

**Pony Club International Alliance Meeting
Calgary, Alberta
July 3-5, 2009**

Minutes

Attendance: Tom Adams, President USPC, Cherry Michelle, Chair The Pony Club, John Moehring, Chair Canadian Pony Club, Cathy Miller, Vice Chair Canadian Pony Club, Val Crowe, Administrator Canadian Pony Club

I. The Role of the Group and Viability for the Future

The purpose of this group is to oversee the issues that might impact a country financially or in terms of risk management.

Discipline Rules can be handled by the National Discipline Chairs, in consultation with their National Boards where required, but matters such as fees, rotations, frequency of tours, length of tours, number of countries involved need to be ratified by this group. This pertains to the current sanctioned events. (Inter Pacific, Mounted Games, Tetrathlon and Quiz) Invitational events are not included. (Excerpt from the 2005 founding meeting)

Only 3 countries are able to attend this year. What are the reasons for this? Is this group still viable?

Australia - had intended to send a representative – however ill health has prevented this. I believe that the group is important, for networking and to keep the Pony Club ethic “alive” across the international boundaries.

I do however think how and when meetings are held might be a topic for discussion. I have been successfully involved in video-conference from both Canada and USA, obviously none of us could afford a half day video-conference, but an hour or two hours, maybe one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end.

USPC - For some it is the date (US July 4th holiday) and for others it may be economics. I would urge that we have video conferencing if attendance is low. This group is viable and necessary to all the Pony Clubs.

Canada - feels that this group is of value and should continue.

United Kingdom - also agrees that this body is very important.

NZ – the timing wasn't right for anyone to attend.

The participants agree that this is a very important group. We need to promote ourselves as a global organization. We need to share ideas and values.

II. International Exchanges

How do we keep these affordable? What do we do if a country doesn't take its turn?

Australia - Keeping it affordable for the country running the event is really difficult; have we thought of an International Company being approached for sponsorship over a number of years; such as Emirates, Brookfield Multiplex, Pfizer, IBM, Chevron, Johnston & Johnston. I know that when we organize an event the fact that it's a “one off” seems to put them off, if we can as an International Youth organization approach companies with strength of numbers and a five or ten year plan we might have a bit more success and also raise our profile. Include more countries in the rotations (see below).

If a country doesn't take its turn – we should offer to the next country – if they can't undertake it; then to any country and finally cancel for that year.

USPC - has several funds set up but can't provide ongoing major support. These funds don't come from regular budget. Participants must make it self supporting. Cost of chaperone and coach is partially covered by the kids, partially by the Coach and Chaperone

Canada – puts away money each year in anticipation of hosting. Coach & Chaperone receive ½ their airfare and land fees from National.
- if a country can't host, they should let the other countries know as soon as possible

UK - has budget for each discipline, out of which the international exchanges are hosted. Would like to see Branch level exchanges encouraged. Chaperones must be involved. All costs are covered by the Branches and the members.
- possibly house all the kids in tents, kids could bond and it might be less expensive.

NZ – user pay. If a country doesn't take its turn, we must accept it and adjust the rotation accordingly.

Discussion re time lines for exchanges: US, Canada and UK have summer holidays in July and August, NZ and Australia are December and January. UK can't get out of school.

Get a list from each country of best travel times for exchanges. Val Crowe will request this.

Ask each country if they would put International Exchanges on every agenda for their National Board meetings to facilitate discussion of international issues.

If a country can't host on their turn, they need to let the other countries as soon as possible.

◆ **IPE**

Hong Kong has offered to remain Host in 2010 or 2011.

In addition to that, Hong Kong is open to suggestions and recommendations as raised and discussed through the PCIA meeting as to how this can be best accommodated for ALL parties concerned.

In addition, if we are to look at 2010 as the next IPE year, Hong Kong would like to propose that **consideration be given to the same team members** that were coming this year. I appreciate that this 12 month gap may nudge a few of them over the age limit. However, these were unusual circumstances and the disappointment was the same for us all. Therefore, I would like to propose that the 2009 team members be considered for IPE 2010, regardless of their age on this occasion.

One would hope that no 'hosting' country would be faced with a similar situation that Hong Kong has had to deal with this year. However, we now live in a world, (*courtesy of air travel*), that sadly this may well become more prevalent. You may want to discuss this aspect at your meeting as well under such a heading as :**Contingency Plans in Relation to IPE.** (*Travel insurance for airfares for reason beyond ones control/ Land fees if paid (as in Hong Kong case) the knock on affects it could have to future host nations*).

