand that's a bit isolated – at the bottom of Africa we too, are a bit like an island at the end of the world!**

Contributors to April 2004 Newsletter:

Jim and Rose Dunn (Canada), Bill Fogarty (New Zealand), Jens Martin (Norway), Keith Martin (International), Mandé Siderfin (South Africa)