



NEWS & MESSAGES

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▪ **Letter from the FEI Endurance Department: PUNCHESTOWN**

A letter from the FEI Endurance Department has been sent to all Endurance National Federations, 02 May 003.

It states that the FEI Endurance Committee considered at length the question of whether or not to change the format of the 2003 European Championships from a 2 day to a 1 day x 160 km. Their consideration included

- the effect of the newly adopted Championship Qualification which would not allow a 2 x 100 km to be used as a qualifier for a 1 day x 160 km
- the views expressed by those European Nations who will taking part who were all called up to submit their own comments on their preferred format for the Championships.

After reviewing all of the information available the Executive Board on the recommendation of the Endurance Committee has taken the decision that the European Endurance Championships for 2003 will be run as a 1 day x 160 km.

▪ **Message from Cindy Russell, GBR, 29 April 2003**

With regard to the weights etc information and statistics published in the latest Endurance Intercontinental news-sheet.

If use is made of the stats from Montcuq, then surely the sport is open to criticism on the grounds of sex discrimination, as the bulk of the riders having to carry weight are female? This shows particularly with the figures from this event.

Just a thought

Cindy Russell, Editor, Distance International Magazine

▪ **Message from Désirée Hanen, NED, 2 May 2003**

The press release about Punchestown dated April 22 which was just sent around by way of the Newsletter only underlined the farce which was created by having the National Federations sending in their input on whether they preferred 2x 100 or 1x 160 for Punchestown before April 30. It was already final long before that!!!

I also had seen it published on the FEI site quite some days ago already, long way before the input round was officially closed. This is just ridiculous!

Only if all answers or a favourable majority of the answers had been received by that date of April 22 (or even before as also preparation of a press release takes time), this would be justified, but I have some personal doubts about the validity of this whole action.

Indeed a Championship should be run over 160 km. Just like a marathon is 42.195 km. and not a 2 day 25 km. It has been stressed so often over the past year and longer. Even boycotts had been announced. It remained 2x 100 km. But after such a long period of "no, it can't be a 1x 160, it has to be a 2x 100" this just goes too quick for me and the whole procedure around the sudden change into a 1x 160 is at least "weak". I have a certain unpleasant feeling about the how and why.

I also wonder whether the impact on rider's ride schedules, organisers who put a lot of effort in setting up multiple day rides and now see a lot of withdrawals from riders who now "don't need this type of rides anymore", National Federations and committees setting up and changing procedures, spending time on getting input from their riders. All such a waste of time!

I hope one day the whole endurance world will get better organised, as currently there are just too many surprises and "doubtful" actions.

Look at the weight change, for example. It became 70 kg and was suddenly changed back (even with forgotten notification/publication) to 75 kg. Now also the statistical analysis of the Montcuq ride shows why 70 kg is a better option than 75 kg. Maybe there are more rides that can be analysed like this (or maybe all riders could be analysed by weighing saddle and rider this way to get a full overview). Maybe it than will change back to 70 next year? Who will tell.

Championships being run in spring instead of, what is usually the case, the end of the year. Why this sudden change? What BTW came out of the poll which was held in Paris about this topic? Never read or heard anything anymore about it.

Maybe I am just the only one who sees "ghosts", but maybe there is also a "Ghostbusters" around who can provide me with good rational for all of this.

Désirée Hanen, Rider

▪ **Extract from FEI PRESS NEWS 09/03, 19 MARCH 2003**

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF HORSES

The Second International Conference on the Transportation of Horses by Road, Sea and Air will take place at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, (GBR) on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July 2003.

The conference will be sponsored by the FEI, the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA). It will focus on horse welfare during transport and will build on the First Equine Transport Workshop, held in March 1999 in Middleburg, Virginia, USA, sponsored by the MSPCA which updated earlier research into Transport Stress in horses initiated by FEI and ILPH.

The conference is specifically aimed at industry representatives and is expected to attract 200-300 delegates. It will review risk factors for transport and existing guidelines for equine movement; seek to capture the perspective of the horse transportation industry on practical aspects of managing horses during transport, and on the safety and design of transporters by road, sea and air. There will be a separate Veterinary Research Group Meeting, chaired by Professor Catherine Kohn (University of Ohio), which will provide a forum for discussion of new information and research on equine transport, identify areas for future study, and define opportunities for collaboration.

For more information, please contact: Alex Atock, Conference Secretary
International League for the Protection of Horses (I.L.P.H.) e-mail: transconf@ilph.org, Fax: +44 (0)1953 498373
Website: www.ilph.org Registration procedures for the conference see: <http://www.ilph.org/items.asp?ID=145&TY=3>

Extract from FEI PRESS NEWS 4/03, 14 FEBRUARY 2003

ENDURANCE FORUM & SEMINARS HELD IN PARIS

A number of Forums, both open and technical were held from 7 to 9 February 2003 in Paris, France.

Organised by the FEI Endurance Committee in conjunction with the French Federation, the Open Forum (7th) chaired by FEI 1st Vice President, Freddy Serpieri, was attended by 115 participants from 29 National Federations. Discussions were free flowing and wide ranging on the future of the discipline.

In the morning of the session, power point presentations were given by delegates from around the world giving detailed information on the structures and competition formats of endurance world wide.

After lunch the delegates debated a number of issues relating to the qualification criteria for FEI rides, competition speeds and distances, welfare controls, Veterinary issues and future changes. A number of proposals over rule changes were discussed and agreed for consideration by the Endurance Committee

The Technical Delegate Seminar (8th) was attended by over 40 participants from around the world and explored the establishment of future TD course content and examinations, the session was lead by Mrs Carol Bunting (GBR) assisted by Dr Jim Bryant (CAN).

After a detailed examination of existing rules and regulations for FEI Technical Delegates a number of actual case studies were considered and discussed by the group. A constructive debate followed and resulted in a number of specific issues for Endurance Riding which will be incorporated into the published course.

A Veterinary Seminar completed the programme (9th) with nearly 50 experienced Endurance Vets contributing to the session. Lead by Dr Jim Bryant (CAN) and assisted by Dr Fred Barrelet (SUI), discussions concentrated on the future care of competing horses and existing/future research projects that will assist this ongoing programme.

There was much discussion on some interesting research work being undertaken in France and in other areas around the world. Details were provided to those present for further review and comment.

It was agreed that a Veterinary Advisory Panel was needed to continue this specialised work and to provide the Endurance Committee with any information that could assist its ongoing management of the discipline.

It was agreed by all of those delegates who attended the various forums and technical sessions that, if possible, it should repeated on an annual basis as it was such a success.

The FEI Endurance Committee met in Paris on the 10th February 2003 when aspects concerning the future of the sport and the matters raised in the forum and seminars were discussed in detail. As a direct result of the outcome from the open forum some changes were agreed in the rules concerning qualification for major championships and will be recommended to the Bureau for approval.