The PCIA recommends, that, as each country has approved the following proposal from Hong Kong, that each IPE country confirm Hong Kong's hosting in 2010 under the following conditions:

1. Hong Kong Pony Club is allowed to remain the 'host' country for 2010.
2. The proposed dates will be similar to this year, July 23 to August 6, 2010 inclusive.
3. That HKPC be allowed to retain one land fee per team (US \$500) to help cover their immediate costs and to then **discount this 'off' again** against the land fees for 2010 by levying the balance only for the remaining riders. The other 3 land fees will be returned in full.
4. That the same team members participate, and that the upper age rule will be suspended for this exchange only.
5. That Hong Kong keep the same programme as proposed for this year where possible.

◆ **Games**

Australia - would like to move that New Zealand be invited to join the Mounted Games rotation on a probational basis. If the motion to include New Zealand is accepted; then the probational status of New Zealand should be reviewed at the next International Pony Club meeting after their first rotation.

- *Rationale: the extra country would increase the time of rotation and assist with decreasing the cost for host country cost. New Zealand is part of the IPE and a strong Pony Club country.*

Canada, USPC and UK all feel that adding another country or two (Ireland is also anxious to join Games) would put too much pressure on the hosting country to find ponies.

The PCIA recommends that no new countries be added to Games at this time. The hosting country may invite another country as per the current rules.

The PCIA recommends that the Boards discuss this proposal re adding teams to Games and send the results to CPC by December 31, 2009 for distribution.

◆ **Quiz**

Are England and Ireland still interested in being part of this?

Need to look at hosting in the summer as the UK has great difficulty getting kids out of school.

Canada could provide a letter for the competitors' schools to make them understand how important this exchange is from an educational point of view.

◆ **North Atlantic Rally Exchange (NARE)**

Educational/Cultural Exchange with the emphasis on education rather than competition.

North Atlantic Rally Exchange Rules

1. The UK, Ireland, Canada and the US will be the participating countries in the NARE.
2. The Exchange will take place every other year, maximum 2 weeks duration.
3. Teams will consist of 4 riders, between 15 and 18 years old as of Jan.1 of the current year, minimum C level, as of Jan.1.

4. Each team will be accompanied by one coach/chaperone/team manager. If the team has both male and female riders, 1 male & 1 female coach/chaperone/team manager may accompany the team.
5. Where possible, the host country will provide clinics in Dressage, Stadium and Cross-country.
6. The host country may organize a 2 or 3 day horse trials competition or combined test or other suitable activity as part of the exchange, following the clinics.
7. The teams will be scrambled for the competition.
8. Rules for the competition will be set by the host country and distributed to the participating countries at least 10 months prior to the exchange.

UK – plans to host in 2010

◆ **Tetrathlon**

Canada would like to revisit the idea of having each country host separately. That would mean only hosting once every 8 years instead of every four years.
Is there any will to look at only offering Stadium instead of both Stadium and Cross Country?
Is there an update on an International Tet Rule Book?

Australia - is interested in being involved in this; one of their states has a strong history and active Tetrathlon competition, they also have an annually updated rule book that they can offer to assist with an International Rule Book. If Australia was included in this then they would like to host separately. That would, if the other countries hosted separately, make the hosting every 10 years.

USPC - This would be a favorable recommendation (that each country host separately) with the tours being no longer than 10 days to two weeks. When UK or Ireland host it would be best, if they hosted earlier in the summer. The US Teams members return to school by mid-late August.

As for stadium or x country, it would seem that that should be up to the host country. This needs to be clarified in the invitation. An International Rule Book is necessary plus a Business meeting held at each rotation. Rules are to be voted upon by each country in the same manner as Games and IPE. All countries should work on the Rule Book.

The UK, US and Canada felt that adding 8 more riders would cause difficulty for the hosting Regions to find enough horses at the appropriate level.

The PCIA recommends that Australia be allowed to participate on an invitational basis and not join the Tet rotation at this time.

The Boards are asked to discuss whether to allow Australia to join the Tet rotation or to have Australia participate on an invitational basis.

The country hosting International Tetrathlon needs to tell the other countries which type of jumping will be offered and at what heights, one year ahead.

Canada and US will host separately. The UK and Ireland will continue to host together.

2010 - should we have a Tetrathlon Exchange or leave it to 2011 (Ireland/UK)? All involved countries are asked to send their answer to CPC by Aug. 1, 2009.

The UK would like it noted that they are very much in favour of Canada/US hosting in 2010

IV. Rotation for International Exchanges

<i>INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ROTATION SCHEDULE</i>					
<i>Exchange</i>	Inter Pacific Exchange	Mounted Games	Quiz	Tetrathlon	North Atlantic Rally Exchange
<i>Customary Participants</i>	<i>AU, CA, HK, JP, US, NZ</i>	<i>AU, CA, UK, US</i>	<i>CA, IE, UK, US</i>	<i>CA/US, IE/UK</i>	<i>CA, IE, UK, US</i>
2008		Australia		Ireland/UK	Canada
2009		Canada			
2010	Hong Kong	UK	Canada	Canada/US*	UK*
2011	New Zealand	United States		Ireland/UK	
2012		Australia	Ireland*		United States
2013	Japan*	Canada			
2014		UK	United States	US	Ireland*
2015	Australia	United States			
2016		Australia	UK*	Ireland/UK	Canada
2017	Canada	Canada			
2018		UK	Canada	Canada	UK*
2019	United States	US			
2020			Ireland*	Ireland/UK	United States

*Tentative, unconfirmed.

