



## NEWS & MESSAGES

05 / 03

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- **FEI General Assembly 2003 cancelled!**

A notice has been sent by the FEI to National Federations on the 21 February 03 concerning the cancellation of 2003 FEI General Assembly, due to take place in Manama, Bahrain at the end of April. The cancellation has been pronounced because of the unstable political situation in the world.

A working meeting of the FEI Bureau is planned to be held in Madrid. Items that would have been submitted to the General Assembly in 2003 will be on the agenda

for 2004. Urgent points which the NF's wish to bring up to the attention of the Bureau shall contact their respective Group Chairmen.

A separate memo will be sent to NF's with specific information on the elections which should have taken place on the occasion of 2003 General Assembly, as well as approval procedures for specific items that could not be postponed to 2004. The term of outgoing Bureau Members and outgoing members of the Judicial and Finance Committees will be prolonged by one year. Election to replace these will take place in 2004 for a shortened 3-year term.

▪ **Rules Amendments: Qualification for Championships**

The following rules amendments were decided at the Endurance Committee Meeting in Paris (FRA) 10 February 2003 and will be subject to ratification at the FEI General Assembly 2003.

Endurance Rule Changes

**Article 825 Qualifications**

4. *Qualification Procedure*

4.1. ~~In order for a rider/horse to~~ **To be qualified to participate in a Senior Championship or any other CEI\*\*\*\* ride: one day FEI Endurance Ride (140-160 km) or over 2 days (80 km per day and over) as of the 1 st January during the two years prior to the Championship. A rider/horse as a combination both rider and horse (not necessarily as a combination) must have completed a Cat. A has to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/CEI\*\*\*\* ride within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entry.**

4.2. ~~If the rider/horse has not qualified as a combination per 4.1 above: the rider/horse (not necessarily as a combination) must have completed at least a 120 km FEI Endurance Ride during the period as of the 1 st January during the two years prior to the Championship until the date of nominated entries for the Championship.~~ **To be qualified to participate in a Senior Championship or any other CEI\*\*\*\*, a horse has to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/CEI\*\*\*\* ride within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entry and the rider has to have completed 3 endurance rides (at least one of them a CEI ride) over the same distance as the Championship/CEI\*\*\*\* ride within the current or preceding 3 years before the event.**

4.3. ~~However, in exceptional cases, the Endurance Committee may accept different qualification standards.~~

**Please note:** The Motion of the Endurance Intercontinental Group (see newsletter 04/03) asked for the following text

4.1. **To be qualified to participate in a Senior Championship or any other CEI\*\*\*\* ride: ....**

4.2. **...To be qualified to participate in a Senior Championship or any other CEI\*\*\*\*, ...**

➤ The goal of the motion is, that this qualification standard can be applied to **all** Championships.

▪ **Candidature for the FEI Endurance Committee**

Closing Date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003 in respect of those places becoming available in 2004.

It seems that the FEI will be sending out the necessary forms next month to all Federations for all committees.

During the FEI Open Forum, Paris, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003, there was some talk concerning a possible resignation of Mr. Hallvard Sommerseth, actual president of the FEI Endurance Committee. According to the statutes of the FEI, it seems that in this case the vice president (Mr. Faisal Seddiq al Mutawa) would be president ad interim.

To be eligible as president of the FEI Endurance Committee the following conditions seem to apply:

- to have been a member of the Endurance Committee for at least two years and to have the support of his NF
- or**
- to have carried out the functions of a Bureau member, to be qualified to be a member of the FEI Endurance Committee and to have the support of his NF.

According to these conditions the following persons would be eligible as president of the FEI Endurance Committee:

Mr. Faisal Seddiq al Mutawa, UAE

Mr. Horst Müller, GER

or a former member of the Bureau (Judge, Veterinarian, Organiser, Endurance Rider) if there is such.

▪ **Rumours around the European Championship, Punchestown 03**

The following **rumours** (not confirmed and or proven facts!) went around since December 2002 until February 2003 in Paris, where they reached a certain peak of "have you already heard that...":

- the European Endurance Championship in Punchestown will be cancelled due to financial problems
- instead it will be held at Praton del Vivaro (**over 160 km**: 1 day), one week before the Young Riders World Championship at the same place
- an organising committee has not yet been designed officially for the European Endurance Championship in Punchestown
- the European Endurance Championship in Punchestown could easily be held over 160 km/ 1 day from a point of view of the trail and the general organisation
- the format of the 200 km/ 2 days was not a wish of the Irish but has been imposed from outside
- Ambassador Endurance is the sponsor of the European Endurance Championship in Punchestown

Worried by these rumours, the Swiss NF has written an according letter to the Equestrian Federation of Ireland (Col. Edward, Secretary General) on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2002. An answer came back to the Swiss NF the same day from Mrs. Anne Chanarin, Assistant Secretary General, confirming that the European Endurance Championship will take place as planned.

Nevertheless the Swiss NF changed the planned format of the Swiss Championship, CEI\*\*\* Bellinzona, 31<sup>st</sup> May 03, from 200 km/ 2 days to 160 km/ 1 day, in order to be able to qualify riders and horses for the World Championship 2004. A proper, professional and World Championship worthy qualification would not be possible for Switzerland, if riders/ horses had to run twice next year over 200 km/ 2 days. As a consequence, the Swiss Selection Committee cannot confirm at the moment to be able to send a full team to Ireland.

▪ **Message from Barbara Elwell, Ireland**

Reference the report - Open Forum of the Toulouse Group in Paris on 6 February 2003.

Firstly, thank you very much for forwarding all the information reference the meeting, my apologies, which should have been passed onto you via my colleagues for not being able to attend this very important meeting, but my horse Regency Prince had a heart attack and I felt my place was with him.

He is one of the horses that you related to in your sentence "to see the same horse compete successfully over many seasons, is in the fact the only proof that endurance is really a sport for the welfare of the horse". At 21 years of the age he was still competing and his final major FEI ride was at Montcuq 2001. His final year 2002 was in gentle competitive rides.

Reference all the motions for the FEI open meeting by the Toulouse Group. I support 100% every motion except the first, purely on personal feelings, as I have always preferred the two day events. Although I prefer two days events, the 160km one day could not of been that bad because Regency Prince competed in 13 160km one day rides and took best condition in 8. Good luck, I hope you get a really good result. If I can do anymore to help please do not hesitate to contact me.