V. Insurance & Risk Management

There was a discussion on police checks for volunteers.

In the UK, all new volunteers need a police check and all volunteers will need to be checked by 2015. CRBC Criminal Records Bureau Checks

The US uses a private firm to do their checks.

Canada is not doing criminal checks at this point. They feel that it is more important to have good risk management procedures in place to protect out members rather than count on a criminal record check.

How much general liability coverage does each country carry?

- Australia – 20 million
- UK – 30 million
- Canada – 5 million, requires PSO membership
- US – 1 million

- US & Canada – no funding from Government
- UK – some government assistance

VI. Centres

- Update on the progress in the US and UK.

UK

- ◆ at the start DC's were concerned; after 5 years, the Centres are feeding into the Branches, allows kids without ponies to belong to Pony Club.
- ◆ Lucy Goler is the person in charge of Centres in the UK. Feel free to contact her for more information.
- ◆ Special competitions for older centre members – can compete at the lower levels in regular PC competitions.
- ◆ Every centre covers their own insurance and the kids have third party liability from the PC.
- ◆ Centres must be registered with council. Could be approved by BHS or
- ◆ A fee is charged to centre members and National pays £5 back to the centre.

USPC

- ◆ followed UK model but without a separate membership. Have 50 centres so far, in 5th year of a 5 year program, membership has increased.
- ◆ Thought centres would be D levels and not participating in Regional activities, centre members wanted to participate, had to add a Regional Fee. Wanted to test the upper levels.
- ◆ USPC - Don't approve centres. Recognize a Centre, send someone out to inspect the centre as to safety of facility and instruction. Have a contract, runs for a year, can be revoked.
- ◆ Broken into areas with area coordinators, revisit each centre at least once a year.
- ◆ Fees go directly to USPC and Region.
- ◆ Give the stable a plaque, which belongs to USPC and must be returned if the contract is revoked.

Canada

- ◆ is attempting a pilot project involving 3 different Regions for Sept. 2009.

NZ

- ◆ is considering the Centre system and is interested in any information on the subject.

VII. News, Concerns and Updates from Each Country

USPC

- ◆ no National Coaching Certificate, Eventing offers a coaching program
- ◆ Horsemasters' Program for training volunteers
- ◆ How can we use incident report forms to help each other?
- ◆ Incident reports are filled out for all falls and other incidents.
- ◆ Have started a youth Board – 2 from each area, elected President will be member of the BOG, meet on-line and have teleconferences.
- ◆ 9000 members – 13 full time staff 2 part time staff, person for each vice president, ED works with President

UK

- ◆ Coaching Certificate program
- ◆ Fill out incident reports.
- ◆ Brought Endurance in as discipline.
- ◆ Horseball has been introduced.
- ◆ GB Vaulting does demos and opens it to kids using their skilled horses.

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- ◆ Western and Driving
- ◆ Tidy and tighten branding
- ◆ Training – sponsors for training programs from National Farmers Insurance, clinics for instructors, must update every two years, get an instructors card
- ◆ HSBC donates money to train eventers.
- ◆ Advanced Young Instructors
- ◆ Volunteer training
- ◆ Looking at how to decrease the cost of meetings
- ◆ 50,000 members - 13 full time plus 2 bookkeepers plus 2 students, plus an ED, each secretary assists one discipline chair.
- ◆ Have a new office on Royal Show Grounds

Canada

- ◆ Has introduced a Stable Management program that allows members to take the SM portion of each level without taking the riding. This allows kids to move forward even when they do not have a horse ready to do the next level.
- ◆ Coaching Certification program is provided by Equine Canada. Our A's get a Level 1 Coach Certificate.
- ◆ Have 2 youth directors on the Board, one representing the East and one the West. They are full voting members, attending all Board Meetings. In addition, the host Youth Meetings at some of our National Championships.
- ◆ Have developed an Officials committee to develop our own officials.
- ◆ 2500 members – 1 full time equivalent

Australia

- ◆ Pony Club Australia (PCA) is still holding a strong position in the equine community of Australia, we had 32,215 riding members in 2008 & in 2009 our figures are still being formulated from all Associations but looks to be a slight increase on 2008. We have been encouraged to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Equestrian Federation of Australia (recently rebranded to be Equestrian Australia Ltd.) and hopefully this is in the final stages with a sign off by both parties in the next few months.
- ◆ At the 2009 PCA elections there was a change of office bearers; Mr. Greg Bailey is President; Mr. Roger Braham is the Vice President and Mrs. Judy Pitt retains the position of Secretary.
- ◆ The PCA office is currently being moved to a more permanent and slightly more central facility in South Australia (from Queensland), this also entails a change in office staff and new contact details should be with you prior to the meeting.
- ◆ P.O. Box. 32 Goodwood. South Australia. 5034. Phone/Fax: 08-82123883.
- ◆ Actual address: Wayville Showground. 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville. S.A. 5034
- ◆ Insurance and Risk management remain major issues, but as previously stated PCA and the States are managing to maintain sufficient insurance.
- ◆ The 2008 invitational Games was in our opinion a huge success despite holding the event in the middle of our winter and having to cope with heavy rain and cold the day of the competition was warm dry and sunny and we had a very good competition. We still seem to be able to:
 - obtain sufficient horses of a very high standard for all three riding opportunities in the tour, and
 - find sufficient financial sponsorship to support the tour.

- ◆ New Zealand was invited to participate as per the rule of allowing the host country to invite another team into the competition once. They provided a strong team, there have been two events held between Australia and New Zealand for the last few years;
 - i. "Tran Tasman" competition between with two teams an under 16 year and under 21 and
 - ii. An invitational event in New Zealand of under 16 years.
- ◆ We did not hold an international games meeting as part of the tour as it was an invitational event and not part of the formal rotation.
- ◆ PCA holds a National Championship event every second year, this event commenced in 1995 and was introduced to raise the profile of the Olympic disciplines in Pony Club, the first event was held in New South Wales and was called Towards 2000 as Australia was holding the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. This event has continued on each two or three since then and since 2005 has included the Mounted Games.
- ◆ The 2009 National Pony Club Australia event will be held in Sydney again this year commencing on 12th of July, in fact the mounted Games riders participating in this years international exchange will all be returning to represent their various states at the event.

New Zealand

- ◆ 8715 members – 1 full time, 1 part time staff.

There was a discussion on using Facebook and other social networking sites. How do we protect our members? USPC is developing a site.

VIII. Funding of Competitive Exchanges

Find an International Sponsor – how would we promote a sponsor equally in all countries, how do we not step on the toes of other sponsors?

Promote ourselves as a global organization, over 100,000 members world wide. Promote a healthy lifestyle.

Funding Competitive Exchanges - Take this item back to the Boards for more discussion.

IX. New Directions in Pony Club

- **Rebranding of Pony Club**

Canada – against changing the name, educate public as to what we do

UK – know world wide, definitely against changing the name, need to educate the public

US – board is split on changing the name, a lot of tradition and name is known world wide, started to use USPC, we need to educate the public.

Australia has also discussed rebranding at individual state and PCA level. After the March meeting of PCA, there were a couple of suggestions taken back to the states for discussion. This will be on the November meeting agenda. Some discussion included Youth Equine Australia or Australian Youth Equestrian; several states have conducted forums/surveys of their members and the question of branding was addressed – however the riding members did not make any suggestions for a new name.

There is a feeling amongst a number of the riding members that rebranding not take place. This is on the agenda for the November 09, meeting.

We need to sell ourselves as a global organization, promoting a healthy lifestyle, character and sportsmanship.

Get testimonials from people who have hired PC members.

Take back to our Boards that we need to come up with ideas to better promote Pony Club internationally rather than changing the name.

- **Upper Age Limits**

Canada introduced an Affiliate Membership from 21 – 25 in 2003. Numbers are growing slowly but more members are now planning their PC life with the extended membership in mind.

UK announced Associate Membership 21 – 25, January 2005. Members coming back after university. Have added a teaching certificate for older members.

Ireland also has extended membership.

USPC now has older members. 21-25, must have already been a member, gives members a few more years to accomplish their goals.

The majority of **Australian** states now have the upper age limit of 25 for Associate members. This decision has always been a state one, it appears to be successful, with the advantages being: Jun. Assoc. Sen. Categories in some of our States.

- Allowing riders to complete higher certificates "B" & "A" slightly later, previously many riders weren't undertaking these certificates due to increased effort required for completing high school studies and getting university places.
- Providing a positive role model to younger riders,
- Providing a bigger pool of riders to draw new instructors/coaches from.

VIII. Other Business

Canada is making the Parent Code of Conduct, prepared by our youth members, available to the other countries.

There was a general discussion about our relationships with our National Equestrian Federations.

IX. Next Meeting

More discussion and input from all countries is needed on this point. There was some discussion that it is more financially viable to hold the meetings in North America as fares between the UK and Australia/NZ can be quite expensive.

There was also some discussion about having the meetings at a different time of year. Summer is busy for most countries; perhaps spring or fall would be better.

The group felt that face to face meetings were very important and that this set of meetings had been very useful and informative.